



Information Sheet 99
POSITIONS: First Nations people

The Animal Justice Party (AJP) applies its core values of Kindness, Equality, Rationality and Non-violence in all areas.

What is a position?

Whilst the policy focus of the Animal Justice Party (AJP) is on animals and nature, we also have positions regarding non-animal matters which are important to the voting public. Voters must know how AJP representatives will vote on important non-animal issues. These positions bind our MPs but are not to be a campaign focus ahead of animal issues. All AJP positions, like this one, must flow from our four core values: Kindness, Equality, Rationality and Non-violence.

First Nations

The Animal Justice Party (AJP) recognises the horrific treatment of First Nations people since European arrival and endorses every effort to rectify these long standing injustices. We understand that First Nations communities that were here before colonisation, had a complex system of relationships and management of self, other people and their wider world that enabled them to thrive on a continent that was, in itself, a complex environment. First Nations people were caretakers of the continent and its inhabitants for tens of thousands of years and sovereignty was never ceded.

The AJP will always support equality (one of four core values) and oppose oppression. We also support equity and fairness. It is not the place of the AJP to unilaterally decide on social or economic issues of special concern to First Nations people; our primary mission and policy expertise is representing

animals and nature. For social or economic issues impacting First Nations communities, our representatives will consult directly with local Indigenous leaders and be guided by their experience. The AJP supports self-determination and empowering First Nations communities. The party will consult with First Nations people on issues like treaty, constitutional reform, education, health, incarceration and others, recognising the complexity and diversity of views across First Nations communities.

The AJP supports establishing one or more Makarrata Commissions to facilitate truth-telling and agreement-making between First Nations peoples and various governments. All governments must comply with their obligations under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples¹ and the AJP supports the articles therein.

The AJP is committed to non-violence. Sadly we continue to see Aboriginal deaths in custody since the Royal Commission in 1987. Hundreds have continued to die² with some factors including overrepresentation in the criminal justice system, procedures not being followed and medical care being withheld. With First Nations people 15³ to 26⁴ times more likely to be incarcerated, major reform is urgently required. The AJP supports the development and implementation of holistic approaches to address this violence and discrimination and their root causes.

¹<https://www.humanrights.gov.au/our-work/un-declaration-rights-indigenous-peoples-1>

²<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2020/jun/06/aboriginal-deaths-in-custody-434-have-died-since-1991-new-data-shows>

³<https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/by%20Subject/4517.0-2018~Main%20Features~Aboriginal%20and%20Torres%20Strait%20Islander%20prisoner%20characteristics%20-13>

⁴<https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/youth-justice/youth-detention-population-in-australia-2018/contents/table-of-contents>



Want a voice for animals in Parliament? Join, donate, or find out more about the Animal Justice Party at animaljusticeparty.org. You can also read our policies, here: animaljusticeparty.org/policieslist.

Authorised by: Geoff Russell, 6 Fifth Ave, St Morris SA 5068