



GetUp!

Impact Report

2020-2021

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About GetUp!

Since 2005, GetUp has helped people across the country make a positive impact on the issues they care about the most. Propelled by hope and the belief that we can achieve meaningful change together, our movement provides an avenue for everyday people to engage deeply with democracy beyond the polling booth and play their part in shaping our future.

Over the past 16 years, we've grown a movement of more than one million members from all walks of life and parts of the country. Together, we've worked hard to speak truth to power and make our voices heard. Our movement has launched hard-hitting campaigns on issues ranging from climate action and marriage equality to better treatment for refugees and people seeking asylum —and won.

As an independent organisation funded entirely by supporters across the nation, our work is driven by values, not party politics. Whether we're defending our beloved ABC, standing up to mining giants, or uniting in solidarity with First Nations communities to promote justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, our work always puts people and the planet first.

GetUp members understand that change isn't won overnight, and instead takes committed, ongoing work and movement building. Our campaigns aim to bring everyday people on a journey of empowerment and help them realise that small actions in our daily lives can add up to win lasting, meaningful social change.



Letter from the National Director

At the start of this year I met with some of GetUp's action group volunteers to talk about the year ahead. We were in the grip of a global pandemic, and I remember being worried that perhaps people faced too many of their own challenges to have the energy to campaign. In the conversations that followed I was blown away by our volunteers' enthusiasm and hunger to get out and create the change they want to see. It was an experience that buoyed me for a huge year ahead.

This for me is the nature of our movement, a collective energy and force for progressive change that burns bright even in the most difficult of times.

In July, the NT election was called and our First Nations Justice team hit the road travelling 20,000kms between remote Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory. From Ngukurr to Borroloola, listening to people talk about the issues that matter most to them and supporting more than 6,000 unenrolled voters to have their voices counted. The communities and leaders we worked with during the election drove powerful campaigns throughout the year for better Cultural Heritage protections in the wake of the devastating destruction of the Juukan Gorge by Rio Tinto and continued to resist fracking expansion in the Beetaloo Basin.

When the ABC came under attack at budget time, after our groundbreaking research revealed \$783 million in funding cuts since the Coalition came to power, GetUp members responded with a huge, positive public campaign reminding leaders why the ABC is a critical essential service for their families and communities.

And as the Federal Government pumped public funds into propping up the gas industry and our clean energy bodies were under attack, we exposed the dodgy links between the Coalition and the gas industry and helped to protect ARENA from being hijacked by the fossil fuel lobby.

There have been so many important campaigns that I am proud of this year. From global campaigns opposing the Government's outrageous India travel ban and campaigning for global vaccine justice; to a national campaign for a People's Recovery in the wake of the COVID-19 economic crisis; right down to a local campaign building solidarity for Cultural Heritage protection in Bathurst. While I can't list all of them here, I hope you will take the opportunity to read about the important impact we have had in the pages that follow.

I want to take the opportunity to thank outgoing board members Min Guo and Karen Robinson for their tireless volunteer service and a huge and heartfelt thank you to our board chair Carla McGrath who's generosity of service and friendship has been invaluable to the organisation and to me personally.

As we look to the year ahead, it's an important moment to celebrate the incredible people power we have built and the impact this movement has had and to use that to propel us forward to continue to fight for a fairer, more progressive Australia.



P. Oosting

Paul Oosting
National Director



GetUp's Statement of Independence

GetUp is an independent movement of everyday people. Together, we practise our independence through passionate political engagement. We judge parties and politicians by their policies, values, and character — not their brand — then act accordingly.

We are active participants, not indifferent observers. We champion climate science over denial, the public good over corporate greed, and robust multiculturalism over callous racism.

We are beholden to no-one but each other and our shared values. Together, we pressure, persuade, and work on those in and outside government who can deliver real change on the issues that drive us, without ever giving or receiving money, or direction, from any political party, politician, or candidate.

Elections are great change moments. Our movement engages fiercely whenever we have the opportunity and means to build a more fair, flourishing, and just Australia for all.

Our power comes not from private interests or political patronage, but from the rolling tide of people working together towards a common cause.

When the COVID-19 pandemic compounded global inequality and racism, we stood up for justice

