CHRYSTEN ABRAHAM

WE *CAN* DO BETTER.

COMMON SENSE POLICY PLAN

INDEPENDENT
FOR FRANKSTON

For Frankston.

Authorised by H.Reeve, 435 Nepean Hwy, Frankston 3199

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INTRODUCTION - WHY I'M RUNNING

Frankston is worth fighting for. This is more than a seat on an electoral map. It is our home. It is where every individual matters. It is where we raise our families, build our businesses, volunteer, work hard, look after one another and work hard for our futures.

I refuse to believe we should simply accept less for Frankston.

I want more for Frankston. More ambition. More accountability. More urgency. More pride in the place we call home and more belief in what our community and Victoria can become.

For too long, we have watched the basics get harder. Roads deteriorate. Healthcare pressure. Homelessness increase. Individuals, families and small businesses struggling with cost of living. Spending increase, bureaucracy grow, and excuses become easier to find. That is not good enough.

Government should work for people. It should solve problems, spend wisely, protect what matters and leave our communities stronger than it found them.

Right now, we are in **political triage**. When a patient arrives in a critical condition, you do not start by fixing their broken arm while ignoring the fact they may not survive. You identify what is life-threatening, stabilise them, prioritise what is critical, and then repair what is broken. Government needs to do the same.

We cannot keep treating symptoms while ignoring the cause. We cannot allow politics, headlines and bureaucracy to decide what matters most. We cannot keep spreading our attention everywhere while the most critical problems get worse.

My approach is simple - diagnose the problems causing the greatest harm. Find the root cause. Respond with practical solutions. Reprioritise money and resources where they will make the greatest difference. Demand accountability. Fix the basics. Bring the change. Strengthen our communities. **PRIORITISE. SOLVE. DELIVER.**

I believe our problems are **solvable**. I believe government can work better. I believe our community can be stronger and I believe we should never become so used to declining standards that we stop demanding more. Frankston has enormous potential.

We can restore civic pride. We can create opportunity. We can strengthen our community. We can build a future worthy of the people who call this place home.

WE DESERVE BETTER.

WE DEMAND BETTER.

WE CAN DO BETTER.

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THE COMMUNITY CONTRACT

Between

“Chrysten Abraham” Independent Candidate for Frankston ("The Candidate")

and

The People of Frankston ("The Frankston Community")

Purpose

This Community Contract is a public commitment between The Candidate and The Frankston Community.

Unlike political parties, an Independent answers directly to the people who elect them.

This Contract sets out the principles that will guide every decision, every vote and every action taken on behalf of our community.

The Candidate Commits To:

- **Put Frankston First**

  Every decision will begin with one question:

  "Is this in the best interests of Frankston?"

- **Listen Before Deciding**

  Remain accessible, consult with the community and listen before making significant decisions.

- **Tell the Truth**

  Communicate honestly, acknowledge mistakes and explain decisions openly.

- **Be Accountable**

  Report back to the community, support greater transparency and be judged by results, not rhetoric.

- **Respect Every Taxpayer Dollar**

  Treat public money with the same care and responsibility that families and businesses apply to their own budgets.

- **Work With All for Better Outcomes**

  Work with any political party, any level of government and any organisation if it delivers a better outcome for Frankston.

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- **Never Stop Fighting for Frankston**

  Whether an issue is local, state or federal, always advocate in the best interests of our community.

Guiding Principles

Every policy, every vote and every decision will be guided by:

- Frankston First
- Community Before Politics
- Every Dollar Counts
- Honesty
- Accountability

My Promise

This Contract is a public promise.
A promise that Frankston will always come before politics.
A promise to remain accessible, honest and accountable.
A promise to never forget who this seat belongs to.
It does not belong to a political party.
It belongs to the people of Frankston.

Signed,

Chrysten Abraham
Independent for Frankston

Signature: Chrysten Abraham

Date: 29/08/2026

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COMMON SENSE POLICY PLAN

Real change starts by refusing to lower our expectations of what is possible. These plans won't happen overnight, but plenty of what we have today was once considered unrealistic.

My approach to the political triage situation we are in is simple: DR. ABC - diagnose the real problem, respond with practical solutions, act with accountability, bring the change, and strengthen the community. I'm going to dream big, expect better and tackle each issue with the discipline of DR. ABC, because if we keep accepting what we have always had, nothing will ever change.

