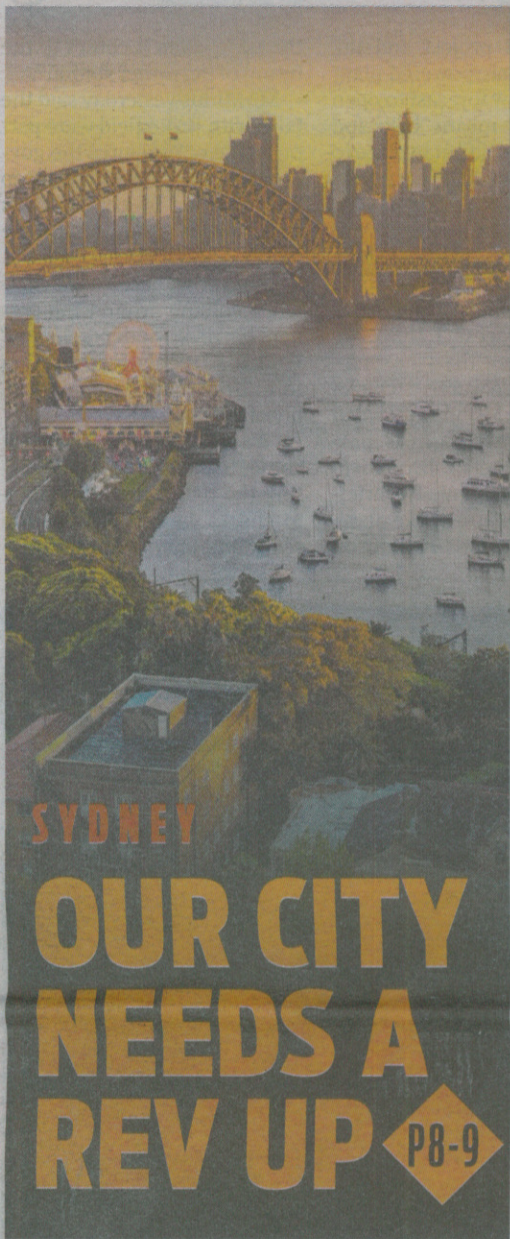


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SYDNEY

**OUR CITY
NEEDS A
REV UP**

P8-9



RESHUFFLE

**LIBS PUT
A PRICE
ON 'NO'
VOTE**

Senator's new job makes her the Coalition's chief weapon against the referendum



Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price yesterday. Picture: Emma Brasler

Refugee claims double but 85 per cent found to be...

ASYLUM SNEAKERS

**EXCLUSIVE
James Morrow**

The monthly number of people attempting to stay in Australia by claiming to be refugees despite having arrived by plane on student, work, or holiday visas has nearly doubled since last year.

The growing number of applications is flooding courts and tribunals with cases found to be

bogus more than 85 per cent of the time. Yet despite Department of Home Affairs figures showing that there are nearly 102,000 people awaiting either deportation or a ruling on their refugee status, the government deported just 14 failed asylum seekers in March. Opposition immigration spokesman Dan Tehan said Labor had "no plan to deal with this problem".

FULL REPORT PAGE 4



Dan Tehan.



**WORLD'S MOST
TROLLED STARS**

TRUE TOLL OF STARDOM P20-21



**280KM/H IN A
HATCHBACK**

BOSS TOLD HIM TO HURRY UP P7

PRICE GOES UP TO LEAD THE 'NO' LOBBY



Indigenous senator Jacinta Price will head the opposition's campaign against a Voice to Parliament. Picture: NCA/NewsWire Emma Brasier

Clare Armstrong
National political editor

Northern Territory Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price has been promoted to the opposition front bench as Indigenous Australians spokeswoman as Peter Dutton sharpens the Coalition's campaign against the Voice referendum.

The Opposition leader announced six new shadow ministry appointments yesterday in a reshuffle initially triggered by the front bench resignation of Liberal MP Julian Leeser, followed by former Liberal minister Karen Andrews' announcement she would quit politics at the next election.

Ms Price, who is a first-term Senator, said she looked forward to "bringing about better lives for our most marginalised Australians in this country".

She was scathing of the Voice referendum proposal, which she said some Indigenous communities felt was being pushed by "those who have long-held positions within the Aboriginal industry".

Ms Price warned of an increase in people falsely claiming to be Aboriginal, declaring it was "utterly ridiculous" that in South Australia people could "write a statutory declaration and claim to be Indigenous" and have input into that state's voice.

