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Dear IPA Members

I am Chetna Mahadik, the Communications Manager at the IPA. In this letter, I share my story and the important work of the IPA in the hope that you will donate to the IPA's 2022 End of Financial Year Appeal.

I joined the Institute of Public Affairs in 2020 in the midst of COVID lockdowns and was entrusted with the job of ensuring IPA members know and understand the IPA's work. I use the word 'entrusted' carefully because at the IPA, the question – how do we keep our members informed of our thoughts, work and impact? – is integral to all that we do.

As I have learnt, more than anything else it is the support of our community of more than 8,000 committed members that makes the IPA's work possible. The IPA would not exist, but for you. Which is why as I share my story with you and tell you why I think the IPA's work is vital to keeping Australia an equal, safe and prosperous country, I ask you to support the 2022 IPA End of Financial Year Appeal with a tax deductible donation.

I am a recent migrant to Australia, having moved here in 2011 with my husband, who though of Indian descent like me, was born and raised here.

Unlike him, I grew up in India, and after working as a journalist for a few years, left for Europe in 2007 to complete a master's in media and globalisation. Ours was a thoroughly modern love affair involving internet dating, long distance phone calls, airports and cross-country jaunts (my master's program took me to Denmark, The Netherlands and Germany while he worked in London). We started our married life in a tiny apartment in London.

It is a measure of Australia's magnetism that through it all, he always maintained that our children should grow up in Australia. It was a sentiment I found shared by most of his

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Australian friends, who while happy to enjoy the adventures of Europe – the West End musicals, the grand buildings and museums, adventures on autobahn – knew in their hearts that their children would grow up happier back in Australia.

Not many could articulate why. Whatever it was, it was deeply rooted in the sense of security and in their memories of an almost idyllic life back home – the burning Australian sun, the vast bushlands, relaxed weekends spent on the beach or playing cricket and footy, and a land bountiful enough to give a good life to anyone willing to work, whatever their background.

The words my husband and his myriad Australian friends were looking for but couldn't find were 'the Australian way of life'.

So it is thanks to the power of the Australian way of life that I find myself in Melbourne today, where I am raising my two children along with my husband.

Life is still good – our children are growing replete with that cherished sun, beach and bush – but my husband and I can't beat this sense of unease that they lack the same sense of security and promise for the future that Australians just a few generations ago took for granted.

It is a feeling shared by many of our friends, who though from diverse ethnic and work backgrounds, have one thing in common: they are all either raising a family in Australia or hope to. So they have a stake in Australia's future that their children will inherit.

Exploring this sense of unease set me off on a journey that found me first becoming an IPA member, and eventually joining the IPA – this independent, non-aligned not-for-profit research organisation entirely funded by your membership and donations – as a staff member.

It was IPA research that first crystallised for me what this unease was, and where it originated from. Something insidious is indeed taking over Australia, forcing a cultural, economic (and oddly enough) scientific wedge between Australians, and forcing us down a path of self-destruction in the name of building a better, more 'moral' society.

Today, I want to share with you what some of those insidious forces are and how the IPA is the only Australian organisation willing and capable of confronting and defeating them through its detailed research and by ensuring that the people who matter – mainstream Australians – are armed with the right knowledge.

Let me start with what we are teaching our children in schools and universities, because our children are Australia's future. The values we teach them in schools and universities will become the prevailing values of Australian life in times to come.

As important research by Dr Bella d'Abrera, Director of the Foundations of Western Civilisation Program at the IPA, has repeatedly shown – pernicious identity politics and critical race theory are taking over our school and university curricula.

According to these ideologies, we should place each person on a supposed hierarchy of power based on their permanent identities of race and gender and teach our children to judge each other on where they stand in that hierarchy, or worse, where their ancestors stood on it.

It teaches them that this game of 'privilege spotting' trumps individual actions, beliefs, values

and life stories, when it comes to judging a person's worth in society. It is a hierarchy in which being white, Christian or male means hating yourself and the history and heritage on which your prosperity is based. Instead of growing up confident in the sense of your goodness, you are instead being requisitioned to the hell of never-ending ancestral guilt.

In a way, as a person of Hindu background and Indian descent, I can turn my back on the problem and say, nothing to see here. Perhaps I could go a step further and try and reap the benefits of such thinking and demand preferential treatment for my children by claiming historical trauma.

Only it would be a lie. The Australia my husband grew up in and certainly the country and society to which I have migrated is as just and fair as societies get. Of the seven countries I have had the privilege to live in, Australia is one of the most welcoming and least discriminating – and that includes Zambia, where I was born and spent my early childhood.

Is there discrimination? Sure – I have had my odd unpleasant 'go back to your country' encounters. But when judging a country as racist or not, I must juxtapose those encounters with the very real and material opportunities, friendships and respect I have found here as well. It is only in the reckoning of the two that we can truly judge whether racism and bigotry are so inherent to Australians that minorities need special protections to live a fulfilled life in this country.

