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STACKING THE DECK

How government lobbies itself and funds
the distortion of democracy

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Executive summary

This research paper examines the extent to which Australian state and federal governments provide funding to non-government organisations that engage in lobbying back to government.

The sample of 100 NGOs across five public policy areas reveals they received \$2.2 billion from taxpayers between the 2021 and 2025 financial years to engage in advocacy on progressive or left-leaning policy priorities. Specifically the analysis finds:

- Organisations engaged in diversity and multiculturalism advocacy received \$1 billion between 2021 and 2025, the largest of the five categories examined.
 - This support entails direct funding for diversity NGOs, the creation of advocacy structures such as the National Women's Alliances funded through the federal Office for Women, and government membership of bodies such as the Diversity Council of Australia.
- Nanny state and public health advocacy bodies received \$622 million between 2021 and 2025.
 - This support is often co-ordinated through taxpayer-funded coalitions such as the National Alliance for Action on Alcohol and the Australian Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance, which campaign for stricter regulation of the lifestyle choices of ordinary Australians.
- Organisations engaged in welfare state advocacy and lawfare received \$310 million between 2021 and 2025.
 - Taxpayer-funded legal organisations engage in "lawfare": the strategic use of litigation to challenge existing laws

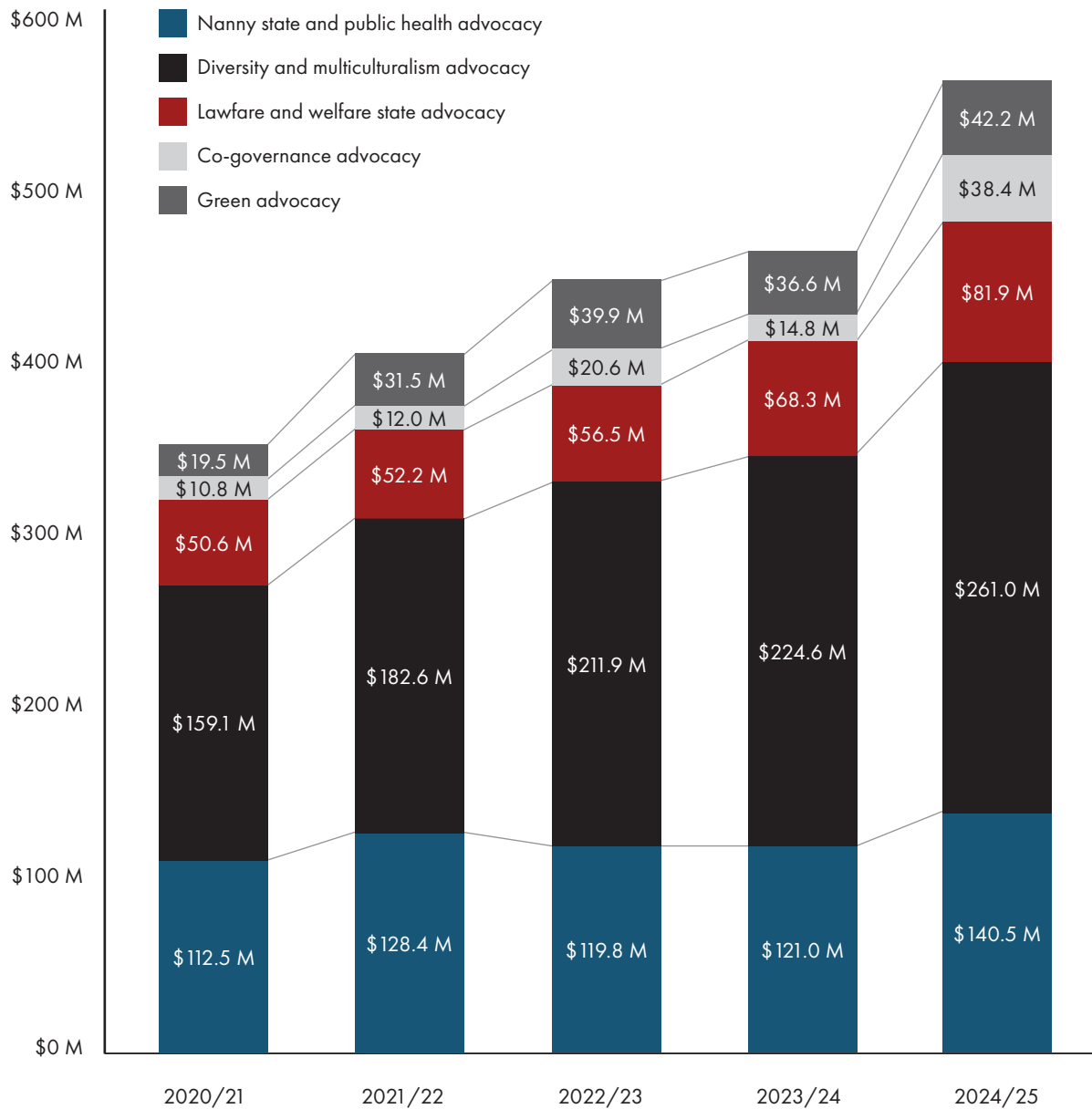
and obstruct government policy. This includes bodies such as Refugee Legal and the Human Rights Law Centre which hinder government from enforcing its own immigration laws, while publicly campaigning for changes to those laws.

- Environmental advocacy organisations received \$170 million between 2021 and 2025.
 - These bodies advocate for government regulation or restrictions on land use, cancelling or delaying economic development, and the promotion of "climate action" around such objectives as emissions reduction targets, including net zero.
- Organisations engaged in indigenous co-governance or self-determination advocacy received \$97 million between 2020 and 2025 to advocate for priorities such as the Voice to Parliament, treaties, truth telling, and changing the date of Australia Day.

No government funding for explicitly right-leaning causes was identified in the analysis. While some state business chambers received government funding in recent years, even these bodies advocate for emissions reduction targets, constitutional recognition of indigenous Australians, and other left-leaning priorities.

The taxpayer funding of advocacy runs in only one direction, which has the effect of stacking the deck of the public debate. The solution is not to provide funding for other groups, but to recognise that it is not the role of government to engage in astroturfing that has the effect of misleading the public and policymakers about community attitudes to public policy issues.

Figure: Annual government funding for 100 selected advocacy bodies, by policy category



Source: IPA analysis of ACNC data and government grants documents.

How government funds NGOs to lobby government and distort public debate

Democracy is about more than just voting at an election. A political system that is democratic in nature is characterised first and foremost by a commitment to free and fair debate, and government in a democratic system is responsive to people subject to that system and who participate in that free and fair debate.

The reality is that Australia has an inconsistent commitment to free and fair debate. Fundamentally, Australian politics is not a level playing field.

In 2025, IPA research into the background and qualifications of federal parliamentarians exposed an unhealthy divergence between mainstream Australians and their political representatives.¹ One of the reasons the political priorities in parliament often do not reflect the concerns of everyday Australians is because most members of parliament do not share the lived experience of those Australians. Another key reason is the misleading information that politicians receive about public debates.

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, total general government spending in Australia in the 2025 financial year tipped over one trillion dollars,² equivalent to roughly 39 per cent of total national economic activity (gross domestic product).³ This fiscal activity is not limited to national defence and the delivery of public services, but also in contracts, grants, and other forms of support for the non-government sector. Concerningly, this is not limited to outsourcing the delivery of public services: rather,

governments also spend money on policy advocacy that in turns distorts the public debate and shapes the political priorities of governments.

