

Conservative Ideas, Progressive Personality

With a state election looming, young voters aren't the future of life in Victoria, they aren't patiently waiting their turn to make their vote count.

They are the present, with voices and opinions of their own. It is perhaps, their choice of party candidates on election day that will define who leads us after November 28th.

Despite this, it feels as though many young people are assumed to be stuck within the hold of an electorate that in the past, has leaned to the favour of only one party, or the policies campaigned for simply don't align with the values of the younger generation.

In 2025 whilst unveiling a plan to construct apartment buildings of "10 to 20 storeys high" near train stations across suburbs Brighton, Glen Iris and Malvern, all traditional Liberal seats, Premier Jacinta Allan stated that young people within these areas are "locked out" of the housing market due to soaring property prices.

That may be true, but is a better solution really to destroy the character of these quiet leafy suburbs with towering complexes?

Whilst owning a home is a goal for many young people, it is highly likely that none of them would want to go to bed to the peaceful lullaby of trains rattling on the tracks and the aggressive whistling of those train horns.

Very few would want to buy a small apartment overlooking a train station platform and even fewer would like to spend the next 30 years of their life having to pay it off.

Yes, a mortgage would be the same burden whether you have bought an apartment or a mansion, but let's be frank, the cost of living crisis within Victoria severely limits what any young person may be able to purchase.

The State Government have offered many avenues for cost of living relief, yet none of them seem to directly benefit the young person, those at university who work a casual job on the side to make a little bit of money.

Support is offered to those attending kindergarten, those in school through free public transport, but it seems that young adults are overlooked by the current Government. Most university students now have to pay upwards of \$5 a day.

If one is attending classes 5 days a week that's \$25 out of the pockets of students just like that. \$25 that could be put towards buying a house, with a view to a backyard. Sounds much more inviting than an apartment overlooking the railways.

Why can't we receive the same assistance it seems everybody else is eligible for? What must we do as young people to be seen and heard by the State Government?

It is suggested that many begin their political opinions as aligning more with the left and with age, move to the right, but perhaps the tide is turning, even if only slightly.

Not because we are seeking to abandon progressive ideas and values, but because one must consider their future and whether the current situation within Victoria aligns with ones' long-term aspirations.

Stability matters.

Policies that prioritise rapid urban density over liveability, or offer broad cost-of-living relief that skips over young adults entirely, risk alienating a demographic that is increasingly aware of how state decisions shape their future prospects.

Aspirations of home ownership, secure employment and a reasonable quality of life are not conservative fantasies, they are practical goals. Goals that would be aspirations for almost all young people in this state.

These are generally conservative goals sought after by perhaps, a progressive majority.

Being supported by the Government starts by supporting the right people to 'get the job done'. We are entitled to vote for whoever we like, that's what a democracy enables us to do.

We cannot expect to be taken care of when we elect those who do not notice us or see our future.