I certainly don't see an Australia where immigrants are not allowed to flourish. My husband's parents migrated to Australia from India soon after the 'White Australia' policy was abandoned in the 1970s, and went on to build strong professional careers, buy a house in a leafy Melbourne suburb and provide an excellent education to their children which saw their son become an aerospace engineer and daughter a dentist.

Whatever discrimination they faced, it was not material enough to stop them from building a rich and prosperous life for themselves and their children.

One could say that their experience has been unique, only the facts belie that claim. Australia has absorbed waves upon waves of immigrants from around the world, and most communities have found a safe and happy home in Australia.

This is not what happens in inherently and institutionally racist and bigoted countries, as Australia is labelled by so many of our teachers and academics. Racist and bigoted countries are not attractive destinations for people of colour, and yet people from around the world clamour to migrate to Australia and certainly those already here are in no hurry to go back to their countries of origin.

Which brings me back to why I detest our schools and universities teaching my children to be suspicious of their white classmates, to judge and box their friends and community members not on their own interpersonal interactions with them but on the colour of their skin.

Because to do so would be racist, and I don't want my children to grow up racist. It will do their moral character no good.

But more than that it will fracture Australia into a thousand tribes, each desperately digging onto its past for historical wrongs upon which to base their victimhood and claim moral

superiority, and then inevitably demand preferential treatment. That is not how strong, united and prosperous countries are formed.

Which is why the IPA's research into the National Curriculum, headed by Dr Bella d'Abbrera is so critical.

Most other organisations are happy with band-aid solutions to the curriculum problem – a bit more phonics, a mention of Western Civilisation here and Christianity there – as we have seen with the year-long new National Curriculum saga. It is only the IPA that is forthrightly demanding a complete overhaul of the curriculum to rid it of the highly divisive identity politics and critical race theory.

Luckily, we have just the people on our side to win this battle: parents.

Thanks to the lockdown-enforced remote schooling, many parents have woken up to how their children are being indoctrinated at schools and they are not happy about it.

In the US, American parents have taken up the fight against critical race theory and identity politics in the school curriculum – the gubernatorial election in Virginia was a case in point, where fed up parents voted for a governor who promised the removal of critical race theory from schools.

A similar rebellion is brewing in Australia, if the many letters and emails we receive at the IPA are any indication.

It is to harness this spirit that the IPA has launched the Class Action program – led by Bella and Kristen Calandra, a former secondary school teacher. Class Action is a research program which communicates and engages with parents and teachers about the school curriculum and provides them with the resources which will give Australian children a real understanding of their country and the history of Western Civilisation.

As a concerned parent myself of two young children in primary school, I look forward to participating in the Class Action program and gaining the tools I need to reclaim back my children's education.

Another conversation that I have with my children that has me shaking my head in frustration is climate alarmism. I should be honest here. Until a few years ago, I believed the popular narrative on climate change that dominates our airwaves – global temperatures are rising leading to climate change and it is all being caused by human activity.

Given my little scientific training, it was an easy trap to fall into.

I first seriously started questioning the narrative when Dr Peter Ridd was sacked by his employer, James Cook University, for questioning the research coming out of the university on the impact of climate change on the Great Barrier Reef.

I am not a scientist, but when someone is so brutally punished for questioning the official line, it smacks of fear – fear of exposure. If the university's research and pronouncements were so accurate, it would have been a simple process of debating Dr Ridd publicly and proving his statements wrong. But that is precisely what James Cook University never did. It

never responded to Dr Ridd's accusations of junk science – not before sacking him, not after sacking him, not through its long court battle, and not since.

Dr Ridd may have lost his legal case on a technicality but he won out in the court of public opinion. Where the courts saw an employer-employee conflict, people saw a government-funded university avoiding debate on its claims of climate change at all costs.

The more I dug, the more aware I became of corruption of our scientific institutions. In fact, the debate on the Great Barrier Reef encapsulates everything that is wrong with the climate science debate – in fact, the entire environmental movement.

Claims are made by activists that a cherished place of natural beauty is in danger because of climate change. To appease the activists (or shut them up), the government allots huge amounts of funding to study the phenomenon. And before long the 'research' has become a cash cow for institutions who build huge bureaucracies on the back of it. Now, the institutions need a perpetual narrative of climate change in order to exist – and anyone who questions it must be silenced.

That is what happened to Dr Peter Ridd, he became inconvenient to the university.

When Dr Peter Ridd spoke out, it wasn't just because he was upset about the corruption of science, it was also because he saw and empathised with the very real impact that 'junk science' was having on the livelihoods of farmers, fishermen and other everyday Queenslanders who depend on the Great Barrier Reef.

