NSW LABOR
STATE CONFERENCE 2016
Fairness. Opportunity.
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Indigenous welcome for delegates on behalf of the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation.
Introduction

Thank you to everyone who attended our NSW Labor State Conference at Sydney Town Hall on the 13th and 14th of February 2016.

At this NSW State Conference, Labor demonstrated that it is the Party of fairness and opportunity.

We put forward an urgency motion to address the growing issue of inequality across Australia and passed amendments supporting a national framework to provide support for victims of domestic violence in the workplace. And most importantly, our State and Federal leaders, Luke Foley and Bill Shorten, gave speeches that not only united our movement against our opponents, but put forward strong Labor policies – including the restriction of negative gearing and accessibility of childcare. We have reset the national agenda and put the Liberals, Nationals and Greens on the back foot.

At this Conference, our rank-and-file Labor members sent a clear message: we will never leave the suburbs to the Liberals, we will never leave country New South Wales to The Nationals and we will never ever abandon the inner city to The Greens. We will fight for every single vote, by being the Party of fairness and opportunity.

We put forward a plan to build stronger campaigns, focused on growing our volunteer base by identifying supporters and getting them more involved.

At this Conference, we introduced a number of reforms to build a more diverse and inclusive Party, including:

- Increasing Affirmative Action across all party units, including increasing the number of delegates to Electorate councils and State Conference to 50%, and launching a Women’s Mentoring Program headed up by senior Labor women;
- Increasing indigenous participation and representation with the targets set by National Conference, in consultation with the NSW Labor Aboriginal Network; and,
- Creating an Auslan branch, making our party more accessible for the Deaf community.

Delegates from all over NSW voted in favour of recommendations to improve our Party’s Governance, following recommendations from three reviews conducted by John Tarrant and David Tierney, John Whelan and Simone Farrar and then by Jane Needham into Party rules, governance and culture, and most importantly supported the adoption of a Code of Conduct – the first of its kind in Australia.

I look forward to building on our achievements at the 2016 NSW Labor State Conference and look forward to working with you as we implement these reforms together.

Yours sincerely,

Kaila Murnain
GENERAL SECRETARY
President’s Report

Mark Lennon gave the President’s address on the Saturday morning of the NSW Labor Annual State Conference.

NSW Labor President, Mark Lennon began his speech by acknowledging the many delegates who represent the various elements that make up NSW Labor. He thanked all 850 delegates who came from the branches, unions, and other sections of the Party for their participation in the Conference.

“No other political party can say that they are as representative of Australia as the Labor party. This conference is one of the most open and democratic events you will find on the Australian political calendar.”

Mark Lennon spoke about the importance of working towards a more stable party for the 20,000 members who make up NSW Labor. The president assured the party members that work has been done to guarantee that NSW Labor has a positive cultural direction both inside and out. This includes a suite of changes to the policies and procedures of the Party Office.

Mark Lennon noted that the changes to Party Office will enhance the party and more importantly ensure the best opportunity to return to government federally this in 2016 and in NSW in March 2019.

“Decisions have to be made in a matter that secures the future for everyone, not just the privileged few and History shows it is only Labor that can make the just and compassionate decisions at times such as these.”

Mr. Lennon described Medicare as one of the greatest social institutions in world history.

Mr. Lennon said that, “There is something that the federal government needs to remember as they talk as they have this week of privatising Medicare.” He noted this in reference to the origins of Medicare and the social contract that was signed in creating it.

“We will not stand by and watch as they breech the contract they have made with the Australian people.”

“We will all be campaigning hard this year to ensure that by the end of it Australia will have a Shorten Labor government.”
Administrative Committee Report

NSW Labor has built on its accomplishments to deliver excellent outcomes for our political standing and policy agenda.

**OUR ACHIEVEMENTS INCLUDE:**

- Introducing a Code of Conduct for all Labor Party members;
- Introducing Affirmative Action targets for female representation in every Party branch in NSW; and
- The creation of the first ever AUSLAN branch, giving the Deaf community an opportunity to participate in policy development.
- Commiting to more Indigenous representation in Parliament and across all levels of our Party.
- Reforming operations in Party Office to better meet the Party’s needs.

Acting General Secretary Kaila Murnain rose from the floor of conference – as a member of the Party’s rank and file – to deliver her plan for NSW Labor.

She declared that in NSW, Labor is committed to a 93-seat strategy where the Party will build our campaign capacity in every area of the state. NSW Labor will build strong campaigns on the contributions of our volunteer and supporters to win - and we will be a bigger and stronger Labor Party for the future.

“By fighting for every vote, by changing the way we campaign; by setting the standard for governance and by becoming an even more inclusive party with diversity in our power structures - we are building a Party for everyone.

“I’m asking for your trust at a tough time for our party; but I give you this pledge:

I will never forget where I came from in Narrabri 15 years ago, and I will never lose sight of what we’re really here to fight for. Because I’m a true believer, just like everyone of you.”

Acknowledging the three reviews into the party’s governance, rules, and culture - by John Tarrant and David Tierney, John Whelan and Simone Farrer, and then Jane Needham - Murnain thanked them and pledged to implement their reforms.

As a broader reform into the way our party recruits women, she announced a Women’s mentoring program, headed up by senior women from the Labor movement. This, along with Affirmative Action targets for parliamentarians, delegates to electoral councils, and electoral council executives, means our Party will provide more opportunities for women.

