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## Melody Steed

Maryborough

Age: 36

Marital status: Married to Andy.

Occupation: Early Years Educator (part time, currently on maternity leave).

Stay at home mum to Lucy, 23 months and Zoë, 3 months.

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Fellow members,

I find myself somewhat unqualified for almost every aspect of life, everything I know and have come to believe I learnt on the job so to speak. I hold no university degree or doctorate, in truth my success academically reached its height with the completion of Year 11. I pursued and secured a traineeship at a childcare centre in Bendigo (my hometown) and later qualified with a Certificate III - Community Services, Children's Services. I have ventured out of this chosen field on a number of occasions, other opportunities include working alongside humanitarian aid organisations in Central Australia and Northern Thailand and more recently an advertising position at The Maryborough District Advertiser. Despite my best attempt to diversify my skill set and pursue other interests, life has always guided me back to a little childcare centre in Castlemaine. I cannot bring anything of great significance to The Nationals nor can I reassure its precious members with stories of outstanding achievement; I humbly offer what little I have to the Women's Executive - the perspective of a wife and mother, a good drop of enthusiasm for conservative politics and determination similar to that required to convince a room full of toddlers to try green soup!

Andy and I had the honour of assisting in the successful campaign of Anne Webster, Member for Mallee in 2019. We handed out how to vote cards at prepoll on a couple of occasions, one particular moment remains in my mind. Andy and I stood proudly waving the green and gold banner among volunteers from numerous political parties when something extraordinary happened - the enthusiastic and devout Labour volunteer handing out cards next to me suddenly stopped what he was doing, walked over and whispered in my ear "I'm going to vote for Anne!" I cannot say for sure if it was the way the light caught the corflute (Anne was glistening in the sun) or the grace and flare with which I handed out the cards, but either way one of us must have been very convincing! If a bland resumé can do little to convince you of my ability to represent and serve the North - West Region then please allow me this promise - I will be there for the upcoming campaigns with how to vote cards in hand and a gut full of motivation!

Image: Captured by Belle Photography.