This distortion can take several forms: the public service can engage in internal advocacy within government and engage in government inquiries and other public consultations;⁴ government departments can engage external consultancy firms to produce research or analysis that reinforces and gives added credibility to a particular policy agenda; public broadcasters can amplify a worldview that reinforces a policy or cultural agenda; and government grants to academic research and the arts can be made formally or informally contingent on whether the proposal reinforces the preferences of the grant-maker.

The focus of this research paper is government funding of non-government organisations who influence public debate by engaging in policy advocacy.

The Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) requires all registered entities to report on revenue details, including receipts from government. An ACNC report found government funding of NGOs registered with ACNC was \$117.9 billion in the 2025 financial year.⁵ This has grown significantly in recent years: in 2015, the ABS calculated that all levels of government provided \$41 billion to NGO recipients in 2012-13.⁶ This research explores the scale of funding for NGOs that are significantly engaged in advocacy work.

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- 1 Morgan Begg, *The Rise of the Insiders: The Decline of Mainstream Australians in the Commonwealth Parliament from 1901 to 2025* (Institute of Public Affairs, 2025).
 - 2 Australian Bureau of Statistics, "Insights into Government Finance Statistics, Annual, 2024–25" (21 April 2026): <https://www.abs.gov.au/articles/insights-government-finance-statistics-annual-2024-25>.
 - 3 Australian Bureau of Statistics, "Government Finance Statistics, Annual, 2024–25" (15 July 2026): <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/economy/government/government-finance-statistics-annual/2024-25>.
 - 4 Chris Berg, *The Biggest Vested Interest of all: How government lobbies to restrict individual rights and freedoms* (Institute of Public Affairs, 2013).
 - 5 Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission, *Australian Charities Report*, 12th ed., accessed July 15, 2026, <https://www.acnc.gov.au/tools/reports/australian-charities-report-12th-edition>.
 - 6 Australian Bureau of Statistics, "Australian National Accounts: Non-Profit Institutions Satellite Account, 2012–13" (2015), table 7.1.

A portion of NGO funding is provided for the delivery of services such as schools, hospitals, and aged care centres. These are not the focus of this analysis. Instead, this research considers the network of bodies that are formally private sector non-profit organisations, but who are often if not usually dependent on government to survive, thrive, and engage in advocacy for more government intervention and action in society. This is not unique to Australia: Steven Rathgeb Smith from the University of Washington noted the problem of similar links that have developed between government and the not-for-profit sector in the United States:

...the government and non-profit organizations have become increasingly intertwined in the last 25 years due to direct government funding and new government regulations as well as the increase in overall government policy activity. Furthermore, the “political activism of non-profit service providers is a sharp shift from the previous era... now non-profit agencies regard their future viability and sustainability as tied to public policy.”⁷

This analysis considers the extent of government funding provided over the last five years to 100 NGOs across five key areas of public policy advocacy: public health; diversity and multiculturalism; indigenous affairs and constitutional change; lawfare; and green activism.

In total, between FY2021 and FY2025, \$2.2 billion of taxpayers’ money was diverted to funding this network of NGOs. With \$1 billion allocated towards diversity and multiculturalism advocacy, \$622 million going towards public health advocacy, \$170 million to environmental advocacy, \$310 million to lawfare and lawfare advocacy and \$97 million to indigenous advocacy. The ideological disposition of these NGOs only ever leans in one direction, towards progressive politics. While some state business chambers received government funding in recent years, even these bodies advocate for emissions reduction targets, constitutional recognition of indigenous Australians, and other left-leaning priorities. This research did not uncover any example of an NGO funded primarily or majorly by the government which was committed to a conservative or right-wing position on issues relating to multiculturalism, public health, diversity, immigration, climate change or indigenous affairs.

Table 1: Taxpayer funding of 100 selected organisations that engage in policy advocacy, by category from FY2021 to FY2025

Diversity and multiculturalism advocacy	\$1,039,171,011
Nanny state and public health advocacy	\$622,187,045
Lawfare and the welfare state advocacy	\$309,545,798
Indigenous co-governance and self-determination advocacy	\$96,610,760
Environmental advocacy	\$169,765,511
TOTAL	\$2,237,280,125

7 Steven Rathgeb Smith, “Government and Nonprofits in the Modern Age,” *Society* 40 (May/June 2003): 36.

The analysis is conservative for two reasons: firstly, the selection of 100 NGOs is not intended to be comprehensive, but rather a sample of major advocacy bodies in Australia that receive government funding. Secondly, while it is likely true that some of the 100 NGOs selected may engage in some kind of service delivery, many service delivery organisations that also engage in advocacy have been excluded in an effort to focus on bodies which are predominantly or heavily focussed on advocacy.

It is largely irrelevant whether or not an organisation engages in activities aside from advocacy. Acceptance of taxpayer money for any purpose secures the continued existence of the organisation, enabling it to engage in advocacy. Moreover, its taxpayer-funded non-advocacy work may lend an organisation credibility as a policy advocate. As Mark E. Warren, professor of government at Georgetown University, notes, government funding of these groups “helps to bring interest groups into existence”:

The groups can then exercise enormous influence over government policy. The result is one in which the public pays, in effect, to generate a covert form of corporatism that is no more democratic than the sort practiced in the public sector.⁸

The consequences of this government funded advocacy are multi-faceted. The first is to crowd out others from participating in the debate on equal terms. Individuals and groups which cannot rely on government funding are under a relative resource constraint and are often perceived as being “outside the system” relative to their connected and well-heeled opponents. The funded groups’ outsized presence in the public debate helps convey the impression that the debate is more settled than it actually is. Lawmakers and political representatives may therefore have a misleading perception of public opinion, while everyday Australians may be pressured to believe their mainstream views are marginal.

Rather than political debate being on equal terms, genuinely private Australians are up against a vast state-funded advocacy apparatus. Not only does this betray the concept of politics as an expression of the views of the people, it also imposes significant costs on the taxpayer that are outside the remit of reasonable or appropriate government expenditure.

The result is an extraordinary government intervention in the political economy, with a consistent ideologically leftward bent that amplifies certain views so that they appear to have far greater democratic support than they actually have.

8 Mark E. Warren, ‘The Political Role of Nonprofits in a Democracy,’ *Society* (May/June 2003) 50.

Diversity and multiculturalism advocacy

Advocacy in the area of multiculturalism refers to the promotion of a legal and political regime that endorses continuing cultural differences between disparate groups over time, as opposed to the integration of people into a common culture. This entails a suite of laws including special purpose public media (the Special Broadcasting Service), anti-vilification laws to manage the conflict that arises between groups, and substantial government “support”, which is often directed to advocacy.

One reason that government funding for groups based on ethnic, gender, or other identity characteristics is so significant is because of the inherent incentives for governments in this space: an increase in funding for a non-government advocacy organisation is portrayed as an expression of “support” for the communities those organisations represent. A decrease in funding can be politically very costly, particularly as the groups that qualify for multicultural or diversity “support” make up an increasing share of the electorate.