Campaigning for vaccine equity

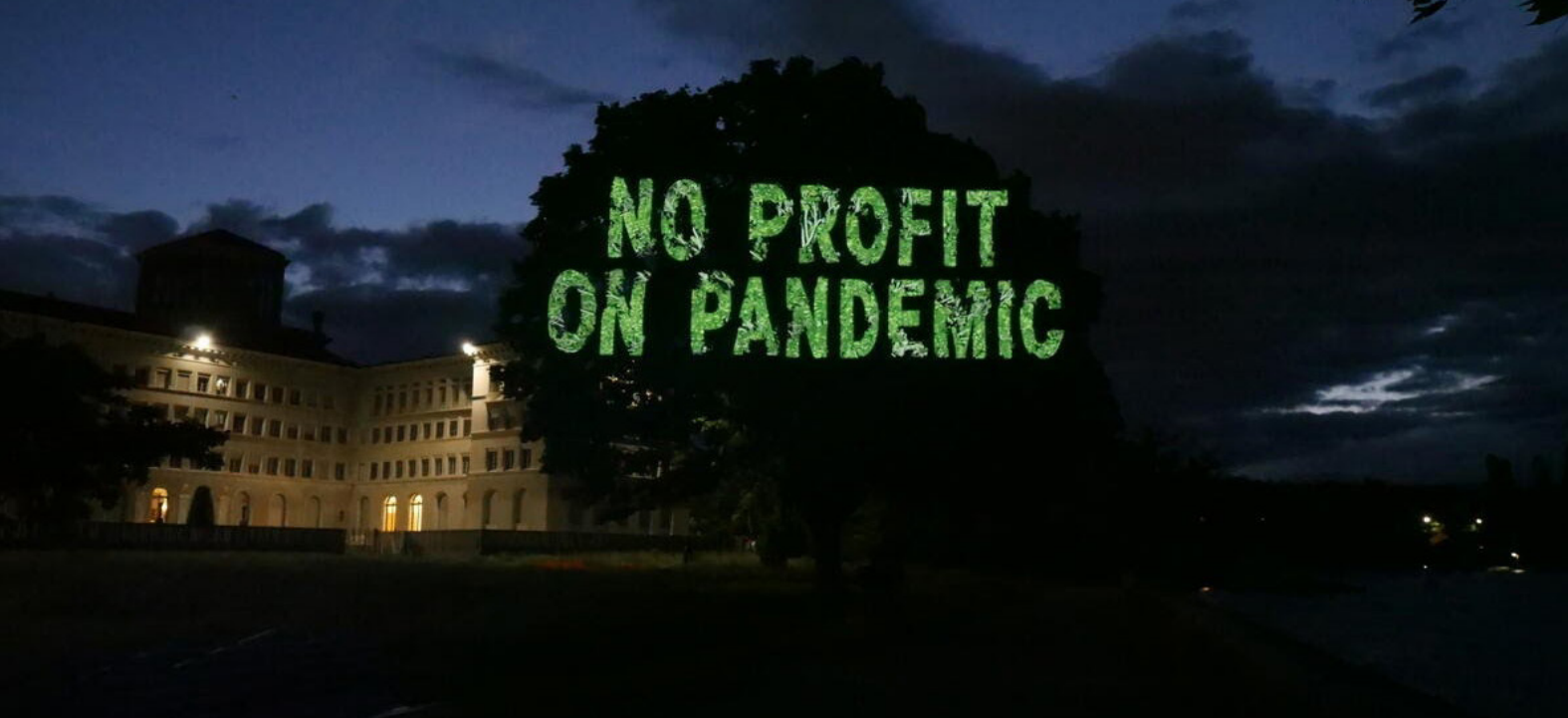
The Morrison Government was blocking a global push to waive intellectual property protections for COVID-19 vaccines to allow for cheaper generic versions to be manufactured in developing nations.

Choosing to protect the profit of pharmaceutical companies over people's lives sparked a huge backlash. GetUp worked in coalition with human rights groups in Australia and joined a massive global movement calling on world leaders to put people over profit.

In collaboration with organisations like Amnesty International and Australian Council of Trade Unions, we delivered a 52,878 strong petition straight to the offices of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, a day before the crucial World Trade Organisation (WTO) meeting.

GetUp members like you amped up the pressure by sending 7,727 emails directly to Trade Minister Dan Tehan and making hundreds of calls to his office.





We joined progressive movements across the world to add our names to a petition of 2.7 million people. That global petition was sent to the doors of the WTO building in Geneva, Switzerland, demanding our representatives choose people over profits. With our allies, we projected our powerful message ‘No profit on a pandemic’ onto the walls of the WTO building in Geneva.

By September, trade Minister Dan Tehan announced the government’s shift to support the waiver. Media reported that the shift followed months of tough pressure from human rights groups.

While the waiver campaign is ongoing, demanding our government put people ahead of profit was an important win in our fight for justice.

Pushing the Government to drop their India travel ban

In May, the government announced an extremely controversial and legally dubious travel ban stopping Australian citizens from returning home from India during a peak of the COVID-19 outbreak. Indu Balachandran, an outraged member of the Indian-Australian community, started a petition on Campaigns by Me, GetUp’s community-driven campaigning platform.

“The Government’s abandonment of Australian citizens in India is immoral, illegal and racist.” - Indu Balachandran

“My father-in-law and mother-in-law, both Australian citizens, are stuck in India for more than a year. Both are more than eighty years old and are very afraid of the risks they are facing in India. My father-in-law is a heart patient and has a pacemaker. They desperately want to return home. We were about to book the next available flight coming from India to Adelaide on 14th May when the PM’s draconian ban came into force!” - A supporter who preferred to remain anonymous.