D — DIAGNOSE

- Diagnose the problems causing the greatest harm.
- Identify the root cause.
- Prioritise the critical issues first.

R — RESPONSE

- Respond to the cause, not just the symptoms.
- Practical solutions before politics and headlines.
- Direct money and resources where they will make the biggest difference.

A — ACCOUNTABILITY

- Measure government by results.
- Track every dollar, reprioritise spending and cut unnecessary bureaucracy.
- Hold our public servants accountable.

B — BRING THE CHANGE

- Fix the basics - roads, healthcare, safety and homelessness.
- Back YOU, small businesses, skills and our future.
- Common sense long-term improvements.

C — COMMUNITY STRENGTH

- Frankston ahead of party politics.
- Community-led solutions.
- Return to local pride, opportunity and stronger communities.

PRIORITISE. SOLVE. DELIVER.

WE CAN DO BETTER.

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1. PRIORITISE THE BASICS

Getting the basics right changes everything.
When healthcare improves, families have peace of mind.
When addiction is treated, crime falls.
When homelessness is reduced, communities become stronger.
When people feel safe, Frankston flourishes.
Political parties have spent years chasing headlines.

I'll focus on getting the basics right, because that's what people expect, and that's what they deserve. That's why I'll fight for:

- **Better Roads**
  Taxpayers deserve roads that are built to last: not the same potholes repaired time and time again. I'll fight for better maintenance, long term planning, warranties on road repairs and bringing every Frankston road up to an acceptable standard.

- **Better Healthcare**
  Healthcare should be available when you need it. I'll advocate for stronger local health services, training programs for new nurses to gain experience, better mental health services, immediate access to drug rehabilitation, better support and leave access for nurses and doctors and investment across the Peninsula to reduce pressure on Frankston Hospital.

- **Safer Communities**
  Everyone deserves to feel safe. I'll support stronger, tougher consequences for repeat offenders, safer public spaces, better police resourcing, mental health services and rehabilitation programs that reduce reoffending by helping people rebuild their lives.

- **Addiction Recovery**
  Addiction shouldn't be managed by moving people from one place to another. I'll fight for immediate access to rehabilitation, better mental health support and clear pathways into employment, housing and long term recovery.

- **A Pathway Out of Homelessness**
  Homelessness has many causes and requires practical, tailored solutions. I'll support increased crisis accommodation, stronger partnerships with community organisations and pathways that help people move from crisis to independence through rehabilitation, housing, counselling and employment. Address the resident care system, bring in and enforce minimum standards of temporary housing.

Success isn't measured by how many services government creates.

It's measured by how many people no longer need them.

I'll focus on getting the basics right, because that's what people expect, and that's what they deserve.

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2. MAKE POLITICIANS ACCOUNTABLE

No More Excuses. No More Rorts. Trust in politics has been broken. That won't change until politicians are held to the same standards as everyone else.

If every day Australians are accountable at work, politicians should be too.

I'll fight for:

- Tough anti-corruption laws.
- Mandatory conflict of interest declarations before votes are cast.
- Public reporting on government commitments and delivery.
- Criminal penalties for corruption.
- Criminal penalties for knowingly wasting taxpayer money.
- Consequences for deliberately misleading Victorians.
- Greater transparency across government.
- Publishing meetings with lobbyists.
- Stronger protections for whistleblowers exposing corruption.

Public office is a responsibility, not a privilege

The Results Guarantee (see Appendix on pg.15 for more details)

Government should be measured by results. Every workplace measures performance. Government should too.
Victorians deserve to know whether government is delivering what they paid for.

Performance measures should include but are not limited to:

- Ambulance & Triple Zero response times
- Emergency department waiting times
- Access to healthcare
- Road quality
- Public transport reliability
- Education outcomes
- Housing availability
- Infrastructure delivery
- Government financial performance
- Community safety

The Results Guarantee lets Victorians decide the key performance indicators. Government performance would then be independently measured and publicly reported against those community-set benchmarks. If government genuinely fails to deliver, a portion of funding could be returned to taxpayers through a Taxpayer Performance Dividend.

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3. RAISING CHILDREN

When parents have genuine choice. Children benefit.

Grandparents remain connected. Families become stronger.

Communities become closer.

Families shouldn't feel pressured into using a service simply because government funding only supports one option.

Government should support the care. Not just the institution where that care happens.

Support families, carers, guardians. Fund care. Not institutions.