This research highlights three forms of government support for multicultural and diversity advocacy. The first is direct support through the establishment of advocacy structures; for example, the National Women’s Alliances funded by the Commonwealth Office for Women. The second is the direct funding of advocacy organisations, such as the Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia. The third is indirect support through government membership of peak advocacy organisations, such as the Diversity Council of Australia (but the cost. The amount of government funding identified in this category is \$1.039 billion from FY2021 to FY2025.

Establishment of advocacy structures

The National Women’s Alliances is a funding program run by the Office for Women in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet to bring together five peak bodies which represent almost 120 “women’s organisations” that aim to “bring forward the views, voices and issues of Australian women and, in particular, women from marginalised and disadvantaged groups”, and to “engage actively with the Australian Government on policy as part of a better more informed and representative dialogue between women and government.”⁹ The National Women’s Alliances are funded by the Commonwealth Office for Women’s Leadership Development Strategy grants.

Recommendations from these alliances to federal government include such suggestions as ensuring full Medicare coverage for abortion care,¹⁰ lowering the voting age to 16,¹¹ and requiring all AI funding to have a “gendered lens”.¹²

In addition, the “Working for Women Program” run by the Office for Women facilitates a number of grants that support their goal of “improving outcomes for women and gender equality in Australia”¹³ but which have a recurring emphasis on ideologically driven or niche objectives. These grants include \$5 million to research gendered economic inequality, \$5 million to build a pipeline of diverse women to enter public office at all levels of government, \$3 million to address the “barriers that restrict culturally and linguistically diverse women’s upward mobility into leadership roles”, and \$3 million to “increase women’s representation in leadership in the Australian seafood industry”.

9 National Women’s Alliances, “The Role of the Alliances” (accessed 15 July 2026): <https://nationalwomensalliances.org.au/the-role-of-the-alliances/>.

10 Working with Women Alliance, *Policy Brief: Abortion Access in Australia* (January 2026): <https://www.wa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/WwWA-Policy-Briefing-Abortion-Access-in-Australia.pdf>.

11 Working with Women Alliance, *Take a Seat: Listening to the Policy Priorities of Australia’s Young Women* (May 2026): <https://www.wa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/Policy-Brief-Young-Women-Working-Group.pdf>.

12 Working with Women Alliance, *Artificial Intelligence, Gender and Economic Equality* (January 2026): <https://www.wa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/2WwWA-Policy-Brief-AI-Gender-and-Economic-Equality.pdf>.

13 Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, “Working for Women Program: Grants and Funding” (accessed 15 July 2026): <https://www.pmc.gov.au/office-women/working-for-women-program/working-women-program-grants-and-funding>.

Table 2: Taxpayer funding for National Women's Alliances and other Women's Advocacy Organisations from FY2021 to FY2025

Working with Women Alliance	\$1,280,899
The National Rural Women's Coalition	\$1,050,899
National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Women's Alliance	\$1,050,899
Women With Disabilities Australia Inc	\$1,050,899
Australian Multicultural Women's Alliance	\$230,000
National Women's Safety Alliance	\$820,899
Harmony Alliance	\$820,899

Membership of advocacy bodies

The Diversity Council of Australia was established in 1985 as the Council for Equal Opportunity in Employment Ltd, a joint initiative of the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Business Council of Australia to demonstrate the business community's commitment to equal opportunity for women.¹⁴ The DCA's mission has since been transformed to promote most forms of diversity, with an emphasis on regulating conduct in the workplace where it is a longstanding advocate of diversity, equity, and inclusion policies. This was famously highlighted in 2018 when materials devised by the DCA to encourage its members to abide by speech codes in the workplace were leaked to the media.¹⁵

In addition to direct advocacy to government, the DCA's main form of advocacy is to the community at large, to promote certain ideas about diversity to business leaders and the business community. The DCA has a de facto stamp of governmental authority, as many of its member organisations are government agencies or departments; of over 1,200 member organisations, no fewer than 317 are state and federal government entities including departments, statutory authorities, and other public-sector bodies.¹⁶ The DCA has five tiers of annual membership fees, ranging from \$1,885 to \$11,559, depending on the size of the member organisation.¹⁷ Taking an average of the five tiers (\$5,880), we can estimate that the 317 government bodies contribute \$1,863,960 to the DCA in annual membership fees alone. However, given the inherent uncertainty of this estimate, it is not included in the DCA's entry in table 5.

14 Diversity Council of Australia, "About DCA" (last accessed 15 July 2026): <https://dca.org.au/about-dca>.

15 Ally Foster, "Qantas Staff Told to Avoid 'Gender Inappropriate' Terms Like 'Wife' and 'Husband'" (news.com.au, 5 March 2018): <https://www.news.com.au/finance/business/travel/qantas-staff-told-to-avoid-gender-inappropriate-terms-like-wife-and-husband/news-story/068e9769c30a180b182ab8020a2d0e50>.

16 Diversity Council of Australia, 'Current DCA members' (last accessed 15 July 2026): <https://www.dca.org.au/membership/current-dca-members>.

17 Diversity Council of Australia, 'Fees': <https://www.dca.org.au/membership/fees>.

Direct funding support

Governments engage in less co-ordinated funding on an organisation-by-organisation basis. A major recipient of government funding are so-called “peak bodies”, whose purpose is to represent local or state level member organisations, where representation is typically advocacy and engagement in media and to policymakers.

The Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia (FECCA) is a prominent peak body for organisations representing the interests of Australians from “culturally or linguistically diverse backgrounds”.

FECCA’s role is to “advocate and promote issues on behalf of its constituency to government, business and the broader community”.¹⁸ The peak body is primarily funded by the Department of Health and Aged Care and the Department of Home Affairs. Its constituent organisations also receive a significant amount of government funding:

FECCA has lobbied for “embedding audience diversity and cultural inclusion across Australia’s arts and cultural sector to strengthen inclusion”,¹⁹ maintaining a refugee intake of 20,000 minimum per year,²⁰ and “legislating multiculturalism as a core Australian value”.²¹

Table 3: Taxpayer funding for organisations associated with the Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia from FY2021 to FY2025

Multicultural Communities Council Gold Coast	\$60,800,390
Multicultural Communities Council of Illawarra	\$52,693,802
Ethnic Communities’ Council of Queensland	\$35,949,376
Federation of Ethnic Communities’ Councils of Australia	\$25,117,188
Ethnic Communities’ Council of Victoria Inc	\$12,175,534
Multicultural Communities Council of SA Inc	\$12,762,829
Ethnic Communities’ Council of New South Wales	\$6,992,014
Multicultural Council of Tasmania	\$4,275,408
Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga	\$2,345,637
Ethnic Communities Council of WA INC	\$1,125,321

18 Federation of Ethnic Communities’ Councils of Australia, “Who We Are” (last accessed 15 July 2026): <https://fecca.org.au/about/who-we-are/>.

19 Federation of Ethnic Communities’ Councils of Australia, *Revive: Australia’s National Cultural Policy — Submission 2026* (not dated): <https://fecca.org.au/updates/revive-australia-national-cultural-policy-submission-2026/>.

20 Federation of Ethnic Communities’ Councils of Australia, *Submission to the Discussion Paper: Australia’s Humanitarian Program 2026–27* (April 2026): <https://fecca.org.au/updates/submission-to-the-discussion-paper-australias-humanitarian-program-2026-27/>.

21 Federation of Ethnic Communities’ Councils of Australia, *FECCA Policy Platform 2025* (April 2026): <https://fecca.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/FECCA-Policy-Platform-2025-1-FINAL.pdf>.