Via her ‘Bring Them Home’ campaign, Indu connected with and was supported by GetUp’s Human Rights team to further mobilise the 1,500 supporters of her petition to have a big impact in the media debate raging around the travel ban. Through this campaign, we listened to stories from those community members affected firsthand by the travel ban and helped to elevate their voices in the media. Supporters of Indu’s campaign also met with Liberal and Labor MPs in marginal seats with large Indian communities to present the petition and lobby Members of Parliament to oppose the ban.

“I am beyond mortified by this government’s utter callousness to our own citizens stranded all over the world, and particularly in India. To claim our healthcare system would be overwhelmed is an utter scandal as thousands are actually DYING EVERY DAY in India, where the system is genuinely overwhelmed. And while every death is one too many, we in Oz have had less than 1,000 deaths due to COVID-19 in 15 months. Set up proper quarantine facilities and BRING THEM HOME!!!” - Sue T



The community backlash to the travel ban was fast, fierce and widespread and the Government backed down quickly. Indu’s campaign and the first-hand stories it elevated were a powerful part of the public backlash that defeated the travel ban.

Protecting democracy by guaranteeing a free and diverse media

The fight for our ABC

In the year following the black summer bushfires, marked by a global pandemic, the need for a strong, independent, fully funded ABC had never been clearer – so our movement sparked a national conversation about how the Coalition’s death-by-a-thousand-cuts agenda brought our critical public service to its knees right when we needed it most.

Our report ‘It’s Our ABC’ revealed that the Coalition has cut \$783 million from the ABC’s budget since coming to power, empowering GetUp members to drive a huge, positive public campaign in the lead up to the Federal Budget and remind leaders why the ABC is a critical essential service for their families and communities.

GetUp members’ stories of why they care about the ABC were plastered over city walls, in regional papers, on mobile billboards around key electorates, and in ads in the Sydney Morning Herald.

To cut through a coordinated conservative attempt to discredit the ABC ahead of the budget, we showcased the stories of everyday people and put a human face to why we need to protect our ABC. While there were no additional cuts to the ABC in this year’s Federal Budget, the attacks continue and with budget negotiations happening right now the next six months are critical for us to champion our ABC.



To keep the pressure on, we released a hard-hitting short film called ‘Morrison and Murdoch vs the ABC’. The film exposes how Morrison and the Murdoch Press have worked together to try to kill our ABC — undermining its important role in society with an anti-ABC agenda dominating headlines and party room dealings.

It features a powerful story from Alice Ansara, a Community Radio volunteer, about how critical ABC Radio was to her community during the black summer bushfires in Moruya NSW.

“Once we lost power and reception, all we had was the ABC radio. So it was this lifeline that we were clinging on to.”

Thousands of members attended the film’s online launch event hosted by Quentin Dempster, a former ABC host and ABC champion, and Osmand Faruqui, a previous editor of ABC Life which was gutted by conservative attacks and cuts. The short film has been watched close to 1 million times across our platforms.

This campaign built a strong public narrative of support for the ABC and even forced Morrison into a corner by making it politically toxic to cut our ABC without huge community backlash.

Guaranteeing a free and diverse media

It wasn’t just the ABC that was under threat this year, the freedom and diversity of Australia’s entire media landscape was firmly on the agenda.

In December, after a record breaking parliamentary petition, the Australian Senate referred an inquiry into the state of media diversity, and the influence of the Murdoch Press. It was an unmissable opportunity to push for change, and provide hard-data on the extent of media concentration, who’s benefiting, and the ongoing threats facing newsrooms and journalists.

4,656 GetUp members chipped in to power a research report from media experts Benedetta Brevini and Michael Ward which put forward clear recommendations for reform to the inquiry. The report was cited by members of the inquiry and widely covered by the media. 4,500 GetUp members then sent the report to every sitting MP and Senator, made personal submissions to the inquiry and our team took our report straight to Parliament House to meet with key Senators and champion change. The inquiry is ongoing and GetUp members will continue to play a critical role in fighting for a free, fair and diverse press.



“

Public interest journalism is the bedrock of a democracy, and yet our government is weakening its capacity. Nothing could be more important that factual reporting at this critical time in our history.

”

Michelle, WA



Opposing Dutton's creeping surveillance powers

In 2020, GetUp members also stood up to the growing culture of secrecy in the Government by opposing Peter Dutton's proposed broad new surveillance powers. GetUp members chipped in to get expert legal advice on the amendments that showed how changes to the ASIO act could be used against journalists, whistleblowers and their sources. Our petition opposing these sweeping new powers for ASIO was signed by more than 115,000 people and delivered by GetUp members on the lawns of Parliament to Greens Senator Lidia Thorpe and Independent MP Andrew Wilkie.

Our press freedom mural exposing the Morrison Government's attack on journalists and whistleblowers, which graced Sydney CBD's skyline, was only made possible thanks to more than 6,000 GetUp members who chipped in.