And to further our commitment to encouraging greater representation, Kaila Murnain announced the first Auslan Branch of the Labor Party, to make it easier for the deaf community in Australia to become active within our Party.
State Parliamentary Leader
Luke Foley used his address to the conference to lay out a plan for a Labor State government.

The Opposition Leader spoke about Liberal Premier Mike Baird’s failures as Premier. He exposed Mike Baird for selling out his constituents by pushing for a hike in the GST to 15% to fund corporate tax cuts. He talked about massive mismanagement, as the Liberals spent a billion dollars on trains that don’t fit the platforms.

“Delegates, Mr Baird says trust me. Well, we can ‘trust him’ to push for a hike in the GST to 15 per cent to fund corporate tax cuts. We can ‘trust him’ to applaud a Federal budget that devastates our public hospitals.

“We can ‘trust him’ to return our state to the bad old days of land clearing waging a war on trees that will kill millions of our native animals. We can ‘trust him’ to impose new and higher tolls: $45 a week on the M4, and $61.50 a week on the M5. And we can ‘trust him’ to blow a billion dollars on trains that don’t fit the platforms.

Delegates, that’s what we can ‘trust’ Mr Baird to do.”

Luke Foley used the opportunity of the conference to make three major announcements:

1. That NSW Labor will be the first political party in Australia to disclose political donations when we receive them – making NSW Labor the most transparent political party in New South Wales.

2. Luke Foley made a historic commitment to early childhood education to give our children an advantage in their school careers.

“Delegates, today I announce that our Party commits to affordable and accessible preschool education for every four year old in New South Wales.”

3. Under the next Labor Government every child in our primary schools will be taught a second language.

In conclusion Luke Foley rallied the Delegates and observers to continue the fight against a cruel and unjust Coalition Government.
At the 2016 gathering of the NSW Labor State conference, Opposition Leader Bill Shorten began by acknowledging the traditional owners with a promise to close the gap and extending the quality of opportunity to the first Australians.

The leader of the federal Labor party made it clear that “The people of NSW and the people of Australia deserve a government that is delivering what matters to lives of everyday Australians”, emphasising that a labor government would make sure that everyday Australians are taken care of.

Bill Shorten made it clear what Labor stands for: “You know the list; it’s a Labor list: good jobs, great education decent health care, dignity in retirement and real action on climate change.”

“We want an economy that works for everyone, and a tax system where everyone pays their fair share.”

The opposition leader spoke about the strength of the party and what the opposition have been able to stop from getting through the parliament. “We defeated the 2014 budget, defeated Tony Abbott, sent Joe Hockey to Washington and saw off a 15% GST. All of us in Labor held off, and we prevailed...in two and a half years we have earned our credentials as a very strong opposition”.

“Now we face an even more important test, showing Australians that we can tick all the boxes as the next government of Australia. This will demand good policies for Australia. We will fight the privatisation of Medicare... Labor will defend Medicare; No compromise, no surrender. We are not just supporters of Medicare. We are Medicare”.

“Labor’s plans are based on closing loopholes, fixing flaws, and stemming the flow” for growth jobs and budget sustainability.

Shorten also highlighted Labors’ policy for affordable housing, stating: “Under a Labor government the family home will always be 100% capital gains tax free [Labor will] help put fairness back into the housing market; real reform for a better Australia.

Bill Shorten then outlined his vision for victory at the next Federal Election.

“Delegates we have a tough fight ahead of us, but we did not join the Labor Party to be good losers. I, and my team, are not running for an honorable loss. We are a great movement, our opponents are strong, they are powerful, they have money, they have vested interests on their side, but what we have money cant buy. We know where we stand, and we know what we stand for”.

Bill Shorten completed his address to the conference by stating, “We will be a government that puts people first. We will be a Labor government for all Australians.”
The Rules Debate

The rules debate on Saturday morning saw the introduction of a series of reforms which seek to grow NSW Labor for the future.

In 2015, the report into political donations by Dr Kerry Schott, John Watkins and Andrew Tink was handed down, recommending considerable administrative and governance changes to parties.

In response to this report, NSW Labor asked the independent non-voting members of the Administrative Committee, David Tierney and John Tarrant, to review the governance of the Party, including the size, structure and composition of the Administrative Committee and Finance Committee.

Additionally NSW Labor has also undertaken a significant review of the internal operations of the Party Office, and has contracted Simone Farrar and John Whelan to provide recommendations to improve the Party Office.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

Women’s representation

It is our objective to have 50% women at all levels in the Party organisation, and in public office positions the Party holds.

NSW Labor has also expanded on the National Affirmative Action targets by applying Affirmative Action to delegates elected to electorate councils and to the State and Country Conferences.

Indigenous representation

The Administrative committee has been authorised to form a working group to initiate a consultation process with the NSW Indigenous Labor Network and other Indigenous party members. These consultation will develop a package of rules reforms to achieve a binding target of 5% representation for Indigenous Australians at the 2017 Conference.
FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee’s role will be strengthened and its name changed to the Finance and Compliance Committee.

To be eligible to stand as a candidate for the Finance and Compliance Committee, a nominee must have professionally recognised financial, accounting, legal, regulatory or compliance qualifications.

URGENCY DEBATE

Urgency Debate – Inequality

Michael Aird (TWU) and Michelle Rowland (FPLP) moved an urgency motion calling on the next Federal Labor, and NSW Labor Governments to make addressing inequality a central focus.