Peak organisations such as the LGBTIQ+ Health Australia and the National Ethnic Disability Alliance undertake policy advocacy on behalf of its community and represents other taxpayer funded organisations such as the Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association of Australia. Similarly, organisations such as Transgender Victoria have

“successfully supported transgender people to avoid being further incarcerated, ensuring they have effective legal representation, lived-experience peer support” and provide advice to government sectors including “Equality, Health, Mental Health, Justice, Corrections, Police and the Human Rights Commission.”²²

Table 4: Taxpayer funding for selected organisations that engage in diversity and health advocacy from FY2021 to FY2025

Acon Health Limited	\$99,055,363
LGBTIQ+ Health Australia	\$34,389,654
Women’s Health Victoria	\$20,829,477
Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association of NSW	\$13,724,193
Multicultural Centre for Women’s Health	\$37,202,358
Kin Disability Advocacy for Diverse Communities	\$13,356,634
National Ethnic Disability Alliance	\$10,777,962
Transgender Victoria	\$4,006,111
Minus18 Foundation Ltd	\$1,926,879
The Gender Centre	\$6,486,375
Transcend Australia	\$2,179,453
Open Doors Youth Service	\$4,977,666
Thorne Harbour Health	\$70,025,877

Case Study: Anti-Queensland puberty blockers regulation campaign

In January 2025, the Queensland government paused the prescription of puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones for new patients under the age of 18, pending an independent review of youth gender medicine. The decision followed mounting international caution, notably the Cass Review in Great Britain, which examined the evidence base

for these treatments in minors.²³ The state government framed this as a precautionary step while that evidence was examined.

Transcend Australia, which received approximately \$2.2 million in government funding between 2020 and 2025, joined a coordinated campaign opposing the pause, urging supporters to take action against the government and pressing for the reinstatement of puberty blockers for minors.

²² Transgender Victoria, *2024-25 Impact Report* (last accessed 15 July 2026): <https://www.tgv.org.au/impact-report>.

²³ Hilary Cass, *Independent Review of Gender Identity Services for Children and Young People: Final Report* (April 2024): archived at <https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20250310143933/https://cass.independent-review.uk/home/publications/final-report/>.

Other significant organisations include the Social Policy Group (formerly the Migration Council of Australia), and the Australian Multicultural

Foundation. Table 5 lists several significant organisations which engage in advocacy and receive taxpayer support.

Table 5: Taxpayer funding for other selected diversity advocacy bodies from FY2021 to FY2025

Our Watch Limited	\$86,798,445
Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia	\$78,701,480
The Social Policy Group	\$34,817,168
Immigration Advice Rights Centre	\$7,186,640
Diversity Council of Australia ²⁴	\$1,689,644
Settlement Council of Australia	\$5,469,964
Australian Multicultural Foundation	\$9,356,272
Asylum Seeker Resource Centre	\$19,518,219
Refugee Council of Australia	\$381,702
Centre For Multicultural Youth	\$77,690,040
Multicultural Australia	\$178,080,544

Case Study: Migration advocacy

The size and shape of Australia's migration program is among the most genuinely contested questions in national politics, with polling commissioned by the IPA finding roughly eight-in-ten Australians would prefer a significant reduction in the annual migration intake.²⁵

The Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA), the government-funded peak body for the refugee sector, does not just limit itself to representing its members; it actively campaigns to enlarge Australia's refugee program.

In its submission to the federal government's review of the migration system, RCOA cited the 2021 ALP National Platform in its call for the humanitarian intake to be increased to 32,000 places, well above the then level of 13,750.²⁶

The Settlement Council of Australia, as the national peak body representing over 160 settlement organisations, advocates for the government to treat the "20,000-place program for 2026–27 as a minimum baseline, with a clear medium-term trajectory toward growth in line with Australia's protection obligations, settlement capacity and global leadership role."²⁷

24 This only counts direct funding via government grants, and does not include an estimate of indirect funding from government through membership fees.

25 Institute of Public Affairs, *Immigration Poll* (February 2026).

26 Refugee Council of Australia, *A Migration System for Australia's Future* (December 2022): <https://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/2022-A-Migration-System-for-Australias-Future.pdf>.

27 Settlement Council of Australia, *Submission: Australia's Humanitarian Program 2026–27* (June 2026): <https://scoa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/Submission-Australias-Humanitarian-Program-2026-27.pdf>.

Nanny state and public health advocacy

The field of preventive health is fertile ground for nanny state activism. The argument that governments can and should intervene – ostensibly to protect people from harming themselves through the consumption of alcohol, tobacco, or fatty foods, and through other “harmful” activities – is encouraged and promoted by a network of pressure groups which receive significant support from the taxpayer.

The Cancer Council Australia was established in 1961 as the Australian Cancer Society by six state based bodies to serve as a federal organisation promoting cancer control at the national level.²⁸ Many of the activities undertaken by the Cancer Council are important and valuable to sufferers of cancer, such as fundraising for cancer research, operating telephone support lines, transporting people affected by cancer to treatment services, and wig services for people undertaking cancer treatment.²⁹ However, the Cancer Council is also a prominent advocate for government intervention and control over activities that have an actual or supposed causal relationship with cancer. It promotes: measures to restrict the depiction of smoking in movies; the plain packaging of tobacco products; the regulation of electronic cigarettes; increased excise on alcohol products; the introduction of warning labels for alcohol products; limiting the exposure of alcohol to the population; food labelling; and the regulation of food marketing to children.

A sampling of over 80 submissions to government inquiries produced by the Cancer Council between 2021 and 2025 reveals its advocacy has ranged from “First Nations data sovereignty” to supporting internet censorship by making “health mis and disinformation a regulatory responsibility” of all levels of government. Across Australia, Cancer Councils were supported by

taxpayers with \$87.8 million in 2024-25, and \$373.7 million over the last five financial years.

The Cancer Councils operate in a wider network of public health advocacy. The Cancer Council collaborates closely with Cancer Australia; an agency the Cancer Council itself lobbied the Commonwealth government to establish in 2006. It is a partner with Diabetes Australia, Kidney Health Australia, the National Heart Foundation of Australia, and the Stroke Foundation as part of the Australian Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance.³⁰ Cancer Council Victoria, with Diabetes Victoria and the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (a statutory authority of Victoria, commonly known as VicHealth) is a partner of the Obesity Policy Coalition, an advocate for regulatory solutions to address obesity in Australia.³¹ Cancer Council Victoria is also a partner – with the Alcohol and Drug Foundation, the Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education, the Public Health Association of Australia, and the Victorian Alcohol & Drug Association – in the Alcohol Policy Coalition which advocates for the “reduction and prevention of alcohol related problems”.³²

Cancer Council Australia is also a member organisation of the Social Determinants of Health Alliance (SDOHA), which was formed in 2012 to work with governments to address health inequities among Australians who are subject to social or economic disadvantage. Other members of SDOHA include the Climate and Health Alliance, the Australian Council of Social Service, the National Social Security Rights Network, the Health Care Reform Alliance, the Australian Health Promotion Association, the Public Health Association of Australia and the Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association.³³

28 The Cancer Council, ‘History’: <https://www.cancer.org.au/about-us/history.html>.

29 The Cancer Council, ‘What we do’: <https://www.cancer.org.au/about-us/what-we-do.html>.

30 Australian Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance: <https://www.acdpa.org.au/>.

31 Obesity Policy Coalition, ‘Partners & Funders’: <https://www.opc.org.au/who-we-are/partners>.

32 Alcohol Policy Coalition, ‘About’: <https://www.alcoholpolicycoalition.org.au/about>.

33 Social Determinants of Health Alliance, ‘Who we are’: <https://www.sdoha.org.au/who-we-are>.

Groups like the Network of Alcohol & Other Drugs Agencies Inc use taxpayer funding to advocate for causes such as “reducing the harms of colonialism”.³⁴

The Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association (ATODA) was established in 2010 as a peak body to represent public health bodies and ACT government agencies in promoting the prevention and reduction of harms associated with alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, and collaborates closely with the territory government in formulating relevant laws.

