

Commissioner for Generations

– Health

Over the next one hundred years time we can easily imagine having healed most physical health concerns through advances in medical technology and quality of life. However we can expect health concerns from grief and emotional injuries from the extreme loss of quality of life caused by climate change. It's important to prepare for these negative health outcomes by improving our mental and emotional health infrastructure. If our people are to adapt we must begin the process now. It might already be too late; the climate adaptation emergency is already upon us.

– Climate

The land has always been able to survive and sustain some sort of life through multiple extinctions. No matter what we do, life will always survive on this planet. Technological solutions to the problem of climate change will always fail; it's time to try ecological solutions. As the commissioner for generations I am here to tell you that the only way to ensure our future on this planet is to encourage the land to regenerate so that the Earth can heal. Once the Earth heals it can become a habitat for our species again. This might be our greatest multi-generational challenge.

– Work

If we truly look forward to the next one hundred years we have to take into account the fact that work as we know it will not exist forever. One day automation will render work obsolete. The transition to the end of work will have perhaps the most profound effect on society ever seen, it will change our values, our sense of worth, our social classes. We must prepare for a future where leisure is the norm and for new ways to define our worth rather than money and profession. Who knows what we can become.

– Education

For the last few centuries the education system of this country has elevated western education over all other forms, ignoring the deep and rich cultural and knowledge systems that have existed here for tens of thousands of years. Over the next 100 years we must correct that imbalance, bringing two-ways education, a combination of western and Indigenous systems, into the core of our schools for all Australians. This change will finally give our young people, and everybody in the future, a chance to properly connect to country and become part of the life of this continent.

– Culture

One of the most important projects for this country over the next one hundred years is decolonisation; a return to connection to Country. It would be a mistake, a failure of the imagination to believe decolonisation is only for Indigenous people. Decolonisation is for all. We will decolonise our population, abolish the colony in our heads. All people will learn to connect to country, this entire continent and all who live on need to be Indigenised so we can imagine a better future. Once everybody learns to love and care for country like Indigenous people, we might stand a chance of healing our planet.

– Country

Traditional ways of dividing land management areas, states, local governments etcetera, are terribly inadequate for managing the environment on this the oldest continent on the planet, where the oldest living culture on Earth has lived forever. As Minister for Generations I believe it necessary to reconsider the ways we divide land. A way of recognising bioregions already existed before colonisation, Indigenous traditional owners already hold those knowledges. It's time to consider re-organising land management areas to match those recognised by traditional owners and place land management in the hands of those best trained to manage land, the traditional owners.