Building the power of First Nations communities

Northern Territory election

When the Northern Territory election was called in July, our First Nations Justice team hit the road travelling 20,000kms between remote Aboriginal communities. From Ngukurr to Borroloola, we listened to people talk about the issues that matter the most to them in the lead up to the election.



Working across 6 key electorates, we hosted large town-hall-style community meetings to hear what people were most fired up about. We heard repeatedly from communities who felt disempowered to stop companies fracking on their country. About a lack of quality housing and overcrowding issues facing communities during the pandemic. About the dire need for infrastructure investment and anger at the over-policing of communities.

We shared Mickayla's devastating story of experiencing homelessness and living in a tent with her kids during the pandemic.

“COVID-19 came and I sat and I cried with my kids because I don't have anywhere to keep them protected.”

When Mickayla shared her story, it encouraged dozens more people to share their experiences of the housing crisis. We helped to get these stories into the public debate and mainstream media, framing the election to be a referendum on the issues that were important to remote communities.

Alarming, more than 16,000 people in remote communities are missing from the electoral roll in the NT. We helped to drive a national media narrative highlighting the issue of Indigenous voter disenfranchisement in the Territory and supported 6,000 new people from remote communities to have their voices heard at the polls. Our work reversed a trend of low voter turnout in the electorates we worked in. This critical work also forced the NT Electoral Commission to publicly admit that more needs to be done to enfranchise voters in remote communities.

Resisting gas expansion

First Nations communities are on the frontline of the climate crisis and resisting the Morrison Government's fossil fuel expansion agenda. When Scott Morrison announced \$50m of public funding to prop up the gas industry, our First Nations Justice team helped to expose the undue influence of gas executives on his handpicked COVID Commission and centred the voices of Traditional Owners in the political debate as they watched drilling rigs roll into their communities.

Traditional Owners from the Northern Territory have led campaigns against invasive fracking gas fields on their country for over a decade. Their powerful advocacy in the media has highlighted how gas is a disaster for country, communities and our climate. GetUp members helped mobilise a huge political, grassroots and media backlash to the powerful role the gas industry created for itself during the COVID-19 period. The Prime Minister was forced to distance himself from the COVID Commission and replace its controversial gas executives.

Meanwhile, Traditional Owners with cultural and legal authority over their country gathered together. GetUp and our partners hosted a meeting with 80 Traditional Owners from across the territory and supported them to organise and plan their united response. We supported a group of Traditional Owners from the Northern Territory to travel to Canberra to meet politicians and talk about consent over gas projects on their country, about water and all the critical ways public investment is needed in their communities.

The huge backlash to fracking in the Beetaloo Basin from Traditional Owners, their supporters and sustained political pressure resulted in a Senate inquiry that is ongoing and has promised to accept the invitation of Traditional Owners to travel on their country and hear their concerns. This campaign is far from over and communities in the Northern Territory are standing strong together to protect sacred country, water, communities and their future.



Cultural Heritage protection

When Rio Tinto destroyed the Juukan Gorge rock shelters that showed 46,000 years of Puutu Kunti Kurrama and Pinikura people's history, it unleashed an unprecedented wave of national shame and anger. The fallout toppled several top Rio Tinto executives, including the CEO, and sent the company's share price plummeting.

But it quickly became clear that the core of the problem was that there were no legal mechanisms to guarantee the protection of culturally and historically significant sites like at Juukan Gorge. Without stronger laws with clear principles for Aboriginal heritage protection, there was no guarantee history would not be repeated.

The initial inquiry was narrow in focus, so the GetUp movement and our allies mobilised to tell a broader story of the need for Cultural Heritage protection across the country and successfully campaigned to make the focus of the inquiry national.

We worked alongside Traditional Owners and experts in the field, including commissioning legal advice from esteemed barrister Greg McIntyre SC, to review the findings of previous inquiries and develop clear recommendations to strengthen and standardise Cultural Heritage protection laws nationally. The GetUp movement mobilised in response, funding our legal advice, emailing and calling the inquiry members to call for the strongest laws possible. The Interim Report published by the inquiry contained all of GetUp's recommendations, and many more.

This campaign helped build a national conversation about Cultural Heritage protection and engaged new people to join the GetUp movement who care about this issue. We started to see campaigns to protect Cultural Heritage popping up all over the country.

Passing the Message Stick

GetUp's First Nations Justice team, in collaboration with Original Power and the Centre for Australian Progress, lead a groundbreaking messaging research project called Passing the Message Stick. Our aim was to equip First Nations people and advocates with messages that are effective in building public support for First Nations self-determination and justice.

The report was informed by a two-year-long messaging research project, focus groups, dial testing and a cohort of 19 First Nations communications experts, who took part in a five-month Message Research and Communications Fellowship.

