

Dear Prime Minister,

We represent a broad cross-section of Australians who believe our society should be built on equity and fairness.

The Panama papers – a giant leak of more than 11.5 million financial and legal records – has exposed an elaborate system of tax havens and fraudulent shell companies that allow the wealthy to hide money from Australia's tax system.

By allowing corporations and wealthy people to set up shell companies and shift profits offshore, our politicians are giving the mega rich the tools they need to hide public money through tax dodging. This lost revenue means millions of dollars' worth of public services go down the drain.

When wealthy people are allowed to hide money offshore, we all suffer: our schools are forced to rely on the charity of parents to buy the equipment they need to teach our kids, our hospitals have to turn their back on people in need of beds, homeless youth and family violence victims can't get help, people without paid work have to survive on just \$37 a day and we will struggle to transition to a world with zero carbon pollution.

It's time for everyone to contribute their fair share to building a better country. It's time for politicians to promote the wellbeing of all Australians, not the selfish interests of a few.

Prime Minister, you can outlaw the use of shell companies with concealed ownership and other means of tax avoidance.

You can require multinational companies to be transparent about their activities, so that they can't avoid their tax obligations.

You can scrap secrecy laws that allow accountants and lawyers to help their clients siphon away public money.

You can restore jobs in critical watchdog agencies, such as the Australian Tax Office and the Australian Securities and Investments Commission, and abandon plans to put the current registry of company ownership into corporate hands. The Panama Papers highlight the harm that will happen if registries of company ownership are put in private hands.

And you can choose to ensure there is sufficient public revenue to provide vital public services and infrastructure for all of us.

In the face of public outrage at the revelations of the Panama papers, these are easy choices for you to make. You have the power. You have public support. You just have to act.

Prime Minister, most of us do the right thing and we expect corporations and the mega rich to pay their fair share of taxes as well. All we are asking is that there is one set of rules for everyone. Not one set of rules for the mega rich and another set of rules for everyone else.

Signed

Kirsty Albion, National Director, Australian Youth Climate Coalition	Phil Jones, Convenor, SJ Around the Bay	Ann Porcino, Director, RPR Consulting
Rev David Baker, Moderator of the Uniting Church in Australia, Queensland Synod	Alex Kelly, Film Maker	Alex Rafalowicz, Movement Strategist, Climate Action Network Australia
Hilary Bambrick, Chair of Population Health, School of Medicine, Western Sydney University	Carolyn Kelsaw, Executive Director, BaptistCare Australia	David Ritter, Chief Executive Officer, Greenpeace Australia Pacific
Meredith Burgmann, Former President, Australian Council For International Development	Ged Kearney, President, Australian Council of Trade Unions	Millie Rooney, Research Fellow, University of Tasmania
Kasy Chambers, National Director, Anglicare Australia	Tim Kennedy, National Secretary, National Union of Workers	Jo-anne Schofield, National Secretary, United Voice
Tim Costello, Chief Executive Officer, World Vision Australia	Archie Law, Executive Director, ActionAid Australia	David Smith, National Secretary, Australian Services Union
Lisa Fennis, Director, Sydney Peace Foundation	Kate Lee, Executive Officer, Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA	Kate Smolski, Chief Executive Officer, Nature Conservation Council of NSW
Nadine Flood, National Secretary, Community and Public Sector Union	Anne Manne, Author and Journalist	Frank Stillwell, Professor Emeritus in Political Economy, University of Sydney
Cassandra Goldie, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Council of Social Service	Robert Manne, Emeritus Professor of Politics and Vice Chancellor's Fellow, La Trobe University	Helen Szoke, Chief Executive Officer, Oxfam Australia
Brynnie Goodwill, Chief Executive Officer, Jubilee Australia	David McKnight, Associate Professor, University of New South Wales	Louise Tarrant, Community Organiser
Luke Hilakari, Secretary, Victorian Trades Hall Council	Michele O'Neil, National Secretary Textile, Clothing and Footwear Union	Millie Telford, National Director, Seed Indigenous Youth Climate Network
Brett Holmes, General Secretary NSW Nurses Midwives' Association	Paul Oosting, National Director, GetUp	Ben Thurlay, National Coordinator, Micah Australia
Susan Hopgood, Federal Secretary, Australian Education Union	Ben Oquist, Executive Director, The Australia Institute	Michael Tull, Assistant National Secretary, Community and Public Sector Union
Lee Joachim, Director of Research and Development, Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation	Rev. Elenie Poulos, National Director, UnitingJustice Australia	Michael Whaites, Sub-regional Secretary Public Services International
	Kelly O'Shanassy, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Conservation Foundation	Mark Zirnsak, Secretariat, Tax Justice Network Australia