



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**TONY WINDSOR MP**  
**INDEPENDENT**  
**FEDERAL MEMBER FOR NEW ENGLAND**

Shop 5  
259 Peel Street  
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

**All Mail:** PO Box 963  
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

**Ph:** (02) 6761 3080  
**Toll Free:** 1300 301 839  
**Fax:** (02) 6761 3380  
**e-mail:** Tony.Windsor.MP@aph.gov.au  
**Web Page:** www.tonywindsor.com.au

## Media Release

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### Independent MP's gather in Canberra this Saturday

Independent MP's from Parliaments across Australia will be gathering in Canberra this Saturday for a conference to discuss issues of concern and commonality.

The conference convened by Federal Independents, Peter Andren (Calare) and Tony Windsor (New England) will see the coming together of Victorian Independents, Russell Savage and Craig Ingram, NSW Independents Peter Draper, Richard Torbay and Dawn Fardell, Queensland's Dorothy Pratt and Chris Foley South Australia's Bob Such, and Tasmania's Donald Wing who is also the President of the Upper House of the Tasmanian Parliament.

Mr Windsor is delighted at the support of the Independents for the conference and is looking forward to meeting and having discussions with them.

"The response by Independent MPs to the conference is very significant.

It shows that Independents, whilst maintaining their independence are not alone.

We directly represent the people of our electorates in the Parliament, not represent a Party in the electorate and therefore every vote is a reflection of the views of the majority of people in our communities.

Every vote is conscience vote and we are happy to work with the Government of the day to support positive legislation and work to amend legislation detrimental to the people of our electorates," Mr Windsor said

Late last year, the Federal Independents Peter Andren and Tony Windsor launched the Independent Candidates Advisory Network (ICAN) along with Queensland fellow Independent MP Bob Katter (Kennedy – an apology for this Saturday's event due to a pressing engagement in his electorate) and co-ordinator Gavin Priestly – the former Telstra Country Wide Regional Manager for Western NSW.

"After the launch of ICAN last year, we invited all sitting Independent MPs from Australian Parliaments to come together for this conference as part of the process of building on the ICAN concept of providing support to potential Independent candidates with a view to helping them get elected.

One of the outcomes of this conference will be the establishment of website where people considering standing as an Independent candidate can visit and find out what is involved with being an Independent MP, how to go about getting elected and where to get help.

This conference is a great opportunity for Independents to share ideas and work together to help strengthen Australia's democracy where people are represented not ruled," Mr Windsor said.

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**Further information contact Tony Windsor, Ph (02) 6761 3080 or 0427 66 8868**