The narrative advice, now fully launched, is being rolled out with a series of training events around the country for First Nations communities, organisations and advocates. The full report, and a series of messaging guides and materials, are available at passingthemessagestick.org



Photo courtesy of Murray Nicholls.

Solidarity for Cultural Heritage protection in Bathurst

When a go-kart track was proposed and approved to be built atop Mt Panorama/Wahluu in Bathurst, local Susan Douglas started a petition on GetUp's Campaigns by Me community campaigning platform to protect the popular picnicking, walking and camping spot from further development.

Separately, Wiradjuri Traditional Owners were already leading a campaign and legal challenge opposing the development which would destroy sacred Cultural Heritage sites on the mountain.

GetUp's Campaigns by Me and First Nations Justice campaigners worked with Susan to make her supporters aware of the Traditional Owners' existing campaign and the cultural significance of Wahluu.

Connecting the two campaigns helped Susan and her community to build solidarity with the Traditional Owners and align some of their campaign tactics, while increasing community awareness of the Cultural Heritage significance of Wahluu.

Traditional Owners wanted Federal Environment Minister Susan Ley to step in and override the local council's approval. After both campaigns got their supporters to email the minister asking her to step in, it put the issue firmly on her radar. On a visit to Bathurst, Ley told reporters she had been on the receiving end of "one of the largest campaigns in recent times as far as letters and emails to me." Shortly after she called for a moratorium on any construction so she could assess the project and visited Bathurst to meet with local stakeholders.

On the 9th of June 2021, after Traditional Owners, supported by thousands of locals, forced Environment Minister Sussan Ley to step in, Bathurst Council dropped its appeal to go ahead with the go-kart track.

Speaking out for people, not polluters

Protecting clean energy banks from funding coal and gas

Burning fossil fuels is the worst cause of climate change, yet since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, G20 countries have directed more funding to coal, oil and gas than clean energy – and Australia has been at the front of the pack, with our Federal Government attempting to promote a ‘gas-led recovery’.

As soon as a COVID Commission stacked with fossil fuel executives was announced in 2020, GetUp, our members and our partners across the climate movement jumped into action to stop public funds being spent propping up corporations who profit from polluting fuels like coal and gas.

One of our top priorities was to protect our clean energy agencies – the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) and the Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC) – from being hijacked by the fossil fuel lobby, with a strong push to use them to direct public funds into coal, gas and gas-burning hydrogen. This was accompanied by a broader push by the Australian government to further subsidise fossil fuels during the pandemic.

In 2020, a major collective mobilising effort to influence crossbench MPs launched, calling on them to use their positions to protect our clean energy agencies from the gas lobby. GetUp members across the country stood up to the big polluters with a 65,000-person strong petition. Tasmanians met with Senator Jacquie Lambie, South Australians emailed Senator Rex Patrick and Senator Stirling Griff, and GetUp members donated to fund an advertising blitz that encouraged them to be clean energy champions.



In collaboration with key partners across the climate movement – including the Australian Conservation Foundation, The Australia Institute and Solar Citizens – we were able to influence the crossbench and won our campaign to protect the CEFC from being polluted, thwarting the Government’s efforts to water down its explicit renewable energy focus. Without this sustained advocacy, the CEFC could have been significantly weakened to fund fossil fuels for years to come.

ARENA was a more challenging battle. While our campaign to protect the institution from funding gas initially succeeded, the Government used an alternative political pathway via regulation, with the support of Pauline Hanson, to pollute the focus of the agency. This fight continues – with public support for clean energy higher than ever, voters deserve to know what is really going on.

Eroding the social license of coal and gas

Over the past year, the narrative surrounding fossil fuels has shifted rapidly. Not long ago, our Prime Minister held up a piece of coal in Parliament – but thanks to a huge collective campaigning effort the social license of coal has largely been eroded. The Morrison Government has since shifted their focus to gas. Fast forward to 2021 and, partially thanks to the fury shown by GetUp members every time they heard the phrase, the ‘gas-fired recovery’ has been discredited and dropped by the Prime Minister – replaced with ‘positive energy,’ ‘technology’ and ‘net zero’.

This was no accident. Months of sustained interventions across the country forced to moderate Liberals to uncomfortably try to defend problematic projects – like spending \$600 million in public funds on the Kurri Kurri gas plant. GetUp members were there, calling them out for any hint of supporting fossil fuels, while also thanking them for showing support for a clean energy transition.

A powerful local campaign against a publically-funded Kurri Kurri gas plant gained huge local traction, 35,000 signatures, and a grassroots effort to plaster the community with yard signs calling for a more positive future for the region.

While the gap between the rhetoric and reality of the Government’s climate response continues to be a major problem, this narrative shift is significant and has the potential to influence policy in the coming months. A year ago the Coalition was united in support for fossil fuels, now they are split over what their climate response should be.