ATODA, the Alcohol and Drug Foundation and the WA Network of Alcohol and Other Drug Agencies

are members of the National Alliance for Action on Alcohol (NAAA), a national coalition of organisations formed in 2010 to advocate for stricter regulations to reduce alcohol-related harms.³⁵ The Victorian and South Australian Cancer Councils are members of the NAAA, as well as Cancer Council Australia-supported Australian Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance. Other taxpayer-funded member organisations of the NAAA include the Australian Health Promotion Association, the Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education, the Public Health Association of Australia.

Case Study: Covid advocacy

The wide-ranging economic and social restrictions imposed by Australian governments in response to Covid during and after 2020 comprised some of the most significant peacetime constraints on liberty in our nation’s history. These decisions were policy decisions which subordinated the ability of individuals and groups to engage in everyday activities to government public health objectives – decisions which were highly contestable and contested.

In practice, the debate about lockdowns and other measures was hindered by government engaging in high volume messaging and pressure campaigns to the public to comply with the decisions that had already been taken. Often, the governments’ decisions were reinforced by ostensibly independent

advocacy groups that lent governmental approaches an appearance of settled, expert consensus, but were themselves government funded.

The Consumers Health Forum of Australia (CHF), which receives funding from the Commonwealth government, repeatedly endorsed governmental measures and associated spending decisions. It praised the Commonwealth’s \$2.4 billion health plan as an impressive and wide-ranging response, and welcomed a \$30 million national media campaign to promote compliance. As restrictions eased, it urged that consumers need to play their part in avoiding infection by continuing with anti-Covid precautions. The Public Health Association of Australia, similarly funded by taxpayers, told a Senate inquiry that the response had been “exemplary”.

34 Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies, *Advocate* (March 2026): <https://nada.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/2026-advocate-march.pdf>.

35 National Alliance for Action on Alcohol, ‘About’: <https://actiononalcohol.org.au/about/>.

Table 6: Taxpayer funding for selected other public health advocacy bodies from FY2021 to FY2025

Cancer Councils	\$373,660,870
Alcohol and Drug Foundation (Australian Drug Foundation)	\$98,314,112
Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education Limited	\$35,027,824
Network of Alcohol & Other Drugs Agencies Inc	\$19,626,817
Consumers Of Mental Health WA	\$14,924,153
Consumers Health Forum of Australia Ltd	\$14,234,156
Victorian Alcohol & Drug Assn Inc	\$10,369,799
WA Network of Alcohol & Other Drug Agencies (WANADA)	\$9,393,651
The Victorian Healthcare Association	\$7,188,710
Queensland Network of Alcohol and Other Drugs Agencies	\$6,701,344
Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT (ATODA)	\$6,698,579
Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Council (TAS)	\$6,522,141
Penington Institute	\$5,160,326
Alcohol & Drug Foundation NSW	\$4,950,484
Public Health Association of Australia	\$2,569,800
South Australian Network of Drug & Alcohol Services Inc.	\$2,289,838
Australian Council on Smoking & Health	\$1,880,672
Obesity Australia Ltd.	\$1,384,965
Australian Health Promotion Association	\$1,288,804

Lawfare and welfare state advocacy

A significant amount of government funding flows to organisations that engage in forms of advocacy supporting the retention and expansion of the welfare state under the banner of poverty alleviation. Likewise, government funding for the legal aid network enables providers to engage in policy advocacy directed towards progressive solutions to health and welfare issues.

The most significant bodies in this category are the Australian Council of Social Service and Oxfam, which collectively received \$198 million from taxpayers directly between 2021 and 2025.

The Australian Council of Social Service was established in 1956, and is the peak national advocate for the reduction of poverty and inequality through the expansion of the welfare state.³⁶ As of writing, ACOSS is actively campaigning for Fast, Fair and Inclusive Climate Action. It is connected to many other activist networks, through its official support for the Recognise campaign, its membership of the Diversity Council of Australia, and its membership of the Climate Health Alliance, the Social Determinants of Health Alliance, and the Health Care Reform Alliance. ACOSS is a peak body, with government funded member organisations.

Oxfam Australia participates in numerous political campaigns across a range of policy areas, including criticising the federal government for “failing Australia’s First Peoples”, equating the use of coal with increasing poverty, and helping to establish the ongoing campaign to increase government funding to ‘Close the Gap’ between indigenous and non-indigenous health outcomes.³⁷

Other organisations considered here are the network of public law and legal aid organisations that are ostensibly targeted towards advocacy for people from lower socioeconomic backgrounds. Australia

maintains an extensive network of publicly funded legal organisations including community legal centres. Community legal centres are local, low-cost community-based organisations that provide legal services to the public, or a particular sector of the public such as people from a low socioeconomic background or people from an ethnically or culturally diverse background. The states and territories are primarily responsible for funding community legal centres, but the Commonwealth Attorney-General’s Department provides funds to the states, territories, and specific community legal centres, through the National Partnership Agreement on Legal Assistance Services. Commonwealth funding through this program alone amounted to over \$2 billion between June 2020 and June 2025.³⁸

Many are also prominent in policy advocacy, whether through direct public campaigning for legislative change, through formal submissions to parliamentary inquiries, or through “lawfare”: the strategic use of litigation to challenge existing laws, establish new judicial interpretations, or obstruct and delay the operation of government policy. Other community legal centres conduct policy advocacy in their own name. For instance, the Consumer Action Law Centre produced 163 submissions to government inquiries between 2021 and 2025.³⁹

Also included in this section is lawfare relating specifically to migration advocacy. Bodies such as Refugee Legal and the Human Rights Law Centre receive funding from government which it uses to hinder the federal government’s enforcement of its own immigration laws, while publicly campaigning for changes to those laws.

36 Australian Council of Social Service, ‘Who we are’: <https://acoss.org.au/about-us/>.

37 See Oxfam Australia, “Take Action” (last accessed 15 July 2026): <https://actions.oxfam.org/australia/>.

38 Federal Financial Relations, “National Legal Assistance Partnership (NLAP)” (last accessed 15 July 2026): <https://federalfinancialrelations.gov.au/agreements/national-legal-assistance-partnership-nlap>.

39 Consumer Action Law Centre, *Impact Report 2017–18* (November 2018): https://consumeraction.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Reports/181108_1718-Impact-Report_Final.pdf.

