

ACT Labor PLATFORM 2017-2018



As adopted at ACT Branch Conference
Saturday 29 July

About This platform

This platform is a plan for redressing and removing the causes of social injustice in our community.

It is a tool for good government, a contract between our Party and the people of the Australian Capital Territory. It shows people what they can expect of us and sets the standards for our work.

It will not stand still. Labor will continue to seek better ways of building a fairer society.

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Social Justice – the Goal of the ACT ALP

Principles

The Australian Labor Party was founded on the principles of social justice and equity for all Australians. ‘Social justice’ is concerned with the pursuit of a fair, just and equitable society. The notion of social justice is often referred to in popular culture as the idea of ‘a fair go’ or a ‘level playing field’. These concepts are part of our national identity, as well as founding principles of the ALP.

The ACT ALP is committed to opposing all forms of adverse discrimination and social division, seeking to promote a fair and just society, which enables active participation of all members of the community.

An ACT Labor Government will be guided at all times by social justice principles- the fundamental reason for the existence of the ALP and the common goal that unites all its members.

Objectives

Labor aims to create a fairer society for all Australians by ensuring that all policies and initiatives promote:

1. Equity - redressing and eliminating the unequal distribution of resources and power;
2. Equality - ensuring the equal exercise of political, industrial and legal rights;
3. Participation - involving people in the decisions which affect their lives; and
4. Access - ensuring that each person has the opportunity and means to participate.

Strategies

Labor will:

5. Review and implement this platform in consultation with the ACT community.
6. Not condone privilege or compound disadvantage.
7. Be governed first and foremost by achieving social justice and equity.
8. Develop initiatives designed to promote community harmony and the absence of discrimination.
9. Create a framework for assessing policy outcomes that address social indicators of disadvantage.

Machinery of Government

Principles

The fundamental role for Government is not confined solely to economic management of a balance sheet. Rather Government must also ensure the full equal participation of all members of the community to achieve equitable outcomes.

Labor in the ACT Legislative Assembly is committed to raising the standards of Territory Government to ensure that all members of the ACT community are able to obtain social justice through responsible, responsive and accountable Government.

In Government, Labor will organise the machinery of government to put our platform into action.

Objectives

Labor will deliver:

1. Responsibility - to the community for our commitments and our actions to those ends;
2. Integrity - ensuring our actions attend to our aims and accord with our principles;
3. Openness - so that all members of the community can participate in and understand government programs and policies; and
4. Quality - making the best use of the resources the community places in our trust to provide equity for all residents of the ACT.

Strategies

Labor will:

5. Continue our discussions with the community and include them in formal decision-making through consultative bodies and other forums;
6. Adopt an integrated and coherent approach to planning in all areas of policy;
7. Make public our plans for the short and long term, especially leading up to the annual Budget; and
8. Seek fair and balanced courses of action, acting promptly where necessary, carefully weighing social and economic benefits in the short and long term.

Australian Capital Territory Government

Principles

The fundamental principle underlying the governing of the ACT should be to narrow inequality, manage risk and plan ahead for the long term.

ACT Government's role to promote equality should encompass:

Delivering the essential public goods which create a good society - health, education, housing, justice, security, public transport, natural environment, cultural heritage and social protection. Government also creates regulation to protect people, including the regulation of fair, safe and decent work.

Collecting and distributing the revenue to fairly deliver a sustainable, inclusive and prosperous society. To address the public goods deficit, fight inequality and build prosperity, we need to collect government revenue through a fair and progressive tax system.

Manages and mitigates risk, especially for people who are vulnerable, at key times in our life cycle, and at the unexpected moments - for example, when caring responsibilities are intense; in the event of job loss, injury, sickness, disability and old age; and in responding to natural disasters.

Build capability for the long term through investing in research, skills and education; infrastructure provision; and planning for future generations as well as protecting the environment.

Act as a good global citizen, not build prosperity at the expense of others.

Prioritise the development of the highest degree of community participation in the decision making process as possible. It is a basic right of all ACT citizens to be involved in making decisions, which affect them.

Labor is committed, based on the principles above, to democratic and open government for the citizens of the ACT.

Objectives

Labor aims to:

1. ACT Government should always work to narrow inequality, manage risk and plan ahead for the long term.
2. Establish mechanisms to ensure that citizens of the ACT are able to fully participate in the democratic processes.
3. Ensure the political sovereignty of the ACT Legislative Assembly so that the power of the Commonwealth to override Territory laws is not available for laws involving the exercise only of Territorial responsibilities, but is limited to matters where there is the possibility of overlapping Commonwealth responsibilities.
4. Maintain a viable, efficient and responsible ACT Public Service that treats staff well and ensures a healthy workplace.
5. Support maintenance of the Latimer House Principles as the standard of governance in the Territory, valuing the independence of and relationship between each of the three arms of government—the executive, the parliament and the judiciary.
6. Provide means for public scrutiny of government operations and challenging decisions of government.
7. Maintain public assets in public control to the extent necessary to protect those assets from indiscriminate sale.

Strategies

ACT Electoral System

Labor will:

8. Support the political sovereignty of the ACT such that the ACT Legislative Assembly enjoys no more limitation on its legislative power than any State.
9. Support the provision of the ACT with the power to legislate with respect to the number of members of the ACT Legislative Assembly
10. Support the Hare-Clark electoral system.
11. Divide the Territory into a number of multi-member electorates that are small enough to allow effective representation of the community.
12. Expand the number of members of the Legislative Assembly in line with an increasing population in the ACT in order to maintain effective representation.
13. Require each electorate to be as nearly as practicable the same size and elect the same number of representatives.
14. Investigate, and (where appropriate) introduce, measures to enhance community understanding of the Hare-Clark system.
15. Support the implementation of electorate-based offices for MLAs.
16. Support compulsory voting and consider allowing people between 16 and 18 years of age to vote.
17. Maintain a system of public funding for ACT Legislative Assembly elections.
18. Not require public servants who nominate for ACT Legislative Assembly elections to resign prior to nominating, but entitle them to leave without pay for a period of up to five years from the time of nomination.

ACT Legislative Assembly

19. Compel all members of the ACT Legislative Assembly to disclose publicly their own financial interests as well as the financial interests of their spouses and dependent children.
20. Subject Members of the ACT Legislative Assembly to a formal Code of Ethics. The Assembly should develop this Code, with alleged breaches being investigated by an Assembly Ethics Committee. Major breaches of the Code should face a maximum penalty of suspension from the Assembly.
21. Open all meetings of the ACT Legislative Assembly and as far as possible its Committees to the public.
22. Maintain effective and wide ranging freedom of information legislation.
23. Require Ministers to answer petitions, to make petitioning more effective and the Government more responsive.
24. Allow radio coverage of Assembly sittings, to enable ACT citizens to know what is going on and raise the profile of the Assembly.
25. Provide electronic access, via the internet, to documents tabled during Legislative Assembly sittings, unless a document has been withheld from publication by the Assembly.
26. Pursue an increase in the size of the ACT Legislative Assembly to a number of members recommended by independent investigation in sufficient time for election at the 2016 ordinary election.

Assembly Committees

27. Take Assembly committees "on the road", to bring them closer to the community and to improve the effectiveness of their research. This could mean holding public meetings in local community halls, or visiting local establishments, such as schools and hospitals.

28. Expand funding for research by Assembly committees. Assembly committees are under-staffed, affecting their capacity to undertake research and write reports.
29. Send all major Bills through a committee stage. Assembly debates leave little time for close analysis and fine-tuning of legislation. Requiring all major pieces of legislation to be reviewed by the appropriate Assembly committee (as indeed many bills already are) would ensure that ACT laws are properly considered before they are passed.
30. Make the Speaker and Ministers ex officio members of committees. The small size of the Assembly means that, once the Speaker and Ministers are excluded, there are few Government MLAs available to serve on committees. Allowing the Speaker and Ministers to participate on committees would overcome this problem.

ALP Caucus

31. Ensure all ALP members of the ACT legislature are bound by the ALP platform and policy decisions of Conference and Branch Council
32. Ensure the entire caucus of ALP members of the ACT legislature is the decision making body with respect to matters before the legislature.
33. Encourage Caucus to regularly meet and discuss topical issues with the Branch Administrative Committee.
34. The Caucus will consult with ACT Labor members to help inform its election policies, in the year before an ACT Legislative Assembly election.

Participatory Democracy

35. Review the existing system of community councils with a view to extending and improving community consultation.
36. Create a special secretariat to provide managerial and logistical support to community groups.
37. Encourage community groups to put forward submissions on legislation and government proposals to the appropriate Assembly committees.
38. Oppose Citizen Initiated Referenda, as they are an expensive way of allowing community input and encourage extremism.

Executive Government

39. Organise the ACT Public Service for the efficient administration of the Territory, properly reflecting the wide range of functions the ACT Government is required to carry out and the mix of State and local functions.
40. Relax Cabinet-in-confidence rules to allow a more open system of government. Make Cabinet submissions on select matters available publicly. Submissions pertaining to budget deliberations, or which canvass private matters of particular individuals, should remain secret.
41. Expand the ACT Executive by increasing the allowable number of ministers commensurate to any increase in the number of members of the Legislative Assembly.

Public Service

ACT Labor recognises that:

- Australian's want a career public service without partnership;
- Public service employment must be fair and equitable;
- There is necessarily a need for public scrutiny of, top public service remuneration;
- There must be an ethos of public service; and
- Outcomes are funded by public money.

ACT Labor will ensure that these special elements are reflected in public service industrial relations arrangements by:

42. Appointing and promoting all public servants on merit.
43. Structuring the ACT Public Service in such a way that it maximises the input of employees into management decision-making.
44. Maximising the credibility of full-time statutory appointments, set out eligibility criteria in the legislation under which an appointment is made. Additionally, advertise all such statutory positions, with the Minister or a representative being permitted on the selection panel.
45. Encourage ACT public servants to join unions, and facilitate union involvement in the workplace.
46. Ensure job security for ACT Government Employees.
47. Retain Comcare as the workers' compensation scheme for ACT public sector workers unless explicit agreement to an alternate scheme is reached with unions who have affected members.
48. Ensure that ACT PS Superannuation is protected in enforceable Enterprise Agreements and provides for a dignified retirement.

Public Right to Scrutiny of Government Operations and Administrative Remedies

49. Strengthen the principles embodied in ACT 'open government' legislation, namely the:
 - a. Freedom of Information Act
 - b. ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act
 - c. Ombudsman Act
 - d. Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act
 - e. Auditor-General Act
50. Ensure mechanisms provided in open government legislation are provided at minimal cost to the public and have maximum access are maximally accessible to the public.
51. Keep under review the ACT Freedom of Information Act to ensure that it limits public access to government documents only so much as is reasonably necessary.
52. Require bodies established and funded by the Government outside the departmental framework to present detailed annual reports of their operations to the ACT Legislature.
53. Repatriate the law of privacy in the ACT and provide a statutory right to sue for privacy breaches.
54. Maintain and resource the Human Rights Commission, incorporating the functions of the:
 - a. Human Rights Commissioner;
 - b. Discrimination Commissioner;
 - c. Health Services Commissioner;
 - d. Disability and Community Services Commissioner;
 - e. Children and Young People Commissioner.
55. Periodically review the powers of the Human Rights Commission to ensure that its powers remain effective.

The Judiciary

56. Support measures to reduce court waiting times and delays in access to justice including:
 - a. where necessary, appoint additional magistrates and judges;
 - b. and the use of alternative dispute resolution systems;

- c. 'docket' case management for matters before a court; and
 - d. review of jurisdictional boundaries between superior and lesser courts.
57. Maintain an appeal jurisdiction within the ACT Supreme Court.
58. Retain the present system of a separate Supreme Court and Magistrates Court, while providing a combined courts administration and single registry.
59. Enhance mechanisms for judicial complaint handling to ensure that complaints against judicial officers can be addressed according to the degree of gravity and nature of the complaint.

Commercialisation of Government Services

60. Oppose the privatisation of electricity and water utilities and wholesale and retail services.
61. Require that all ACT Government contracts, for services that are currently contracted to the private sector, contain provisions that mandate appropriate EEO, WHS and industrial standards
62. Ensure that conditions of service are maintained where corporatisation of a government entity is proposed
63. Ensure that any current or future ACT ALP Government will not contract out any existing ACT Government jobs to the private sector nor privatise any existing ACT Government entities.

Federal Representation

64. Pursue equivalent Senate representation for the people of the ACT (and NT) through means of progressive realisation. As a matter of principle, ACT Labor asserts that people of the ACT (and NT) should be afforded equal recognition as people of the Commonwealth of Australia under the Australian Constitution. The current diminutive representation of the ACT (and NT) in the Senate, which is the product of unreasonable discrimination, is unacceptable.

Animal Welfare

Principles

The welfare of animals in our community is an important factor in the determination of our level of social justice. Government must act against cruel and inhumane treatment or the wanton destruction of animals in order to ensure the dignity of animals as sentient beings. The damage caused by some animals to the native environment, livestock and to the wider community must be addressed in order to create a more sustainable and enjoyable environment.

As part of planning and development, impacts on wildlife and assessing the value of our natural environment must be a part of the decision making for all development. All approved developments will meet specific animal welfare outcomes.

Objectives

Labor aims to:

1. Ensure that animals are not treated inhumanely in domestic and commercial use as well as in research and experimentation.
2. Control invasive species through continued research and development of pest control strategies.
3. Increase the level of awareness in the community about the potential damage caused by domestic animals to native animals, livestock, other domestic animals and the natural environment.

Strategies

Labor will:

Prevent Animal Cruelty

4. Ban the use of animals in testing for cosmetic and household products within the ACT.
5. Ensure that any commercial use of animals does not involve inhumane treatment.
6. Enforce the ACT Animal Welfare ACT - 1992 and other relevant Acts in relation to all animal welfare matters.
7. Strengthen animal welfare legislation to ensure compliance in animal welfare matters.
8. Support Breeding Controls for Native Animals
9. Provide for managed non-lethal control of native animals that may breed beyond environmentally sustainable levels.

Domestic Animals

10. Encourage all owners of cats and dogs to restrain and contain their pets in order to reduce the pet's potential to kill or seriously injure native animals, other domestic animals or livestock.
11. Encourage owners to keep all cats indoors at night.
12. Provide for a high differential between registration fees for desexed and non-desexed dogs and cats as a financial incentive to desex domestic pets.
13. Encourage desexing of all domestic animals

Australian Wildlife

14. Avoid, minimise or remediate the destruction of animal habitat through value assessment and action to provide a range of solutions for the protection of our unique Australian wildlife.

The Arts

Principles

The Arts are a major factor in establishing our diverse culture. Knowledge and experience of the Arts are then essential in understanding that culture and in providing greater meaning to our lives.

Participation in and enjoyment of the Arts are important in sustaining and enriching our community and each person in it.

Citizens have the right of access to artistic endeavours. Labor recognises the prime role of artists, performers and promoters in the expression of cultural identity.

Government has a role as a major patron of the Arts.

Objectives

Labor aims to:

1. Celebrate the richness of the ACT's cultural and artistic life.
2. Provide proper support for vibrant, creative arts activity.
3. Foster community arts.
4. Promote excellence, innovation and diversity.
5. Establish the structures for purposeful policy development and arm's length funding.

Strategies

Labor will:

Cultural Development

6. Restore the role of the Cultural Council as the Government's principal cultural advisory body, charged with providing leadership for cultural development.
7. Encourage and support the establishment of a peak Arts advocacy body to complement at a public level the work of the Cultural Council.
8. Maintain the principle of arm's length funding and the participation of the Arts community in decision-making.
9. Acknowledge cultural planning as an integral part of social and community planning.
10. Recognise the need for policy advice and the management of cultural institutions to be in the hands of those with appropriate cultural skills.

Opportunities for the Arts

11. Adopt a coherent and co-ordinated approach to Arts funding.
12. Include the Arts community in the decision-making process.
13. Maintain the principle of "arm's length" funding for Arts groups and artists.

Opportunities for Artists and Performers

14. Promote the adoption of proper award conditions for artists and performers.
15. Support an 'artists in schools' program, encouraging artists to work in schools and colleges.
16. Work with local industry to sponsor an Arts Industry Small Business Award.
17. Support a leasing scheme for the works of local artists to be located in government and private premises.
18. Support the continuing operation of Artbank as a Federal Government entity.

Expand Cultural Tourism

19. Foster partnerships between the ACT Arts industry and ACT Tourism such as:
 - a. A National Festival of Australian Theatre
 - b. Arts marketing; and
 - c. Support for Canberra artists and performers to reach the national stage.
20. Restore the National Festival of Australian Theatre.
21. Continue funding for Canberra Arts marketing.
22. Provide financial support for Canberra artists and performers to reach the national stage.

Youth Cultural Activity

23. Recognise the importance of contemporary music to youth culture.
24. Support contemporary music performances by ACT groups to showcase their work.
25. Support a festival of youth culture.
26. Encourage music performances in other than licensed premises.

Community Arts and Local Cultural Endeavours

27. Ensure a range of artistic facilities is available to community arts' groups and artists.
28. Place an emphasis on heritage projects as a means of preserving and recording our community's material: written and oral heritage.
29. Provide additional artists' spaces in the regions of Canberra.
30. Provide appropriate facilities for Arts access programs such as Megalo, Photo Access and Studio One.
31. Support further development of multicultural Arts.
32. Study the feasibility of establishing Forrest Fire Station as a Heritage House for the display of heritage objects.
33. Provide funds to record the oral history of the ACT.
34. Provide funds to identify and record holdings of the written heritage of the ACT.
35. Increase resources for the ACT Heritage Grants program.

Arts in Schools

36. Establish a Working Party to report on the means of improving the appreciation and the teaching of the Arts in ACT schools and colleges.

Civil Law Reform

Principles

Law is important in guaranteeing the protection of rights and individual freedoms, the protection of community interests, and the democratic rights of citizens to participate in our society.

The legal system should ensure that every individual is equal before the law and has the right to the equal protection and equal benefits of the law, that access to the law is equal and that the law promotes the development of a fairer and more equal society.

The law should be easy to read and understand, and allow sensible and timely resolution of disputes.

