

**Statement provided by Linda Seymour for
#OurDemocracy National Integrity Policy Forum**

Hello, I'm Linda Seymour and I am running as a grass roots independent in the Federal Electorate of Hughes.

I am on Dharawal Country and I recognise all Elders past, present and future. I extend that respect to all Indigenous persons participating today.

I put a Federal Integrity Commission at the top of my priorities.

I convey this daily to my community.

I am on the record that this will be non-negotiable if I am in a position to give supply and confidence to government.

I will require a robust federal anti-corruption body that will ensure public officials, including politicians, are held accountable for their actions and how they use taxpayer money.

I strongly support caps on donations and electoral campaign funding.

I have chosen to run my campaign on small donations and personal funds.

I made this decision purposefully because I believe a lack of resources should not be a reason for people to be excluded from participating in our democracy.

A common theme as I speak with people in genuine need in Hughes, is their difficulty in accessing government services and support.

This contrasts with the direct access that donors and lobbyists have to our politicians.

I will give full support to legislation and policies that diarise the meetings of ministers and their senior staff,

I support strengthening the lobbyist register,

and I strongly support mandatory enforceable cooling off periods for politicians and their senior staff from taking paid jobs with industries related to their portfolios.

Integrity is not a fringe issue, it is a mainstream issue and it is demanded by so many of the people that I have been speaking with in my electorate of Hughes for over two years.