



South Australian Debating Association Inc

### ***Intermediate B Round 5***

**TOPIC : *that the Liberal National Party should have a quota for female candidates***

#### **1. Type of Topic:**

This is a normative/model debate. The affirmative team must propose a model which describes the changes that they plan on enacting, which must include establishing a quota for female candidates in the Liberal National Party (LNP). The negative must instead propose a countermodel which can be the status quo, which should be described, or different proposed changes that do not include establishing a quota for female candidates in the LNP. Remember that model debates should be centred around comparing the two models of each team.

#### **2. Background/Context:**

In Australia, a democratic society, the Parliament is designed to represent all of Australia, however in the LNP, there is a severe underrepresentation of women, especially in the lower house. Whilst official barriers that historically prevented females from entering politics have been removed, the clear absence of women in Parliament and especially in the LNP show that there are still societal underlying factors that may discourage and prevent the pursuit of politics in women. In the federal Parliament, approximately only 20% of Coalition MPs are women. On the other hand, 48% of Australian Labor party (ALP) in the lower house are women and 69% are women in the senate with a 45% quota across the party. The conservative side of politics is known to have a smaller proportion of women, likely due to policies and the fact that they are often not supporters of quotas due to the belief that they are undemocratic. Whilst quotas clearly increase female representation in Parliament, it means that the political party are not necessarily placing their preferred candidate in a seat and thus is undemocratic. However conversely, a clear underrepresentation of women in a major party is also undemocratic.

#### **3. Specific Questions for Consideration**

- Why is representation important?
- What factors have led to an underrepresentation of women in government, and in the LNP especially?

- Is democracy strengthened if a quota is introduced in the LNP?
- What other methods can increase female representation in the LNP and Parliament?

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