Mr Leeser resigned as the Coalition's Indigenous Australians and attorney general spokesman to sit on the backbench in order to campaign "yes" for a Voice to parliament.

However, Ms Andrews' move was not related to the referendum.

"Having made the decision to call time on my political career,

I look forward to bringing about better lives for our most marginalised Australians in this country.

NT Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price

I wanted to ensure the Coalition has maximum time to have a replacement in the crucial Home Affairs portfolio, and the best local candidate for McPherson in place," she said.

Ms Andrews said she would "continue to support" the party position on the Voice, but would not be actively campaigning for the "no" camp.

The attorney general port-

folio went to West Australian Senator Michaelia Cash, Victorian Senator James Patterson was elevated to shadow cabinet taking on Ms Andrews' home affairs role, while South Australian Senator Kerry Liddle was promoted to the outer shadow ministry with child protection and the prevention of family violence portfolios.

Ms Price's promotion

means the Nationals now have one more member in shadow cabinet than was agreed in the Coalition deal struck at the start of the term.

But Mr Dutton said it would have been "silly" for him to look over "obvious talent" Ms Price had because of a quota.

Ms Liddle is also a first term Indigenous senator opposed to the Voice. She said she believed her background made her well suited to the family and child safety roles.

Many Liberals were shocked by the reshuffle, including four MPs who were unhappy about the promotion of two senators who had not been in parliament a year.

However, one Liberal MP said Ms Price was the "right call" and noted she was popular in the community.

JAMES MORROW PAGE 13 EDITORIAL PAGE 24

Blowout in aged care costs

Clare Armstrong

Aged care costs have jumped more than \$5 billion in the past year alone making the sector the fifth most expensive budget measure, with warnings reform is needed to guarantee the long-term success of the sector.

Treasury has estimated aged care costs will rise from \$24.8bn to an estimated \$29.6bn this year – a 23 per cent increase in just 12 months – and continue to climb to about \$35.8bn by mid-2026.

A widely supported 15 per cent pay increase for aged care staff, along with the ongoing implementation of the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, are adding to the cost of the sector, along with the surge in demand due to Australia's ageing population.

Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said older Australians deserved "safe and high-quality care".

"Aged care has been plagued by a decade of inadequate funding which, in addition to the impact of the pandemic, has led to compounded cost pressures," she said.

About 1.5 million Australians are currently in aged care, but that figure will rise in the next decade with about two per cent of the total population estimated to be aged 65 and over by 2032.

"We owe it to our senior citizens to deliver adequate funding for aged care in this country," Treasurer Jim Chalmers said.

Save \$2k on power bills

Aussie families would save an average of \$2000 on their power bills with a combination of simple measures to more efficiently heat and cool their homes, according to a new study on energy costs.

Finding and fixing draughts, insulation, reducing heat loss or gain through windows and keeping the outside of a home cool with a light-shaded roof and plants are the smartest ways to improve the thermal efficiency of your home, the Climate Council has found.

Switching out gas appliances for electric alternatives that use less energy to do the same job can instantly save money.

NRL legends hit road on dementia trek

William Tyson and Tyson Jackson

NRL legend Royce Simmons is undertaking a mammoth walk from Dubbo to Bathurst for one of the nation's biggest killers, dementia.

The Penrith great was diagnosed himself with dementia and wants to inspire others suffering from the disease in his latest walk.

"I was diagnosed with de-

mentia in 2021 and sat around in the dumps for a few weeks," the 62-year-old said.

"I saw what Mark Hughes did with his brain cancer diagnosis and thought, 'Well what's good about sitting at home and worrying about it, I better get out there and do something positive.'"

Last year Simmons raised over \$1m in his inaugural "Big Walk" and will lace up his joggers again with a host of rugby

league legends including NSW State of Origin coach Brad Fittler and former premiership-winning player Andrew Farrar.

Simmons said it was vital to create awareness for the disease that kills thousands of Aussies a year.

"It's the biggest killer of women in Australia and the second biggest killer of men," Simmons said. "There are over 400,000 people in Australia right now with dementia."

The legends will take on the 313 km hike over 12 days which started in Dubbo on Tuesday, before they cross through regional towns including Parkes and Orange and then finishing at Carrington Park in Bathurst where Simmons' Penrith Panthers will battle it out with the Wests Tigers on Saturday, April 29.

The breakdown of the walk can be found at <https://royces-rightnow.com.au/>



Andrew Farrar (left), Royce Simmons and Brad Fittler on the road.