Every family is different. Some parents, guardians and carers choose childcare. Some rely on grandparents.

Some have one parent stay at home. Others share caring responsibilities with family or close friends. Government shouldn't decide which choice is the "right" one. Parents, guardians and carers should.

Families deserve support, not a system that rewards one form of care while overlooking every other.

Because raising children isn't just about childcare. It's about care.

I'll fight to:

- Fund the child, not the childcare provider.
- Childcare funding to follow the family's chosen care arrangement.
- Recognise grandparents and approved family carers as eligible care providers where appropriate.
- Give parents, guardians and carers greater flexibility over how childcare funding is used.
- Reduce financial barriers that force families into care arrangements they wouldn't otherwise choose.
- Ensure there are checks and balances in the application process to avoid rorts.

Success Looks Like:

- Parents, guardians and carers choosing the care that works best for their family unit.
- More flexibility for working families.
- Greater recognition of grandparents and family carers.
- Stronger early childhood outcomes.
- Government supporting families instead of limiting their choices.

Support families, not bureaucracy. Backing parents, guardians and carers builds stronger communities.

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4. BETTER EDUCATION

Skills. Opportunity. Jobs.

Victoria already knows where the workforce shortages are:

- Teaching
- Nursing
- Medicine
- Trades
- Electrical
- Engineering
- Technology & Artificial Intelligence

Yet too many young people leave school without a clear pathway into these rewarding careers. Every young person deserves to leave school with hope, not uncertainty. By investing earlier, removing barriers and creating stronger connections between education and employment, we can prepare the next generation for the jobs that will keep Victoria moving. Let's prepare young people before they leave school and create integration programs for graduates. Students deserve clear pathways into rewarding careers.

I'll fight for:

- Career planning and industry exposure for those interested (from Year 10+).
- Tutoring for students pursuing priority industries.
- Professional mentoring from experienced industry leaders.
- Structured work experience with local employers.
- Clear pathways into apprenticeships, TAFE and university.
- Graduate integration programs that help young people transition into the workforce.
- Stronger partnerships between schools, training providers, universities and industry.

Success Looks Like:

- More students entering high demand careers.
- Reduced workforce shortages in essential industries.
- More apprenticeships, traineeships and graduate opportunities.
- Stronger partnerships between education and industry.
- A workforce prepared for both today's challenges and tomorrow's opportunities.

The best investment we can make isn't in more bureaucracy.

It's in giving young Australians the skills, support and opportunities they need to build successful careers. These pathways may also be available for adults looking to change careers and study. Opportunity to pathway into the outlined industries has no reasonable age limit.

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5. PUT FRANKSTON FIRST

Frankston deserves a representative whose focus is entirely on this community, its people, its priorities and its future. As an Independent, I can put Frankston first without having to answer to a party room or political agenda.

Every decision starts with one simple question: "Is this what's best for Frankston?"

I will:

- Put Frankston before party politics.
- Consult the community before major decisions.
- Hold regular community forums and listening sessions.
- Be accessible, accountable and available throughout my term - not just during an election campaign.
- Fight for Frankston regardless of which level of government is responsible.

Because people don't care whether their problem sits with Council, the State Government or the Federal Government. They just want someone willing to stand up, find the right door and fight to get something done. If it affects Frankston, I'll be there.

"BUT WHAT CAN ONE INDEPENDENT REALLY DO?"

People ask me this and I think we should be asking a different question: Why have we lowered our expectations of what we deserve from our representatives? Politics is changing.

Every seat deserves to be fought for. Every community deserves a representative prepared to fight just as hard for them after the election as they did to win their vote.

The next Victorian Parliament has the potential to look very different from anything we've seen before. There is a real possibility that a stronger crossbench in the Lower House could play an important role - influencing decisions, negotiating for better outcomes and helping deliver change for the communities they represent.

Regardless of who holds the balance of power, an Independent has something incredibly valuable. The freedom to put their community first. No party room telling me how to vote. No party agenda to protect. No need to stay quiet because speaking up might upset the leadership.

My job would be to represent Frankston. If we've been told an Independent "can't do much" because that's the way politics has always worked, maybe it's time we stopped accepting the way it's always been.

Different times create different opportunities. And Frankston should be ready to take ours.

My loyalty will be to the people of Frankston. My focus will be on getting the best possible outcomes for our community.

We deserve better. We demand better. We CAN do better.

