



Hi there –my name is Therese Faulkner, and I am keen to contest the next Federal Election as the Australian Progressives’ candidate for the seat of Bean.

Who am I? - I’m a Canberran through and through. My parents moved to Canberra when I was 4 years old, and I have lived here since then except for three years in Victoria (1979-1981) and three years in WA (1997-1999). I have strong connections with the electorate of Bean – I lived in Waramanga as a teenager, my parents and siblings have lived in Kambah for more than 30 years, and I lived in Isabella Plains and Gordon for more than 20 years, raising my three children. My kids attended, at various times, Isabella Plains Primary School, Gordon Primary School, St Clare of Assisi Primary School and MacKillop College. I played for, and coached junior softball and soccer teams with, Tuggeranong Storm Softball club, Tuggeranong United Football Club and Lanyon United Football Club. I still play women’s soccer for Lanyon United, although I currently live in Lyneham. My parents Bob and Nola Faulkner were both born and bred in country NSW, and their parents Mary and Dave Faulkner, and Bill and Ena Chapman, were also all born and bred in country NSW. (Absolutely no issues with Section 44 for me!)

I am 55 years old, married, divorced and re-married, with three grown-up daughters (ages 26, 31, 33), two grandchildren (ages 6 and 10), and two step-daughters (ages 12 and 15). I have been in the workforce for 36 years, in both the public and private sectors, and I have a degree from the ANU which I gained as a mature-aged student in 2003.

As a public servant for 30 years, I worked my way up through the ranks from a junior clerk to a leadership role in the Senior Executive Service, gaining skills across a wide range of areas including management of human resources, finance and budgets, program delivery, policy development and strategic planning. I currently work for a private company called Coffey International Development, where I provide management oversight for international projects. As well as my day job, I am currently President of the Canberra International Film Festival Committee, and a Director of a not-for-profit company – the International Development Contractors Community.

Why politics? - I have taken a keen interest in politics from a young age, and have watched with increasing dismay since the 1996 Federal election the lack of long-term vision, the increase in short-term/transaction-based policy decisions, the erosion of ethics and values, and the inability of politicians to work together to resolve issues which are in the best interest of the Australian community. As a person who has a reputation for strong leadership, the ability to apply sound judgement, and achieve results, I feel that I have the capacity to change things for the better. I have dealt extensively with parliamentarians through the course of my work within and outside the public service, and have an excellent understanding of how the Australian parliament works. I also have the connections with the community and the life-experience to bring common-sense and compassion to an Australian parliament which is sadly lacking in these particular qualities.

Why Australian Progressives? - Being more than unhappy with the state of Australian politics and the shortcomings of the major parties a couple of years ago, I was thinking of setting up a new political party with a range of progressive policies. Before going too far with this process, a google search introduced me to the Australian Progressives. After reading the website, and a phone call to the party secretary, I joined! The time is right for this party to become a force in the Australian parliament. The public is becoming increasingly disaffected with the major parties, and there are natural suspicions surrounding independent candidates, personality-based parties, and single-issue parties. I firmly believe that the Australian Progressives has the potential to shape and influence public policy in a way that delivers the best outcomes for current and future generations. I am passionate about ‘common-sense’ policy, which I feel will be delivered by the Progressives. My personal view of the Progressives is that we are neither left nor right, but represent a third dimension which is upwards and forward!