

Gary Plumridge



Family Married to Carolyn with four children: Caleb, Nathan, Jacob & Hannah

Age 48 years (as at May 2007)

Place of birth Geelong, Victoria

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Education:

Bell Post Hill Primary School
Geelong West Technical School
Gordon Institute of TAFE
Deakin University (Dip Financial Planning)
Certified Financial Planner

Employment Record:

Branch Manager: CGU Insurance
Sales Manager: AGC Insurance
Managing Director: Gateway Financial Group for over 23 years

Professional Memberships:

Financial Planning Association (FPA)
MFPA

Community Involvement:

Founding Director of Committee for Geelong
Player & Member - Bell Park Football Club
Coach Bell Park Football Club under 16's (to two premierships)

Other Achievements:

Senior Sportsman's award at Geelong West Technical School
Citizenship Award Geelong West Technical School

Gary Plumridge

Lead Senate Candidate, Victoria

Having lived in Geelong all my life, the family and I are involved in many parts of the Geelong community, and love the lifestyle of Victoria's second largest city.

The Plumridge family is a sports-mad family. We play various sports including tennis, golf, netball and football, and like bushwalking as well. I love my footy and played for Bell Park football club for a number of years, and was a proud member of the club's first ever GFL Senior Premiership in 1984!

One activity I have enjoyed enormously, and taken great pride in, is coaching the Under 16's junior football at the club, and leading the boys to consecutive premierships in 2005 and 2006. That was a real thrill.

I think the skills I have acquired over many years as a certified financial planner will equip me well for political life. My wife Carolyn (Caz) and I ran our own financial services business for more than 23 years, which saw us helping hundreds of families and small business people to make the most of their hard work by choosing smart investments and planning for their future.

It was my job to 'serve' my clients and I found it to be a real privilege. People trust you with their finances and depend on you to give them sound and practical advice. You have to listen carefully and understand their circumstances and lifestyle before you can suggest what might be appropriate.

So too in politics, where it is the job of our elected representatives to 'serve' their constituents, to really listen to what the community wants and to strive to do the best for them.

That is what I would work hard to do, bringing to political life my 48 years of life experience as a passionate family man with a proud record of community service and a strong background in finance and running my own business.

Why FAMILY FIRST?

From a young age I was interested in politics. So much so that, as a teenager, I actually signed up to have Federal Hansard – the record of what goes on in Parliament - delivered to my house! I really did enjoy sitting up in bed at night reading about parliamentary debates.

I started to learn what the different parties thought about different issues and this helped me to form my own opinions. But I never belonged to any political party, not until I found out about FAMILY FIRST.

I met Senator Steve Fielding a few years ago and was impressed by his energy and passion for families and family values. To me, Steve seemed to speak a lot of sense, which I think is often lacking in politics. I decided to find out more about FAMILY FIRST and both Caz and I could relate to their values and what they stood for. I decided that FAMILY FIRST was a party that I could wholeheartedly support, a party that I wanted to wholeheartedly support, and help.

As FAMILY FIRST Victoria's lead Senate Candidate, my goal is to represent families and small businesses across the state and to campaign on issues that really matter to them. Consider just a few:

- **Making ends meet:** Petrol Prices are at record highs and really hurting so many families and businesses, not to mention rising grocery costs and electricity and other bills. A survey of 5000 families recently found that the cost of petrol was their biggest hurdle in making ends meet, yet the government is doing nothing about it';

FAMILY FIRST wants the government to cut the petrol tax.

- **Job security and conditions:** Job security is vital for Australian workers and their families as it gives them peace of mind so they can plan for their future, so they can think about buying a house, having a child or organising a holiday. Workers should also be guaranteed basic conditions like being compensated for working on public holidays, having meal breaks and getting overtime and penalty rates. Working at 2am should not be treated the same as working at 2pm.

FAMILY FIRST voted against the Work Choices legislation and will continue to fight to improve the workplace laws so workers and their families are not worse off.

- **Water** is a crisis issue and a real concern to families. So far all our governments are doing is looking at ways to slug families more for their water even if they use less, which is unfair. Water is an essential service and it is the job of governments to manage this precious resource and not pass the buck by punishing families with higher costs.

FAMILY FIRST will lobby Government to provide sustainable solutions to our water crisis rather than just raising the price and punishing families.

It really is a great honour for me to stand for Parliament and represent a party I passionately believe in, FAMILY FIRST. It is an honour for me to represent my wife and my family, as well as all Victorian families.