Objectives

Labor aims to:

1. Maintain an ongoing process of review and streamlining of the law.
2. Ensure the maintenance of an efficient and accessible court system in the ACT.
3. Ensure that everyone is entitled to the equal protection of the law.
4. Guarantee that people are not subjected to arbitrary interference with their rights or to unfair attacks upon their honour or reputation. Everyone should have the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.
5. Ensure that there is a comprehensive system of compensation for personal injuries.
6. Provide a dynamic system of civil law to define property and commercial interests, and to protect consumers from unsavoury business practices.
7. Ensure that disputes are resolved at the most accessible level, having regard to the complexity and issues involved.

Strategies

Labor will:

Mechanisms for Law Reform

8. Reform, regularly consolidate, and simplify all statute law applicable to the ACT, including legal forms and procedures, and wherever possible codify the common law.
9. Restore the Community Law Reform Committee along previous lines.
10. Co-operate with other jurisdictions to create uniform law where needed.

Courts Administration

11. Streamline courts administration, whilst maintaining a superior and lower court.
12. Simplify court procedures and introduce uniform rules across ACT courts.
13. Establish an alternative to Auscript to reduce the cost of court transcripts.
14. Ensure that ACT courts are provided with sufficient judicial and administrative resources.
15. Review the costs structure in the Magistrates Court so that costs are not recoverable for claims under \$5,000.
16. Enact legislation to provide for class actions within the jurisdiction of the ACT.
17. Reform repressive rules of standing that prevent public interest suits from reaching the courts.
18. Continue the administration of ACT tribunals by the Magistrates Court.
19. Include the refurbishment of the Supreme Court in the capital works program, with particular emphasis on:

- a. Providing wheelchair access to all parts of the building;
- b. Providing additional court rooms for the new appeal court;
- c. Replacing the Commonwealth Coat of Arms with the ACT Coat of Arms.

Access to the Law

20. Support the continued availability of Legal Aid through a vital and publicly funded community controlled legal aid service in respect of all bona fide legal actions, civil or criminal.
21. Ensure legal advice in the first instance is made available without charge or means test through a legal aid service to those who require it.
22. Require legal aid for all matters to be subject to a means test, other than in exceptional cases, e.g. test cases, with conditions to apply as to contributions and/or repayment by the legally aided person.
23. Establish a Solicitor's Fund to indemnify successful defendants in criminal cases and respondents to appeals. The right of the prosecution to costs in summary criminal cases will be abolished.
24. Simplify and modernise conveyancing procedures and the registration system of titles and changes.
25. Allow ACT citizens who wish to handle their own conveyancing to have access to free advice from the Registrar General's Office or other appropriate source.
26. Maintain appropriate court scales as the benchmark for legal costing.
27. Consider the various recommendations that have arisen from the enquiries into access to and costs of justice around Australia, with a view to implementing them in the ACT.

Legal Profession

28. Establish an independent complaints body to deal with complaints against lawyers.
29. Repeal the provisions of the Legal Practitioners Act that prevent non-lawyers from providing conveyancing services and enact new laws for the licensing and regulation of land brokers.
30. Eliminate restrictive practices in the legal profession to reduce legal costs.
31. Require lawyers to disclose the basis and rate of charging and enact a cooling off period of 28 days in respect of legal cost agreements.
32. Retain an ACT Government Solicitors Office to undertake the legal work of the ACT Government.
33. Consider the modernisation of court dress.

Legal Education

34. Continue to support courses outlining elements of law and the legal system including consumer rights and civil rights as part of the normal school curriculum.
35. Encourage the development of legal curricula that ensure that law is taught with an emphasis on its social and political context.
36. Establish a course for law clerks and for land brokers and conveyancers.
37. Oppose upfront fees for the legal workshop.

Fair Trading

38. Support Federal legislation or the adoption of uniform legislation among the States and Territories to extend the range of, and achieve greater uniformity in, mandatory product safety standards.
39. Continue support for Federal legislation or uniform legislation among the States and Territories to improve labelling requirements on consumer goods.
40. Increase inspection of markets (itinerant traders) to prevent consumer 'rip-offs' and breaches of consumer and health laws.

41. Consider regulation of personal services, including introduction agencies and counsellors, to crackdown on consumer 'rip-offs' and misleading advertising.
42. Support the need for essential service providers (be they in public or private ownership) to be given community service obligations.
43. Support the inclusion of information on consumer issues in school curricula in order to develop a more informed and critical purchaser and or user of consumer services and publicise more widely information about consumer remedies.
44. Conduct a complete review of the Consumer Affairs Bureau, focussing particularly on the need for prosecution of fair trading offences. The relationship between the DPP and the Bureau should be included in this review.
45. Amend the Fair Trading Act to include endorsement of basic consumer rights, e.g. the right to be dealt with fairly.

Tenancy

46. Recognising that for many ACT residents renting is the only way they can have a comfortable home, Labor will review and strengthen the Residential Tenancy Act and associated regulations to ensure effective consumer protection and improved housing standards.
47. Ensure that a review of the Residential Tenancy Act examines reforms to specifically:
 - a. Mandate a standard tenure of leases to be offered in the market environment under normal circumstances,
 - b. Encourage greater length and security of tenure including reviewing whether "termination due to posting" clauses reflect contemporary expectations of tenants
 - c. Give tenants greater rights to terminate leases without incurring liability for extenuating circumstances such as loss of employment, receiving an offer of public housing and domestic violence situations,
 - d. Ensure access to transparent and independent mechanisms for reviewing rental increases, and
 - e. Consider minimum standards of water and energy efficiency for rental properties.
 - f. Consider changes to pet clauses in tenancy agreements to provide tenants with a default right to have a pet on their property.
48. Review and improve the dispute resolution and compliance framework for landlords, real estate agents and property managers including:
 - a. Establishing administrative frameworks for initial arbitration of urgent repairs and rent increases,
 - b. Ensuring that there is adequate and well-resourced access to support services for tenants whether that be through Legal Aid or a community legal centre, and
 - c. Introducing appropriate penalties to apply to landlords, real estate agents and property managers who regularly fail to ensure their properties meet required standards and make repairs in reasonable timeframes

Compulsory Third Party Scheme

49. Examine a no fault vehicle personal injury insurance scheme with the proviso that appropriate common law rights be retained.
50. Examine the feasibility of an ACT compulsory third-party property motor vehicle insurance scheme.

Workers' Compensation

51. In addition to policies outlined in the Industrial Relations platform:

- a. Extend the nature and type of injuries covered by the Schedule of Injuries to include back, neck and scarring injuries.
- b. Require effective monitoring of the performance of insurers to ensure that benefits, decisions and administration of entitlements are conducted in a prompt and efficient manner.
- c. Require lawyers to identify their costs to their clients prior to any settlement of workers' compensation claims.
- d. Fund a review to examine the long-term outcome, both financially and in respect of return to work, of lump sum compensation recipients with a view to ensuring suitable compensation arrangements being provided.

Sexwork

52. Maintain support for a legalised sex industry including legalised sex work in the ACT.
53. Review the present laws in the ACT in relation to sex work to ensure that workers in that industry are eligible for rights available to other workers.
54. Support health, education and prevention programs aimed at sex workers, but oppose mandatory testing for STDs.

Defamation

55. Reform the law of defamation to ensure a proper balance between freedom of expression and the protection of an individual's personal reputation.
56. Develop an action plan for unreasonable invasion of privacy.
57. Extend absolute privilege to parliamentary related work.
58. Provide for court ordered apologies and retractions as well as reduction of damages for genuine apologies and retractions.
59. Shift the onus of proof such that the onus is on the plaintiff to show that the alleged defamatory material is untrue or misleading.

References to the Crown

60. Recognising that Labor believes that the monarchy no longer reflects either the fundamental democratic principles that underlie the Australian nation or its diversity, Labor believes that our Head of State should be an Australian who embodies and represents the traditions, values and aspirations of all Australians.
61. Conduct plebiscites to establish support for an Australian Head of State and the preference for different forms of a Republic. When a preference has emerged Labor will initiate an appropriate referendum under Section 128 of the Constitution.
62. As part of this process, conduct a review of references to the Crown in the ACT system of government. Where possible, these references will be replaced with terms appropriate to our modern, independent and democratic community.
63. Undertake a public consultation process to eliminate the original Canberra Coat of Arms and establish a new ACT Coat of Arms.

Legislation and Drafting

64. Investigate the renaming of the office of Parliamentary Counsel as the Legislative Drafting Office, headed by the Chief Legislative Drafter.
65. Increase the resources of the Office and provide dedicated drafting resources for private members' bills.
66. Encourage initiatives on plain English drafting.
67. Allow for portfolio bills where appropriate.
68. Establish a register of statutory instruments for the ACT.

Community Safety and Criminal Justice

Principles

Labor believes all members of the community have the right to be protected, as far as possible, from antisocial and harmful behaviour. The criminal law must reflect the need to protect the community and deter such behaviour

Labor supports proportionality in sentencing having regard to the seriousness of the offence, the need to protect the community, the circumstances of the victim and any mitigating circumstances. Imprisonment should be a punishment of last resort.

The criminal law must respect human rights, including the presumption of innocence and the requirement for procedural fairness. It must also respect the physical and psychological needs of victims of crime.

Prisoners should be treated humanely, with an emphasis on rehabilitation, so that they can make a positive contribution to the community after they have completed their sentence.

Labor supports the principles of Restorative Justice being incorporated into the criminal justice system.

Objectives

Labor aims to:

1. Ensure that the law provides a deterrent to antisocial and harmful behaviour and a means of protecting the community from such behaviour.
2. Ensure due process is an element of the investigation of criminal offences.
3. Ensure that the concerns of the victims of crime, particularly of crimes against the person, are adequately considered by the criminal justice system.
4. Provide an adequate system of policing to enforce rights and responsibilities.
5. Ensure that prisoners are treated humanely and given the best possible opportunity to return to society in a condition to make a positive contribution to the community.

Strategies

Labor will:

Policing

6. Continue to contract ACT police services through the Australian Federal Police, but give the ACT Government political control over the ACT operations of the AFP.
7. Establish an ACT Police Committee, consisting of senior police officers, the AFP Association and members of the community, to scrutinise the activities of the ACT Police and advise the ACT Government on police matters.
8. Review police training to ensure that the ACT has a well-educated police force sensitive to community requirements.
9. Ensure that training programs for police officers and those involved in the administration of the law encourage the development of sensitive attitudes towards people of different cultures or gender in the administration of the law, and the use of non-violent techniques wherever possible.
10. Change the mechanisms for dealing with complaints against police, including the establishment of an independent complaints tribunal to avoid the problem of police investigating police.
11. Abolish the Police Discipline Appeals Tribunal and mechanisms for police discipline to remove meaningless infringements and develop more appropriate forms of discipline, with police who are suspected of criminal acts to be charged and dealt with by the courts.

12. Support the use of surveillance cameras to assist with preventing crime and apprehending offenders, and establish protocols to protect the privacy of persons who are filmed.
13. Review the guidelines for police use of firearms and other weapons

Criminal Procedure

14. Ensure that an arrest or search warrant is only issued where:
 - a. An application, supported by an information on oath by a police officer stating in detail the facts on which the application is based and the reasons for seeking the warrant, is laid before a judge or magistrate.
 - b. The judge or magistrate is satisfied, by questioning if necessary, that the stated facts and reasons amount to reasonable grounds for issuing the warrant.
 - c. The judge or magistrate endorses the information indicating the reasons relied on in issuing the warrant.
15. Oppose 'move on' powers.
16. Ensure that any search or seizure is made pursuant to a warrant, except in special circumstances defined by statute.
17. Require compensation to be payable for any damage done to persons or property in the unreasonable exercise of search or seizure powers.
18. Prohibit evidence illegally obtained from being admissible in any court for any purpose, except where the court decides that admission would specifically and substantially benefit the public interest without unduly derogating from the rights and liberties of any person, with the burden of satisfying the court that any illegally obtained evidence be admitted lying upon the party who wants it admitted.
19. Require that the onus be placed on the prosecution to prove the case for refusing bail, and that reasons be given for any refusal of bail.
20. Retain the jury system for criminal trials.

Domestic Violence

21. Support ongoing review and strengthening of the law in relation to domestic violence.
22. Labor will undertake a review of the 2005 amendments to the Domestic Violence and Protection Orders Act 2001.
23. Retain police powers of entry under the provisions of the Domestic Violence Act.
24. Ensure that domestic violence orders are notified to the Family Court to prevent contradictory orders being made.
25. Ensure that police receive training in relation to domestic violence issues and that police continue to work cooperatively with the Domestic Violence Crisis Service.
26. Encourage the use of criminal sanctions where appropriate.

Mental Health and the Criminal Justice System

27. Form a stakeholder steering committee to investigate reform of the interaction between the criminal justice system and those suffering mental illness including:
 - a. The establishment of a secure mental health facility.
 - b. The development of a mental health intervention program (MHIP).
 - c. The development of a dedicated group within ACT Mental Health, specifically focusing on the management of client's interaction with the criminal justice system.
 - d. The development of an interdepartmental communication system to educate interacting professions from different departments on issues faced

by the other departments, in the form of an annual conference to be attended and presented by all relevant departments

Firearms

28. Maintain strict controls on licensing, registration and storage of firearms in concert with other jurisdictions.
29. Support the continuation of the national ban on semi-automatic weapons.

Legal Process

30. Ensure that police proceed by way of summons rather than arrest wherever possible.
31. Ensure that arrested persons are notified at the time of their arrest, where practicable, of the reasons for their arrest and to be promptly informed, in a language they understand, of any charges against them.
32. Allow the taking of bodily samples for DNA matching subject to statutory controls.
33. Oppose moves to introduce detention for the purposes of questioning by the police or to abolish the right to silence.
34. Ensure that the right of any person detained by police to have access to legal advice retains legislative force and is supported with appropriate legal aid funding.

Remand

35. Retain the presumption in favour of bail for all offences.
36. Investigate procedural time limits as a means of guaranteeing speedy trials.
37. Give higher priority to the prosecution of persons held on remand.
38. Build a new remand centre, with modern facilities, as part of a prison complex.
39. Make more appropriate arrangements for the custody and treatment of drug users and mentally ill offenders held on remand.
40. Oppose the use of prisons or remand centres in the ACT to house or accommodate any person currently in the process of seeking asylum in Australia or seeking to appeal a decision made in the process of seeking asylum.

Sentencing

41. Prospects for real rehabilitation as distinct from punishment is to be the primary principle in the sentencing procedure
42. Oppose mandatory imprisonment for all offenders.
43. Support the reference of matters to the Court of Appeal for sentencing guideline judgements that provide guidance to lower courts but do not bind judges or magistrates when sentencing offenders for particular offences.
44. Develop an early release program for use in appropriate cases for the rehabilitation of offenders, but provide for judges to stipulate a minimum period that must be served before an offender is eligible for early release.
45. Require judges and magistrates to give their reasons for particular sentencing decisions.
46. Require courts to take into account previous convictions (and sentences imposed) when sentencing offenders.
47. Avoid imprisoning offenders unless the circumstances of the case show that imprisonment is the only appropriate sentence.
48. Avoid imprisoning people for failure to pay fines (except in case of wilful default), but provide for confiscation of the offender's property, or (in appropriate circumstances, such as crimes committed by corporations) the property of associated entities, to pay fines.
49. Increase the range and number of organisations involved in Community Service Orders, so that these Orders may be used more widely.

50. Implement Restorative Justice Practice practises to enable victims and offenders to come together in a safe environment.
51. Support the operation of the Restorative Justice Unit to promote restorative justice principles, to encourage the exchange of information between victims and offenders, to seek to achieve a better balance in how people experience justice and reduce the harm caused by a criminal offence.
52. Support the maintenance of a specialised indigenous circle court, as a fundamental component of the criminal justice system in the ACT, supported by adequate resources and supporting legislation.

Victims of Crime

53. Remove impediments to applicants for criminal injuries compensation. Ensure that all victims of crime, and members of victims' families, have access to compensation.
54. In appropriate cases, provide for offenders to be required to compensate victims of their offence, or repair damage they have caused.
55. Provide adequate resources for counselling and assisting victims of crime.
56. Ensure that victims of crime, and members of victims' families, are able to make written or oral submissions to the court before sentencing.
57. Ensure that victims of crime are made aware of the outcome of proceedings.
58. Ensure that victims of crime, and members of victims' families, are made aware of any proceedings regarding parole for offenders who have been imprisoned, and are given an opportunity to make submissions to the parole board.

Treatment in Custody

59. Support a general statutory prohibition in inhumane or degrading treatment, whether physical or psychological, of persons in custody.
60. Ensure that the right of a prisoner to take legal action against the perpetrators of physical or psychological abuse is properly supported by appropriate provision for investigation and pursuit of complaints.
61. Ensure that the office of Official Visitor is respected by authorities and protected from political interference.
62. Support the statutory recognition of suspects' right to silence, the statutory requirement that they be notified of that right and a statutory guarantee that they be afforded the opportunity to obtain such professional assistance as is necessary to enable them to exercise that right regardless of their means or inability to pay.
63. Support procedures that ensure the reliability of confessional evidence and to minimise contests as to the circumstances in which it was obtained.
64. Implement the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.

Prison

65. Maintain a government owned and run prison in the ACT that is human rights compliant and operates in a manner that is transparent and accountable.
66. Ensure that the prison is accessible by public transport.
67. Ensure that all decisions relating to the allocation and administration of justice in the prison are made by a public authority, and that their administration is subject to on-site supervision.
68. Ensure that the prison practices latest techniques for rehabilitation of offenders, including vocational training, counselling and education services and recognises the importance of family contact in prisoner rehabilitation.

69. Ensure that prisoners in the ACT prison have access to the full range of physical, mental and spiritual health services that are available to members of the broader community.
70. Establish a “half way house” for prisoners nearing the end of their sentences, to assist in rehabilitating them back into the broader community and reduce the chances of them re-offending.

