

11 April 2023

Dear IPA Members,

I would like to start this letter with an interesting fact. The human brain finishes developing in the mid-to-late 20s. One of the last parts to mature is the prefrontal cortex, which is responsible for planning, prioritising, and making good decisions. For those who believe in conservative values and liberalism, this should set your mind at ease. Even after 12 years of indoctrination in the Australian school system, students can still be saved. Their worldview, values and beliefs are still malleable and forming.

This is why the IPA's Generation Liberty program is so important.

Universities are not exactly hubs of free thought these days and my job as the National Manager of Generation Liberty is to provide an alternative view on campuses. To introduce them to the rich world of thoughts outside of the hidebound postmodern narrative which celebrates identity politics, critical race theory and gender fluidity. In addition to this to promote among university students the values of individual, political and economic freedom, which underpin the Australian way of life.

In this letter, I am excited to share with you the major initiatives of the IPA relating to young people through the Generation Liberty program.

IPA Academy 2023

The IPA Academy is an annual week-long program designed to equip young leaders with the knowledge and skills to defend freedom in Australia. Launched in 2019, it went into hibernation during the Covid years due to travel restrictions and lockdowns. As the IPA Academy is a core part of our outreach to young people, I was very excited to relaunch it this year in February.

The program, which was held at the IPA office in Melbourne, focussed on individual, economic and political freedoms. The 15 students, including our new Campus Coordinators, came from all over Australia to hear from academic, political, and private sector experts. Over the week, participants heard about the influence of Ancient Greece on western civilizations as well as Enlightenment philosophy, freedom of speech and the development of free markets.

Former Prime Minister and IPA Distinguished Fellow the Hon Tony Abbott AC spoke to students about Australia's place in the world. The philosophical foundations of free speech were unpacked by the University of Queensland's Law Professor James Allan in a terrific

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address we have now shared online. This was followed by a lecture on energy security from Professor Stephen Wilson, outlining how nuclear technology could resolve Australia's self-inflicted energy crisis. We also invited Dr Bradley Bowden to speak about the Enlightenment and its relevance to today, while Professor Sinclair Davidson addressed the importance of free markets. Lastly, Dr Tanveer Ahmed delivered a great discussion on character, resilience, and self-reliance.

The students engaged in debates with speakers and fellow students, asked questions, raised doubts, and sought clarifications. A key theme to emerge from the talks was how to embrace new technologies while retaining tried and tested institutions.

Students talked about how nuclear energy could be harnessed in the Australian context and discussed with Mr Abbott the nature of Australia's current geopolitical position. The goal was to encourage young leaders to think outside the box and to build on proven ideas to come up with innovative solutions to modern problems.

Mr Abbott later shared, 'It's always a pleasure and a privilege to speak to enthusiastic and motivated young people. It restores my faith in the future to see fine young people keen to affirm the essential goodness of Australian society and the importance of the culture and civilisation that's shaped us. Well done IPA. You are holding aloft the torch and doing all you can to ensure that the flame never goes out!

As our public institutions capitulate to the forces of political correctness, and are increasingly unable or unwilling to pass on the values of freedom and democracy to the next generation, it is up to organisations such as the IPA who cherish these values to perform this vital task.

Programs like the IPA Academy, though currently targeted, can be highly effective. The old Roman proverb, 'The human race lives by a few', speaks to the potentially powerful influence of those who dare to make a difference. At the IPA Academy 2023, Mr Abbott quoted this proverb during a speech about leadership in challenging times. Regardless of how noisy the crowd, regardless of how determined they are to shut down debate, the courage of the 'few' can still save the day.

As Patrick Irwin, Melbourne University's Campus Coordinator, said to me in an email after the program, 'The best part of IPA Academy was, for me, the chance to listen to highly sought-after experts in their field. It helped me gain the ideological and intellectual ammunition I need to take part in the debates that will define Australian and global society in the future.'

The IPA Academy also helps the IPA identify new talent to join the IPA's research team and IPA Future Leaders internship program. In fact, I am delighted to share that Matthew Stratton, one of the 2023 IPA Academy participants, has already joined the IPA research team, working part-time as he finishes his university degree.

The IPA couldn't achieve this without your support. On behalf of all the 15 young leaders who attended the IPA Academy, I want to say thank you for supporting the program.

Engaging new Generation Liberty members

As thousands of bright-eyed high school graduates streamed into universities across Australia

at the start of the year, I am pleased to report that Generation Liberty Campus Coordinators were ready to receive them.

O-Week is a key date in the Generation Liberty calendar. Each year in February, universities hold a variety of events to orient and welcome new students. All the clubs and societies come out in force to set up stalls and sign-up new members.

For Generation Liberty, it's an opportunity to meet with new students, start conversations with the politically unengaged and identify the freedom fighters.