Taking on climate disinformation in the Murdoch Press

It wasn’t just the Government who were trying to trick the public into supporting new fossil fuel projects – a report funded by GetUp members in late 2020 found that the Murdoch Press had a long and dirty history of peddling climate disinformation. Our team of researchers and volunteers reviewed 10,000 articles to reveal the staggering extent of climate denialism in the Murdoch Press. We’ve crunched the numbers and found an astounding 45% of their articles either cast doubt on climate science or reject it outright – and that’s just the tip of the iceberg.

The report was shared widely by GetUp members, and also by former Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and by former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd during his petition push to regulate the Murdoch Press. GetUp members around the country not only made the report possible but also organised deliveries to their local MPs while also forming teams across the country to call out climate disinformation online.

Since this report was launched, the Murdoch Press declared a shift in their editorial policy on climate change. The climate denialists who were exposed in our report for driving the majority of the Murdoch Press climate coverage were outraged by the shift. While the new editorial stance is yet to be tested, it is clear that the norms on what is acceptable reporting on climate change have begun to shift – in part thanks to years of GetUp members and the broader movement tirelessly defending climate science and common sense.



Connecting the dots – bushfires, fossil fuels and broken promises

After the Black Summer, the connection between climate change and bushfires was clear for all to see – except the Federal Government, who seemed to think it would quickly be forgotten, along with the recovery money they had promised fire-ravaged communities around the country.

In March, GetUp members set the record straight by funding a scathing report and documentary that exposed not only the link between climate impacts and the Government's sustained support for fossil fuels, but also the broken promises Scott Morrison had made to communities impacted by fires.

Our report, 'Smokescreen', and documentary, 'The Aftermath', helped put the voices of those most impacted by the 2019-20 bushfires back in the centre of the public conversation on climate change – one year after the Black Summer. Not only did the report gain significant media attention, with 267 media stories around the country, the data from the report that showed that less than half the promised funds have been spent prompted hard questions to be asked in Parliament.

Breaking the poverty machine

When the COVID-19 lockdowns threw people's lives into crisis and put 2 million people out of work, the Government responded by increasing unemployment payments. People previously forced to live below the poverty line could afford to send their kids to childcare, give them presents on their birthdays, and keep food on the table.

But when the Morrison Government planned to cut back Jobseeker payments, millions of Australians faced living under the poverty line during a pandemic and a recession.

GetUp and its partners in the anti-poverty movement, including the Australian Unemployed Workers Union and Living Incomes For Everyone, coordinated a week of action in March to Break the Poverty Machine. More than 57,000 members signed a petition demanding a permanent increase to JobSeeker payments and we held a rally in Canberra at Parliament House. We set up 14,000 empty chairs in a powerful visual representation of the 1.4 million Australians about to be plunged back below the poverty line.

Jobseeker payments were cruelly cut, but GetUp, alongside our coalition of anti-poverty advocates, amplified the voices of those people most affected to disrupt the government narrative. We continued to advocate for fairer policies, including developing expert policy research making the case for a Federal Job Guarantee and mobilising thousands of GetUp members to call on the Government to introduce one. With the ALP committing to a white paper on full employment, and Treasurer Frydenberg using the language of full employment in his budget strategies, it is clear that GetUp's work has contributed to a political shift.



Targeting the corporate beneficiaries of poverty

As it cut Jobseeker payment, the Morrison Government spent \$500 million funding predatory, for-profit job agencies in the Jobactive system.

Jobactive is a private system that is meant to connect those looking for jobs with employment opportunities and a job plan. They enforce ‘mutual obligations’, which are requirements for job seekers set by Jobactive. In reality there just aren’t enough jobs. Jobactive encourages applying for jobs at businesses with no openings. And if an unemployed person doesn’t, their income support payments are stopped – risking starvation and homelessness.

We ran a brand jamming campaign and mobilised hundreds of unemployed people to share their stories of cruel experiences with job agencies, helping to build a national media narrative calling out the company’s punitive practices.

“In the past I was required to apply for 9 jobs a fortnight even though there were usually no jobs I could apply for despite being highly qualified. This simply forces people to either lie or apply for jobs they have no hope of ever getting, wasting not only their time but also that of employers.”

“Years ago, the job agency found a great “opportunity” for me, I had to drive 70KM each way, for two weeks, as a trial for a new job. At the end they told me that they didn’t need my help anymore, they just needed some designs that I did for them in that time. I lost a couple of hundred dollars in the end. It was a great experience in never trusting the system.”

We also commissioned independent journalist Michael West to write a report on the financial structures underpinning the operations of the Jobactive system, and how it contributes to the suffering of unemployed people who are forced to participate in it. We helped to reframe the debate to be about unemployed people’s experiences. The Jobactive network’s brand was tarnished and is now in a process of reform. Our work in this space is ongoing.



The GetUp Community

Finances

GetUp is a not-for-profit organisation and does not receive any funding or grants from political parties or governments. Instead, we are supported by tens of thousands of individuals who may not have a lot of time or money, but who care about the issues and use small dollar donations to have a say.