Criminal Law Reform

71. Continually review ACT criminal law to eliminate vague, meaningless and archaic offences and procedures.
72. Oppose offences involving guilt by association such as loitering, consorting etc.
73. Oppose ‘Victimless crimes’ such as vagrancy and unseemly words or conduct unless it can be shown that the activity has offended and could reasonably be, expected to offend a member of the public.
74. Allow the publication of any details which identify alleged victims in court to be suppressed at the discretion of the court.
75. Review the law relating to conspiracy to ensure these offences are more adequately defined.
76. Support legislation to allow for the expungement of records of criminal convictions after an appropriate period, except for the most serious offences.
77. Review criminal procedure in the ACT, especially Part XI of the Crimes Act.
78. Adopt Chapter 2 of the Model Criminal Code (relating to General Principles of Criminal Responsibility).
79. Labor will review ACT Anti-Terrorism laws to ensure that the laws:
 - a. are fully compliant with all international conventions and covenants to which Australia is a party and the ACT Human Rights Act 2004,
 - b. provide for an Independent Reviewer to report to the ACT Legislative Assembly basis on the operation of the Anti-Terrorist laws,
 - c. provide for adequate judicial review of control orders,
 - d. ensure that a detainee has access to independent legal advice and assistance,
 - e. provide for adequate compensation if a detainee is subsequently found to have been detained illegally,
 - f. provide for appropriate communication between detainees and family members and amongst family members,
 - g. do not contain sedition provisions,
 - h. specifically exclude “shoot to kill provisions.

Community Services

Principles

Labor is committed to a cohesive and integrated community where fairness and equality will be overriding tenets in the development of community services. Our community is defined by the collective roles we play in support of each individual's citizenship and by our collective responsibility to support and assist each other. We do this as part of our ordinary lives, as members of community groups and in our paid work.

Labor recognises this diversity, and promotes the acceptance of difference within the community through the provision of services and information, which ensure that all members of the community are able to participate to their full potential regardless of disability, age, health or culture. We acknowledge the importance of recognising the contributions of all and will not discriminate on the basis of age, race, religion, language, gender, health status or employment status. Great demands are now made of us in these roles and of our community services. They are more important to our community than ever before.

Labor acknowledges the changes to the ACT community through changing work practices, participation of women in the workforce, changes in family formation and care responsibilities and new technology; all of which impact on members of the community and the ways in which members of the community interact and participate with each other and the community as a whole.

Labor is committed to developing and maintaining community services which uphold the rights and entitlements of all to fair and adequate assistance.

Objectives

Labor aims to:

1. Develop comprehensive services that meet the social needs of the ACT community using a variety of service models and a range of providers to ensure choice and quality of service.
2. Direct the greatest assistance to those with the greatest needs.
3. Focus assistance on individual needs.
4. Implement appropriate mechanisms for continuing quality assurance.
5. Provide sufficient information and knowledge about available services.
6. Implement the most efficient ways of meeting existing and emerging needs.

Strategies

Labor will:

7. Promote the dignity and independence of older people.
8. Promote the dignity and rights of those with disabilities.
9. Promote the observance of the full human rights of children and programs, which provide practical support for families.
10. Encourage the full participation of migrants in our community's social, economic and cultural life.
11. Promote the right of all women to participate fully with men in shaping all aspects of society.
12. Adopt the delivery of Indigenous Australians' rights and entitlements as Australian citizens as the proper approach for:
 - a. Addressing their disadvantage; and

- b. Recognising the special needs of veterans.
- 13. Ensure that community service providers are fully informed and supported through appropriate education and training and with award conditions to ensure the delivery of quality services.
- 14. Ensure a strong community sector of providers and customers as this will result in an informed and satisfied community.
- 15. Consult directly with those seeking assistance and those providing care, in forming its view of the services needed, how their location and resources should be distributed.
- 16. Take a coherent and comprehensive approach to determining need and allocating scarce resources.
- 17. Make best use of the best possible sources of information and data to help make decisions.
- 18. Place a high priority on coordinating service delivery and ensuring accurate information and advice is available to all who seek assistance, in a form that promotes ease of access.
- 19. Base services within the community or neighbourhood that needs them.
- 20. Allocate resources to meet the full costs of service delivery, including complaints and grievance mechanisms through funded advocacy services.

Economic Development

Principles

The role of government is to create the conditions for a growing economy that provides all people with the opportunity to participate in all facets of community life.

Sustainable economic development requires vigorous economic leadership, responsible economic management and industry policy, which focus on the development and restructuring of the ACT economy to ensure that it is well placed to meet future challenges.

Clean industries that minimise resource consumption, waste and pollution generation are the key to a sustainable economy.

Early action to address climate change will cost far less than inaction. Labor believes that we can move to a less greenhouse-intensive economy while maintaining our current economic prosperity and continuing to improve our quality of life.

Objectives

Labor aims to:

1. Harness and maximise the ACT's economic potential to ensure long-term and constant growth, which delivers economic and social benefits to all.
2. Ensure a systematic, consistent and well-developed policy approach.
3. Integrate environmental, energy and economic policies to ensure that economic growth is sustainable and that the ACT plays its role in combating climate change.
4. Enhance and diversify the ACT's industry base through strategic planning, which targets suitable industries and provides adequate levels of government assistance.
5. Ensure that the public service is efficient, effective and valued through appropriate levels of funding and resources.
6. Work with representatives from the community, business, educational institutions, unions and the surrounding region on matters relating to economic development.
7. Ensure that the ACT economy is fully integrated into the regional economy.
8. Promote an economy that can effectively compete on the basis of innovation, quality and value adding, and provide high wage, high skill jobs.

Strategies

Labor will:

Strategic Planning

9. Broaden the ACT's economic base through analysis of the existing economic structure and identification of new and appropriate industry opportunities.
10. Foster a more strategic approach to economic planning and promote a smooth transition to a less carbon-intensive economy, in order to avoid the economic shocks from delayed action on climate change.
11. Establish a major advisory body on economic and industry development to advise the Government on all matters relating to economic and employment policy, particularly those relating to industry development.
12. Develop a strategic plan for industry development initiatives.
13. Promote the competitive advantages of the ACT for business and economic development.

Economic Leadership on Climate Change

14. Support a comprehensive national carbon emissions trading scheme.

15. Provide funding for measures that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the ACT and enhance the ability of the ACT economy to respond to impacts and opportunities arising from climate change.
16. Analyse how climate change and abatement strategies will impact on low income, disadvantaged and vulnerable ACT residents and ensure that there are equitable economic measures in place to address those impacts.

Industry Assistance

17. Provide targeted industry assistance to encourage the expansion of sustainable, employment generating, industries in the ACT, particularly those with low carbon emissions.
18. Ensure that all industry assistance provided by the Government and its rationale will be made public. All industry assistance should be open and accountable and subject to uniform assessment criteria.
19. Acknowledge that industry assistance should not be open-ended. Assistance should only be provided where:
 20. Establishment or development of the industry would not be possible without government assistance;
 21. It is necessary to overcome a demonstrated market failure which prevents fully informed decisions being made by investors and/or consumers in that industry;
 22. Those seeking assistance give firm commitments regarding the nature and scale of their operations;
 23. Potential benefits to the ACT economy can be clearly demonstrated; and
 24. Employers have not demonstrated anti-union or exploitative policies and practices.

Government/Industry Cooperation

25. Establish a body to operate as an extension service between the research efforts based in the ACT, locally based enterprises and industry associations. Its functions could include:
 26. The collection and dissemination of information on sources of funding, on developing industries, on advanced technologies, and on technology transfer in general;
 27. Assistance with patenting and licensing;
 28. Maintenance of a watching brief on existing and infant industries in the ACT; and
 29. The fostering of direct links between researchers and industry.
30. Ensure that firms operating in the ACT regions, particularly small to medium enterprises, are encouraged, and are able, to tender for ACT Government contracts.

Regional Development

31. Establish a close working relationship with the NSW Government and regional representatives to formulate a comprehensive economic development and industry strategy.
32. Investigate avenues for regional development as a means through which the ACT can:
 33. Expand its economic and industry base;
 34. Take advantage of regional industries and markets which differ from those in the ACT; and
 35. Identify new and complementary market opportunities.

Community Development and Ownership

36. Encourage community-based enterprise, cooperative ventures and staff-owned/managed enterprises, particularly those in the community sector.

37. Encourage worker cooperatives as a means of broadening the ACT's employment and industrial base, and improve industrial democracy.

Education and Training

Principles

High quality education is fundamental to the social, economic and political life of the Australian Capital Territory.

If the ACT is to remain an inclusive, progressive and democratic society in the 21st century, it must provide the highest quality public education as the vehicle to achieve this vision and as a basis for personal growth throughout life.

Labor's education policy rests upon four principles:

Equity- educational opportunities will nurture individuals' abilities and needs and must not be dependent upon their wealth.

Social Justice – access to a quality education is the most powerful means our community has for addressing inequalities of opportunity and social disadvantage.

Democracy – education is the foundation of our democracy, where the habits and values of a free, tolerant and democratic community are learnt.

Prosperity – education is fundamental to the prosperity of our community. Skills of enterprise, initiative and adaptability acquired through education, provide access to new and on-going life-long opportunities.

Public education is the foundation of future prosperity. Public investment in human capital and the growth in productivity that follows will enhance quality of life in the ACT for future generations.

All members of the ACT community shall have full and equal access to high quality education for themselves and their children at all ages. This access must not be limited any economic, cultural or physical constraints.

Our education system must prepare all individuals for a productive working life in which they are capable of adapting to the changes and needs of the labour market.

Our education system must foster in each generation of citizens the values of tolerance, respect and democracy without which prosperity is not possible.

Our education system must provide all individuals with the opportunity to develop their skills, and their potential as members of our community, who enjoy not only the freedoms that membership of the community gives each of them, but also the great responsibilities that we all share.

Unlike other political parties, the Australian Labor Party believes that a public education system can and should lead the private system.

Only an Australian Labor Party government will ensure that all our children have the best opportunities, that disadvantage is addressed, and our community has the best prospective for prosperity.

ACT Labor understands the critical importance of early learning in amplifying children's development.

Children's learning and development must be at the centre of our system of early childhood education and care in the ACT.

ACT Labor also values the role of early childhood education and care in supporting families, particularly their workforce participation.

Both of these goals are priority in building the ACT's future prosperity, economic and productivity growth.

Objectives

ACT Labor aims to:

1. Ensure equity of access to all quality educational programs unlimited by any economic, cultural or physical constraints students may have.

2. Ensure that all members of the community are included in consultation and participate in decision-making concerning the development of educational policy.
3. Provide and distribute resources within the education system in a manner that counterbalances the social and economic inequalities in the wider community.
4. Ensure a publicly funded and owned education system remains the priority over private education and training businesses.
5. Develop individuals' personal skills and knowledge in all areas of the curriculum, with particular emphasis on literacy, numeracy, and scientific skills.
6. Develop student understanding of democratic values, institutions, practices and actions.

Strategies

ACT Labor will:

Holistic Curriculum

7. Provide equitable assistance for students with special education needs. An Australian Labor Party Government is committed to implementing policies that:
 - a. Respect each child and their specific educational needs;
 - b. Work with parents as crucial elements in helping all children; and,
 - c. Assess and evaluate each child's specific educational needs.
 - d. Support a range of educational settings that provide appropriate educational opportunities for each child. These will range from support in assisting the inclusion of any child with a special educational need into mainstream classes, to the creation, of small specialist settings for the students who will benefit from them.
8. Ensure early detection and assistance for students with learning difficulties. A compelling body of evidence has built up over many years that impairments in hearing, vision and speech undermine achievement at all education levels. Education research has revealed that a range of learning difficulties prevent some students achieving all they could. Early Detection and remediation are essential. At present detection is more a matter of chance than a certainty; and the resources for remediation do not meet the need. An Australian Labor Party Government will;
 - a. Implement a system, which will ensure that students with sensory impairments and learning difficulties are detected early; and
 - b. Identify and implement additional resources so that students in need of learner assistance are given realistic levels of support.
9. Provide for the specific educational needs of all children, through a gender-inclusive curriculum.
10. Ensure that religious education is not compulsory in ACT Government Schools and that, where religious education is taught, its values are consistent with democracy, tolerance, equality, human rights and rule of law, and encompasses a variety and choice of theologies.
11. Recognise the special needs of students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and promote cross-cultural understanding. Where possible, Labor will provide a broad range of language programs.
12. Welcomes the development of the National Curriculum. In moving to the National Curriculum, an Australian Labor Party Government will:
 - a. Ensure that a thoughtful adoption will take place;
 - b. Support educators to undertake professional development;
 - c. Reduce teacher workload; and

- d. Provide support to train more teachers in languages, history, science and maths.

Early Childhood Education and Care

- 13. Acknowledge evidence on the importance of quality early learning for young children's development.
- 14. Support regulations that improve the quality of early childhood education and care for children and are in children's best interest.
- 15. Support the role of families in children's early development and learning.
- 16. Fully Implement the National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education and Care including the requirement of two early childhood teachers in all long day care centres in the ACT by 2020.
- 17. Support a strong school based preschool system with free universal access to all ACT children in the year before school.
- 18. Work towards expanding access to affordable, high quality early learning childhood and care programs for all children
- 19. Measure children's developmental outcomes and put in place strategies which support children's development in areas of vulnerability.
- 20. Support the inclusion of all children including children with a disability and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in early childhood settings.
- 21. Work across government to deliver an early years plan to support the growth and access to early childhood education and care through planning strategies, land release and regulation,
- 22. Improve the flexibility of early childhood education and care services to support parents' workforce participation.
- 23. Support early childhood education and care services to assist children's successful transition to formal schooling.
- 24. Support the integration and co-location of early childhood education and care services with schools, other early childhood services and community services.
- 25. Support and build the skills of the early childhood professionals to deliver quality early childhood education and care to children.
- 26. Support claims to improve the wages and conditions of early childhood educators and teachers recognising that the profession is highly feminised and low paid.

Government Primary Schools, High Schools and Secondary Colleges

- 27. Initiate creative approaches to behavioural issues. An Australian Labor Party government will:
 - a. Increase resources to schools to ensure that students with behavioural issues have access to appropriate assistance;
 - b. Enhance programs and educational opportunities for students with challenging behaviours and other special educational needs; and
 - c. Provide focused settings for students with acute problems that enable their difficulties to be addressed in a respectful and secure environment.
- 28. Address disadvantage. Although the ACT is overall an affluent community, there are pockets of extreme disadvantage. Around 12 per cent of ACT citizens live in or near poverty. An Australian Labor Party Government will:
 - a. Fund schools according to need; and
 - b. Support programs and services that are designed to alleviate the effects of poverty or other disadvantage.
- 29. Acknowledge the important role of school counsellors and psychologists in assisting students and support the ongoing role of school counsellors and psychologists in ACT schools.

30. Recognise the needs of all students in the system by providing funding for and support of alternative educational programs on specific sites.
31. Provide students with access to appropriate careers advice services that ensures that young people have access to the most realistic options to maximise their opportunities for employment whilst not making demands on the school system to become a careers placement agency.
32. Resource and implement a range of primary and middle-schooling projects to address the social issues involved in the transition from primary schools to high schools, and from high schools to colleges.
33. Ensure that any amalgamation of schools takes place after a process of open and early consultation that involves the local and regional communities. The consultation process should consider agreed demographic projections, the unique characteristics of particular schools, and the impact of closure on local neighbourhood networks and the delivery of an acceptable educational program.
34. Retain buildings of schools that have been closed for community use where practicable and reopen them if demographic projections indicate it is warranted.
35. Ensure that the proceeds of any government school assets sold are retained by the ACT Education Directorate.
36. Ensure that educational institutions have the capacity to operate in a way that serves the wider community and that any income generated through community use is retained by the education system for the benefit of students.
37. Support the establishment and continuation of out-of-hours school childcare centres using school property at appropriate concessional rates.
38. Provide access to flexible long day childcare, in close proximity to educational facilities, for student parents, in order that they are able to complete their education.
39. Focus ACT schools on literacy and numeracy, use My School and diagnostic tools such as NAPLAN, improve value-add measures and ICSEA metrics and make sure that all students reach their full potential.
40. Support the re-skilling and multi-skilling of all ACT Citizens.

TAFE and Continuing Education, including Community Education

41. Recognising that more education options enhance pathways into employment, Labor will:
 - a. Assist the Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT), to develop other educational options for high school and college students at risk of withdrawing from the education system;
 - b. Develop with the private sector, CIT and the Universities, enhanced opportunities for post school education and employment-based education;
 - c. Utilise the ACT Government owned enterprises, in particular ICON Water and ACTION, in conjunction with ACT tertiary institutions to provide a cadetship program to make the ACT a STEM education centre of excellence; and
 - d. Ensure that any contractors employed on large-scale ACT Government projects are required to have a minimum number of cadetship and apprenticeship positions.
42. Work with relevant unions and providers of vocational education and training to further develop and enhance opportunities for disadvantaged students, including youth at risk.
43. Support the expansion of vocational education and training in ACT schools. This expansion needs to be underpinned by a review of the current structures and

systems relating to VET in schools to ensure that they are adequately resourced and appropriately staffed. A review of VET in schools should:

- a. Seek to promote cooperation between vocational education and training providers across all sectors and within sectors of the ACT education system;
 - b. Develop an appropriate accreditation system for VET teachers;
 - c. Develop proposals for the provision of adequate training to VET teachers; and
 - d. Consider any findings relating to VET by the ACT Skills Commission.
44. Provide the funding to ensure sufficient and relevant opportunities are available to individuals who are economically and socially disadvantaged or marginalised.
 45. Require CIT to engage in long-range planning after wide consultation, to train sufficient graduates to support growth areas of the ACT economy including the export market.
 46. Actively promote stronger links between CIT and schools, particularly emphasising credit transfer and other forms of articulation, whilst recognising each sector as a separate entity. Encourage ACT government schools to preference CIT as the public vocational education and training provider.
 47. Promote stronger links between CIT and ACT based universities. Seek to allow TAFE graduates to continue further with their tertiary education and promote efficient cross-utilisation of resources.
 48. Expect CIT to provide courses of study, which enable students to enter the local ACT workforce in roles that reinforce the ACT's economic potential.
 49. Maintain government control and ownership of CIT and guarantee that a minimum of 70% of ACT Government vocational education and training funding will go to CIT. In particular, reject the purchaser-provider model as an effective method of educational delivery.
 50. Support the establishment of additional community or neighbourhood houses and centres, and adequately resource these and existing community facilities, to assist in providing low cost, adult education programs. These programs should respond to grassroots community needs and reflect the multi-cultural nature of the ACT community.

