

'Ultra-conservative': The Liberal Party is far from liberal

By Victor Kline

17 May 2021



Last Thursday, the New Liberals filed an application with the Australian Electoral Commission, seeking deregistration of the Liberal Party of Australia.

Under s 137(1)(c) of the [Commonwealth Electoral Act](#), any political party which obtains its ongoing registration through misrepresentation or fraud is liable to be deregistered.

The misrepresentation we allege is the Liberal Party's use of the word "liberal" in the Party name, when the it is in fact an ultra-conservative party.

[Liberalism](#) has a long history in the world of politics and has many shades of meaning. But the one thing all commentators agree on is that it is a very different, if not an entirely opposite philosophy, from conservatism.

In the Australian context, "liberal" values were

exemplified by the Party of Sir [Robert Menzies](#). Menzies was the founder of the Liberal Party. He took a [Keynesian approach](#) to the economy, running deficits eight to nine times higher than many modern governments, whilst maintaining full employment and minimal inflation. Full employment was his number one priority and knew that the way to achieve that was through [significant government stimulus](#).

The Menzies Government stood for [trade unionism](#), profit-sharing for workers, incentive payments, high wages and good conditions and fair industrial laws impartially applied to employers and employees alike, as his [political flyer](#) for the 1949 Election shows. It [also supported](#) generous sick and unemployment benefits.

The New Liberals suite of policies and its Charter of Core Values reflect much of what the original Liberal Party under Menzies stood for.

The New Liberals are the true inheritors of the Menzies tradition.

Today's Liberal Party, on the other hand, is not a liberal party at all. It has not been so since at least the Government of [John Howard](#). It has abandoned all of the things the party of Menzies held dear. Indeed, it has abandoned liberalism altogether in favour of extreme conservatism. Its current policies are as diametrically opposed to liberalism as climate action is to climate denial.

As British journalist and broadcaster [Michael](#)

[Goldfarb](#) said:

'Liberal Leader John Howard was a conservative slightly to the right of Ronald Reagan.'

In fact, the Liberal Party under [Scott Morrison](#) has become so conservative, that British Conservative Leader [Boris Johnson](#) de-invited Morrison to speak at this year's climate summit because his Party's conservatism was so extreme it had nothing to offer the summit. This showed that the Liberal Party is more conservative than the British Conservative Party.

Most troubling of all was Home Affairs Minister [Peter Dutton's](#) recent [statement](#) that:

"I've always seen Parliament as a disadvantage, frankly, for a sitting government."

This prompted one commentator to suggest that such a statement was only a small step from a military coup. At the very least, it exemplifies that the Liberal Party is far from being a liberal party. It is perhaps one of the most conservative parties in the democratic world.

Does the Liberal Party calling itself "liberal" constitute a misrepresentation or a fraud, so that it is in breach of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act* and should be de-registered?

A [misrepresentation](#) is 'a representation which does not accord with the true facts'. The representation by the Liberal Party that it is a liberal party 'does not accord with the true facts' as shown above.

It is therefore a misrepresentation put out to the Australian people on an ongoing basis.

Fraud is the '*perversion or concealment of the truth with wilful intention of injuring another*', as stated in the case *Ex Parte Smith*. That the Liberal Party should pretend to be a liberal party is a '*perversion or concealment of the truth*'.

It is thus a fraud on the Australian people who are '*injured*' by that fraud.

The New Liberals, which is a truly liberal party, is also injured by that misrepresentation and that fraud.

With the obfuscation created by the misuse of the word "liberal" by the Liberal Party, it is very difficult for The New Liberals to get its message to the voters, who are in turn, again injured by being deprived of that message and the true liberal alternative offered to them by The New Liberals.

Peter Dutton continued: "I've always seen Parliament as a disadvantage, frankly, for sitting governments. Whatever happens, however messy it looks, tough decisions that need to be made are always sheeted home to the government of the day."

— Tom McIlroy
(@TomMcIlroy) [December 9, 2018](#)

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