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6. STOP THE WASTE

Political parties broke Victoria's finances.

Now taxpayers are paying the price.

Families are tightening their belts while governments continue wasting billions.

Every dollar wasted is a dollar that isn't fixing roads, improving healthcare, supporting schools or helping our community. **Government should respect every taxpayer dollar because it belongs to you, not politicians.**

I'll fight to:

- Eliminate unnecessary government waste.
- Restore fiscal responsibility.
- Disclose spending and financial modelling transparently.
- Audit major government spending.
- Reduce bureaucracy.
- Deliver better value for every taxpayer dollar.
- Prioritise frontline services over political announcements.

If families have to budget, government should too.

Government doesn't create wealth.

It spends yours.

The less government wastes...

The more families keep.

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7. BACK SMALL BUSINESS

Stop Strangling the People Who Keep Victoria Running.

Small businesses aren't asking for handouts. They're asking government to stop making success harder. Every café. Every tradie. Every retailer. Every manufacturer. Every family-owned business. They're the people creating jobs, sponsoring local sporting clubs, supporting charities and keeping our communities alive. When small businesses succeed. Frankston succeeds. Government should be their biggest supporter, not their biggest obstacle. Remove Barriers. Create Opportunity.

Too often, governments make it harder to start, grow and invest in a business.
Small business owners spend too much time navigating paperwork instead of serving customers.
Government should get out of the way. Creating jobs should be easier, not harder.

Keep Frankston Local

- Frankston has something special.
- People genuinely want to support local businesses.
- Government should make that easier.
- Every dollar spent locally helps create local jobs, support individuals in our community, supports local families and keeps our shopping strips vibrant.

Backing Small Business Means Backing Jobs

The best employment program isn't another government department. It's a thriving local business sector. Small businesses employ local people. Train apprentices. Give young people their first opportunity and invest back into our community.

I'll fight for:

- Reducing unnecessary red tape and simplifying government approvals.
- Faster permit and licensing timeframes.
- Reducing payroll tax and land tax.
- Removing emergency services levies that don't directly fund emergency services.
- Encouraging government to buy local wherever possible.
- Supporting Frankston business networks, chambers of commerce and local business initiatives.
- Strengthening Frankston's night-time economy.
- Building stronger partnerships between businesses, schools and training providers to create more apprenticeships, traineeships and local jobs.

Success Looks Like:

- More businesses opening than closing.
- Faster approvals and fewer bureaucratic delays.
- More apprenticeships and local jobs.
- Thriving shopping precincts.
- A stronger night time economy.
- More people choosing to invest in Frankston.

When local businesses succeed. Jobs grow. Families prosper. Communities thrive. Frankston wins.

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WE CAN DO BETTER – CLOSING VISION

I believe in Frankston. I believe in Victoria and I believe our best days are still ahead of us.

We can have better roads, stronger healthcare, safer communities, thriving businesses and a government that respects every taxpayer dollar. We can build a Victoria where hard work is rewarded, opportunity exists and the next generation looks to the future with optimism.

But better doesn't just happen. We have to choose it.

Like many people my age, when I think about having children one day, I think about the Victoria they will inherit.

Will they be able to afford a home? Will healthcare be there when they need it? Will they have opportunity? Will they be proud to call Frankston home?

I want the answer to be an overwhelming yes, for everyone in our community, for those you love, for those that need love and for every generation that follows.

People ask, **"What can one Independent really do?"**

Maybe the question isn't what one Independent can do. Maybe it's why we've stopped expecting more from the people we elect.

Politics is changing. A stronger crossbench will have a genuine opportunity to influence decisions and negotiate better outcomes for our communities. Regardless of who holds the balance of power, being Independent means I can work with anyone, challenge anyone and support any good idea.

I answer to one group of people - the people of Frankston.

I want us to expect more again and believe in what we can build together.

Community before politics. Results before excuses. Frankston first.

We deserve better.

We demand better.

We CAN do better.

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APPENDIX - THE RESULTS GUARANTEE

A new standard of accountability. Governments ask taxpayers to trust them with billions of dollars every year.

Taxpayers have every right to expect results in return.

The Results Guarantee is founded on one simple belief:

- Government should be measured by outcomes, not excuses.
- Its purpose is not to punish governments.
- Its purpose is to encourage better decision making, greater transparency and stronger accountability for every taxpayer dollar.