Table 7: Taxpayer funding for selected legal and social services advocacy organisation from FY2021 to FY2025

Australian Councils of Social Service	\$ 110,524,559
Oxfam Australia	\$87,314,000
Consumer Action Law Centre	\$28,988,628
Refugee Legal	\$20,371,047
LawRight	\$14,508,109
Federation of Community Legal Centres Victoria	\$13,430,091
Public Interest Advocacy Centre	\$11,568,765
National Association of Community Legal Centres Ltd	\$8,227,648
Community Legal Centres NSW Inc	\$5,985,455
Community Legal Centres Association (Western Australia) Inc	\$4,772,560
Economic Justice Australia	\$1,775,169
Justice-Net	\$1,212,503
Human Rights Law Centre Ltd	\$867,264

Case Study: Migration lawfare

As at 30 June 2025 there were an estimated 77,700 illegal immigrants in Australia, many of whom arrived legally and subsequently breached their visa conditions.⁴⁰

Bodies such as Refugee Legal and the Human Rights Law Centre engage in lawfare directed at immigration enforcement using available legal provisions to slow the capacity of departments to remove visa overstayers, drawing cases out over years at considerable cost to the taxpayer while also advocating publicly for changes to migration law. These organisations receive substantial state and federal funding.

In its own words Refugee Legal exists to “provide free specialist legal assistance to people seeking asylum, refugees and disadvantaged migrants”.⁴¹ In effect,

their goal is to make it harder for the Commonwealth to deport failed asylum seekers and unlawful migrants by winning test cases that create new legal protections and obstacles to removal.

Its advocacy extends to the conditions of detention itself. In 2020 Refugee Legal’s submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee on the Migration Amendment (Prohibiting Items in Immigration Detention Facilities) Bill 2020 sought to reduce the powers of the minister and migration detention staff to remove illegal or dangerous items from detention facilities.⁴²

This research was unable to identify any organisations dedicated to the enforcement of immigration law that received government funding.

40 Department of Home Affairs, “Document Released under FOI Request FA 25/12/01050”: <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/foi/files/2026/fa-251201050-document-released.PDF>.

41 Refugee Legal, “What We Do” (last accessed 15 July 2026): <https://refugeelegal.org.au/about-us-2/what-we-do/>.

42 Refugee Legal, *Submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee: Inquiry into the Migration Amendment (Prohibiting Items in Immigration Detention Facilities) Bill 2020* (2020): <https://refugeelegal.org.au/wp-content/uploads/RefugeeLegalSenateSubmission24ProhibitedItemsBill2020.pdf>.

Indigenous co-governance advocacy, including the Voice, treaty, and changes to national symbols

Co-governance is a model of governance and decision making in which a specified group in a society is apportioned separate institutions, political representation, and other rights or responsibilities because of their membership of that group.

Co-governance is practiced to a significant extent in New Zealand, where substantial state powers are devolved to Māori people, including the establishment of Māori wards and constituencies in local government, a Māori Health Authority, and the restructuring of New Zealand's water supply and sanitation systems to include Māori representation in the new governance structures.

In Australia, a more common nomenclature for substantially similar ideas is "self-determination". The purported rationale is that decision making that affects indigenous people should only be made by indigenous people. The voice to parliament proposal, which proposed to entrench in the Australian Constitution a permanent representative body for indigenous Australians to "make representations" to the parliament and government, is a manifestation of this principle. Likewise, the idea of treaty, such as that legislated in Victoria, is the formal recognition by agreement of self-determination principles.

Whether called co-governance or self-determination, the underlying principle is such that indigenous Australians are to be regarded as fundamentally separate to the body politic that all Australians belong to, and that this ought not only to be recognised in the institutions but also in terms of national symbols: hence the widespread presence of the Aboriginal and the Torres Strait Islander flags alongside the National Flag, and the movement in some parts of the community to refer to 26 January as Invasion Day.

The advocacy in this space has been facilitated by significant amounts of taxpayer funding. In the 2010s, the campaign to amend the Australian Constitution to recognise in some form Aboriginal and Torres

Strait Islanders not only received bipartisan political support, but the machinery of government was utilised to build support in the Australian community for this change. Previous IPA Research has highlighted that between 2012 and 2017 the federal government expended \$25.73 million to Recognise, a campaign entity operated by Reconciliation Australia which "worked to bring conversations about constitutional reform and recognition in the mainstream, and engaged the broader community on why reform is needed", and between 2017 and 2022 – the period when the Voice became established as the desired model of constitutional recognition – Reconciliation Australia and its state affiliates received a further \$30.28 million.⁴³

These groups were the primary campaigning bodies for the principles expressed in the Uluru Statement from the Heart, including but not limited to advocacy for the Voice to Parliament referendum in 2023. This section adapts and expands the analysis to cover the period from the 2021 financial year to the 2025 financial year.

The funding for bodies such as Reconciliation Australia is especially concerning in the context of constitutional debates. Under the Australian Constitution, the only method to change the text is by a national vote, and the government's support for the campaign bodies is in effect the government lobbying the public to accept its preferred changes – a clear inversion of democratic principles.

While Reconciliation Australia was made responsible for making the case in the community for constitutional change, several government bodies and government funded bodies officially signed on as supporters, including the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, the Australian Council of Social Service, the Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia, and the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation.

43 Morgan Begg, *How Governments Have Funded the Voice to Parliament Campaign* (Institute of Public Affairs Research Report, 2023); Morgan Begg and John Storey, *Submission to the Inquiry into the Referendum (Machinery Provisions) Amendment Bill 2022* (Institute of Public Affairs, December 2022).

In contrast, the analysis was unable to find a single example of an organisation dedicated to campaigning against the Voice receiving government funding.

These principles are disseminated in other fields too. SNAICC is a proponent of “sector transformation” which entails working with “governments and sector partners to strengthen shared decision-making”, “contributing to national reform processes”, and “supporting the implementation of Indigenous Data Sovereignty”.⁴⁴

The National Native Title Council is a peak body which represents the interests of native title claimants and holders, by working “closely with Traditional Owners, government, and industry partners to support and strengthen native title rights by changes to law, policy and best practice”.⁴⁵ The NNTC is a member of various advocacy alliances, including

the First Nations Heritage Protection Alliance, the Sea Country Alliance, and the Coalition of Peaks – a body representing 80 peak bodies and hundreds of indigenous controlled organisations which advocates for self-determination principles in Closing the Gap. Also a member of the Coalition of Peaks is the National Association of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners, which promotes self-determination principles in healthcare through its involvement in the Partnership for Justice in Health and in various collaborations in Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency working groups, such as the AHPRA Cultural Safety Working Group.⁴⁶

In this section, the amount of taxpayer funding to the abovementioned groups has been identified and added in the table below for the financial years ending 2021 to 2025.

Table 8: Taxpayer funding for selected bodies that advocated for indigenous co-governance and self-determination from FY2021 to FY2025

SNAICC - National Voice For Our Children Limited	\$33,139,225
Reconciliation Australia Ltd	\$28,315,218
National Native Title Council	\$17,935,323
National Association of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners	\$12,960,960
NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce Inc	\$4,260,034

44 SNAICC, ‘Sector transformation’: <https://www.snaicc.org.au/our-work/sector-transformation/>.

45 National Native Title Council, ‘About us’: <https://nntc.com.au/about-us/>.

46 National Association of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners, ‘Engagement and leadership’: <https://www.naatsihwp.org.au/what-we-do/engagement-and-leadership>.

Green advocacy

This report identifies almost \$170 million in funding over the last five years for conservation groups, proponents of wind and solar energy generation, and advocates of sustainability and emission reduction targets.