In the 2020-21 financial year, more than 98% of GetUp's donations were under \$100.

GetUp is registered as a Political Campaigner with the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) and so is required to disclose to the AEC the identity of any donors who give over the disclosure threshold in a given financial year. The disclosure threshold for the 2020-21 financial year was \$14,300. We go above and beyond our reporting requirements by publishing details of all donations over \$10,000 within 30 days on the 'Powering GetUp' page of our website, along with key statistics on our number of donations and donors, updated daily.

During the 2020-21 financial year, GetUp received a total of \$10,676,038 in donations and payments. A total of 60,156 individual donors chipped in and between them made 581,153 individual donations.

Crew members

Among GetUp's 60,156 individual donors in 2020-21 are thousands of committed Crew Members, who contribute small, regular amounts to make our grassroots campaigning possible. It's the regular donations from GetUp Crew that allow us to plan strategically for the future and act quickly when key moments arise. As of 30 June 2021, we had 17,694 Crew Members making a small, regular contribution. Over the financial year, Crew Members alone contributed a total of \$5,327,379 with weekly donations averaging \$7.91 per week and monthly donations averaging \$19.02 per month.



Expenditure

GetUp's expenditure in the 2020-21 financial year was \$10,050,327. Of this, only 8.7% – or \$875,571 – was for administrative costs. GetUp treats member's money with respect and spends it on the campaigns that members are passionate about. We ensure that every dollar spent drives forward our progressive, member-driven campaigns and work continuously to run the organisation as efficiently as possible.

As a registered Political Campaigner with the AEC, GetUp reports certain 'electoral expenditure', which is defined by the Electoral Act. For this financial year, GetUp disclosed to the AEC that \$67,751 (or 0.6%) of its expenditure was electoral expenditure, which encompassed both byelection and general election spending.



The GetUp Board

Directors



Carla McGrath
Chair of the Board

Carla McGrath is a proud Torres Strait Islander woman. Raised on the Australian mainland, Carla retains strong family and community ties to the Torres Strait. Carla brings a wealth of experience in Indigenous public policy and collaborative leadership, having worked as Program Lead for the Atlantic Fellows for Social Equity, Head of Sustainability at the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence (NCIE), Relationship Manager at Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME), Co-Chair of the Management Committee of the NSW Reconciliation Council, Vice Chair of Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC), Board Director of Flashpoint Labs and the George Hicks Foundation, Member of the AIME Corporation, Member of The Smith Family Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel and a Public Member of the Australian Press Council. Carla currently runs her own independent consultancy business and is a Board Director of Blakdance.



Stephen Monk
Deputy Chair

Stephen Monk is an IT entrepreneur with several successful consulting and product businesses in the UK and Australia. Within these organisations he provides technical leadership, strategic direction and financial management. He's a software developer at heart, and now spends most of this time working with large enterprises to help their staff embrace new technology and become more digitally savvy. Stephen has a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science majoring in Applied Computing, Political Science and Psychology from the University of Tasmania.



Daniel Stone
Director

Daniel Stone is an experienced social justice advocate, having worked on a number of national, state and local progressive campaigns. Daniel specialises in data led campaign communication and media production - with a focus on developing digital, video and graphic tools that engage and move people to action. He's a founder of PrincipleCo, which is contracted to do digital advertising for a number of businesses and organisations across Australia. Daniel has a Bachelor of Arts, Communications with Honours and the University Medal from the University of Technology, Sydney.



Phil Ireland
Director

Phil Ireland is a strategist, campaigner, climate policy expert, and entrepreneur. Phil has over a decade's experience working across a range of organisations from a range of sectors. Phil is currently the CEO and Co-Founder of the Climate Tech start-up, Hone Carbon. Prior to this, Phil spend over six years in a number of leadership roles for the Online Progressive Engagement Network (OPEN), where he worked across some of the world's largest digital campaigning organisations. Phil holds a Ph.D. in climate change in addition to a B.Sc (Hons I) and B.A. He has authored several peer-reviewed academic articles, book chapters and articles in the public media. He is a Conjoint Academic at The University of Newcastle and has conducted occasional lectures at conferences and other academic institutions. Phil is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



Alex Rafalowicz
Director

Alex Rafalowicz's grandparents survived the holocaust and then settled on Kurna Country (Adelaide) where his grandfather served as Rabbi. This heritage has inspired his life-long commitment to anti-racism, social, and climate justice and the importance of community. He is currently the Global Director of Programmes at 350.Org and previously served as a strategic adviser at Code Nation, including a secondment to Humberto De La Calle Presidente. Before that he was the Executive Director at the Climate Action Network of Australia where he came from working with international climate justice coalitions, including assisting in the founding and coordination of the Global Campaign to Demand Climate Justice. Alex helped found the Australian Youth Climate Coalition and led GetUp's electoral enrolment campaign in 2010. Alex has a Bachelor of Laws (Hons I) and Bachelor of Arts (Political Science) from the Australian National University as a Charles Hawker Scholar; a joint European Master in Law and Economics (LLM Cum Laude and M.Sc. Economics) from the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Gent University and University of Bologna on a Erasmus Scholarship; and an Executive Education Certificate in Organising, Leadership and Action from the Harvard Kennedy School.