This focus would include the establishment of a Commission for Addressing Inequality reporting to the Prime Minister. As well, it would drive a whole of Government approach to tackling systematic inequality; which must include outlining a vision for an inclusive Australia and provide publicly reportable benchmarks detailing the progress made.

Conference noted that Sydney is now the most unequal city, and New South Wales is the most unequal state in Australia.

Pat Conroy (FPLP), Russ Collison (AWU), Mel Gatfield (United Voice), Kate Minter (RTBU), Chris Gambian, (CPSU) and Pru Carr (TWU) rose in further support of the motion.
DIRECT ELECTION OF NATIONAL CONFERENCE DELEGATES

Every Federal Electorate Council will now elect one delegate by a postal ballot, where necessary. This move will further enfranchise party members in every Federal Electorate across NSW.

IMPROVING TRANSPARENCY IN MEMBERSHIP

NSW Labor develops several reports for the Administrative Committee, to report new members who join the Party and other details about those who have been members of other Parties. These reports will include the number of changes made in relation to renewals, resignations, deceased members and number of changes to residential or postal addresses.

BRANCH AND ELECTORATE COUNCIL AGMS

In response to recommendations from the Internal Appeals Tribunal, the Committee has proposed rules changes in relation to Branch and Electorate Council Annual General Meetings including: the abolition of capitation fees, and the requirement that Branches’ AGM notices must state the number of delegated to be elected to Electorate Councils.

STRENGTHENING POLICY COMMITTEES

Policy Committees will be required to appoint two party members who are “subject matter experts” to assist the committee with policy development.
Indigenous Peoples and Reconciliation

The Indigenous Peoples and Reconciliation Report was moved by Meryl Dillon (Chair of the Indigenous Peoples and Reconciliation Policy Committee) and seconded by Linda Burney (SPLP).

Meryl Dillon discussed the importance of representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within the party. It has been noted there was significant consultation across NSW in forming the policy report. The report addressed issues such as constitutional reform, the intervention, affirmative action, the cashless credit welfare card, land rights, human rights, and law and order.

In seconding the report Linda Burney praised the NSW Labor Party on the establishment of the NSW Aboriginal Labor Network. She also emphasised the importance of Labor’s policy to hand back Goat Island to its Indigenous people, a policy that was taken to the 2015 State election.

Further Speakers to the report were Ray Wilson (Calare FEC), Gerry Moore (Gilmore FEC), Joanne Kerr (CPSU), and Courtney Houssos (SPLP). Many of the speakers discussed the need to focus on closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

With no amendments, the report was adopted by conference.

Prosperity and Fairness at Work

The Prosperity and Fairness at work report was moved by Bernie Smith (SDA NSW) and seconded by Tara Moriarty (Party Officers).

Nick McIntosh (TWU) and Steve Birney (USU) moved an amendment to add a motion protecting waste industry workers. This motion commits the ALP to amending the local Government Act 1993 to ensure that certain provision are implemented on any new waste service contracts.

Toby Warnes (TWU) and Michael Aird (TWU) moved an amendment to regulate ride sharing services through legislation, and other means.
Russ Collison (AWU) and Stephen Bali (Blacktown SEC) moved an amendment to call on all Labor parliamentarians to introduce and support legislation for the mandatory conversion of casual employees to permanent employment after six months of continuous or accumulated service.

Narelle Clay (ASU) and Angus McFarland (ASU) moved an amendment to support paid domestic violence leave as a universal right for all workers to form part of the National Employment Standards.

Additional speakers to the report were Adam Searle (SPLP), Emma Maiden (AMWU), Gerard Hayes (HSU), Mich-Elle Myers, (MUA) Graham Wilson (UV), Barbara Nebart (SDA Northern), Narelle Clay (ASU), Toby Warnes (TWU), Melissa Donnelly (CPSU).

The report as amended was adopted by the Conference.

A Healthy Society

The Healthy Society Report was moved by Adam Hall (Chair of the Health Policy Committee) and Seconded by Linda Kelly (Deputy Chair of the Health Policy Committee).

David Keegan (Lyne FEC) and Peter Alley (Lyne FEC) moved an amendment to recognise the need for equitable access for all NSW residents to affordable Dental Health Services.

Vivienne Moxham-Hall (Health Policy Committee) and Stephen Jones (FPLP) moved an amendment to recognise the evidence for the medical benefits of cannabis that have been established. NSW Labor notes that the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into medical cannabis had unanimous support from a diverse range of parties for the legalisation and availability of medical cannabis in NSW.

Stephen Jones (FPLP) and Mike Kelly (Eden Monaro FEC) moved an amendment to confirm NSW Labor’s support for a strong Medicare and universal Healthcare system, understanding that our community deeply values Medicare.

Walt Secord (SPLP), Stephen Jones (FPLP), Doug Cameron (FPLP), Nadine Flood (CPSU), Jenny Aitchison (SPLP), Vivienne Moxham-Hall (Health Policy Committee), Jo Haylen (SPLP), Thomas Hoffman (Health Policy Committee), Alexandra Coombs (Shortland FEC), and David Keegan (Lyne FEC) spoke in further support to the report.

The report, as amended, was adopted by Conference.
Country Labor Report

The Country Labor Report was moved by Bryce Wilson (Country Labor Chair), and seconded by Matt Martin (Country Labor Deputy Chair). Bryce Wilson spoke on the issues that are currently facing rural NSW: such as regional jobs, health, the national broadband system, Coal Seam Gas, and the importance of TAFE.