Higher Education and Local Universities

51. Support the establishment of special alternative tertiary programs for students with low Tertiary Entrance Rankings (TERs) but with academic potential, other than the adult entry programs already in operation. A possible model for such alternative programs could be the proposed program at the University of Western Sydney.
52. Ensure that ACT-based universities cooperate closely to efficiently service the tertiary needs of the ACT community. This will include admission procedures, pre-university credit transfer procedures, course design, resource utilisation, cross accreditation and inter-institutional projects.
53. Expect ACT-based universities to provide courses of study, which enable students to enter the local ACT workforce in roles that reinforce the ACT's economic potential.
54. Expect the ACT-based universities to adopt and implement policies on equity, social justice, community accountability and professional practice which are compatible with those expected in other sectors of the ACT education system.
55. Promote access to higher education based on academic ability and potential and not on the ability to pay up-front fees for either under-graduate or graduate

courses of study, or up-front Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS) for post-graduates undertaking further study.

56. Provide rent relief for students who are experiencing financial hardship and ensure that students are not living below the poverty line in order to gain a higher education.
57. Support the continued operation of student organisations at local universities and other tertiary education institutions
58. Support the Student Services and Amenities fee, in order to fund student organisations.
59. Support national reforms to improve the quality of university courses for students. An Australian Labor Party government will support a mix-and-match approach where students can choose courses across institutions without disadvantages and receive a recognised qualification.

Registration and Regulation of Non-Government Schools

60. Ensure the provision of high quality public education is not undermined or disadvantaged in any way by the growth of non-government schools.
61. Ensure that all schools in the ACT are fully accountable for all monies received from the Territory and Commonwealth governments. The first priority for any additional resource allocated according to the Gonski needs-based model.
62. Ensure non-government schools fulfil their equity, social justice and accountability obligations to the community, as government schools do. Enforce the same territory-level reporting requirements across government and non-government schools.
63. Ensure that available space in ACT schools will be used to the benefit of their students and of community organisations, and will not be used to house non-government schools in government school buildings.

High Quality Public Education

64. Guarantee that government schools are funded so that they can provide the quality education programs which the community expects. Further, ensure that this funding is equitable in its distribution, and disadvantaged students are adequately resourced and provided with inter-agency and school-based support programs.
65. Support and develop more inter-agency links and provide equitable access to a quality education through better provision of family support services and by promoting the inclusivity of schools for all students.
66. Review the efficacy of the School-Based Management process (or any other decentralisation or devolution initiative) to ensure that school communities are not disadvantaged and the teachers' working conditions are not undermined.
67. Develop policy to monitor and act as required on enrolments in government and non-government schools, and work to minimise the growth of private schools in the ACT by reinforcing the capacity of the public sector to provide quality education programs in its schools.

Education Professionals and Ancillary Staff

68. Use financial incentives, ongoing training, professional recognition and improvements to conditions to recruit and retain the best teaching graduates in Australia to the ACT government school system.
69. Provide adequate and relevant professional development for teachers to increase their skills in order to ensure that their students are as well prepared as possible for participation in the labour market and the wider community, and guarantee that such professional development remains a significant responsibility of the employer.

70. Support the Teacher Quality Institute (TQI) to maintain qualification standards and promote teaching as a profession, and support a national system to maintain standards of teaching Australia-wide.
71. Ensure that WH & S Principles will be implemented and practiced in all educational facilities in the ACT
72. Recognise that cost-offset Enterprise Bargaining is not a wages system suited to a service provider such as the education system and therefore exploring, with the relevant unions, an alternative system.
73. Reject the utilisation of individual contracts as not conducive to educational leadership and job security. Further, monitor and minimise the casualisation of teachers through the continued provision of permanent positions, and ensure that any teachers in contracted teaching positions have equitable access to core working conditions.
74. Establish and maintain a working relationship with relevant education unions. Aim for quality outcomes through industrial democracy. Provide unions with representation on relevant working groups/committees.
75. Promote better conflict resolution processes with training for staff and high levels of support in student management, including support for effective racism, homophobia, transphobia and gender-based discrimination policies in schools.
76. Recognise the unique role learning support assistants (LSAs) and Teaching Support Assistants (TSAs) play in the ACT education system by:
 - a. Ensuring they are remunerated in a way that reflects the skills and expertise required by their occupation and the vital role they perform in the community;
 - b. Maintaining the current system of on-the-job training of LSAs and TSAs to ensure that they continue to play a role in building links between schools and their communities, especially in low socio-economic and culturally diverse communities;
 - c. Ensuring employers provide adequate and relevant ongoing training to LSAs; including accredited courses and support, and
 - d. Creating an 'Excellence in Support Assistance' award to publicly recognise LSAs and TSAs who make an exceptional contribution to the public school community.
77. Continue to ban the use of corporal punishment in ACT schools.

National Education Issues

78. Support a study allowance for full time students that is at least equal to a living wage. This recognises that full time study is a worthy pursuit that ultimately benefits society, and that students deserve support and encouragement. Such a scheme will not be structured in a way that entrenches a pool of cheap student labour.
79. Ensure Commonwealth Government funding to states/territories is sufficient to support government education in delivering quality outcomes.

Future Directions for Education in the ACT

80. Investigate the feasibility of:
 - a. Ensuring the funding formula for primary schools reflects their resourcing needs;
 - b. A centrally administered resource fund for schools to bring up to date their curriculum materials;
 - c. A resource fund for new books and non-computer resources in school libraries
 - d. Providing funds to keep school libraries open at lunchtimes;

- e. Clustering groups of schools so that within each cluster are schools of differing operational styles; and
 - f. The establishment of a number of dedicated early childhood schools.
81. Regularly reassess the needs of education in consultation with unions, parent organisations and other relevant parties in recognition of the rapid development of social and technological advances.

Employment

Principles

Unemployment is the most important and the most disturbing problem facing the Australian and ACT communities. It is a tragic waste of human and economic resources.

Government should create the conditions for full employment.

Employment provides individuals not only with a livelihood but also dignity, self-respect and opportunity for self-fulfilment.

Objectives

Labor aims to:

1. Create employment opportunities for all by maximising the growth potential of the ACT economy.
2. Ensure that the ACT develops and maintains a highly trained, multi-skilled labour force by working cooperatively with business, industry, unions, the community sector and educational institutions.
3. Guarantee social justice in employment by promoting access and equity.
4. Reduce youth unemployment.
5. Reduce long-term unemployment.

Strategies

Labor will:

Strategic Planning

6. Establish an ACT Labour Market Research Program to:
 - a. Analyse and assess labour market developments and industry trends;
 - b. Develop a comprehensive database of the ACT labour force;
 - c. Assess labour market implications of industry policy;
 - d. Analyse occupational labour markets; and
 - e. Provide a basis for the development of labour market policy.

Increasing Employment

7. Increase private sector employment through strategic economic and industry development policies, which encourage economic growth and a positive business environment.
8. Increase employment in the community services sector where services are currently inadequate.
9. Investigate, and where appropriate implement policies and work practices that distribute available work more equitably.
10. Ensure the availability of adequate and affordable high quality childcare and facilities to enable full participation in the labour market.

Education and Training

11. Pursue strategic policies that increase coordination and communication between trade unions, business, and educational institutions to ensure that the education system is appropriate and flexible enough to meet the needs of both students and the labour market.
12. Establish training and employment programs tailored to the particular needs of the ACT and including support for employment initiatives by self-help groups.

Youth Employment

13. Develop and implement comprehensive youth training and employment creation programs that recognise the special needs of young people with limited work experience.
14. Establish job centres that provide support, information, resources and act as a meeting place for young people.
15. Work in consultation with youth organisations, business, educational institutions, and unions in the ACT to ensure ongoing monitoring of programs so that they are responsive to the special needs of young people.

Long-Term Unemployment

16. Develop and implement comprehensive training and employment programs tailored to the special needs of the long-term unemployed.
17. Provide support for long term unemployed, including centres which provide information, resources and other services.

The Environment

Principles

Stewardship – ACT Labor recognises humans are part of the wider ecosystem and we have a responsibility to manage and protect the environment we are a part of.

Intergenerational Equity – ACT Labor understands the environment and the resources it provides us with are finite and therefore use of these resources by current generations should not disadvantage future generations.

Social Equity and the Environment – ACT Labor acknowledges the unequal opportunities within our society and commits to environmental actions that are inclusive.

Objectives

1. Conserve for present and future generations our diverse and productive natural environments and ecosystems.
2. Achieve a balanced approach to urban development which integrates the natural and built environments.
3. Take bold action on climate change that is adequately funded and implemented in a timely manner.
4. Minimise the environmental impact of waste from human consumption.
5. Maintain a rigorous and thorough Environmental Impact Assessment process.
6. Adopt responses to environmental challenges that are progressive and accessible by all in our community.

Strategies

Labor will:

Biodiversity and Conservation

7. Strengthen and where necessary extend the legislative protection given to wilderness areas, national parks, Canberra Nature Park and nature reserves.
8. Promote the responsible and sustainable public enjoyment of wilderness areas, national parks, Canberra Nature Park and nature reserves, flora and fauna.
9. Provide a well-resourced park and conservation service to:
 - a. Manage and protect National Parks, Nature Reserves and flora and fauna;
 - b. Provide for educational activities in National Parks and Nature Reserves;
 - c. Provide essential environment services to ensure pollution abatement, feral animal control and the eradication of invasive weeds; and
 - d. Develop and implement a comprehensive feral animal's strategy.
10. Ensure Canberra's biodiversity is properly restored and conserved, not only through documentation and plans of management, but also through improved resourcing.
11. Ensure secure, predictable recurrent funding for weed and pest management.
12. Develop and implement a long term strategy for the containment of African Love Grass.
13. Protect and enhance all river and creek corridors.
14. Ensure that conservation values and ecological sustainability of native woodlands and grasslands are incorporated into land use planning, natural resources management and leasehold management.
15. Ensure that environment policies are adequately resourced and driven by legislative arrangements that have effective implementation strategies.

16. Strictly enforce all existing legal controls on all forms of pollution and provide for a well-resourced Environmental Protection Service.
17. Ensure pollution reports are freely available.
18. Encourage the use of lower-grade water for irrigation purposes and the use of domestic grey water.
19. Ensure stringent monitoring measures are taken to guard against any pollution reaching the Murrumbidgee River or any other waterway.
20. Monitor domestic and industrial chemicals that could impact on the sewerage and stormwater systems.
21. Continue to work with the Murray-Darling Basin Commission in addressing water resource problems in the Murray-Darling basin.
22. Require that any proposed export of water from the ACT Should be carefully evaluated to ensure catchment integrity is maintained and the need for any additional dams is curtailed.
23. Provide for the conservation of native forest areas on both private and public land through sensible and sustainable forest planting and management programs that maintain high levels of biodiversity, protect water catchments and take into account current and future needs for timber.
24. Maintain a strong planting program, using appropriate seedling stock that will maximise native forest cover in the ACT.
25. Phase out the use of persistent herbicide/pesticide chemicals, particularly in close proximity to residential areas, streams and waterways, and investigate effective and economical alternatives to the use of chemicals.
26. Strengthen the program of feral pine removal from Namadgi National Park and halt any further encroachment of pines into the Park.

Built and Natural Environment Integration

27. Maintain a network of open space and green belt features in suburban areas.
28. Establish and maintain wildlife corridors in urban and commercial areas for native flora and fauna.
29. Reduce noise generated by traffic, industry and residential activity in urban areas by planting trees and shrubs, noise barriers and other planning and landscaping measures.
30. Maintain and extend the tree canopy throughout Canberra's urban areas including the allocation of adequate resources for tree management, and the implementation of a tree regime with legislative backing, leasehold management controls and sanctions to ensure compliance.
31. Vigorously enforce current environmental protection guidelines for urban development sites.
32. Develop and implement environmentally sensitive guidelines for future urban renewal projects.
33. Require projects involving substantial earth-moving activity to include landscaping as an integral part of the project.
34. Maximise the use of flora species native to the Canberra region, including grasses and those requiring minimal watering.
35. Provide incentives for the use of washing machines with a Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards (WELS) rating of at least 5-star.
36. Identify and implement a living on the urban edge policy which is communicated to the public.

37. Develop and implement a management plan for off-reserve areas of ecological significance within the urban environment.
38. Develop and implement a recreation plan which protects key reserves and biodiversity while promoting active health lifestyle for the ACT's residents.

Climate Change Action

39. Achieve 100% renewable energy supply to the ACT electricity network by 2020.
40. Divest the ACT Government Investment Portfolio of fossil fuel investments, with priority on high carbon emitting companies and sectors.
41. Refrain from new ACT Government investments in fossil fuel companies in which it does not have a controlling interest (less than 50%).
42. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40% on 1990 levels by 2020.
43. Develop and implement a Zero Net Emissions Policy so the ACT is carbon neutral by 2050.
44. Support household and community level renewable energy infrastructure.
45. Require all new builds, both residential and commercial to include electric vehicle charging capability.
46. Require all new buildings and all substantial alterations to buildings meet standards of energy efficiency for heating, insulation, cooling and lighting.
47. Prioritise climate change adaption initiatives for vulnerable communities.
48. Ensure climate change adaptation is mainstreamed across all Government areas.
49. Ensure secure funding and timely implementation of climate change policies.
50. Work with the private sector to embed climate change adaption across their work areas.
51. In line with Australia's commitments to the Paris International Agreement to keep global warming well below 2 degrees, support and advocate for federal climate change policies including;
 - a. A national emissions intensity trading scheme;
 - b. National emissions reductions targets both interim and long term.

Resource Conservation and Recycling

52. Consult with the public, industry, the conservation movement and relevant unions on all matters relating to waste management and recycling.
53. Develop a comprehensive waste strategy that will move the ACT even closer to achieving 'no waste' providing a renewed focus on commercial, electronic and organic waste.
54. Ensure the waste strategy is vigorously implemented and provide annual progress reports.
55. Foster values of material conservation and re-use across the ACT community.
56. Lobby for changes to federal labelling laws to better identify the suitability of products and packaging for recycling.
57. Investigate the feasibility of measures to reduce the number of plastic bags used in the ACT.
58. Implement a comprehensive waste minimisation policy for all public places and public events held in the ACT. This should include the provision of recycling facilities for glass, plastic, paper and metals.
59. Extend paper, glass, metals and plastics recycling to all commercial and private organisations in the ACT. Investigate financial incentives to maximise commercial recycling.

60. Encourage commercial enterprises to purchase and use environmentally friendly sound products.
61. Ensure recycling of building materials is expanded.
62. Expand green/kitchen waste recycling, including for units and flats.
63. Ensure Government agencies purchase and use environmentally sound products.
64. Ensure Government agencies have plans for solid waste management and recycling and they report annually against their targets. These reports should be independently audited.
65. Assess ways to increase the separation and recycling of waste at landfill sites.
66. Investigate the establishment of additional transfer stations to handle smaller quantities of recyclable materials that cannot be incorporated practicably into the household-recycling program.

Environmental Impact Assessments

67. Establish standards and enforce a code of practice for all aspects of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIAs).
68. Maintain the provision of EIAs for all development projects with potential to affect the social, cultural or natural environment.
69. Establish a publicly accessible register of all proposed public or private development project EIA's and EIS's.
70. Maintain the provision to establish public inquiry when necessary.
71. Ensure open negotiation and tendering processes to guard against any conflict of interest on the part of consultants engaged in EIS preparation.
72. Ensure developments proceed only in compliance with EIS recommendations.
73. Consider how the cumulative impacts of proposed developments can be incorporated into the current EIA process.

Environmentally Responsible Industry

74. Improve relations and increase formal links between the organisations responsible for managing parks, the environment and the plantation estate.
75. Build the ACT's expertise in relation to renewable energy technologies and ensure local businesses and education institutions can take full advantage of opportunities arising from the renewable energy industry.
76. Ensure climate change initiatives support a Just Transition for affected workers and communities.
77. Encourage the development of an eco-tourism industry.

Environment and Social Responsibility

78. Ensure people on low incomes have access to renewable energy programs and infrastructure.
79. Consider and implement opportunities for renters to gain access to renewable energy generation and infrastructure.
80. Prioritise the implementation of adaptation initiatives for vulnerable communities.
81. Prioritise energy provision during extreme weather or climate change events to people who are most susceptible to the impacts of that weather or event e.g. the elderly.

Government Finance

Principles

Responsible and fair financial management is in the interests of all in the community and safeguards future generations.

Fairness, integrity and transparency will be key principles guiding financial management. The ACT finances will be employed to ensure a high level of service provision, protection and assistance for the disadvantaged and maintenance of public assets so that Canberra continues to be a city in which people choose to work and live.

Objectives

Labor aims to:

1. Ensure that financial decision-making is consistent, forward thinking and strategically employed to promote a positive economic climate, and provide known parameters in which business, unions and the community sector can plan and make decisions.
2. Ensure that the ACT taxation system is fair, equitable and progressive, and generates enough revenue for government to ensure quality service provision.
3. Maintain government business enterprises in key sectors of the economy where government ownership, best serves the public interest through the provision of fiscal benefit or services to the community

Strategies

Labor will:

Financial Management

4. Consider financial planning and management in a systematic manner to allow for a whole-of-government strategy, which balances short-term budgetary requirements with long-term development needs.
5. Consider the effect of taxes and outlays on the behaviour of markets to ensure an efficient economy.
6. Implement a process of continuous improvement of public sector finance and administrative systems to ensure that the ACT has best practice management of public assets and resources.
7. Measure the effect of financial reform by the effective delivery of services and innovative policies and programs. Appropriate training and professional development of public officers, to ensure effective implementation, should complement it.

