

Dr Erica Lewin  
Australian Democrats WA 2007 Campaign Launch Speech Notes  
13 November 2007

Good afternoon everyone.

Today is a big day for me; the official launch of the Australian Democrats election campaign in Western Australia.

Here where Don Chipp first kicked it all off 30 years ago.

When I boil it all down I realise I'm standing for the Senate because I believe I must do all I can for my children, their children, and our future.

I'm just like any other mum; my life experiences are very similar to that of many other women. I know what it's like to be an 'at home' mum; I know what it's like to be a working mum. And now my children have grown independent, I have been given the chance to stand for the Senate; so, this is a special event in my life.

The Australian Democrats are a Party that has led the way as the people's watchdog in the Senate; a party that has been a leader in policy development, and in the initiation and review of legislation.

The Democrats are leaders because our Senators have a principled, responsible, practical and moderate approach as a 'balance of power' party. It is an approach that I intend to maintain in the Senate.

I will ensure that this balance is evident when the Senate deals with matters relating to the environment, climate change and water. These are areas in which the Democrats have had longstanding positions; indeed, the Democrats were the first environmental party in Australia, and will continue to lead in this area.

Australia has suffered the horror of a Senate in Government control. Taking it out of

Coalition hands is not enough. Yes, get the Senate out of Coalition hands; but I also say that the Senate needs the common sense approach of the Democrats in the balance of power.

I urge WA voters to carefully consider who they want to hold the balance of power in the Senate.

The similarities between the major parties have become increasingly obvious during the course of the election campaign. This means that Senators holding the balance of power will be tackling the power of not one political party but two, on many issues.

The Australian Democrats are the best and only party in the Australian political landscape able to deal with this duality.

Our history over the last 30 years has shown our efforts to keep the bastards honest. This is a legacy that I take very seriously.

I am firmly committed to serving the Australian public. I will work for a future that secures Australia's position as a leader on an international level; as a prosperous progressive, stable and compassionate country.

Thank you all for your support.

Dr Erica Lewin:

[Erica.Lewin@wa.democrats.org.au](mailto:Erica.Lewin@wa.democrats.org.au)