This year, Generation Liberty was featured in O-Week programs at 16 different universities giving our Campus Coordinators the opportunity to hand out merchandise and sign-up forms to potential Generation Liberty members.

This means that hundreds of students across Australia are now flaunting stubby holders on campuses that carry the famous Ronald Reagan quote 'trust, but verify' or the Margaret Thatcher observation, 'The problem with socialism is that you eventually run out of other people's money.'

I am told by Campus Coordinators that quotes such as these act as great conversation starters on campuses, in turn helping them to find new Generation Liberty members.

The program has also received a hundred new subscribers. Yet the bigger challenge for Generation Liberty is how to keep this growing community engaged? How do we convert their *interest* in ideas about freedom of speech and liberty into a *commitment* to preserve and promote them? Towards this end, I have begun a new initiative – a weekly video called *News in 90 seconds*.

Each week, I round up the four most important pieces of news from the week – presented from the lens of what it means for young freedom-loving Australians – and present it in a snappy 90-second video that they can easily share with their peers through social media or private messaging platforms.



The video is also shared on Generation Liberty's social media, which is a key communication tool for the program. In an age of information overload and short attention spans, I believe the video is the perfect tool for Generation Liberty to keep young Australians informed in an entertaining way. Already I have received some great feedback on the video. As one young

student said to me, ‘We are all time-poor and constantly distracted by social media. Gen Lib news is a one-stop shop each week to know what’s important and stay ahead of the socialist agenda.’ Stay ahead of the socialist agenda – I couldn’t have said it better!

Generation Liberty currently has nine Campus Coordinators across Australia and will be hiring more. They’re at:

1. The University of Melbourne
2. Monash University
3. Western Sydney University
4. Campion College
5. The University of Newcastle
6. Queensland University of Technology
7. Bond University
8. Australian National University
9. University of Western Australia

These student leaders are the backbone of the Generation Liberty program. They work to build a community of freedom loving young Australians through events like O-Week by recruiting new students, hosting events and debates with guest speakers and providing political content and debate for current Generation Liberty members.

Generation Liberty’s Priorities for 2023

Moving forward, the Voice to Parliament, nuclear energy and culture war issues will feature in Generation Liberty’s events for 2023.

In an accompanying letter, the IPA’s Director of Legal Rights Program, John Storey, shares with you why the Voice of Parliament is the defining issue of our time, and why it is so important that we don’t permanently divide Australians on the basis of race. No one will be more affected by the Voice than young people who will live through the ramifications of this constitutional change.

Energy security is an important issue and a priority for Generation Liberty in 2023. This bringing to the fore the importance of energy security and affordability.

Many young Australians are interested in nuclear energy as a potential solution to Australia’s energy needs. This is why Campus Coordinators plan to run forums and debates on this issue.

The third and final topic is culture wars. Unfortunately for Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, declaring that culture wars as dead does not make them so. Universities are ground zero for this debate and the principles of free speech must be defended. There is no better way to win a debate than to prevent your opponent from voicing their views!

The prevailing ideology in Australia’s education system is antagonistic towards freedom of speech. For example, Victoria University’s Bullying Prevention and Management Policy defines bullying as including ‘pranks, or repeated teasing, sarcasm, insults, or practical jokes’. Even worse, Western Sydney University’s Student Misconduct Rule defines general misconduct as ‘unreasonably antisocial or offensive’ behaviour. Generation Liberty Campus Coordinators will be hosting events on campuses highlighting the critical importance of free

speech and democratic debate.

Generation Liberty's Strategic Goals

In 2023-2024, my ambition is to continue building on the strong platform we have developed over the last five years and to keep growing the Generation Liberty community through our on-campus events, social media platforms and digital content.

Generation Liberty currently has 2,000 members. Our strategic goal for the next financial year is to increase the Generation Liberty membership by 25 per cent to 2,500 and then to 3,000 the following year.

I aim to take Generation Liberty to new campuses, organise more events, promote IPA research and connect university students to the best thinkers and writers on freedom and the Australian way of life, from within the IPA and from around Australia. I will also collaborate with like-minded youth-led organisations across Australia so that more students and young Australians can learn about the IPA and the work we do.

The IPA can only do this because of your support.

Your generous donations not only make IPA research possible, it also allow us to take IPA research to young Australians through Generation Liberty events, podcasts and videos.

I hope you will consider supporting the IPA by making a tax deductible donation to the 2023 IPA End of Financial Year Appeal. You can make a donation by filling out the donation slip attached to this letter and mailing it back to the IPA or you can make an online donation by visiting ipa.org.au/eofy. You can also call Claire Peter-Budge on 03 9600 4744 and she can help you to make the donation over the phone.

On behalf of the Generation Liberty team, I am truly thankful for your support.

If you have any feedback, suggestion, or ideas on how to improve Generation Liberty program, please don't hesitate to email me at bmckee@ipa.org.au.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely yours,



Brianna McKee
National Manager of Generation Liberty