Taxation

8. Formulate taxation policies that:
 - a. Are fair and equitable;
 - b. Yield sufficient revenue to fund the level of services necessary to meet the needs of the community;
 - c. Are progressive;
 - d. Are economical to administer and collect. Compliance costs incurred by taxpayers should be kept to a minimum;
 - e. Are effective. They should yield their full revenue potential, and offer little scope for evasion or avoidance;
 - f. Do not overly distort economic activity;

- g. Are simple and easy to understand.
 - h. Address the fiscal position of the ACT
9. Make information on costs and the impact of any concessions or business incentives provided through the taxation system openly available to the community to ensure a high degree of accountability.

Operation of Government Business Enterprises

- 10. Ensure that Government Business Enterprises employ effective and contemporary commercial management practices.
- 11. Permit Government Business Enterprises to retain sufficient earnings to fund expansion and future capital investments without excessive borrowing levels.
- 12. Ensure that Government Business Enterprises remain fully accountable to the Government, and subject to ministerial direction.

Pricing Policy

- 13. The pricing policy for ACT Government departments and business enterprises should be based on:
 - a. Furthering social justice;
 - b. Conservation of limited resources;
 - c. The price of similar services and products in other jurisdictions;
 - d. Possible negative environmental impacts;
 - e. Dividends to the ACT Government;
 - f. The cost of provision;
 - g. Whether there is a sole supplier of the services or products;
 - h. Whether the services or products are essential;
 - i. The need for adequate maintenance and eventual replacement of community assets;
 - j. The financial viability of ACT Government business enterprises.

Financial Accountability and Consultation

- 14. Conduct all financial and budgetary matters in the spirit of consultation with affected parties and demonstrate a high level of commitment to accountability and scrutiny of government.
- 15. Produce Budget papers that are accurate, easy to read, understand, and scrutinise, and supplemented with explanatory information to assist all members of the community in reading the papers.

Health

Principles

'Health' involves 'well-being' rather than simply absence of disease. Recognising that it is dependent upon many factors that constitute the social and physical environment will enhance the wellbeing of the people in the ACT.

Maintenance of health is a lifelong task and many factors affect the lifespan of individuals as well as their quality of life. It is the role of government to enable all citizens to have access to high quality health services. These health services should be comprehensive, tailored to respond to the needs of our diverse society, and involve a wide range of facilities provided by suitably qualified professionals.

Community awareness of the facilities available must be maintained. Community Health Centres are the building block for a strong viable public health system. Community health Centres will provide a full range of high quality health and allied services in a community setting.

At all stages from planning to deliver the community must be involved in the development of services tailored to their needs and in locations accessible to all. Services must cover the needs of individuals from the cradle to the grave; they must be broad ranging enough to meet the needs of those in our community from different cultural backgrounds as well as those with special physical and social needs. They must also be flexible enough to adapt with emerging advances in health policy.

To meet the needs of all in our community health services must be based on a broad definition of what constitutes health and include consideration of environmental, social and psychological factors that affect the wellbeing of those concerned.

Labor is committed to the recognition of an individual's right to control his/her own body in relation to its reproductive capacity ensuring individuals are given access to the information which allows them to make informed choices.

Objectives

Labor aims to:

1. Promote well-being and prevent disease.
2. Ensure equality of access and participation for all people
3. Ensure that community health services are available in all areas, with special consideration given to areas of population growth.
4. Deliver an efficient, cost effective service without compromising standards.
5. Give due regard to the autonomy of all citizens and recognise their right to information, including their medical records.
6. Involve public sector and community-based organisations in both the planning and delivery of services with government agencies being responsible for the co-ordination of program delivery. Government agencies will also be responsible for setting standards of health care and staffing levels required for the delivery of quality care.
7. Ensure that organisations responsible for program delivery are based upon the following principles:
 - a. That services are equitably distributed throughout the regions of the ACT with the community having the opportunity to participate in the planning and implementation of services.

- b. That equality of access is assured through the recognition of language and cultural differences, prevention of physical barriers and the provision of advocacy services.
 - c. That information about the nature, purpose, and effects of any health service, any associated risks and side effects as well as available alternative treatments, is a right for all health consumers. This principle obliges the organisation to make the information available in a community language if required.
 - d. Organisations are accountable to the clients, the community and government for the services that they deliver.
 - e. That government-funded organisations will receive sufficient funding to enable award payments and conditions to be made to their employees.
8. Oppose the transportation, storage or disposal of nuclear waste, fuel or weapons in the ACT.
 9. Ensure that the transport of radioactive materials is carried out in strict accordance with the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Materials 1990.
 10. Ensure that medical and scientific use of radioactive materials is properly controlled and monitored.
 11. In the interests of public safety, undertake a review of the ACT inventory of radioactive waste and of the adequacy of the current storage and monitoring arrangements.
 12. Ensure the safe use of nuclear materials in Medical and Scientific use.
 13. Promote community awareness of the rapid developments within medicine and the available treatment options and ethical issues.
 14. ACT commits to harm minimisation as a health strategy.

Strategies

Labor will:

General

15. Protect the rights of patients and maintain an effective health service complaints unit and advocacy service.
16. Provide information in languages most commonly used in the ACT, on all aspects of health care to the community.
17. Provide a high quality comprehensive free dental health service to all primary and secondary school children, health-card holders and other disadvantaged people in the ACT.
18. Provide health care professionals who specialise in community medicine.
19. Ensure that health care facilities are of a high standard.
20. Establish an advisory structure that includes representatives of the peak health bodies and community representatives to provide advice to the Minister responsible for health matters.
21. Promote health services that target children and their families through the continued development of coordinated pre-secondary school-based facilities and infant care centres.
22. Provide improved facilities and staffing for the treatment of psychologically disturbed children and adolescents and residential services for both short and long-term purposes to assist both the families and the individual children.
23. Promote and monitor issues of informed consent and choice.

24. Seek to increase the number of people in the ACT on the Australian Organ Donor Register by giving people the option to join the register as part of the renewal process for the ACT driver's licence.
25. Move to remove the onus of permission from next of kin so that First Person Consent (the decedent's decision) is respected and upheld.
26. Ensure that moratoriums on genetically modified organisms are not renewed or reintroduced.
27. Ensure that health services are accessible and distributed evenly across the ACT.
28. Commit to providing expanded health services in the Tuggeranong region.
29. Support the introduction of a medical cannabis scheme, which will allow the prescription of medical cannabis products.
30. To develop and implement a pill testing trial during 2017, ideally at Spilt Milk.
31. To develop a strategy based on that trial to adopt a policy focused on harm minimisation across ACT Labor Policy.

Community Health Centres

32. Provide opportunities for the community to be consulted and to actively participate in decisions regarding future directions of community health centres, their location and their services.
33. Ensure that the functions of community health centres are flexible and responsive to the changing needs of the community.
34. Ensure that medical staff make provision for bulk billing of their patients.
35. Provide for specialised staff able to deal with the problems of groups in the community with special needs.
36. Provide seamless services within community health centres through coordination of multi-disciplinary teams.
37. Ensure that adequate consultation and participation between the community, staff and management in decision making within community health centres is enabled through adequately resourced community structures with decision making powers.
38. Develop quality assurance criteria that can be applied to workers in community health centres.
39. Support and maintain health promotion and preventative medicine programs, including immunisation, information to the aged on health issues, and awareness campaigns to prevent injuries to the aged, screening programs, osteoporosis, diabetes and cardiac disease awareness campaigns, and anti-smoking campaigns.
40. Support the development of nurse practitioners and ensure a collaborative relationship with medical practitioners.

Women's Health Services

41. Ensure that qualified staff, sensitive to the special needs of women, provides health services for women.
42. Ensure that the Women's Health Service meets community needs with services available in regional locations attached to community centres and with services extended to include salaried female obstetricians and gynaecologists.
43. Ensure community involvement in the management of the Women's Health Services and the employment of doctors who are skilled and experienced in women's health matters.
44. Ensure access to programs such as cervical and breast cancer screening, which focus on the early detection of cancers, and other appropriate programs.

45. Provide free screening such as mammograms and ultrasounds to all survivors of breast cancer, regardless of age or medical diagnosis, with a referral from their medical practitioner.
46. Promote public awareness of the availability of these programs and the importance of these diseases through publicity and educational seminars.
47. Encourage research into women's health issues.
48. Establish services that focus on the health needs of older women, particularly in the area of support services for menopause.
49. Expand the range of services provided for post-natal support, particularly post-natal depression.
50. Address through education, issues of ill health in the elderly (such as osteoporosis).that can, in part, be attributed to lack of regular exercise in youth.
51. Ensure the equal representation of women on all ministerially appointed management and advisory boards within the ACT health system.
52. Work with the Commonwealth and clinicians to improve employment opportunities for female specialists.

Reproductive Health

53. Ensure that comprehensive programs on sex education including contraception options are available through primary and secondary schools and community health centres.
54. Ensure that Department of Health employs registered domiciliary midwives on a permanent basis to provide antenatal, postnatal and confinement services, thereby ensuring that all people choosing to have home births can afford to do so and with professional assistance. Incorporate a domiciliary component into midwifery courses to ensure appropriately trained midwives.
55. Maintain a freestanding Abortion Clinic.
56. Facilitate research into the medical, legal and ethical issues surrounding surrogacy and all reproductive technology procedures with a view to producing appropriate legislation.
57. Ensure that adequate funds are made available to contribute to research into causes of infertility.
58. Implement policies that work towards the prevention of infertility with particular attention to infertility caused by sexually transmitted diseases, environmental factors and previous medical treatment.

Alcohol and Other Drug Services

59. Establish and maintain adequate facilities for the treatment of addiction to drugs and alcohol (including a detoxification unit) in partnership with community organisations.
60. Fund the provision of halfway houses that have therapeutic programs. Provision of safe and secure accommodation services will be based on need according to both the gender and the family situations of the service users.

Hospitals

61. Maintain, improve and provide resources to secure a high quality public hospital system in the ACT. To this end Labor will not allow the public sector to be undermined by support for or subsidies to the private sector.
62. Ensure that highly qualified salaried specialists are available at all government hospitals.

63. Ensure that staff doctors (specialists, salaried and private), have equal status and are subject to scrutiny by the same appointments committee applying the same high standards to all doctors before they can practice at hospitals.
64. Protect and enhance the autonomy and dignity of clients by allowing them to be cared for at home.
65. Establish a system of review that is based on standards set through consultation with professional bodies, community representatives and consumers.
66. Ensure that the freestanding hospice facility is maintained.
67. Encourage the provision of a congenial atmosphere in hospitals through provision of facilities such as family units for paediatric care, day rooms for patients and visitors' waiting rooms.
68. Recruit a staff obstetrician and gynaecologist who will display knowledge and sensitivity to women's health needs in ACT public hospitals.
69. Provide the support necessary to maintain a high standard in the Clinical Medical School.
70. Reform the management of hospital waiting lists so as to provide patients, clinicians, the public and hospital administrators with information on the likely waiting period for an individual's admission to hospital and on the proportion of patients who are admitted within clinically nominated target deadlines.
71. Increase hospital throughput and efficiency by greater use of day-surgery, accompanied by a strengthening of post-operative facilities, discharge planning, convalescence services and community nursing.

Health Promotion and Preventative Medicine

72. Focus on health promotion and protection recognising the benefits of such strategies not only to individuals but also to the community as a whole.
73. Give priority to health protection and promotion that focuses on both individuals and the community. Encourage the public and private sectors to participate in these programs.
74. Encourage the involvement of the community at all stages of the development of programs.
75. Develop programs to reach individuals and sectors of the community that are currently not reached.
76. Maintain high occupational health and safety standards through legislation with sufficient resources for enforcement.
77. Provide resources in conjunction with health centres for public education programs that encourage healthy and fulfilling lifestyles.
78. Examine alternative health practices and services with a view to developing legislation, professional guidelines and other measures relating to the provision of such services in the ACT.
79. Introduce programs in all schools to encourage provision of healthy foods in tuckshops and to provide information relating to developing a healthy understanding of nutrition, aimed at both parents and children, and ensure that a consultant dietician is available to all schools to advise on nutritional education programs and the items sold at school tuckshops.
80. Ensure the development of health education programs on lifestyle problems associated with drug use, which target young people, particularly young women and smoking.

81. Establish and maintain comprehensive infection control in keeping with the internationally recognised "Standard Precautions" guidelines in all hospitals and private surgeries.

Mental Health

82. Focus on the area of mental health in the ACT to provide a comprehensive continuum of care, recognising the diversity of needs of those with psychiatric disabilities or mental illness.
83. Recognise the legal rights of those persons with psychiatric disabilities or mental illness and ensure that there is no discrimination in regard to access to services, treatment, accommodation and employment.
84. Recognise that for many people with psychiatric disabilities or mental illness the most appropriate and effective treatment involves them living in family and community based support programs. These programs should be adequately funded.
85. Provide specialist assistance and support, including legislative provisions, for people with psychiatric disabilities, recognising the episodic and cyclic nature of many of these conditions.
86. Provide support services and treatment that include a variety of evidence based treatments that are specific to the needs of those in need of help. Drug therapies will be used only when appropriate and used in conjunction with other therapies such as specialist 'talk' therapies. .
87. Maintain existing psychiatric facilities and assess developing trends within the community to upgrade and plan for new facilities according to demand.
88. Undertake a review of the impact of current arrangements on:
 - a. Families caring for persons with mental illness;
 - b. Police and emergency services and the needs of these services in adequately managing persons in the community with mental illness.
89. Ensure support services include counselling and respite care for the families of those who suffer from psychiatric disabilities or mental illness. These services should be available both at the time of crisis and on an ongoing basis.
90. Recognise and develop appropriate reforms to reduce the over representation of persons with mental illness in the criminal justice system.
91. Examine Mental Health legislation, ensuring civil rights are protected to enable the delivery of appropriate care and treatment.
92. Examine Mental Health legislation and the cost involved to review Mental Health legislation in each State and Territory and the inconvenience and cost for consumers moving from one jurisdiction to another. Future governments both State and Federal should be considering a Model National Mental Health Act that will be pursued within the framework of COAG.
93. Expand outpatient and community based programs to reduce the hospitalisation of people with psychiatric disabilities or a mental illness and enable them to remain in the community.
94. Maintain the Mental Health Advisory Council and provide adequate resources so that the Council can operate effectively.
95. Recognise the special needs of different sectors in the community in relation to mental health. Direct funding from the National Mental Health Program to services targeted to suit the needs of these different sectors.
96. Maintain and expand the Mental Health Nurse Incentive program (MHNIP) ensuring the program recognises the scope of mental health nurses and ensures mental

health nurses provide an expanded range of services for the consumer with mental health issues, all aimed at preventing relapse and further hospitalisation.

97. Fund the Mental Health Nurses Credential for Practice program (C4N), as has been piloted in the State of Queensland, to ensure that Mental Health Nurses are suitably qualified and maintain ongoing professional development and clinical supervision in their practice.
98. Implement and fund a program for all mental health clinicians to ensure they are suitably qualified and maintain ongoing professional development and clinical practice relevant to their individual profession.
99. Ensure sufficient funding is made available to the Non-Government Sector – recognising the need for various service providers in mental health within the community.
100. Consistent with the unanimous report of the Senate Select Committee on mental health the budget should, reflect a percentage of the total health budget equivalent to twelve percent (12%). It is understood that investment should be targeted at early intervention to deliver savings in the longer term.
101. Ensure that an ACT court or tribunal hearing a compulsory or emergency application under the Mental Health (Treatment and Care) Act be required to hear such an application within 24 hours of filing.
102. Recognise the rights of people with psychiatric disabilities or mental illness to an accessible, effective, timely and independent complaints mechanism to apply to all services, government and non-government, provided to them.
103. Recognise the rights of consumers with mental health issues to have an appropriate advocacy service, funded by government, and with legislated unimpeded access by clients of the mental health system.
104. Establish and maintain mental health and suicide prevention “drop in” centres to ensure greater access to care crisis care and social supports.
105. Continue to develop and ensure triage services are adequate, accessible, and provided with up-to-date technologies that are in keeping with the demographic being served.
106. Provide more funding for research into mental health service provision to ensure the best evidence is available to underpin the service models being used in ACT mental health and drug and alcohol services.

Suicide

107. Ensure that adequate funding is provided for community suicide prevention projects;
108. Support a code of conduct for Australian media outlets that discourages the reporting of suicide in a sensationalised light;
109. Provide support services which focus on treatment, early intervention and peer support mechanisms for people at risk of suicide;
110. Promote and if necessary fund the provision of suicide education and intervention programs in schools and workplaces;
111. Seek out and target through support and intervention programs, those sections of society at greater risk of suicide; and
112. Annually evaluate strategies and delivery of care to ensure that the ACT is at the forefront of suicide prevention.

Sexual Health

ACT Labor will:

113. Work with community stakeholders and health professionals to develop and implement a comprehensive sexual health strategy complementary to the national Sexually Transmissible Infections (STI) strategy.
114. Ensure universal access to new medical services available for prevention, testing and treatment including rapid and online testing, Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and express and anonymous clinics.
115. Provide the resources needed for universal access to diagnostic and screening services and treatment of people living with sexually transmitted infections.
116. Review the level of funding provided for sexual health screening and services in the ACT and adjust the funding and resources available to ensure demand for services are being adequately met.
117. Develop and implement awareness campaigns to reduce the stigma of STIs and promote regular sexual health checks.
118. Move to develop sexual health education programs which target young people and high-risk groups.

Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus/ Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS)

119. Work with HIV/AIDS groups in the community to develop and implement the most appropriate programs for the management of HIV/AIDS.
120. Provide the resources needed for the treatment of HIV/AIDS, including the palliative care of persons living with HIV/AIDS.
121. Develop and fully resource a comprehensive HIV/AIDS strategy that is complementary to the national strategy.
122. Develop educational and health preventative programs to control and minimise the spread of HIV infection and to improve the community's understanding of the virus.
123. Encourage the involvement of relevant community organisations in the development of education and preventative programs, and in the management and delivery of HIV/AIDS related services.
124. Examine and eliminate barriers to accessing HIV/AIDS treatment, and ensure funding is available to assist voluntary community based support programs that provide support for people living with HIV/AIDS and their carers, family and friends.
125. Encourage the development of HIV/AIDS awareness programs by employers, trade unions and community groups to complement those developed by government agencies.
126. Move to develop specific HIV/AIDS education programs which target young people.
127. Support the introduction of legislation to protect those who are involved with all/any aspects of needle and syringe exchange and distribution programs, including support for the trialling of safe injection rooms.