The Environmental Defenders Office routinely engages in 'lawfare' – the use of legal provisions to slow down and deter economic development.⁴⁷ The EDO frequently utilises section 487 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC), which grants green groups a special legal privilege to challenge the validity of a decision of the federal environment minister to approve a major project. Analysis by the IPA found that between 2000 and 2020 challenges under section 487 put \$65 billion of investment at risk by holding up major projects in court for a cumulative 10,100 days.⁴⁸

The EDO facilitates the "disrupt and delay" tactic espoused by Greenpeace in 2011 in relation to coal projects, that promoted engaging in lawfare while "gradually eroding public and political support for the industry and continually building the power of the movement to win more".⁴⁹ In other words, green lawfare not only has immediate consequences, but is itself a form of political campaigning. Consequently, the EDO has claimed responsibility for the banning

of native logging in WA, rejection of the Galilee coal project in QLD, and successfully forcing the federal government to concede the case brought against it over Adani's North Galilee Water Scheme.⁵⁰

Beyond lawfare, green groups also engage in standard public campaigning, a great deal of which is publicly funded. In a submission to a review of agricultural regulation, Birdlife Australia argued for "expanded Federal oversight encompassing land clearing, biodiversity and eco-systems, water resources, climate change, air pollution and protected areas".⁵¹ The Nature Conservancy Australia has called the 30x30 goal – where at least 30 per cent of Australia's landmass and marine areas are locked up – an "imperative policy" and boasted of working "alongside government and conservation partners every step of the way", and WWF-Australia published a report requesting government commit billions of dollars to purchase land and "increased support for the uptake of permanent conservation covenants on private lands".⁵² In May 2026, the state-based conservation councils strongly opposed the devolution of environmental powers to state and territory governments out of a fear that they might "approve mining, energy and land clearing projects that impact nationally significant environmental values".⁵³

47 For a list of court cases the EDO is currently engaged in, see <https://www.edo.org.au/cases>.

48 Kurt Wallace, *Section 487: How Activists use Red Tape to Stop Development and Jobs (2020 Update)* (Institute of Public Affairs Research Report, March 2020).

49 Greenpeace Australia, "Pacific Stopping the Australian Coal Boom: Funding Proposal for the Australian Anti-Coal Movement" (2011).

50 Environmental Defenders Office, 'What we do': <https://www.edo.org.au/what-we-do/>.

51 Birdlife Australia, *Submission to the review: Exploring ways to improve farmers' interaction with the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Submission, 2018).

52 The Nature Conservancy, 'In action - Australia's commitment to 30x30': <https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/asia-pacific/australia/stories-in-australia/30-by-30/>.

53 Environment Centre NT, Conservation Council of WA, Conservation Council ACT Region, Nature Conservation Council of NSW, Environment Tasmania, Conservation Council SA, Environment Victoria, and Queensland Conservation Council, 'National Environmental Standards for Matters of National Environmental Significance Submission (May 2026)': https://conservationcouncil.org.au/wp-content/uploads/MNES_Standards_Submission_-_Joint_Nature_Orgs.pdf.

A third type of advocacy common in this area is campaigns to convince the public. For instance, Future Fuels CRC lists as one of its “key research areas” “social acceptance, public safety and security of supply”. The Community Environment Network holds festivals to promote “actions you

can take on climate change”.⁵⁴ Even schoolchildren are targeted; since 2024, governments have been providing funds to Cool Australia, which produces classroom materials presenting an alarmist and emotive view about the topic of climate change.⁵⁵

Table 9: Taxpayer funding for selected organisations that engaged in environmental advocacy from FY2021 to FY2025

Nature Conservancy Australia	\$36,343,982
WWF-Australia	\$31,514,727
Future Fuels CRC Ltd	\$27,206,930
BirdLife Australia	\$16,995,167
Environmental Defender’s Office Ltd	\$11,943,607
Queensland Conservation Council	\$5,819,422
Australian Sustainable Finance Institute Limited	\$4,950,153
Environs Kimberley Inc	\$4,837,255
Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales	\$4,716,969
Conservation Council SA	\$3,930,047
Environment Centre NT	\$3,156,899
Gippsland Climate Change Network Limited	\$2,989,700
Original Power	\$2,960,883
Community Environment Network	\$2,463,089
Environmental Justice Australia	\$1,940,407
Carbon Market Institute Limited	\$1,701,641
Cool Australia	\$1,336,201
Climate Analytics Australia	\$1,065,096
Green Music Australia	\$1,017,809
Arid Lands Environment Centre Inc	\$983,324
Conservation Council ACT Region	\$963,640
Canberra & Southeast Region Environment Centre	\$928,563

54 Community Environment Network, ‘Before the Tide Festival’:
<https://cen.org.au/campaigns/climate-future/before-the-tide-festival/>.

55 Colleen Harkin and Margaret Chambers, *Climate of Fear: How the National Curriculum Drives Climate Anxiety Among Children* (Institute of Public Affairs, December 2025).

Case Study: Net Zero and climate policy

While research shows Australians express a strong preference for affordable and reliable energy over meeting net zero by 2050 emissions targets,⁵⁶ a range of taxpayer funded organisations are engaged in advocacy for net zero or more aggressive emissions reduction policies.

The Nature Conservation Council of NSW (NCC), the state's peak environmental advocacy body and a recipient of government funding, campaigns not just for net zero but for targets above and beyond what governments have committed to or legislated.

For instance, it has urged the NSW government to make its emissions targets legally binding by enshrining them in law, explicitly so that, in its chief executive's words, it would be "much harder for a future government to crabwalk away" from them. It campaigns for "no new, extended or expanded coal mines", for a hard cap on emissions, and has pressed planning authorities to refuse coal projects on climate grounds.

56 Institute of Public Affairs, Poll: *Attitudes towards net zero* (May 2025).

Conclusion

Australians expect and deserve an accountable, democratic government. When Australians debate matters of policy and politics in the media, in the workplace, and in their communities, they expect to have those discussions themselves, as private citizens. They do not expect their tax dollars to be deployed against them. They should not be expected to fund the lobbying of government or the creation of public awareness campaigns around issues which many of them strongly oppose.

The central finding of this report is that this taxpayer-funded advocacy runs in only one direction. Across all the fields examined – public health, multiculturalism, gender identity, social services, immigration, constitutional change and the environment – public money flows consistently to organisations advancing a progressive policy agenda. This effectively creates a state-funded patronage network for ideological progressivism.

This paper was unable to identify a single case of government funding flowing the other way. Governments do not fund organisations whose core mission is to advocate for the biological realities of binary sex, against an Indigenous Voice or treaty, or for the removal of those residing in Australia unlawfully. The result is not a neutral marketplace of publicly contested ideas, but a byzantine funding network that systematically subsidises one side of the nation's most contested debates.

This analysis is just a snapshot of how government stacks the deck of public debate, which by its nature is amorphous and difficult to catalogue systematically. Future research should also consider:

government media organisations such as the ABC and SBS; the use of external consultants by government departments; the public service; and how governments use the tender process for government projects and contracts to impose its preferences on businesses in the private sector.

The question then turns to what must be done. The funding of non-government organisations is a decision of the executive government, and a government could simply change its policy. The modest solution is to modify the funding rules to ban political advocacy or trim the funding to the worst offenders. However, such measures are temporary and risk leaving the underlying infrastructure intact for a future government to restore to full funding.