Monika Wheeler (Deputy Chair of the Social Justice and Legal Affairs Policy Committee) and Radmila Noveska (Chair of the Social Justice and Legal Affairs Policy Committee) moved an amendment to support investment into primary prevention strategies that work to change cultural attitudes that support violence against women.

Mick Veitch (SPLP) spoke against the forced amalgamations of councils, and the dangers that council amalgamations will have on rural NSW.

Additional speakers in support of the report where Darren Cameron (Albury SEC), Mick Veitch (SPLP), Joel Fitzgibbon (FPLP), Narelle Rich (USU), Arsen Pugh (Ballina SEC), Jay Suval (Country Organiser), Jenny Aitchison (SPLP), Carmel Cook (Page FEC), Courtney Houssos (SPLP), Kate Washington (SPLP), Harry Gregg (Lismore SEC), Cass Coleman (Bathurst SEC), Deb O’Brien (Northern Tablelands SEC), Glenn Seton (AWU) and Peter Finkle (Goulbourn SEC). They highlighted the impact of the Coalition’s cuts to country Labor emphasising heal, education and transport.

The report was put as amended and carried.

Our economic future

The Our Economic Future Report was moved by Chris Brereton (Chair of Our Economic Future Committee) and Seconded by Kath Haddin (United Voice).

Further speakers to the report were George Simon (AMWU) Scott McDine (AWU), Wayne Phillips (AWU), Misha Zelinsky (AWU). Additional speakers to the report included, (SPLP), Jenny McAlister (FPLP), Greg Warren (SPLP), Nadine Flood (CPSU), Paul Scully (Cunningham FEC) and Luke Whittington (Secretary of Our Economic Future Committee).

Sophie Cotsis (SPLP) and Scott Rhodes (Mackellar FEC) moved an amendment committing NSW Labor to create more employment opportunities for people with disabilities.
Veronica Black (FSU) and Susan Watts moved an amendment recognising the importance of Superannuation while condemning the Coalition Government’s ideologically driven freeze in the level of Superannuation Guarantee contributions.

Tony Sheldon (TWU) and Daniel Mookhey (TWU) moved an amendment to address the radical changes in labour markets that are a result of us allowing technology to fast track the exploitation of workers at a speed that has not been seen before.

Chris Bowen (FPLP) and Tony Burke (FPLP) moved an amendment on the structural unfairness of Australia’s housing market. The amendments to negative gearing and capital gains tax announced by Bill Shorten will help address this inherent unfairness in the housing market.

Chris Christodoulou (AWU Port Kembla) and Mark Boyd (Party Officers) moved an amendment acknowledging that more work needs to be done to assist in the employment of people with developmental disabilities.

Tim Ayres (AMWU) and Jenny McAllister (FPLP) moved an amendment to refer the issue of whether a land tax is a suitable option for our state to the State Policy Forum for consideration and report back to a future conference.

All amendments were accepted by the committee, the report as amended was put and carried.

The Conference also debated proposed amendments on whether Labor MPs should be given a conscience vote on the issue of marriage equality. The Conference supported the view that any decision reached on the issue would not be binding on any Party member.

Chris Brereton (Heffron SEC) and Ed Husic (FPLP) moved an amendment calling on the National Policy Forum to establish a Policy Commission on the issue of reform of the Federation and that a single submission to the Federal Government’s White Paper be endorsed by the 2015 National Conference.

The report (as amended) was adopted by the Conference.

**Education and Skills**

The Education and Skills Report was moved by John Gelling (Chair of the Education and Skills Policy Committee) and seconded by Declan Clausen (Education Policy Committee).

Bridget Mitchell (United Voice) and Melanie Gatfield (United...
Urgency Debate – #letthemstay

Monika Wheeler (Deputy Chair of the Social Justice and Legal Affairs Policy Committee) and Matt Thistlethwaite (FPLP) moved an urgency motion to call on Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull to work with our State leaders to show compassion and offer care and certainty to the 267 asylum seekers who were brought to Australia from Naru, and now face the prospect of being forcibly returned to detention on Naru.

Verity Firth (Balmain SEC), Judith Wright (ASU), Daniel Mookhey (TWU), Susan Templeman (MEAA) and Jerome Laxale (Bennelong FEC) rose in further support of the motion.

The urgency motion was put and carried.

Australia and the world

The Australia and the World Report was moved by Michael Forshaw (Chair of Australia and the World Committee) and seconded by Joy Kyriacou (Deputy Chair of the Australia and the World Committee).

Michael Forshaw emphasised Labor as the party best equipped to lead Australia’s Foreign policy agenda. Joy Kyriacou focused on the cuts to Australia’s foreign aid budget, and the devastating effects that will be seen across developing nations such as Timor-Leste.

Further speakers to the report included Jason Clare (FPLP) and Julia Finn (SPLP). The speakers endorsed the resolution of Israel-Palestine that was carried at the 2015 ALP National Conference on 25 July 2015. The resolution commits the Labor Party to a two state solution, and highlights the issues relevant to Palestinian refugees, and their rights of return. Most substantially, the resolution states, that if there is no progress in the next round of peace negotiations, Australia would discuss the recognition of Palestine.

There were no further amendments to the report.

The report (as amended) was adopted by the Conference.
Mark Morey began his address by stating that the conservatives have been using the power of office to launch an assault against our movement. They have pinpointed not just unions, but the very principles of unionism, as their targets.