Housing

Principles

ACT Labor recognises the right of all ACT citizens to live in housing appropriate to their needs.

ACT Labor is committed to the adequate supply of affordable housing that is well located, of good quality, secure in tenure, and contributes to an environmentally sustainable and energy efficient city.

ACT Labor recognises that housing plays a role in reducing poverty and ensuring a decent standard of living for the citizens of the ACT.

ACT Labor administration of housing policy will be responsive to community needs and will be undertaken in consultation with residents on housing and residential land matters. ACT Labor recognises the need for community consultation on tenancy and housing matters.

Public housing policy will recognise that public housing is a key element of effective urban governance and is part of the housing continuum, which is comprised of public and community housing, affordable housing and private including private rental and home ownership.

The planned provision of public housing is an important integral facet of an overall planning strategy and structure. In conjunction with other elements of the urban governance system, public housing will integrate with the community and private housing sectors, and the wider community to create a more equitable and sustainable city.

Assistance provided for households in need should not discriminate between those purchasing their own home, renting in the public or private rental market, or seeking community and co-operative housing. Housing policies should take into account all forms of direct and indirect assistance to ensure that housing assistance is provided equitably to the different housing sectors.

Recognition must be given to the housing needs of disadvantaged groups in the community such as the aged, unemployed, Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders, youth, single people, sole parents, people with disabilities, and those in crisis. Programs will address both emergency and medium to long-term needs of these people.

Objectives

Labor aims to:

1. Ensure residents of the ACT have access to affordable housing that is of good quality design.
2. Ensure that all new housing in the ACT is energy efficient and encourage it to be of adaptable design.
3. Ensure the housing needs of those who have special needs or require assistance are met.
4. Improve the security of tenure for public and private tenants. Ensure public tenant protection and security of tenure through adherence to strong residential tenancy legislation.

Strategies

Labor will:

Housing Development

5. Ensure that public and private housing is distributed within and between all suburbs, in order to create socially harmonious communities. The location of housing must be easily accessible to community, health and recreation facilities, employment centres, schools, and public transport, with consideration given to

those people with needs requiring distance from those areas where such facilities are found (e.g. main roads or town centres). Housing should be within walking distance of public open space.

6. Provide assistance to those in economic and social needs to meet the costs of public, co-operative or private rental accommodation or to achieve home ownership.
7. Ensure that a certain percentage of new residential developments are dedicated to public and/or community housing to avoid ghettoizing of disadvantaged people in the community and to provide for regular updating and turnover of housing stock to account for changing housing needs of the community.
8. Establish a clear forward program of housing construction and development that is complementary to neighbourhood plans and the Territory Plan. New dwellings will be built to community standards, in accordance with energy efficient design principles to at least a six star energy rating, and be accessible to services and public transport
9. Ensure that redevelopment supports the creation of harmonious communities and where possible, break down any concentration of disadvantages that exists in the community, Redevelopment must be preceded by comprehensive consultation with residents and, where possible, ensure that residents continue to enjoy the usual amenity of their home and connection with the community services.
10. Ensure that new housing developments, where possible, support the creation of innovative and evidence based models of housing which supports tenants' individual needs.

Access to Housing

11. Provide emergency housing to those made homeless
12. Ensure that homeless people and those at risk of homelessness receive particular attention in housing and broader social programs.
13. Assist groups to enable them to operate refuges and a variety of other supported accommodation programs for those in crisis.
14. Facilitate transition from crisis into suitable permanent housing.
15. Ensure there are a variety of adequate havens for those needing short and medium term housing when in crisis.

Housing for People with Disadvantages

16. Ensure that ACT Housing is a responsive and accountable agency to Government, clients and the community.
17. Establish a clear forward program of public housing construction and redevelopment, directed towards the minimisation of the waiting period for public housing. New dwellings will be built to community standards, in accordance with energy efficient design principles be of at least a six star energy rating, of adaptable design, and be accessible to services and public transport
18. Minimise the waiting period for public housing by maintaining the current net level of public housing. Any demolition or sale of public housing stock will only be undertaken after long term planning of acquisitions and public consultation. Public housing stock will not be sold/demolished to fund the maintenance budget for existing housing stock, but must only be sold to increase housing stock.
19. Ensure that redevelopment and upgrading proposals will not be undertaken without comprehensive consultation with public housing tenants and, where possible, tenants will be allowed to remain in their existing home.
20. Ensure a sensitive allocation of tenants to public housing dwellings - recognising that some tenants will not live comfortably in conjunction with other tenants. Aggregation of such tenants into a single public housing area or estate must be

avoided in favour of integration into the wider community. Ensure that a written and accessible policy and procedure on allocations be available to all ACT Housing tenants and potential tenants.

21. Establish a mechanism to manage public housing relocations.
22. Encourage participation by public housing tenants in the management of their dwellings.
23. Ensure that changes to ACT Housing rental policy will only be made following consultation with tenants and acknowledgement of their needs.
24. Ensure that all public housing tenants are provided with prompt, quality maintenance services in accordance with the Residential Tenancies Act.
25. Provide a housing exchange facility for ACT Housing tenants whose circumstances change.
26. Recognise the right of security of tenure for public housing tenants - allowing people in disadvantaged circumstances to stabilise financially, locationally, and socially.
27. Ensure adherence by ACT Housing to the Residential Tenancy Act for all public housing tenancies.
28. Investigate the establishment of assistance mechanisms for ACT Housing tenants, such as:
 - a. the provision of a system of “holding rental” to enable those seeking rehabilitation to have a home to return to after their treatment.
 - b. encouraging tenants to develop communities, which may take responsibility for maintenance, social events, and similar activities.
 - c. providing neighbourhood and community centres that can operate as a focus for public housing tenants and the wider community around them.
29. Undertake a reappraisal of the percentage of income for rental system, with further investigation of the disposable income available to a public housing tenant after the rent is paid. Allocation of arrears payments must consider the remaining income available for basic living requirements. Investigate adopting the individual as the rent-paying unit, resulting in each resident of a dwelling paying rent according to their capacity. This would form a direct relationship between the individual tenant and ACT Housing, rather than the entire household and ACT Housing.

Sustaining Public Housing Tenancies

30. Establish internal ACT Housing mechanisms for early identification of financial difficulties of tenants and provide referral to appropriate agencies for assistance. This will include a “whole of tenancy” approach incorporating assistance, where appropriate, in all aspects of a tenant’s circumstances to facilitate stability of accommodation.
 - a. Direct ACT Housing to not take responsibility for financial counselling, nor to assess the ability of tenants to remit debt.
 - b. Direct ACT Housing to assist those with existing debt to gain housing by referral to community financial counselling services. Recommendations on debt reduction by such agencies will be considered to ensure that the threat of homelessness is reduced. Applicants for housing will not be refused due to existing debt if a plan is in place for debt management.
31. Ensure ACT Housing promotes a safe environment for public housing tenants and puts in place effective programs to reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour. Tenancy management plans should be put in place for inappropriate and disruptive tenant behaviour that address the underlying causes of the problem behaviour

including drug and alcohol misuse and mental health issue and links tenants to appropriate community sector services.

Human Rights

Principles

ACT Labor is committed to the progressive realisation of human rights in the ACT, by the incorporation of human rights standards in domestic law, and through government action in every field.

Human rights, as defined in international covenants to which Australia contributed and adheres, include civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. These rights are universal, indivisible and inalienable. They provide basic standards that are vital for the welfare of the community and the dignity of the individual, and are fundamental for a just and democratic society.

One key aspect of human rights is the protection of people from discrimination on the basis of race, class, religion, political belief, gender, age, sexual preference or physical or mental capacity.

ACT Labor supports the continuing development of international and domestic standards for human rights and effective mechanisms for their promotion, protection and realisation

Objectives

Labor aims to:

1. Promote human rights in accordance with Australia's obligations under international law.
2. Provide specific protection for women, children, the aged and minorities.
3. Recognise the right of the terminally ill to die with dignity.
4. Promote the right of privacy.
5. Provide a framework for the ethical use of reproductive technologies.
6. Ensure that the principles of access and equity apply to the delivery of government services in the ACT community.

Strategies

Labor will:

Protection of Rights

7. Ensure that government policies and programs comply with international conventions ratified by the Australian Government
8. Review the ACT Human Rights Act 2004 to give consideration to:
 - a. allowing claims against the government for breaches of the Act; and
 - b. giving the Human Rights Commission the power to investigate possible breaches of the Act; and
 - c. including the rights contained in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural rights.
9. Regularly review anti-discrimination legislation both for effectiveness of legal protection and for quality of enforcement.
10. Support the re-establishment of a Human Rights Office in the ACT, combining Territory and Federal functions, to be operated in conjunction with the equivalent Federal body.

Privacy

11. Develop an action plan for unreasonable invasion of privacy.
12. Enact an ACT Privacy Act, along the lines of the Commonwealth legislation, and extend its operation to contractors performing outsourced government functions.

13. Broaden the Listening Devices Act so that it extends to intrusive surveillance devices.
14. Enact legislation to regulate the use of surveillance cameras in public places, including the use of material recorded by means of such cameras.

Rights of Women

15. Recognising that these matters primarily affect women, but may also affect men -
16. Maintain and enforce laws that protect women against discrimination in all its forms.
17. Support the full implementation of the Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.
18. Support ongoing review and strengthening of the law in relation to domestic violence, sexual harassment and sexual assault.
19. Require contractors to implement Equal Employment Opportunities (EEO) policies in order to obtain government contracts.
20. Eliminate legal inequities that create problems of debt that is transferred from a defaulting or deceased debtor to a present or former spouse or partner (sexually transmitted debt).

Reproductive Technologies

21. Regulate In-vitro fertilization (IVF) procedures to enforce bioethics and discourage exploitation of those seeking assisted conception.
22. Support IVF surrogacy where a child is produced with a donor embryo to enable another person to become a parent.
23. Develop legislation that clarifies custody arrangements in the cases of IVF surrogacy.
24. Regulate the storage and use of frozen embryos.
25. Ban cloning of human beings.
26. Protect the privacy of sperm donors, except in essential cases for the purposes of obtaining medical history.
27. Clarify that sperm donors are not liable for child support, nor may they seek custody of the child fertilised from their sperm; nor should children fertilised from donor sperm be entitled to a share of the sperm donor's estate.
28. Allow the use of sperm from a dead donor in appropriate circumstances.

Children's Rights

29. Ensure that Children's Courts are confidential and separate for all purposes.
30. Develop a charter of Children's Rights as a set of principles to guide implementation of government policy and the delivery of children's services.
31. Support the establishment at a national level of a Commissioner of the Rights of Children.

Adoption, Foster Care and Surrogacy

32. Support an open adoption system, where biological parents and children may have contact in appropriate cases with the adopted child if they wish.
33. Promote adoption guidelines that allow adoption by single parents as well as couples and that do not discriminate on the basis of sexual preference.
34. Support appropriate controls on inter-country adoption.
35. Promote the rights of foster parents, including the ability to seek custody, to seek adoption of their foster children or to maintain access after fostering ceases.
36. Oppose commercial surrogacy.

37. Clarify the respective rights of the different parties involved in a surrogacy arrangement.

Rights of Older People

38. Maintain and enforce laws against age discrimination.
39. Ensure uniform abolition of compulsory age retirement.
40. Enforce compliance with the national aged care principles in nursing homes.
41. Maintain appropriate guardianship and advocacy arrangements for older people who require such assistance.

Euthanasia

42. Retain legislation that allows for interventionist medical treatment to be refused by a patient.
43. Allow the same rights for a patient who has become incompetent but did, whilst competent, execute an 'advance directive' or an enduring power of attorney providing for such withholding of treatment.
44. Support voluntary euthanasia legislation that provides that if a patient who has been counselled consistently requests assistance to die and two doctors are of the view that there is little or no prospect of substantial improvement of the patient's condition, then it should not be an offence for a doctor to assist the patient to die.
45. Require that if the patient has become incompetent and two doctors consider there is little or no prospect that the patient will regain competence, it should not be an offence for a doctor to cause the patient to die if:
 - a. the patient did, whilst competent, make an 'advance directive' that makes it clear that in circumstances such as prevail, the patient should be caused to die.
 - b. the patient did whilst competent enact an enduring power of attorney which makes it clear that in circumstances such as prevail, the attorney may and should, on the patient's behalf, authorise a doctor to cause the patient to die.
46. Continue to support a conscience vote on euthanasia for ALP Public Office Holders.

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Rights

Acknowledging that Labor believes that all people are entitled to respect, dignity and the right to participate in society and to receive the protection of the law regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, Labor will implement policies and legislate generally to give effect to this belief. In particular, a Labor government will:

47. Legislate to achieve equal legal status for all people regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.
48. Introduce programs that support inclusion and fight discrimination against, and vilification of LGBTIQ+ people.
49. Guarantee ACT Government support for programs that support safe and inclusive schools for same sex attracted, intersex and gender diverse students, staff and families.
50. Develop a strategy to support the inclusion and wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ people in the ACT.
51. Support marriage equality.
52. In the absence of marriage equality, legislate for two people regardless of gender to enter into a legally recognised union.

53. Acknowledge the principle of recognising committed relationships between adults, and reaffirm support for legal reforms that recognise the rights of couples in mutually interdependent relationships to have their relationship recognized socially, legally and financially.
54. Acknowledge the special needs of LGBTIQ+ seniors in accessing appropriate aged care services free from discrimination, and ensure it is embedded in service delivery.
55. Review the recognition of family diversity in legal parentage, consistent with children's interests.
56. Take steps to address family violence in LGBTIQ+ relationships.
57. Legislate to ban conversion therapy and unethical therapists.
58. Review restrictions on blood donation for people in same-sex relationships.
59. Provide education and support through wrap-around services to young LGBTIQ+ people and their families.
60. Encourage ACT workplaces to commit to equality for LGBTIQ+ people in the workplace by undertaking an assessment and putting in a submission to obtain a Pride in Diversity, Australian Workplace Equality Index (AWEI).
61. Acknowledge that, while improvements have been made, intersex people continue to experience discrimination and stigmatisation, including in medical settings in Australia.
62. Commits to implementing at a territory level and advocating for the implementation at a national level the recommendations contained in a consensus statement of Australia and Aotearoa/New Zealand intersex community organisations and independent advocates ("the Darlington Statement") including, but not limited to:
 - a. reviewing systems and requirements relating to providing sex/gender information to government;
 - b. developing human rights based standards of health care for intersex people;
 - c. prohibition of deferrable medical interventions, including surgical and hormonal interventions, that alter the sex characteristics of infants and children without personal consent; and
 - d. supporting peer support organisations for intersex people.

Blood Borne Diseases and the Law

63. Remove legislative obstructions to public health issues, with the focus being on universal infection control/protection procedures.
64. Enact penalties for breaches of confidentiality along the same lines as that covering confidentiality for public servants.
65. Base legal policy regarding testing for blood borne diseases on voluntary participation, informed consent, confidentiality, the provision of adequate pre- and post-test counselling and patient control of contact tracing.
66. Require adequate prevention measures, including distribution of condoms, to ensure against the spread of blood borne diseases in corrective services institutions.

Rights of People with Disabilities

67. Recognise the legal rights of people with disabilities and ensure that there is no unfair discrimination in regard to access to services and amenities.
68. Ensure the protection of civil rights by examining all legislation.

69. Ensure the accessibility and flexibility of housing, employment, education and training services and programs within the ACT for people with disabilities.
70. Include people with disabilities in the decision-making and policy-making processes of Government and its agencies.
71. Promote the inclusion of people with disabilities in the decision-making processes of the non-government sector.
72. Recognise the legal rights of people with disabilities and ensure that there is no unfair discrimination in regard to access to services, treatment, accommodation and employment.
73. Examine health legislation to ensure the protection of civil rights and to enable the delivery of appropriate care and treatment.
74. Ensure that an ACT court or tribunal hearing a compulsory or emergency application under the Mental Health Act be required to hear such an application within 24 hours of filing.
75. Ensure the accessibility and flexibility of housing, employment, education and training services and programs within the ACT to accommodate the needs of people with disabilities.
76. Promote the inclusion of people with disabilities in decision-making and policy-making processes to provide a strong consumer focus in the delivery of services for people with disabilities.
77. Provide strong support for carers and people with disabilities in their home environments.
78. Recognise the right of people with disabilities to an accessible, effective, timely and independent complaints mechanism to apply to all services, government and non-government provided to them.
79. Recognise the special needs of people with psychiatric disabilities or mental illness to properly resourced advocacy services.

Human Rights Office

80. Support the re-establishment of a Human Rights Office in the ACT, combining Territory and Federal functions, to be operated in conjunction with the Federal Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission.

HIV/Aids, Hepatitis and the Law

81. Continue to implement the recommendations of the Legal Working Party of the Intergovernmental Committee on AIDS (IGCA).
82. Remove legislative obstructions to public health issues, with the focus being on universal infection control/protection procedures.
83. Enact penalties for breaches of confidentiality along the same lines as that covering confidentiality for public servants.
84. Base legal policy regarding testing for HIV and hepatitis on voluntary participation, informed consent, confidentiality, the provision of adequate pre- and post-test counselling and patient control of contact tracing.
85. Require adequate prevention measures, including distribution of condoms, to ensure against the spread of HIV and hepatitis in corrective services institutions.
86. Attach an HIV liaison unit to the police, made up of persons from the community who have direct contacts and work with high-risk groups.

Rights of Asylum Seekers

87. Advocate for Australia to contribute to the development of further multilateral solutions, recognising the importance of regional neighbours, with the aim of

eradicating people smuggling, deterring secondary movement and enabling refugees to access appropriate processing and settlement outcomes.

88. Advocate a policy on asylum seekers and refugees, which is compassionate and humanitarian, acknowledging that asylum seekers who reach Australian Territory are entitled under international law to have their status determined under Australian law and recognise the positive contribution asylum seekers and refugees can make to the Australian community.
89. Increase Australia's humanitarian intake to 20,000 places per year.
90. Support processing arrangements that allow asylum seekers to be released into the community once initial health and security measures have been met, within 30 days or 14 days for children and families that include children and oppose the mandatory detention of asylum seekers for the duration of their processing.
91. Support permanent residence visas for all asylum seekers deemed to be refugees.
92. Support the return of all processing facilities to public management and therefore public scrutiny
93. Provide on-going access to government services that empower refugees and asylum seekers and allow them to participate in the community.
94. Provide support for Refugee Resettlement programs in the ACT.

