

Commissioner for the Senate

– Health

Pandemics and an ageing population have placed a lot of pressure on our health systems; so much pressure that the systems have been pushed nearly to the breaking point. Looking forward for the next six years we must consider the importance of long-term health for all people. We need to research the effect of diet and other environmental conditions on long term health so all of us can remain healthy. This is particularly important for Indigenous people, whose health has suffered over the centuries of colonisation and the introduction of a diet unsuitable to Indigenous metabolisms.

– Climate

The next six years will be a time of increasing floods, heat waves and bushfires. These changes place all our lives and livelihoods at risk. It's too late to prevent or avoid global warming and to mitigate or prevent the development of these weather effects. Our lives have already begun changing in ways we cannot predict. It is time to begin the process of adapting. It's time to work towards preparing our society for the new social paradigm. It's time to prepare for a world that is rapidly, through our own faults and failings, becoming one unsuited to our way of life.

– Education

We run the risk, over the next six years, of destabilising our educational system. If we fail to act our system will no longer be fit for purpose. Generative AI is a powerful tool for creating content but the content is developed bypassing the need to learn the skills or understand what is being created. In order to protect the quality of our education we will need to find a way to ban generative AI and machine learning systems in schools. Children must learn and to learn they must gain knowledge. Generative AI places all that at risk.

– Justice

As commissioner for the senate I understand an achievable goal for justice over the next 6 years is the end of Indigenous overrepresentation in the prison system. There is no reasonable excuse for this inequality to have continued as long as it has. Multiple royal commissions over decades have come to the same conclusion again and again – Indigenous incarceration rates are the product of systemic racism at every stage of the judicial process from policing through to sentencing. Ending systemic racism in the court and policing systems is a long process but it's past time that we begin.

– Culture

Now is a time to do the right thing, no matter how hard it might seem to act. We must, if we are to be a united nation, move towards treaties between the colony of Australia and the first people of this continent. This will be a long process which is why we must begin now – if we begin now and put in the work it should be possible to negotiate and ratify treaties within the next 6 years. If we never begin, if we continue the way things have continued we might never have justice and equality in which Indigenous cultures can thrive.

– Country

In this day and age it's shocking that crown land still exists more than 30 years after the Mabo decision which declared all unallocated land belongs to the traditional owners. As commissioner for the senate I say now is the time to abolish crown land and return all unused land to the traditional owners to care for. This is also a great opportunity to place Indigenous land managers in control of the national parks in their own ancestral countries. Indigenous land belongs in Indigenous hands and this is all Indigenous land.