A more effective solution would entail “starving the beast” by scrapping government funding to organisations that engage in lobbying back to government, while also introducing stricter legislative safeguards around government grants. The case for the abolition of funding rests on a straightforward principle: lobbying government is not a core function of government, and the taxpayer should not be compelled to fund one side of the nation's political debates. Measured against that standard, much of this network has no legitimate claim on public money.

Where a function is genuinely necessary, it can continue under a new institution, with new people and a mandate accountable to the public rather than to the activist sector. But much of what this network produces is superfluous and expensive. It should end.

Appendix: Full list of 100 organisations cited in this report

Name	Funding FY20 to FY25	Section
Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia	\$78,701,480	Diversity
Acon Health Limited	\$99,055,363	Diversity
Alcohol & Drug Foundation NSW	\$4,950,484	Public health
Alcohol and Drug Foundation (Australian Drug Foundation)	\$98,314,112	Public health
Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT (ATODA)	\$6,698,579	Public health
Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Council (TAS)	\$6,522,141	Public health
Arid Lands Environment Centre Inc	\$983,324	Green advocacy
Asylum Seeker Resource Centre	\$19,518,219	Diversity
Australian Council on Smoking & Health	\$1,880,672	Public health
Australian Council of Social Service	\$110,524,559	Lawfare and welfare
Australian Health Promotion Association	\$1,288,804	Public health
Australian Multicultural Foundation	\$9,356,272	Diversity
Australian Multicultural Women's Alliance	\$230,000	Diversity
Australian Sustainable Finance Institute Limited	\$4,950,153	Green advocacy
BirdLife Australia	\$16,995,167	Green advocacy
Canberra & Southeast Region Environment Centre	\$928,563	Green advocacy
Cancer Councils	\$373,660,870	Public health
Carbon Market Institute Limited	\$1,701,641	Green advocacy
Centre For Multicultural Youth	\$77,690,040	Diversity
Climate Analytics Australia	\$1,065,096	Green advocacy
Community Environment Network	\$2,463,089	Green advocacy
Community Legal Centres Association (Western Australia) Inc	\$4,772,560	Lawfare and welfare
Community Legal Centres NSW Inc	\$5,985,455	Lawfare and welfare
Conservation Council ACT Region	\$963,640	Green advocacy
Conservation Council SA	\$3,930,047	Green advocacy
Consumer Action Law Centre	\$28,988,628	Lawfare and welfare
Consumers Health Forum of Australia Ltd	\$14,234,156	Public health
Consumers Of Mental Health WA	\$14,924,153	Public health
Cool Australia	\$1,336,201	Green advocacy
Diversity Council of Australia	\$3,553,604	Diversity
Economic Justice Australia	\$1,775,169	Lawfare and welfare
Environment Centre NT	\$3,156,899	Green advocacy

Name	Funding FY20 to FY25	Section
Environmental Defender's Office Ltd	\$11,943,607	Green advocacy
Environmental Justice Australia	\$1,940,407	Green advocacy
Environs Kimberley Inc	\$4,837,255	Green advocacy
Ethnic Communities Council of WA INC	\$1,125,321	Diversity
Ethnic Communities' Council of New South Wales	\$6,992,014	Diversity
Ethnic Communities' Council of Queensland	\$35,949,376	Diversity
Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria Inc	\$12,175,534	Diversity
Federation of Community Legal Centres Victoria	\$13,430,091	Lawfare and welfare
Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia	\$25,117,188	Diversity
Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education Limited	\$35,027,824	Public health
Future Fuels CRC Ltd	\$27,206,930	Green advocacy
Gippsland Climate Change Network Limited	\$2,989,700	Green advocacy
Green Music Australia	\$1,017,809	Green advocacy
Harmony Alliance	\$820,899	Diversity
Human Rights Law Centre Ltd	\$867,264	Lawfare and welfare
Immigration Advice Rights Centre	\$7,186,640	Diversity
Justice-Net	\$1,212,503	Lawfare and welfare
Kin Disability Advocacy for Diverse Communities	\$13,356,634	Diversity
LawRight	\$14,508,109	Lawfare and welfare
LGBTIQ+ Health Australia	\$34,389,654	Diversity
Minus18 Foundation Ltd	\$1,926,879	Diversity
Multicultural Australia	\$178,080,544	Diversity
Multicultural Centre for Women's Health	\$37,202,358	Diversity
Multicultural Communities Council Gold Coast	\$60,800,390	Diversity
Multicultural Communities Council of Illawarra	\$52,693,802	Diversity
Multicultural Communities Council of SA Inc	\$12,762,829	Diversity
Multicultural Council of Tasmania	\$2,345,637	Diversity
Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga	\$4,275,408	Diversity
Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association of NSW	\$13,724,193	Diversity
National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Women's Alliance	\$1,050,899	Diversity
National Association of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners	\$12,960,960	Co-governance

Name	Funding FY20 to FY25	Section
National Association of Community Legal Centres Ltd	\$8,227,648	Lawfare and welfare
National Ethnic Disability Alliance	\$10,777,962	Diversity
National Native Title Council	\$17,935,323	Co-governance
National Women's Safety Alliance	\$820,899	Diversity
Nature Conservancy Australia	\$36,343,982	Green advocacy
Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales	\$4,716,969	Green advocacy
Network of Alcohol & Other Drugs Agencies Inc	\$19,626,817	Public health
NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce Inc	\$4,260,034	Co-governance
Obesity Australia Ltd.	\$1,384,965	Public health
Open Doors Youth Service	\$4,977,666	Diversity
Original Power	\$2,960,883	Green advocacy
Our Watch Limited	\$86,798,445	Diversity
Oxfam Australia	\$87,314,000	Lawfare and welfare
Penington Institute	\$5,160,326	Public health
Public Health Association of Australia	\$2,569,800	Public health
Public Interest Advocacy Centre	\$11,568,765	Lawfare and welfare
Queensland Conservation Council	\$5,819,422	Green advocacy
Queensland Network of Alcohol and Other Drugs Agencies	\$6,701,344	Public health
Reconciliation Australia	\$28,315,218	Co-governance
Refugee Council of Australia	\$381,702	Diversity
Refugee Legal	\$20,371,047	Lawfare and welfare
Settlement Council of Australia	\$5,469,964	Diversity
SNAICC - National Voice For Our Children Limited	\$33,139,225	Co-governance
South Australian Network of Drug & Alcohol Services Inc.	\$2,289,838	Public health
The Gender Centre	\$6,486,375	Diversity
The National Rural Women's Coalition	\$1,050,899	Diversity
The Social Policy Group	\$34,817,168	Diversity
The Victorian Healthcare Association	\$7,188,710	Public health
Thorne Harbour Health	\$70,025,877	Diversity
Transcend Australia	\$2,179,453	Diversity
Transgender Victoria	\$4,006,111	Diversity
Victorian Alcohol & Drug Assn Inc	\$10,369,799	Public health

Name	Funding FY20 to FY25	Section
WA Network of Alcohol & Other Drug Agencies (WANADA)	\$9,393,651	Public health
Women With Disabilities Australia Inc	\$1,050,899	Diversity
Women's Health Victoria	\$20,829,477	Diversity
Working with Women Alliance	\$1,280,899	Diversity
WWF-Australia	\$31,514,727	Green advocacy

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