Indigenous Affairs - Rights & Reconciliation - A Framework for Action

Principles

Cultural Identity and Integrity

Labor respects the inherent Indigenous rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (Indigenous) people as the first Australians. Labor acknowledges that these rights have been denied to Indigenous people and their disadvantage arose from the dispossession of their traditional lands and economic base which sustained their livelihood and health; being denied equitable participation in the Australian economy; and the inter-generational nature of their disadvantage.

Self Determination

Labor respects the right of indigenous citizens to 'Self Determination', that is, their right to decide within the broad context of Australian society the priorities and the directions of their own lives, and the freedom to determine their own affairs.

Representation

Labor respects the right of Indigenous people to be represented in a manner they see as appropriate.

A Rights-Based Approach

Labor will address the disadvantage of Indigenous people by delivering their 'rights' as ACT citizens. Labor acknowledges the 'welfare' approach of previous Governments had limited success in addressing Indigenous people's health and living standards but understands the importance and necessity of specific programs, where appropriate, to help alleviate this disadvantage.

Whole of Government Approach

Labor will take a strategic approach to the allocation of funding to Indigenous services across portfolios.

Objectives

Labor aims to:

Empowerment

1. Ensure that Indigenous people have sufficient information and technical advice to make informed decisions on issues affecting them.
2. Provide the means for Indigenous people to have access to, and the opportunity to participate in, community and government decision-making processes.

Human Rights

3. Provide the means for Indigenous people to fully use and enjoy their human rights consistent with internationally accepted human rights standards and instruments.
4. Ensure that the laws, government policy and practices guarantee Indigenous people their human rights as ACT citizens. This includes, but is not limited to, core government services such as health, housing, education, employment, training, law, infrastructure and community services.

Indigenous Rights

5. Provide the means for Indigenous people to fully use and enjoy their 'Indigenous Rights' consistent with internationally accepted standards and instruments that protect the rights of Indigenous peoples.
6. Ensure the laws, government policy and practices guarantee Indigenous people their Indigenous rights such as, but not limited to, native title, heritage protection,

cultural and intellectual property, customary law, and the right of Indigenous people to be recognised as a distinct group.

Reconciliation

7. Implement a process of reconciliation between Indigenous people and the wider ACT community, based upon an appreciation by the ACT community as a whole of Indigenous cultures and achievements and of the unique position of Indigenous people.
8. Facilitate and foster the development of community-based reconciliation groups comprised of members of the wider ACT community.
9. Foster an ongoing community commitment to ensure that Indigenous people enjoy their human and indigenous rights.

Justice

10. Provide the means for Indigenous people to seek legal redress through the courts and judicial systems to protect their human and indigenous rights.

Strategies

Labor will:

Negotiation

11. Negotiate with Indigenous people to ensure resources used to achieve their human and Indigenous rights are used in a manner consistent with the priorities and directions set by the Indigenous community.
12. Introduce an ACT Government Indigenous Procurement Policy which will introduce gradual compliance targets for ACT Government contracts to be provided by Indigenous enterprises.
13. Commit to developing mandatory compliance targets for ACT Government procurement following a scoping study to determine the most suitable targets for the ACT.
14. Negotiate with Indigenous people through Advisory Committees and Community Meetings to:
 - a. Define both Labor's and the Indigenous community's understanding of each specific policy context;
 - b. Set policy objectives;
 - c. Devise means for achieving policy objectives; and
 - d. Devise means to monitor and evaluate the achievement of policy objectives.

Reconciliation Commissioner

15. Facilitate a formal reconciliation process through the creation of a 'Reconciliation Commissioner' as part of a Human Rights Commission. The office could employ one Indigenous Commissioner and one non-Indigenous Commissioner to act as an ombudsman for disputes between Indigenous people, the wider ACT community and the ACT Government.

Reconciliation Community Meetings

16. Facilitate an informal reconciliation process by conducting 'Reconciliation Community Meetings' as a forum for discussion by all ACT citizens of issues relating to reconciliation with Indigenous people and of policies to be adopted by the Government to promote reconciliation.

Legal Aid

17. Ensure there is a well-resourced Legal Aid Office so Indigenous people can protect their human and Indigenous rights.

Native Title

18. Negotiate a settlement with all ACT Indigenous native title claimants which includes:
 - a. Acknowledgment of Indigenous peoples as the traditional owners of ACT land;
 - b. Protection of Indigenous peoples cultural sites in the ACT;
 - c. Co-management of national parks with Indigenous people;
 - d. Consultation with Indigenous peoples on the future use of unallocated Crown land, where that land is not already subject to native title claims.

Prison

19. Support public ownership and management of an ACT prison.
20. Engage in consultation with current Indigenous prisoners from the ACT in order to identify key needs in service provision.
21. Develop appropriate transitional arrangements to facilitate the transition of Indigenous prisoners back into the community.
22. Develop strategies to prevent overcrowding.
23. Ensure appropriate links with local Indigenous organisations and agencies able to provide health, education and other beneficial programs to Indigenous prisoners.
24. Develop strategies to address issues of chronic illness and disability among inmates.
25. Ensure the provision of evidence-based rehabilitation options designed to meet needs.
26. Develop strategies to reduce the spread of blood-borne diseases.
27. Ensure the implementation of recommendations from the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (RCADIC).
28. Provide appropriate housing, health and support services for the families of prisoners held in the ACT that have relocated from interstate.

Priority Areas in Service Delivery

29. Develop a comprehensive profile of the Indigenous community in the ACT as a basis for developing appropriate programs.
30. Promote a greater emphasis on prevention, education and training initiatives.
31. Promote a restorative justice model with an emphasis on rehabilitation.
32. Ensure the community-based development of culturally appropriate detoxification and rehabilitation programs designed to address alcohol and other drug misuse issues.
33. Implement the recommendations of the RCADIC and the Bringing Them Home reports.
34. Ensure proper acknowledgment of traditional Indigenous people within the ACT through ceremonial arrangements and practical actions.
35. Develop strategies to improve retention rates for children in the education system.
36. Ensure adequate and appropriate resourcing of Indigenous organisations and agencies to address community needs.
37. Ensure that education and training programs are linked to real job opportunities for Indigenous job seekers.
38. Ensure that mainstream agencies provide culturally appropriate services to enhance access for Indigenous Canberrans.

39. Develop strategies to support Indigenous people delivering services to the community.
40. Provide access to flexible and culturally appropriate residential accommodation for Indigenous families
41. Provide diversionary accommodation to meet demand.
42. Establish an Aboriginal Justice centre to provide a coordinated approach to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander justice programs and services in the ACT and to provide a primary focus on all matters impacting on Aboriginal justice in the ACT.

Measuring Progress

43. Measure the effectiveness of government policy to empower Indigenous people by measuring the ability of the Indigenous community to:
 - a. Understand the international and domestic standards, laws and mechanisms in relation to their human and Indigenous rights;
 - b. Use the processes and mechanisms that translate the existence of human and indigenous rights into the exercise of those rights; and
44. Articulate and advocate their interests in a manner, which retains the integrity of their voices.
45. Measure our performance against the objectives by measuring the ability of the wider ACT community to understand and respect the rights and realities of Indigenous people and their insistence on the fulfilment of the human and Indigenous rights of Indigenous people.
46. Measure Labor’s performance against the objectives by its ability to:
 - a. Identify deficiencies in its performance to deliver human and Indigenous rights to Indigenous people;
 - b. Incorporate Indigenous people’s guidance and advice in its decision making processes; and
 - c. Develop an appropriate legislative and economic framework to support and facilitate the changes required to deliver human and Indigenous rights to Indigenous people.

Industrial Relations

Principles

The Labor Party has, since its foundation, strived for wage justice, maximised employment and social progress. Labor believes that working conditions must maximise the talents of workers, provide them with improved skills, and give them greater control over their work-lives and future prospects.

Labor believes that every person should have access to employment which provides for favourable working conditions, participation in workplace decisions, non-discriminatory workplaces, job security, job safety and security of entitlements.

The trade union movement is central to achieving just outcomes for workers, and ensuring we live in a fair and progressive community. Labor recognises the inherent imbalance in employment power between employers and workers. Labor believes that the collective organisation of workers, in conjunction with action by Labor in government, can deliver economic justice, social stability, and social progress.

The ACT Labor Party holds that the key to successful industrial relations is economic justice, secured through mutual respect, goodwill, trust, genuine negotiation and collective agreement between the parties involved, whether they be government, unions, or individual employers.

ACT Labor acknowledges the unique vulnerabilities of migrant workers, including temporary skilled workers and international students. ACT Labor is committed to protecting the rights of all workers, regardless of their immigration status.

Objectives

Labor aims to:

1. Ensure all workers receive a fair and equitable share of the nation's product. Accordingly, wage and salary standards must keep pace with the cost of living and, together with employment conditions, improve in relation to the benefits of technological change and increased productivity.
2. Strive for the genuine acceptance of the principle of equal remuneration for work of equal value.
3. Ensure all workers should have equal opportunity to gain employment and be free from discrimination in the workplace.
4. Ensure that workers and their unions are enabled to participate in decisions in their employment.
5. Ensure all employers provide their employees with a safe and healthy working environment free from covert surveillance unless that surveillance is carried out under the authority granted by legislation.
6. Ensure all working people have the opportunity for further education and training on a continuing basis in work-time as part of the working process.
7. Ensure unions develop as a key element in the struggle to achieve justice in work. To this end, all workers have a responsibility to participate in this process through membership of a union.
8. Ensure that working arrangements do not act to the detriment of workers.
9. Ensure job security for ACT Government Employees.

Strategies

Labor will:

Industrial Relations Arrangements

10. Support a national industrial relations system that delivers appropriate wages and conditions, which are maintained and through time increased.
11. Support a strong safety net of Modern Awards that can be built upon by collective bargaining at the workplace level
12. Support access to conciliation and arbitration by an impartial tribunal.
13. Support a national minimum wage and legislated minimum employment standards that cover hours of work, leave, notice of termination and redundancy pay for all workers.
14. Advocate for full implementation of standards laid down in the International Labour Organisation's Conventions.
15. Take all measures to ensure that union members benefit from improvements in pay and conditions won by trade union representation.
16. Encourage and assist membership and participation in trade unions by all workers.
17. Ensure that trade unions and their representatives have the right to examine all records held by employers that affect employees, including workplace agreements, and time and wages sheets for a period of seven years.
18. Ensure all unions and their representatives have the right to visit any workplace under their coverage to undertake union activities.
19. Give unions and their accredited representatives the right to take appropriate action to ensure all workers' rights are maintained.
20. Prohibit unfair industrial practices of any kind, including in contracts to which the ACT Government is a party.
21. Maintain Award Superannuation Entitlements for all workers.
22. Provide that lawful industrial action by union members shall be a defence against common law and statutory action.
23. Ensure that any current and future ACT ALP Government will not contract out any existing ACT Government jobs to the private sector.

Industrial Democracy

24. Support the principles of Industrial Democracy, and promote and encourage schemes that implement those principles.

Working Arrangements

25. Support moves to have a 35 hours week introduced as standard for all workers.
26. Promote employee-initiated access to flexible working arrangements.
27. Promote employee-initiated access to permanent part-time work.
28. Provide that the Trades and Labour Council Picnic Day, and May 1 be proclaimed as public holidays in the ACT.

Leave Conditions

29. Ensure that annual Holiday Leave conditions for all workers provide for a minimum period of four weeks leave on full pay, and payment of a loading to ensure all workers do not suffer financial detriment when they take annual leave.
30. Ensure that Long Service Leave conditions for all workers provide a minimum of three months leave after ten years' service, while working towards reducing the service requirement to seven years for three months leave.
31. Ensure that all workers are able to access their legal entitlement to leave and other employment entitlements and commit to the principle of access to portable long service leave entitlements for private sector workers.
32. Work with stakeholders and through government to ensure that appropriate legislative and policy measures are implemented for employees working in

industries marked by job instability or which have high labour mobility, to improve accessibility to long service leave.

33. Support portability of long service leave in the construction and contract cleaning industries, and investigate and implement portability for other industries with high labour mobility, including accumulation trust funds to which all employers will be required to contribute monies on behalf of employees.
34. Support a national paid parental leave scheme of 26 weeks replacement wages, plus superannuation on periods of paid and unpaid leave for up to 12 months for all employees regardless of how they are employed.
35. Encourage private sector employers to grant special leave for family reasons, emergencies and to provide for purchased leave as an option.
36. Provide for leave for trade union training.

Occupational Health & Safety, Workers' Compensation And Rehabilitation

37. Ensure that each person in an ACT workplace is covered by laws and regulations that guarantee their health and safety. Guarantee that the ACT will not diminish the rights and protections granted to persons in ACT workplaces as enacted by the Work Safety Act 2008 and any associated regulations.
38. Provide a Workers Compensation regime that focuses on fair process to ensure just compensation and comprehensive rehabilitation.
39. Maintain and improve occupational injury prevention programs by ensuring the enforcement and administration of Occupational Health and Safety [OH&S] legislation is pursued effectively:
 - a. Support the continued resourcing of the government regulator, ACT Work Cover.
 - b. Develop forms of voluntary compliance including enforceable undertakings, compliance agreements, and workplace education.
 - c. Establish a construction industry division within WorkCover inspectorate. This division would ensure the construction industry would be monitored and regulated by inspectors who had industry specific knowledge and experience to ensure safety for all workers in high risk industry.
 - d. Support appropriate compliance measures which fines or restrict the activity of employers who act in breach of OH&S laws. That is includes support for; prohibition and compliance notices, injunctions and 'on-the-spot' fines.
 - e. Ensure that fines and penalties under OH&S laws are appropriate to the seriousness of the breach.
 - f. Provide right of entry for officials of federally registered trade unions to address OH&S issues
 - g. Support the provision of improved training for Health and Safety Representatives and ensure that they are able to perform their essential role under OH&S Legislation.
40. Ensure that in relation to Workers' Compensation Claims:
 - a. Access to common law action against negligent employers is maintained;
 - b. Full wages are paid within fourteen days and thereafter at normal pay intervals for the duration of the incapacity;
 - c. Adequate lump sum payments are made for scheduled injuries.
41. Extend legislative provisions to cover the rehabilitation and retraining of employees who have been the victims of industrial accidents or of other conditions resulting from their employment.

42. Provide occupational health services which are conveniently located and are required to provide:
 - a. Advice to employees and employers on methods of minimising occupational health and safety hazards.
 - b. Treatment for victims of all occupationally induced diseases and accidents.
43. Support Industrial Manslaughter and worker death laws in the ACT and Australia.
44. Investigate the development of Workers' Compensation legislation to cover ACT public servants.
45. Encourage employers to establish rehabilitation and retraining schemes for employees who are victims of non-work related injuries.

Vocational Education and Training

46. Ensure that access to training is a right and not a privilege and that worker training is an integral part of the work process.
47. Adopt measures to encourage the employment of trainees and apprentices.
48. Ensure the greater use by employers of education and training programs, both to equip employees for change in work brought about by social or technological change, and to enhance job satisfaction.

Trade Union Education and Training

49. Promote the principle that Trade Union Education and Training are essential to assist participation in trade unions by all union members.
50. Establish an ACT Council for Trade Union Education and Training to determine on a continuing basis what the needs are in the ACT for trade union training and how best to meet those needs.
51. Establish a Centre for Union Education provided with adequate training and administrative staff, commensurate with the needs of unionists in the ACT.
52. Ensure that Trade Union Education and Training is funded at a level commensurate with the total workforce in the ACT eligible to participate in unions.

Work and Family Balance

53. Ensure that employees and employers are aware of the workplace policies which contribute to a fair balance between work and family
54. Support paid parental leave, carer leave, and work based childcare initiatives in the ACT Public Sector to ensure that the work and family standards of the public sector lead the nation
55. Encourage private sector employers to implement family friendly measures through the provision of payroll tax exemptions and through other government funded initiatives
56. Prevent discrimination against employees who exercise their entitlements under work and family policies.

Supply Chains and Migrant Workers

57. Take meaningful steps to address exploitation in the domestic and international supply chains of ACT-based companies and contractors, including but not limited to contractors to the ACT Government;
58. Work with community groups and unions to reduce the barriers exploited temporary workers face when reporting unlawful workplace conduct, including fear of deportation or retaliation by their employer
59. Noting that immigration is a Federal responsibility, support, at a minimum, a guaranteed, temporary right of stay for any worker who has a claim before the Fair Work Ombudsman, Fair Work Commission or the courts to ensure that temporary workers are empowered to access justice and to reduce the risk of worker exploitation.

Legal and Illegal Drugs

Principles

The ACT ALP is committed to reducing the harm caused by the misuse and abuse of alcohol and other drugs in the ACT community, not only to the victims of addiction, but to victims of criminal activity undertaken to support or promote addiction, to the families and friends of drug users, and to community infrastructure such as the health system.

The ACT ALP acknowledges the complex psychological, health and socio-economic issues surrounding the misuse and abuse of alcohol and other drugs and the consequent need for broad social initiatives to support drugs policy.

Labor recognises that the legal drugs alcohol and tobacco cause the majority of social, economic and health costs to the Australian community stemming from drug use.

Labor recognises that principles of fairness and equity in society, effective education systems, full employment and support for those in need are required if alcohol and other drug use is to be reduced.

Labor maintains its strong support for measures to reduce trafficking in illicit substances, including strict enforcement of drug laws and the application of appropriately severe penalties for traffickers.

Labor recognises that a comprehensive drug strategy must have harm prevention and minimisation as central principles and must address a broad range of areas including: prevention of misuse, community education, treatment, rehabilitation, law and law enforcement, and the provision of aftercare services. Labor recognises that the most effective harm prevention is the avoidance of addictive substances, licit or illicit.

The ACT ALP is committed to the development and implementation of evidence-based alcohol and other drug strategies and programs adhering to established standards of best practice.