1. Why This Matters

Every workplace measures performance. Businesses measure results. Hospitals measure patient outcomes.

Government should be no different.

The Results Guarantee shifts the conversation away from how much government spends and towards what that spending actually delivers.

Because government doesn't exist to spend money.

It exists to improve people's lives.

2. The Community Sets the Priorities

Government should not be responsible for deciding how its own success is measured.

Victorians should have a direct say in determining the outcomes that matter most through an annual, independently administered Performance Vote.

Performance measures could include but are not limited to:

- Ambulance response times
- Triple Zero response times
- Hospital waiting times
- Road quality
- Infrastructure delivery
- Community safety
- Housing availability
- Education outcomes
- Financial responsibility
- Government efficiency

These measures would evolve over time to reflect the changing priorities of Victorians.

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3. Meaningful Community Participation

For the Performance Vote to genuinely represent Victorians, a minimum participation threshold would apply.

One model proposed for consultation is that at least **60% of eligible Victorian voters voluntarily participate** before the community-selected measures become the Government's official performance benchmarks.

The voting system would need to independently verify eligibility, ensure each eligible Victorian can participate only once, and protect the integrity and privacy of the process.

If the agreed participation threshold is not reached, the community-selected benchmarks would not be activated for that year.

4. Independently Measuring Results

Once the community's priorities are established, government performance would be measured against clear, measurable benchmarks using independently verified data wherever practical.

Results would be reported annually in a format that is:

- Public and transparent
- Simple to understand
- Independently verified
- Consistent enough to measure progress over time

The result would be a straightforward public scorecard showing Victorians whether government is actually delivering against the outcomes they identified as important. Government should only claim to be meeting community expectations if the community has genuinely participated in defining them.

5. Lack of Performance Must Have Consequences

Accountability means more than publishing a report.

The Results Guarantee proposes exploring a performance-based accountability framework where a defined portion of government funding is linked to achieving agreed community outcomes.

One model would place the equivalent of 5% of Commonwealth funding allocated to Victoria within the performance framework.

Where agreed performance standards are achieved, government retains the funding to further invest.

Where government fails to achieve the agreed standards, a proportion could instead be returned to Victorian taxpayers through a Taxpayer Performance Dividend.

The mechanism would be designed to protect essential frontline services while creating a genuine financial incentive for government to deliver better results.

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The precise funding formula, performance thresholds and method of returning funds to taxpayers would be determined through detailed economic modelling and consultation.

6. Working Across All Levels of Government

Australia's taxation system means a significant proportion of revenue is collected by the Commonwealth before funding is distributed to the states. Implementing a Taxpayer Performance Dividend may require cooperation between the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments.

Development of the final model would involve the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments, Treasury agencies, independent economic and legal experts, and the Victorian community. The final framework must be constitutionally sound, financially responsible, practical, fair to taxpayers and sustainable over the long term.

7. A Phased Implementation

The Results Guarantee would be introduced carefully so the model can be tested before taxpayers' money is attached to performance outcomes.

Stage One – Ask Victorians

Consult with the community and determine support for the Results Guarantee, participation model and the outcomes Victorians believe government should be measured against.

Stage Two – Create the Framework

Undertake economic modelling, Treasury consultation, legal and constitutional review and independent policy development to establish the detailed framework.

Stage Three – Test It

Pilot annual public reporting against community-selected performance measures. This allows the scorecard, benchmarks and independent verification process to be tested, refined and evaluated before financial consequences are introduced.

Stage Four – The Results Guarantee

Subject to successful evaluation, Parliamentary approval and any necessary intergovernmental agreement, implement the performance-based accountability framework and Taxpayer Performance Dividend.

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WE CAN DO BETTER.

Governments often celebrate how much money they spend.

Taxpayers care about what they get for it.

Did ambulance response times improve?

Did hospital waiting lists fall?

Did our roads, services and communities actually get better?

Those are the results that matter. The Results Guarantee shifts the focus from spending more to delivering more. Government should be measured by what it delivers and when it doesn't deliver, taxpayers deserve money back.

Government works for the people. Not the other way around.

Every taxpayer deserves confidence that their money is being spent wisely.

Every government should be expected to demonstrate measurable results.

And every Victorian deserves the opportunity to help define what success looks like.

This policy is not simply about fixing the basics and measuring performance.

It is about rebuilding trust between governments and the people they serve.

Because accountability shouldn't happen once every four years. It should happen every single day.

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