“Delegates, the Prime Minister tells us we live in exciting times. He’s right. But there is a difference between the change that excited us – and the change that motivates them. And I think it is demonstrating this difference that will define the success of Labor in the years ahead.”

Mark Morey explained that “we must proudly display an invisible unity of purpose between working people, their industrial interest, and their political interests. We know this unity is under attack.”

“We should never accept that these workers should have their wages frozen or reduced while we make it easier for the privileged to fail. The big score, the big dream, is not the only thing worth chasing. We should not accept the idea that if you’re not surfing the crest of the wave – then you should be left to flounder in its wake.”

Mark proclaimed that caring about the interests of ordinary, working class Australians is not about electoral expediency. The reason Unions and Labor care about working people is because it is our reason for being.

Mark finished his speech by telling members what needs to be done to secure our future.

“Friends, we need to be working at the challenge of fostering and growing innovation as a unified Labour Movement. That is the very clear and obvious line between where we stand on the future – and where the Tories do. And I have complete confidence that we have the principles and the smarts in this movement to be drawing that line very, very sharply.”
Campaign Insight Presentation

Mark Lennon and David Dobson presented this year’s Campaign Insight Graduates with their certificates.

The graduates were:

**Campaign Insight:**
- Luke Heffernan
- Mathew Howard
- Sean Nugent
- Leon Pun
- Michael Rosser
- Lizzie Green
- Mitch Wright
- Sean Sotheran
- Chris Donovan
- Jason Cranson
- James Hammerton
- Zachary Harrison
- Paul Mills
- Ariane Psomotragos
- Oliver Plunkett
- Jack Power
- Jake Allen
- Sarah Enderby
- Jonathan Cook
- Sravya Abbineni

**Field Directors:**
- Alex Morrison
- Brendan Byron
- Daryl Tan
- Emily Baldwin
- Inge Stainley
- Jennifer Light
- Liam Rankine
- Luke Maxfield
- Thomas McCrudden
- Alex Costello
- Jimmy Bai
- James Hammerton
- Zachary Harrison
- Paul Mills
- Ariane Psomotragos
- Oliver Plunkett
- Jack Power
Life Members Presentation

Former Deputy Premier of NSW Andrew Refshauge gave the Life Members keynote address during the ceremony on the Sunday of Conference.

He received strong support from Conference Delegates at the conclusion of the address.

Andrew acknowledged the significant work of the 2016 life members over a lifetime of helping to build the Labor cause. As last year signalled the 40th anniversary of the Whitlam Dismissal, this year’s members joined during one of the Labor Party’s darkest hours - and stuck with our cause through thick and thin.

Andrew spoke about the importance of the Labor and union movement in changing the balance of power between those people with access to money and power, and those without.

He emphasised that accessible healthcare – a process that began with Medibank and continued with Medicare – means your bank account no longer determines your level of care. He noted this is an important cause we are still fighting to continue today.

He also spoke on the importance of the change in indigenous policy with the Aboriginal Community Development project. This project, which makes sure Aboriginal people are empowered and given ownership over community developments, is one he remains proud of. It was developed by indigenous people and helped train locals. The result was a significant reduction in health issues and an increase in house stock, and quality, in the communities where it was implemented.

Andrew emphasised that the Labor Party is about ensuring the people with no power are given a voice, and are treated as equals.

“The reason to be in government is to make those power changing reforms, and that is what Labor governments do.”

Andrew Refshauge
Life Members were presented their certificates by the President of NSW Labor, Mark Lennon.

Congratulations to these new Life Members.

Dom Arena
Alan Ashton
Edward Charles (Ted) Baron
Fay Beacham
John Thomas Beatty
Peter Beckinsale
Jon Michael Breen
Robert Bernard Brien
Peter Bubev
Mary Bulman
Leslie Burnett
David Campbell
Joyce Caroline Clague
James Ross Considine
Gordon Cooke
Aileen Davis
Sue Deane
Christopher J Develin
Dr Marilyn Dodkin
Neville Drane
Paul Elliott
James Luke Facchin
Colin Fisher
Lois Fisher
Peter R French
Judith A Fowler
Mary Catherine Gayner
Wendy Gilmore
Kayee Frances Griffin
Gwen Hall
Alexander Hamilton
Jean Hamilton
Moira Hamilton
Colin John Haywood
Rex Hoeben
John Jenkins OAM
Neville Kelly
Ronald Arthur Kilgour
Victoria Anne King
Craig Knowles
Edwin Lambert
Philip Norman Langford
Tessa Mallos
Adam Mandicos
Grant McBride
John McCracken
Kenneth James McDonnell
Jeanette McHugh
John McLean
Colin McPherson
Daryl Melham
Nikola Milenov
Geertrude Maria Mills-Evers AM
Illice Musarevski
Denis Nichols
Rev Ronald Page
James (Jim) Pearce
Roger Price
Robyn Price
Robert Quinn
Jennifer Raper
Andrew William Reekie
Andrew Refshauge
Leonard Frances Reilly
Raymond Stuart Shorter
Ursula Stephens
Bob Stephens
Imelda Beryl Stokes
Elizabeth Ann Symonds
Trevor Urquhart
Peter J Walmsley
Thomas Webster
Stewart John West
Sue West
Alan Wills
Barry Wood
Philip Yeo
The 2016 NSW Labor State Conference Fringe Events Program was the biggest yet. Our Fringe Program saw events hosted by many different politicians, action networks and other domestic and international political figures. Over 800 Labor members, delegates and observers, participated in the Fringe Events Program.