It is precisely his empathy for mainstream Australians caught out as collateral damage in climate wars that makes him such a great addition to the IPA, which he joined as an IPA Adjunct Fellow last year. He is leading the Project for Real Science at the IPA with the aim of rebuilding integrity in scientific research in Australia, with a special focus on the Great Barrier Reef.

The recent fact-finding expedition by Dr Peter Ridd and IPA Senior Fellow Dr Jennifer Marohasy to investigate claims of another mass coral bleaching event at John Brewer Reef (part of the Great Barrier Reef) was exactly the kind of science that Australia needs.

It was in March that the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) announced another mass coral bleaching event at the reef, and the faithful media reported it with glee.

But here are two scientific approaches taken to determine the extent of bleaching.

AIMS conducted aerial surveys from the distant safety of a helicopter and declared the reef is facing mass bleaching.

Peter and Jennifer sailed 80km off the coast of Townsville to the very epicentre of the claimed bleaching – John Brewer Reef – and dove down to the reef crest to examine the state of the corals and returned with photographic and video evidence of the 'coral wonderland' they found, to borrow Jennifer's words.

I don't have to be a scientist – or require any scientific training – to know which scientific approach to trust, nor do you. To borrow words from Scott Hargreaves, who will take over

from John Roskam as IPA Executive Director this July, their work represents transparency and diligence in the best traditions of real science.

And real science is what Australia needs if we are to get to the truth of a myriad scientific questions: Are global temperatures rising? How are we calculating these rising temperatures? How do we decide which extreme weather events are ‘unprecedented’ and which are cyclical? How far back in history do we go in order to determine that? What role are bad policies playing in the exacerbation of the impact of weather events?

In response to each of the questions I raise, the IPA has supported scientific research which show the answers are complicated, if not completely contrary to ‘the planet is doomed’ slogan that is terrifying children and adults alike.

But getting the answers to these questions right is critical because they will dictate public policy that will impact us all.

Let us take the ‘net zero by 2050’ emissions policy, for example, that Scott Morrison has committed Australia to.

The policy is based on the acceptance that life on Earth is under peril, and no cost we pay to save it is too much. So we *must* put 653,600 existing jobs (and a further 478,000 future jobs) at risk, we *must* cancel all coal, gas and oil projects in the pipeline, as The Greens are demanding as the price for net zero.

But mines, power plants and jobs are not just numbers. They are the means through which successful lives, families and communities are built. Work gives dignity and stability to life. When a mine or a power plant shuts down, the loss echoes through the streets, shops and houses across the whole region that directly or indirectly depend on it.

As family breakdown, bankruptcies, suicides, crime, addiction and intergenerational poverty take over, the community’s once-prosperous way of life is washed away. Australia’s heartland will be the ground zero of net zero.

And for what? Even if the answer to the questions ‘are rising temperatures man-made?’ and ‘are they leading to climate change?’ are yes and yes, how does the ‘net zero by 2050’ emissions policy lead to any meaningful cooling of the planet when two of the world’s most populous and fastest growing economies – China and India – have not committed themselves to any sacrifices.

One-third of the world’s population today lives in India and China, and their emissions continue to grow. China emits as much carbon dioxide into the atmosphere in 16 days as Australia does in a year. To add insult to injury, China is emitting this CO<sub>2</sub> to manufacture the solar panels that we will be asked to install on our roofs to live a life of intermittent, expensive and unreliable power in a community rife with joblessness.

I don’t want to ask Chinese and Indian children to give up their dreams of a better life in pursuit of net zero, but I don’t want to ask children in the towns of Queensland – which stands to lose the most from this policy – either. That our elites coming together in Davos or Scotland think that it is their decision to make, speaks of their ‘God complex’. Again, it is only the IPA that is calling out the hypocrisy of this and every other mad public policy that is

putting the prosperity of Australians at risk for no tangible benefit.

However, we can do this only because of the financial support you provide to the IPA.

The IPA's independence comes from the fact that we are not beholden to funding from any government organisation but to our more than 8,000 individual IPA members – you understand the immense challenges Australia is facing, economically and culturally.

The Australian way of life which continues to inspire so many Australians – at home and abroad – is under threat from insidious and false narratives, be it on climate change or our history. The IPA is committed to bringing back honesty, the interest of mainstream Australians and free debate on all matters of public policy into Australian lives.

But we can't do this without your support.

Which is why I appeal to you to generously support our 2022 IPA End of Financial Year Appeal by making a tax deductible donation. Without your support, the IPA's vital work to save the Australian way of life cannot continue.

You can donate by returning the enclosed donation slip or by direct debit with details on the slip or by ringing the IPA office on 03 9600 4744 and speaking with Claire Peter-Budge.

Join us in saving Australia today so that one day my children can proudly say to their partners: let's enjoy our travels, but when it's time to raise a family we'll go back home – home to Australia.

Warm regards,



**Chetna Mahadik**  
**Member Communications Manager**