

Women's Electoral Lobby (Australia) Inc

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NO means NO, we won't vote for you

Did Tony Abbott really say with Julia Gillard no doesn't mean no?

Is he channelling Alexander Downer?

We all remember Downer's "the things that batter" joke. Well, it seems the Liberal Party has not progressed past that –Neanderthal – state.

Does Tony Abbott think it's okay to use a long-running campaign fighting violence against women to score political points?

His mother might be a woman, and his daughters strong girls, but he still doesn't get it.

"We've tried very hard to be fair to all parties in this election campaign." Said Kathleen Swinbourne, WEL's Election Coordinator. "We've scored their policies against our Feminist Framework and the Liberal Party has even scored higher in some areas. However, this one is just too much."

The Women's Electoral Lobby wants to know if this is Mr Abbott's own gaffe or a party line trundled out to belittle Julia Gillard in a personal attack just because she is a woman?

"This is a playing of the gender card that is totally unacceptable. All women, even those who have never been attacked, know deep in our guts the level of fear that goes with being female and being out at night. That fear of what could happen just by having that one extra drink, or talking to the wrong person." Said Ms Swinbourne

There is no way that WEL can support a party that just doesn't get it. We challenge you to come clean – who were the faceless men of the Liberal Party who decided on a strategy that is so trivializing of the fear and experiences of more than half the population you wish to govern?

For further information contact Kathleen Swinbourne, Elections Coordinator 0412 158 314 or Eva Cox, Chair 02 9660 3028 or 0407 535 374