**NSW LEAN: How to effectively communicate about climate change**

Tony Burke MP, Penny Sharpe MLC, and Felicity Wade discussed the proud history of environmental reform in the Labor Party and how LEAN’s recent campaign became ALP policy.

**WAIT: A solution to growing inequality**

Douglas Lloyd Maclaine-Cross spoke about the growing inequality of wealth. One of the main issues he raised was the challenge of avoiding the collapse of society by ensuring a strong foundational middle class and the need to find a way to give hope to hard working people.

**Country Delegates Lunch:**

NSW Country Organiser Jay Suvaal invited members of Country Labor to join Candidate for Page Janelle Saffin and Richmond MP Justine Elliot as well as Country Labor delegates from across NSW for a friendly and informal lunch.

**Hilton Bombing anniversary**

This year’s ALP State Conference coincided with the 38th Anniversary of the Hilton Bombing in Sydney. This incident is considered Australia’s first act of terrorism. Two Municipal Employees’ Union members, Alec Carter and William Favell who were City of Sydney garbage collectors, were killed when a bomb planted in a rubbish bin exploded when the bin was emptied into a garbage truck outside the Hilton Hotel at 1.40am on 13 February 1978.

**Digital Democracy: How does politics operate from the digital frontier?**

Graeme Kelly, Dave Abrahams and political academic Pat Norman talked about how to utilise contemporary tools to enact and enhance democratic engagement in the workings of government and civil society.

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**Labor Gives A Gonski**

Senator Sam Dastyari, Verity Firth, Maurie Mulheron, and Jihad Dib MP, leading figures in education, discussed the Gonski funding reforms and why this model is crucial to improving the educational outcomes for all Aussie kids.

**Negative Income Tax: An Australian tax option?**

Andrew Leigh MP, Peter Davidson, and Brendan Rynne spoke about how Negative Income Tax, guaranteed minimum income and Earned Income Tax Credits have been a subject of discussion and experimentation in the USA and Canada.
Interns Australia: A Panel on Unpaid Internships: Experience or Exploitation?
Linda Scott, Nicole Cini, Tilly South, Clara Jordan Baird, Kate Minter and Matthew Ng. Entry-level job opportunities are on the decline, leading to historic highs of youth unemployment. Unpaid internships have quickly become a phenomenon in Australia, now being seen as a pathway to employment.

A Rainbow Labor discussion–Beyond Marriage: Further LGBTI Law Reform in Australia
Justin Koonin hosted a fascinating panel discussion featuring representatives from different parts of the LGBTI spectrum and talked about the issues and challenges facing the community as we continue the fight for full equality in Australia and around the globe.

Supporting Country Labor Women
Jenny Aitchison MP, Sue West, and Darriea Turley spoke about how remaining a strong and progressive party requires that we increase the number of women involved in our branches and at all levels of political representation. Many women came along and joined in the conversation about how we can all encourage more women to join the party and take part in the political process.

NSW Fabians
The NSW Fabians presented an opportunity for ALP members to pitch their answer to the question “What can state governments do to address growing inequality” at the NSW Labor Conference. In two minutes, people explained their ideas for a concrete policy to make NSW a more equal state.

Taking Australian-Indian Relations Forward
Aisha Amjad, Michelle Rowland MP, Dr. Mike Kelly, Neville Roach, and Chris Bowen MP. Under Julia Gillard, Australia-India two way trade was improving by leaps and bounds. While people-to-people exchange has increased, the panel discussed that is something missing in that link.

Metadata laws: the reasons for review
Jo Haylen MP, Paul Murphy CEO, and Laurie Patton CEO met to discuss the constant changes our lives are facing increasingly mediated by smart phones and social media. The flip-side to our incredible access to information is the expansive digital footprint we leave.
Mutually Beneficial Workplace Flexibility: A Labor Agenda

Courtney Houssos MLC, Rae Cooper, and Graeme Kelly discussed mutually beneficial workplace flexibility. Despite dramatic advances in technology in recent times, the structures of workplaces has changed little since the industrial revolution, and today the pressures of work are increasingly intruding on our home life.

Underemployment: A Hidden Australian Quandary

Senator Sam Dastyari, Matt Thistlethwaite MP, Tony Sheldon, and Francesco Alafaci spoke about the hidden element within the statistics – that the underemployed are not reflected in the data. There is a sizeable population requiring extra hours to make ends meet however at the same time there are number of newly arrived migrants that are unable to find jobs in the field they were qualified in because of lack of Australian experience. The 457 Visa sees many local people unable to get job opportunities.

NSW Labor Councillors

Featuring Councillor Linda Scott, this event was for Labor Councillors, potential Labor candidates for Council elections, and interested Party members to engage in discussion regarding the future local government in NSW.

Chifley Research Centre Inclusive Prosperity Commission Showcase and Supporter Drinks

The Chifley Research Centre executive, directors and Inclusive Prosperity Commissioners had a brief showcase of the centre’s work since last State conference. People stayed for a drink to celebrate Labor’s culture of ideas.

Open Labor

Michael Cooney, Rebecca Huntley, and David Hetherington invited all members and supporters of Open Labor to join them to discuss the topic of “The ALP: its prospects in the future”. They ensured that participants had the opportunity to join others in a small group setting to discuss responses to Rebecca’s information and provide feedback.

