



**Kelvin Thomson MP  
Federal Member for Wills**

**DECLARATION OF THE POLLS WEDNESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2007  
AT 11:30am  
WILLS AEC DIVISIONAL RETURNING OFFICE  
Shop 4/830-834 PASCOE VALE RD GLENROY**

I wish to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the people of the Wills electorate for giving me the honour of serving them for the next three years as their representative.

I want to thank all voters, regardless of their political leanings, for participating in this most basic, yet most fundamental rite of democracy and I would like to acknowledge the efforts of my opponents. I met Claude Tomisich and David Collis during the campaign and found them to be quite impressive and decent people.

I would like to thank all my campaign volunteers, electorate office staff, and the Divisional Returning Office. It's good to see there is no need for a recount here as is the case in McEwen!

I pay my respects to the media – especially the local press – for their efforts in ensuring that the aspirations of all candidates are highlighted, allowing the voters an opportunity to make an informed decision as to who is best suited to serve them. A fair and balanced media is an important part of our community and I welcome their reporting on my efforts to serve the people of Wills.

It means a lot to me that voters in this electorate have returned me with a much increased majority – I understand Wills has now become the fourth strongest Labor seat in the country. This is an emphatic vote of confidence and I intend to honour that, by doing everything I can to lift and build this community and make it a better place in which we all can live.

I have already made a start on this. In the fortnight since the election I have visited the Box Forest Secondary College, Mercy Secondary College, Strathmore Primary School, St Paul's Primary School, the homeless services operated by Hanover in South Melbourne, the Salvation Army in Brunswick, and St Vincent de Paul in North Melbourne, the Newlands Community Centre,

Pascoe Vale Drop in Centre and the Robinsons Reserve and Sussex Neighbourhood Houses, the Hadfield Golden Years Club, Northern Saints Football Club, East Coburg Cricket Club, Moreland Energy Foundation, Carinya Society, Dorothy Impey Home, Coburg Historical Society, Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek and attended festivals of the Palaconian Brotherhood, Anatolian Alevis and the opening of the Chinese Ancestral Garden at the Fawkner Memorial Park.

So the work of this Parliamentary term is well and truly underway. There are many things you learn in public life and many things I want to achieve, but I would like to single out three; improving local schools, in particular Box Forest Secondary, restoring fairness for pensioners and undertaking the Coburg Solar Village project.

I am aware of the great privilege that has been bestowed upon me and I wish to unequivocally declare my intention of representing ALL the citizens of Wills as their Federal representative.

My office is your office. My staff and I aim to treat everyone in this electorate with respect and dedication – to give everyone who contacts me an impartial and considered hearing – a fair go.

This electorate, with people from all walks of life with varying needs and desires is united by the basic concept of fairness – for the employer and the worker, the pensioner and the small business, the parent and the student, the volunteer and the professional, fairness is a cornerstone on which our community needs to survive.

The fair go includes tolerance and respect for the rights of others whilst bearing in mind that a civilised society aspires, through constructive and intelligent debate, hard work and reward, endeavour and compassion, to the ultimate aim of making society a better place for all of its citizens.

I resume this role with real enthusiasm and ask you to join with me in helping make the electorate of Wills a shining example of a vibrant and fair society. Feel free to visit my office or contact me via telephone, letter or Internet.

**Kelvin Thomson MP**  
**Member for Wills**

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2007