

Kevin Rudd as New Opposition Leader

Kevin Rudd is the new Federal leader of the Australian Labor Party. Much has been made of the fact that Kevin is an active Anglican. His predecessor, Kim Beazley is also an Anglican and the Prime Minister, John Howard, also claims allegiance to the Anglican tradition. However, Kevin Rudd seems to be a more activist Christian and often speaks from a Christian perspective. In a recent speech he emphasised the importance of Christian churches being involved in social and political action. He has been keen to emphasise that conservative Christian groups such as Families First are not the only voices within the Christian community in Australia. He seems keen to promote a more radical and expansive view of the Christian faith.

Whether we agree with Kevin Rudd's policies or whether we support his Labor Party, I am sure we agree that it is encouraging to have a prominent political leader with his perspectives on Christianity. It is too often the case that the Christian community in Australia is seen to be negative and conservative about social issues, when this is far from the truth. Also, support of the family has been used as a smokescreen to promote very conservative political values. UnitingCare certainly promotes support of families, but not always in the same way as Families First and other similar conservative political movements. So, it will be good to have Kevin Rudd promoting a different version of Christian values.

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