The Kurdish Question in 2016

Labor Friends of the Kurdish People Gina Lennox, Roni Demirbag, Tara Fatehi, Rebecca Huntley, and David Hetherington gathered at conference to discuss the rise of the Islamic State (ISIS) which has forced intervention by Western states, including Australia, into new military engagement in the Middle East.

Labor for Innovation - Start-up NSW

Ed Husic MP, joined with other leading MPs and high profile figures from Australia’s start up scene to discuss how Labor can engage entrepreneurs and innovators and create a powerful ecosystem to make NSW the driving force behind our nations innovation.

Campaigning to Win: Assistant Secretaries Club

NSW Labor has set the standard for the country when it comes to grassroots campaigning. Under our new activists and provide them with the skills to communicate Labor’s narrative on the community. This panel was hosted by Sebastian Zwalf, Paul Erickson, Lenda Osahlem and Jon Persley.

Should Australia have a space program?

Professor Andrew Dempster discussed the idea of Australia having a space program. We already participate in space research and we have facilities such as the Parkes observatory but we do not have an official space agency and we don’t have a proper space program like many other countries.

Challenges for Education in the New Economy

Stephen Donnelly explained that as our economy undergoes transition from mining and manufacturing to the digital and caring professions, Labor’s policies in Education and Skills should evolve to enable school students, workers who are retraining, and those who are re-entering the workforce to prepare for the jobs of the future.
Australia’s Multicultural Future
Ryan Park MP, Claudine Moutou, and Uber Australia CEO David Rohrsheim joined Michelle Rowland MP and Sophie Cotsis MLC to discuss Labor’s plans to strengthen multiculturalism for Australia’s future.

Labor for Refugees: Saving Refugee Lives
This Fringe Event was a conversation between Shane Prince and Matt Thistlethwaite MP discussing the how to shape immigration policy to best save lives and protect vulnerable people. Labor for Refugees has a motion before the State Conference which includes the policy changes made at the 2015 National Conference.

Young Labor: What about us?
NSW Young Labor hosted an exciting panel of speakers, including Senator Sam Dastyari, Australian Young Labor President Ben Rillo, Youtube personality Jordan Shanks, and Donherra Walmsley to discuss the policies that matter most to young people and the ways Labor can reclaim the youth vote. Speakers raised many issues from unpaid internships to lowering the voting age.

Banning Nuclear Weapons: Labor’s Role
Dr. Mike Kelly, Robert Tickner, Dr Sue Wareham spoke about how The Australian Labor Party has an historic opportunity to spearhead international efforts to ban nuclear weapons. Nuclear weapons are the only weapon of mass destruction not yet banned by treaty. A majority of states are now forging a path to fill that legal gap.

Labor Data Beers: How to Win the Next Election with This One Simple Trick... Applications of Technology and Analysis to Campaigning
Zach Alexopoulos, Jake Clarke, Eric Goddard, and Daniel McNamara gathered to form Labor Data Beers, which has grown over the last few years from discuss targeting over a few beers. Their seminar had presentations from speakers at the forefront of data research in the ALP. They discussed predictive modelling, compared the effectiveness of campaigning techniques, presented experiments, and gave advice about low cost experiments.

Subcontinental Friends of Labor
Dr Shaukat Javed, Mrs Shallu Kundra, and Azam Mohammad spoke about Australia’s Prosperity and Subcontinental Migrants. They covered topics such as migrant contributions in the field of medicine, small business and industry, highlighting how migration and migrant populations make an immeasurable contribution to Australia’s economic growth and prosperity.

NCOSS: Don’t leave the 1 in 7 NSW children living in poverty behind
Mel Gatfield, Tony Gatt, Katie Acheson, Judith Kiejda, and Tania Mihailuk discussed that in NSW, 13.8 percent of children under the age of 15 are experiencing poverty – a rate higher than any other mainland state. Almost 1 in 7 children live in households below the poverty line.

The Eighties: The decade that transformed Labor
Frank Bongiorno spoke about his book “The Eighties: The Decade That Transformed Australia”. The eighties heralded never-before-seen changes including in women’s and Aboriginal rights, health care, financial deregulation, the environment, and tariff and industry policy. It was the era of the Hawke government; there was also a Labor government in every state at some time during the decade. Bongiorno discussed the question “Were the eighties really as positive for Labor as we remember them? And what is the legacy of this controversial decade?”

The Impact of illegal Israeli settlements on the two State Solution
Bob Carr and Shaoquett Moselmane discussed how Israel has continued its policy of expansion into Palestinian territory through settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem which is illegal under international law.

Australia Israel Labor Dialogue
Formed a panel to discuss with local and Israeli Labor Party officials on cooperative policy development.
Domestic Violence: A Hidden Story in Sub-continental Communities
Michelle Rowland MP, Aisha Amjad, Sue Advani, Hajeh Maha Abdo, Kittu Randhawa, and Karen Willis spoke about Rape & Domestic Violence Centres, the prevalence of unreported domestic violence in the Sub-Continental community, and the lack of community-specific support for domestic violence victims.

Evatt Foundation
Gerry Moore and the Evatt Foundation presented a discussion on Thomas Piketty’s *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*, and what the implications of this landmark book’s findings are for Australia.

Labor Science Network: Artificial Intelligence: Labor’s response to the Rise of the Machines
Jason Clare MP, Daniel Mookhey MLC, Professor Maurice Pagnucco, Professor Frank Stilwell, Dr Christopher Sheil, and the Evatt Foundation are some of the leading researchers of computer science. During conference they gathered to discuss the state of AI, its implications, ethical issues and Labor’s policy response to this ground-breaking scientific field.

