

The Editor, [The Age](#)

Dear Editor,

Left coalition

The Age articles by Richard Flanagan (Comment, 11/5) and Peter Hartcher (Comment, 10/5) bring out the frustrations of electors of smaller progressive parties and candidates in failing to make headway towards the election of a centre left social-democratic Australian government. It remains an enigma for many voters to comprehend why the Labor Party with a mere 34.7 per cent of the primary vote can manage to win 61 per cent of the seats. Informed electors who study the peculiarities of the single-member constituency system see that arbitrary lines on maps defining shifting electoral boundaries ultimately determine the winning parties of the two-party preferred voting system. Standing outside my home building in busy Glen Huntly Road to catch the tram I am in the not-so-marginal seat of [Macnamara](#) where I voted. Coming home on the same tram on the same road I find myself in the extreme-marginal seat of [Goldstein](#).

Since there is no likelihood of the introduction of the [proportional quota preferential](#) election system for the House of Representatives it would be better for the remaining ideological left forces in the Labor Party to think of forming an alliance with the Greens party if we are ever again going to have an enduring progressive centre left government in Australia.

Henk van Leeuwen

Elsternwick

13 May 2025