



Federal Government
Department of Empathy

Media Release

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A New Era for Empathy in Australian Politics

Today marks a milestone for Australia – the establishment of the first-ever Ministry for Empathy – the most significant reform in the emotional intelligence sector of the Australian government.

It is important to nurture, develop and promote the emotional intelligence and well-being of Australia's political class to ensure humanity remains front-and-centre in all our deliberations whether matters of national security, agriculture, arts, education, manufacturing or technology.

Too often governments are tardy when it comes to their own fitness for government and this has been the subject of ongoing discussion in Australia's broader public life.

Federal Minister for Empathy, David Pledger, said world-class empathy is central to the decision-making process and his Ministry will take a no-prisoners approach to ensure our political leaders are empathetically and compassionately fit-for-purpose.

In his first public statement as Minister, Mr Pledger stated his Ministry's approach:

When it comes to our politicians, we start with a blank canvas, whatever their political persuasion. Regardless of their record to-date, we will treat all of them equally, empathetically and compassionately.

The new Ministry for Empathy will have responsibility for ensuring a nationally consistent approach to empathy, compassion and kindness whilst securing the integrity of Australia's emotional intelligence program and protecting our psychological borders.

The Ministry's activities will be refreshed on a regular basis in order to remain emotionally responsive, psychologically alert and politically disarming.

The Minister's first duty will be a comprehensive round of interviews with key Ministers, the progress of which will be available to the public in 2018.