We Won’t Wait: End Workplace Silence on Domestic Violence
The Australian Services Union hosted a Q&A panel on domestic violence. The experience of domestic violence does not stop at the workplace gate. ASU members are at the frontline of supporting those who are experiencing domestic violence and are leading the campaigns to end gendered violence.

NSW Aboriginal Labor Network and RECOGNISE Campaign: Reasonable Outcomes from Constitutional Change
This session explored diverse Aboriginal perspectives about what constitutional changes should be sought and what outcomes should reasonably be expected. The event took the form of presentations by four Aboriginal people who have strong views on this topic, followed by a Q&A session.

The Republic Pitch: Ideas for a Future Republic
Matt Thistlethwaite MP hosted an esteemed panel where four rank and file members presented ideas for an Australian Republic – be it a model, flag, national holiday or even a campaign. Each had four minutes to convince the panel and the audience it is the best idea. After the panel gave their verdict, the audience then had an opportunity to vote and a 15 minute Q&A session with the panel about the importance of an Australian Republic.

Intelligent Democracy– ‘Manage the Politicians’
Setting up an Intelligent Democracy framework establishes a mechanism by which the electorate has control over their parliamentary representatives. It is based on the premise of placing values and issues ahead of country and ahead of party politics. In doing so it attracts those non-aligned or loosely aligned voters to be focused on the values and issues that concern them and allows them to vote accordingly.
On Saturday Country Delegates had an opportunity to network and share their visions for rural and regional NSW over lunch. The lunch was hosted by NSW Country Organiser Jay Suvaal, Janelle Saffin, Candidate for Page, and Justine Elliott MP, Member for Richmond.

This year conference coincided with Valentines Day, to celebrate NSW Labor was joined by jazz band “Jiri’s Harlem Swing”.

Delegates got to enjoy the sunshine with outdoor market stalls for supportive organisations, including the “Build a Better Future” campaign.
Election Results

The results of the Ballots, announced before the close of Conference, were as follows:

**General Secretary**
Kaila Murnain

**Country Organiser**
Jay Suvaal

**Economics Policy Committee**
Karl McKenzie (Chair)
Luke Whittington
(Deputy Chair)
Chris Brererton
(Secretary)
Polo Guilbert-Wright
Warren Tegg
Andrew Zbik
Michael Tull
Bernard Govind
Simonne Pengelly
Amanda Pearce
Judith Burfoot
Alisha Aitken-Radburn
Peter Hayes

**Indigenous Peoples and Reconciliation Committee**
Gerry Moore (Chair)
David Voltz
(Deputy Chair)
Crystal Validakis
(Secretary)
Blake Mooney
Ray Wilson
Russell Logan
Rosemary Logan
Sarah Coward
Bernard Govind
Garth Morrison
Rebel Hanlon
Brendan Whitehouse
Bridget Cama

**International Relations Committee**
Michael Foreshaw (Chair)
Joy Kyriacou
(Deputy Chair)
Richard Mehrtens
(Secretary)
Jordan Nagel
Gena Parker
Greg Holland
Melanie Tesoriero
Barbara Nebart
Harish Velji
Daney Faddoul
Mustafa Agha
Anna York
Immanuel Selvaraj

**Education Policy Committee**
John Gelling (Chair)
Steven Moore
(Deputy Chair)
Narelle Rich
(Secretary)
Mitchell Worsley
Sneha Joshi
Frank Chiment
Jane Power
Cathy Callaghan
Pam Smith
Adam Schultz
Adam Tyndall
Donherra Walmsley
Sustainable Communities Policy Committee
Alex Claassens (Chair)
Linda Scott
(Deputy Chair)
Khal Asfour
(Secretary)
Vivien Thomson
Elija Perrier
William Wood
Paul Reid
David Bliss
Jennifer Light
Erin Watt
Pheobe Drake
David Brigden
Wendy Waller

Health Policy Committee
Adam Hall (Chair)
Linda Kelly (Deputy Chair)
Bettina McMahon
(Secretary)
Dorothy Rapisardi
Loretta Baker
Owen Tory
Kathie Collins
Felicity Smithson
Sam Kayal
David Keegan
Thomas Hoffman
Vivienne Moxham-Hall
Michael Butterworth

Social Justice and Legal Affairs Policy Committee
Radmila Noveska (Chair)
Monika Wheeler
(Deputy Chair)
Robert Tonkil
(Secretary)
Tom Hollywood
Lewis Hamilton
Tim Quadrio
Gayle Barbagallo
Ejaz Khan

Industrial Relations Committee
Bernie Smith (Chair)
Anthony D’Adam
(Deputy Chair)
Tara Moriarty
(Secretary)
Steve Butler
Felicity Orme
Graeme Kelly
Todd Pinkerton
Glenn Seton
Kate Minter
Rita Mallia
Lucy Saunders
David McElrea
Julia Angrisano

Organising, Recruitment and Training Committee
Paul Reid (Chair)
Michael Vaughan
(Deputy Chair)
Maryanne Stuart
(Secretary)
Ashleigh Mullalay
Grant Lee
Giacomo Arnott
Aisha Amjad
Donna Davis
Kris Cruden
Daren McDonald
George Simon
Kyle Macgregor

Agenda Committee
Bernie Smith
Robert Allen
Kirsten Andrews
Jan Burnswoods
Peter Primrose