Sara Hagdoosti
Director

Sara Hagdoosti is the Deputy Director of Win Without War, an organisation that works towards a progressive foreign policy. As Deputy Director Sara helps shape organisational strategy, as well as supervises the digital and operations teams. She's particularly proud of helping lead the organisation's first equity audit and the creation of a proactive three year equity plan. Sara has over a decade of digital campaigning experience. She founded Berim, an organisation that harnessed digital organising to mobilize 70,000 in support of diplomacy with Iran and in the support of change-makers there. She's previously held roles at the Mozilla Foundation, Change.org and GetUp. Sara is also a writer of YA Novels and this year debuted her first novel 'Sunburnt Veils' that explores racism in Australia. *Appointed 20 September 2021*



Sara Saleh
Director

Sara Saleh is an award-winning Arab-Australian human rights activist, writer and poet living and learning on Gadigal Land (Sydney). A longtime campaigner for refugee rights and racial justice, Sara has spent the last decade working with international organisations, including Amnesty International and CARE International in Australia and the Middle East. Her work has focused on media advocacy, law and policy change, and has taken her from Palestine, Lebanon, and Jordan, to Western Sydney. Sara holds a Bachelor of Social Sciences - Government (Class I Honours) from The University of Sydney, and a Masters of Human Rights Law/Policy from UNSW, where she recently completed her Juris Doctor, concentrating on human rights law, police accountability, and the incarceration/detention of marginalised populations. Sara's first poetry collection was released in August 2016. Her poems have been published in English and Arabic in SBS Life, Australian Poetry Journal, Meanjin, Overland, Cordite Poetry Review, Rabbit Poetry, Bankstown Poetry Collections and global anthologies A Blade of Grass, Making Mirrors, Solid Air, and Borderless. She regularly speaks and performs nationally and internationally, and her writing has appeared in The Guardian, Fairfax, ABC, SBS, and Junkee. Sara is co-editor of the 2019 anthology, Arab, Australian, Other: Stories on Race and Identity, and is developing her debut novel Stories for The Dead and The Living as a recipient of the Affirm Press Mentorship for Sweatshop Writers. She is a proud Bankstown Poetry Slam 'Slambassador'.



Karla Deane
Director

Karla Deane is an Associate in Maurice Blackburn's Brisbane Class Actions practice. Karla is currently acting in the AMP Shareholder Class Action, and has previously acted on a range of securities, mass tort, and consumer protection class actions, including the Volkswagen, Audi and Skoda diesel emissions cases, the Woolworths Shareholder Class Action, the Radio Rentals Class Action, and the Equine Influenza Class Action. Karla is committed to social justice within her practice, having advised in relation to environmental, asylum seeker and cancer action cases. Before joining Maurice Blackburn in 2014, Karla practiced as a solicitor in Sydney and as a Senior Policy Advisor in the office of the Queensland Premier. Outside of her formal practice, Karla has also been a director of the Climate Action Network Australia, secured a network of volunteers for an asylum seeker clinic, volunteered with the Women's Legal Service Queensland and Fair Agenda, and was on the NSW Young Lawyers Civil Litigation Committee. Karla possesses significant skills in civil litigation, dispute resolution, legal policy and government matters. She is passionate about community-led outcomes for overcoming injustice, which was her principal influence in choosing to study and practice law. **Appointed 20 September 2021.**



Karen Robinson
Director

Karen Robinson is a lawyer, non-executive director, corporate social responsibility leader, experienced campaigner and feminist. Her passion for human rights, diversity and inclusion and environmental sustainability has seen her work with a number of organisations in both the corporate and not-for-profit sector. Karen is the Director and Principal Solicitor of Violet Co. Karen is admitted to legal practice in the Supreme Court of New South Wales and a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. She has held a number of not-for-profit directorships during her career. **Resigned 16 August 2021.**



Min Guo
Director

Min Guo is a Victorian barrister. His areas of practice include class actions, immigration, and freedom of information. Min has First-Class Honours in both a Bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of Engineering from the University of Adelaide. **Resigned 30 June 2021.**



Natalie O'Brien
Company Secretary

Natalie O'Brien is Chief of Staff and Company Secretary. She previously led GetUp's economics campaigns portfolio. Natalie's general management skills allow her to confidently lead personnel and exercise sound judgement across a broad range of functions. She has previously held positions with NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet, the 2012 Obama presidential campaign and leading LGBTQIA+ advocacy organisation, Immigration Equality. She holds a Bachelor of International Studies with First Class Honours and Graduate Certificate in Social Impact from the University of New South Wales.

Thank you for your involvement with GetUp.

