



## Democratic Labour Party

### Media Release

#### Premier called to commit to Solidarity with West Papuans

The Democratic Labour Party Member of Parliament, Dr Rachel Carling-Jenkins today introduced a motion into the Victorian State parliament calling for:

*“the Government to show support for the plight of the people of West Papua by establishing a **West Papuan Solidarity Day**, including a public raising of the Morning Star Flag, commencing Thursday, 1 December 2016 and continuing on 1 December each year until the **United Nations free vote** is held.”* (Extract from Dr Carling-Jenkins motion – see attached)

Dr Carling-Jenkins advised the parliament that:

*“West Papua was forcibly annexed by Indonesia in 1962 and since that time the West Papuan people have suffered from atrocities such as torture, murder, rape, oppression, forced removal of their children, and other crimes against humanity by the Indonesian authorities.*

*“The United Nations supported Act of Free Choice of 1969 that was to have given a free vote to all West Papuans on self-determination was corrupted by the Indonesian authorities who allowed only 1,024 handpicked men out of a population of over 1.5 million to vote for inclusion as part of Indonesia”* said Dr Carling-Jenkins

*“Every year, on December 1st, many thousands of people gather in numerous places around the world to raise the Morning Star flag to show support for the people of West Papua including many who are held as political prisoners for no other reason than raising that same flag.”* Dr Carling-Jenkins told fellow MPs.

Dr Carling-Jenkins advised the house that only 6 months ago, in answer to her question on whether the government would support a Solidarity Day for West Papua, **Premier Andrews**, advised her and the Parliament that:

*‘the Victorian Government strongly upholds democratic freedoms, which are a fundamental element of our society, that it respects and supports the right to freedom of expression and peaceful protest, that Victoria is proud of its West Papuan community and the contribution its members make to our state and that the Government continues to provide support for West Papuans through its settlement and multicultural programs’.*

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All DLP candidates in the coming election have thrown their full support behind this call. The Democratic Labour Party denounced the Indonesian invasion of West Papua in the Senate in 1962 and has called for the promised United Nations Free Vote to be carried out as soon as it can be arranged.

The Democratic Labour Party Federal Secretary, Stephen Campbell, states that the DLP believes there has been a decades long cover up by consecutive Australian governments who have turned a blind eye to the sufferings of the West Papuan people in return for favourable treatment by the Indonesian government.

*“Surely history has taught us that no good can come by ignoring the sufferings of oppressed people”* Mr Campbell stated. *“How can we, as Australians, deal with any nation who can invade a neighbouring country then treat the citizens of that country with the sort of inhumane treatment the Indonesians have handed out to the West Papuans? Has East Timor taught us nothing?”*

*“Can Australia trust Indonesia if that’s how it treats fellow human beings” he said* And can any country trust Australia if we can so easily turn a blind eye on the plight of our neighbours and our friends”.

*“The DLP insists that this can only end one way, by a United Nations held Free Vote by all West Papuans. We will not walk away from that call.”*

The Democratic Labour Party is calling for all political parties to join them in their call for a nation-wide Solidarity Day in support of the West Papuans on December 1<sup>st</sup>.

*“The DLP will be contacting every party in this country and asking for them to turn up with their supporters in every capital city in Australia on December 1<sup>st</sup>.”* said Mr Campbell. *“This is one time when party politics must disappear. None of us should seek anything except justice for the West Papuan people and the full compassion of the Australian people.”*

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