



**Help End Marijuana Prohibition SA inc
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MEDIA RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

No Pokies Gamble Pays Off.

Election Analysis – 12/10/97 by Marijuana Legalise HEMP Campaign Manager.

The No Pokies Campaign are ahead in the race for the last seat in the SA Upper House following the State election on Saturday October 11.

I predict that they will beat the Liberals and that the results of yesterday's vote in the Upper House will be: 4 ALP, 4 Liberal, 2 Democrat, 1 No Pokie.

This will mean the Upper House will have: 8 ALP, 9 Liberal (but only 8 votes), 3 Democrat and 1 No Pokie. One of the Liberals will probably become the non-voting President of the Upper House, so their vote effectively goes down to 8.

The Liberal Government now must get the ALP or the Democrats to support any new law they want to pass. If Democrat or ALP members don't all vote the same way then the No Pokies vote could become crucial.

But even if No Pokies never decide a vote:

a) There will be a lot more negotiation going on which means that smaller, independent community groups in the election – who mostly supported No Pokies and Democrats above the ALP and Liberals – will have more chances to have their point of view heard.

b) The No Pokies campaign have received a massive boost in resources and credibility

c) People who voted for Democrats and No Pokies, and people who voted for groups who supported them – including a swag of “community independents” like HEMP, Greens and Grey Power – now also have a chance to negotiate and work together and help each other out again.

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This is a complete rejection of the Liberal attempts to bully South Australians with radio and newspaper ads into not voting for smaller parties. The ALP response to the rise of independents was much shrewder – their ads accepted that people had decided to vote Democrat or Independent and then tried to woo their second preferences.

The Liberals offered two main reasons for not voting for Independents or Democrats:

1) “The Divine Right Of Governments” – Once the Liberals get into office we are all supposed to shut up, because after all we had an election, and they won it, so its completely undemocratic to stop them doing anything, ever.

2) “Labor might get back in on Independent preferences” – In fact, most smaller groups aren’t huge fans of the ALP or Liberals. Although HEMP and the Greens supported the ALP above the Liberals, many smaller groups – like No Pokies, Grey Power and Australia First – split their preferences between the ALP and the Liberals.

Centre ground is being carved out by people and groups who are convinced that the two-party system can’t solve all our problems.

There are interesting times ahead.

Further Information:

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