Labor is committed to ensuring that the ACT community has access to the broadest possible range of services addressing alcohol and other drug issues and problems.

Labor is committed to ensuring the development and implementation of targeted alcohol and other drug strategies for indigenous communities, youth, women, men, people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities and various at-risk groups in the community.

The ACT ALP is committed to maintaining a leadership role in tobacco regulation and related public health initiatives.

The ACT ALP is committed also to involving key community stakeholders in the development and implementation of effective alcohol and other drug strategies and initiatives.

Objectives

Labor aims to:

1. Reduce the harm caused by alcohol and other drugs
2. Reduce the use of illicit drugs in the ACT
3. Reduce the supply and trafficking of illicit drugs
4. Develop evidence based strategies for addressing the misuse of alcohol and other drugs
5. Ensure the provision of quality services to address the drug problem, and
6. Implement appropriate legislative changes to enable the provision of the broadest possible range of evidence based treatment options.

Strategies

In relation to Criminal Law and Justice, Labor will:

Drug Law Reform

7. Continue to support the decriminalisation of possession and use of cannabis for personal purposes.
8. Support a comprehensive evaluation of the ACT legislative approach to cannabis.
9. Support the establishment of an evidence-based heroin trial as a national project, ensuring the inclusion of needs-based support services and rigorous evaluation processes.
10. Support the active involvement of ACT researchers in evidence-based trials of medically supervised injecting rooms elsewhere in Australia, for instance, that proposed in NSW.
11. Assess the results of such trials in determining whether establishment of a similar facility is desirable in the ACT.

Sentencing

12. Ensure penalties for trafficking in illegal drugs remain high, and include the forfeiture of assets acquired through drug trafficking.
13. Develop a comprehensive and well-researched framework for the implementation of the Commonwealth Diversion Initiative in the ACT.

Prison and Custodial Arrangements

14. After consultation, support the establishment in Canberra of a sobering up facility or shelter to provide an alternative to the detention of intoxicated people.
15. Ensure access to treatment, rehabilitation, aftercare and related support services equal to the standard of services provided to the broader community.
16. Ensure the rehabilitation strategies of ACT corrective facilities, and where possible of interstate facilities where ACT prisoners are detained, incorporate harm prevention and minimisation philosophies, and the broadest possible range of evidence-based treatment and rehabilitation programs.
17. Ensure that alcohol and other drug strategies in ACT custodial facilities:
 - a. promote harm prevention and minimisation objectives with regard to drug use and the prevention or reduction of Hepatitis C and other disease infection
 - b. address, in treatment and rehabilitation programs, issues of licit and illicit drug use and dependency.
18. In relation to Education, Labor will:

School Curriculum

19. Ensure the inclusion within both primary and secondary school curriculum of evidence-based licit and illicit drug education programs
20. Encourage an holistic approach to health promotion within schools
21. Encourage schools to adopt a range of strategies to address alcohol and other drug use by students, including:
 - a. Preventative education,
 - b. Counselling,
 - c. Family education,
 - d. Provision of information,
 - e. Referral to appropriate health care agencies, and
 - f. Support for teachers and families.

22. Support the adoption of drug free policies by all local school communities
23. Establish protocols to deal with drug use by students

Community Education

24. Support the development of a community education program which highlights that
 - a. The misuse of alcohol and other drugs involves both medical and social issues, and that medical treatment must be linked with other support services if long term rehabilitation is to be successful
 - b. Addiction is a chronic, relapsing condition
 - c. Abstinence is the desired endpoint for a person who is addicted, and should be promoted in the community, and
 - d. A comprehensive range of treatment services is available.

25. In relation to Health, Labor will:

Public Health Promotion and Preventative Medicine

26. Promote the development and implementation of evidence-based prevention and education programs that address alcohol and other drug use issues
27. Ensure the development of evidence-based health education programs on lifestyle problems associated with drug use, which target young people, particularly women and smoking.

Alcohol and Other Drug Services

28. Ensure adequate funding and resourcing for ACT tobacco strategies and initiatives
29. Examine the feasibility of subsidising nicotine replacement therapies for health care card holders in the ACT
30. Ensure the provision of the broadest possible range of evidence-based treatment and rehabilitation options for alcohol and other drug users.
31. Ensure the provision of properly resourced aftercare and support services for recovering users of alcohol and other drugs, including counselling, employment, training, housing and outpatient services.
32. Ensure the provision of, and access to, a comprehensive range of counselling and related support services for the families and friends of problematic alcohol and other drug users.
33. Fund the provision of halfway houses that offer safe, secure accommodation based on need, based on both gender and family situations of users.
34. Develop an ACT Hepatitis C strategy.
35. Promote the development and trial of new pharmacotherapy options for the treatment of opiate dependence.
36. Ensure adequate, needs-based resourcing for needle and syringe programs in the ACT
37. Support adequate, needs-based resourcing for the methadone program, to ensure places for all users seeking treatment.
38. Support the continued supply of Narcan (naloxone) to all ACT ambulances for overdose resuscitation.
39. Investigate the viability of providing Narcan to heroin users for administration in overdose situations.

Tobacco Control

40. Acknowledge the role of the National Tobacco Strategy in providing a framework for addressing tobacco issues and the need for cooperation and collaboration among States, Territories and Commonwealth in addressing tobacco-related harms.

41. Strive to adopt and promote best-practice approaches to smoking prevention, cessation and non-smoker protection, and to the enforcement of legislation, including the prohibition of the sale of tobacco products to minors.
42. Eliminate the legislative provisions for tobacco advertising exemptions and for the use of vending machines for the sale of tobacco products
43. Support the provision of greater smoking cessation and related initiatives for patients in the Territory's hospitals.
44. In liaison with key stakeholders, work towards the successful implementation of the Territory's smoke-free enclosed public places legislation.
45. Explore the options for improved coordination across the range of tobacco control functions within ACT Health, including the possible establishment of a Tobacco Control Unit.

Addressing the Needs of Key Target Groups

46. Ensure the provision of specific programs - and training for workers in the alcohol and other drug fields - to meet the different needs of men, young people, women, parents, indigenous people, and those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.
47. Develop strategies and services designed to address the incidence of dual diagnosis of mental health and drug problems among young people in the areas of:
 - a. Prevention,
 - b. Education,
 - c. Treatment,
 - d. Rehabilitation, and
 - e. Aftercare support.
48. Support community organisations that develop and implement specific programs addressing issues around the use and misuse of alcohol and other drugs.
49. Ensure that adequate funding is provided to agencies working in the field to allow all workers to undertake cross-cultural awareness training.

Mental Health

50. Ensure the development of cooperative strategies by ACT Mental Health and alcohol and other drug services to address the incidence of dual diagnosis.

Multicultural Affairs

Principles

Labor is committed to equity of access to and enjoyment of community resources for all residents of the ACT. Labor respects and encourages the right of all ethnic communities to practice and maintain their spiritual and cultural beliefs, subject to Australian law.

Labor recognises and respects the harmonious cultural and ethnic diversity of the ACT community. Labor acknowledges the contribution, which is made by the many different groups within the ACT Community that add to the richness of our community. It will actively promote the acceptance and respect for all groups within the ACT Community.

Labor will continue to welcome the arrival of more members of various ethnic and cultural groups and to encourage their active participation in the ACT Community. Labor will ensure that the special requirements are recognised for those people who are part of migration programs arriving for humanitarian reasons.

Labor respects the right of ethnic communities to participate in the economic, social and cultural life of the ACT consistent with their aspirations and in a manner that facilitates their peaceful integration into the Australian community.

Labor respects the right of all ethnic community groups to be represented in a manner they see as appropriate.

Objectives

Labor aims to:

1. Ensure that the ACT is able to preserve its cultural diversity in order to enrich the experiences of all members of the community.
2. Ensure all residents in the ACT Community can gain access to services and participate in all activities in the community without fear of discrimination on the basis of cultural ethnicity or race. Particularly in the areas of:
 - a. Government and decision making;
 - b. Legal services;
 - c. Accommodation;
 - d. Education;
 - e. Childcare;
 - f. Health facilities;
 - g. Language services (translating and interpreting) and training; and
 - h. Employment and training programs.
3. Assist refugees and humanitarian entrants to recover from their experiences and settle into the community.
4. Provide the means to ensure that the ethnic community has sufficient information and technical advice to make informed decisions on issues affecting them.
5. Provide the means for the ethnic community to have access to and the opportunity to participate in community and government decision-making processes.

Strategies

Labor will:

6. Promote and conserve language culture and identity through the provision of programs and resources for different ethnic and cultural groups to allow for education, training, cultural festivals and arts activities
7. Introduce and update legislation to ensure that people of all ethnic and cultural backgrounds do not suffer discrimination in obtaining access to Government,

private or community services, and that they are able to participate in all aspect of community life

8. Ensure that all government funded services are flexible and responsive to client needs to achieve access and equity, particularly in childcare, education, health care, and legal services.
9. Implement a comprehensive language policy for people of all ages and abilities for whom English is their second language, by providing English language classes appropriate to need, information and educational material. Retain translating and interpreting services to ensure that people who have not yet learnt (or who are unable to learn) English can still access services.
10. Provide information on all government services in various community languages and formats, and ensure that interpreting services are available for all community service providers, particularly health care and legal services.
11. Ensure that interpreting services respect people's privacy, rights and cultural beliefs, by training and developing interpreters of both sexes in cross cultural communication and specialist language skills.
12. Provide specialist health and counselling services to assist those suffering the effects of torture and trauma.
13. Provide employment and training programs that are responsive to the needs of migrants, particularly in the recognition of overseas qualifications and bridging programs.
14. Establish Advisory Ethnic Communities Committees to advise the Minister on all matters relating to ethnic communities and the services to assist the full participation of people of non-English speaking backgrounds and other cultural backgrounds in the development of appropriate programs and policies.
15. Implement standards to ensure that the portrayal of people in the media accurately reflects Australia's cultural and linguistic diversity.
16. Ensure the laws, government policies and practices are culturally appropriate and do not prevent or inhibit ethnic communities from practicing and maintaining their spiritual and cultural beliefs, subject to Australian law.
17. Facilitate a process of cross-cultural sharing and learning that will promote greater understanding of cultural diversity and foster racial respect and harmonious relations between all cultural groups in the ACT community.
18. Communicate and negotiate with all ethnic community groups on the development and provision of government services affecting them.
19. Negotiate the nature and provision of government services with all ethnic community groups at quarterly workshops, in response to issues raised by ethnic community groups.
20. Encourage and empower the Ethnic Community Council to act as the ethnic community's review mechanism on the development, implementation and review of government policy and programs that affect them.
21. Increase support to migrant resource centres, provide adequate English language programs to new arrivals and maintain adequate interpreter and translation services.
22. Disseminate information on community and government services to ethnic community groups in both English and their own languages.
23. Monitor the effectiveness of government policy and of the ethnic community's integration into the ACT community by providing regular information on the economic, social and cultural status of the ethnic community.

Norfolk Island

Governance

Principles

ACT Labor through its Norfolk Island Sub-Branch is committed to raising the standards of government in Norfolk Island by ensuring that all community members achieve social justice through responsible, responsive and accountable government at an appropriate level.

Labor recognises that self-government for Norfolk Island in its present form has not met the reasonable expectations of the lower and middle income earners nor has it provided standards of fairness, justice and equity to which democratic communities aspire. The shortcomings in island governance and the deficient standards of government services identified by various reports of the Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External territories are largely agreed by Labor and result in a resolve to promote significant change in governance arrangements.

As a fundamental principle of Norfolk Island governance Labor embraces the notion that functions and powers of government should be limited to those where past conduct and outcomes have met reasonable standards of fairness, equity and transparency. Available statistics suggest that lower and middle-income earners have failed to benefit from an economy that has effectively doubled over the period of self-government. Further statistics reveal that during the period of self-government the proportionate size of the younger generation in Norfolk Island has fallen consistently indicating an economic and social climate not sufficient to retain younger age groups.

Labor understands that the present machinery of government in Norfolk Island is unsuitable for a party political process and has remained unchanged since the commencement of self-government. A number of clearly inadequate processes raise a requirement for considerable change to facilitate the implementation of this platform.

Objectives

Labor aims to:

1. Deliver responsible, open and honest government;
2. Review the scope of government functions and powers with a view to reduction;
3. To maintain a system of government which respects and protects local views and culture;
4. Establish mechanisms that will enable frank public scrutiny of government conduct and decisions;
5. Establish a high degree of community involvement in decision taking;
6. Ensure wide community representation at political level;
7. Review the machinery of government to ensure that Labor interests and platforms are given due standing and attention, and
8. Maintain a viable efficient and responsive public service;

Strategies

Labor will:

9. Identify functions and responsibilities of Government that in Norfolk Island have not met desirable standards;
10. Work with the Commonwealth Government in developing a more suitable form of government for Norfolk Island;
11. Compel members of the Legislative to fully and publicly disclose their financial interests as well as the financial interests of their spouses and dependent children;

12. Implement new machinery of government measures that might maximise outcomes in accordance with Labor policy whilst ensuring that all elected representatives are extended an opportunity for full participation in government affairs;
13. Require an independent social impact assessment before pursuing privatisation of government business undertaking or entities;
14. Implement legislation to ensure suitable scrutiny of government decisions and conduct including, legislation for freedom of information, ombudsman functions, widening of administrative review;
15. Ensure ready access to sex discrimination commissioner, racial discrimination commissioner and the human rights commissioner, and
16. Ensure that all government decision taking and planning accords the highest protection of and respect for community residents and culture.

Social Welfare

Principles

ACT Labor through its Norfolk Island Sub-Branch is committed to a fair welfare policy that will uphold basic rights and entitlements of the aged, disabled and those in need.

Recognising the unequal distribution of income in Norfolk Island Labor is committed to a welfare system that is supported by a taxation regime focused on capacity to pay.

Labor recognises that standard responses or assistance may not meet special needs. It is therefore understood and accepted that in current governmental circumstances and in a small self-supporting and isolated community the maintenance of a satisfactory welfare system is a difficult task that necessarily requires a degree of flexibility. Therefore Labor accepts a requirement to cater for special needs and circumstances beyond those contemplated by scheduled standard and non-standard entitlements.

Labor considers it absolutely essential that decision taking be streamlined, be free of political interference and be removed entirely from the political arena.

In establishing this platform Labor embraces the NGOs and other charitable organisations in Norfolk Island that provide welfare assistance of varying type and degree. Labor offers recognition of these organisations, a commitment of support and an undertaking not to intrude on, or burden, these organisations.

Finally Labor recognises the need to treat the aged, disabled and families in need with courtesy, respect and understanding and offers a full commitment to ensuring personal privacy at all times.

Objectives

Labor aims to:

17. Be alert to the cost of living in Norfolk Island and inequalities in the distribution of wealth and income;
18. Be alert to signs of need and financial distress in Norfolk Island's aged, disabled and families or persons in need;
19. Ensure that Norfolk Island's taxation regime is fair, equitable and progressive;
20. Ensure that methods, processes and procedures are geared to ensuring that the needy obtain the support they require;
21. Adopt both income and asset assessment as a means of determining eligibility;
22. Ensure that utility services are fairly and equitably available to all members of the community;
23. Ensure access to an appropriate range of counselling and other community services;

24. Ensure carers and service providers are informed and supported through education, training and remuneration to assist the delivery of quality services to the aged, disabled and families in need;
25. Increase awareness of available welfare services;
26. At all costs protect the rights, independence and dignity of the aged, disabled and families or persons in need.

Strategies

Labor will:

27. Review the Norfolk Island taxation system with a focus on capacity to pay;
28. Introduce a means test into legislation that will focus on income and assets (other than the family home and family land) to determine eligibility;
29. Implement and fund regular workshops for carers, service providers, NGOs and other organisations and individuals who are well placed to consider the degree and level of social need in Norfolk Island;
30. Provide financial support for carers and (without intrusion or burdensome regulation) service providers;
31. Enter into reciprocal information-sharing agreements with neighbouring jurisdictions to avoid double-dipping and to identify hidden assets or income;
32. Make available a ready and regular supply of printed and internet material on welfare facilities and services;
33. Strengthen the administrative processes for support, service delivery, complaints and grievances and protection of individual's rights, including to privacy.
34. Review and strengthen statistical gathering mechanisms (Census, Household Expenditure Surveys, etc.), and
35. Introduce machinery for economic measurement;

Environment

Principles

ACT Labor through its Norfolk Island Sub-Branch acknowledges the role of previous Federal Labor Governments in initiating and implementing national environmental legislation and recognises the Norfolk Island National Park and the Kingston Arthurs Vale Historic Area (KAVHA) as shining examples of the benefits that can be achieved by co-operation with the Commonwealth.

Norfolk Island is a finite and complex ecosystem that deserves the best protection of its unique natural resources. Labor acknowledges that the environment is fundamental to all facets of life on Norfolk Island and endorses the concept of ecological sustainability for future generations. Labor accepts that the purity and integrity of the life-support systems of the soil, air, water and ocean are vital to ecological sustainability of Norfolk Island and that vegetation communities, seabird habitat, plants, animals and micro-organisms are important to the biodiversity of the Island.

As well as other segments of the environment such as the major land use zones KAVHA, the National Park and the Public Reserves Labor recognises the importance of protecting coastal areas and the cultural landscapes of the rural zone to retain the natural and other distinctive qualities of the Island.

In recognition that tourism is an integral part of the island's social and economic life Labor emphasises the vital importance of wise land use. Equally Labor stresses the importance of developing an ethic - a conservation or eco philosophy, and strategies, to remove the emphasis of short-term economic objectives from policy considerations and to replace it with a focus on long term quality outcomes.

Labor's Environment Policy will give central recognition to the Australian National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development recognising that policy development needs to be integrated and consistent with the implementation of ESD principles, the context and the framework of which is provided by the Australian National Strategy.

Central to the ecological sustainability of the island is a system of calculating the island's carbon, ecological and social foot printing, to provide a user pay process to complement the planning and development of the island for future generations.

Labor is committed to a comprehensive consultative and integrated approach to economic social and environmental planning in order to achieve sustainable development. Consistent with this Labor understands the need to embrace the activities of NGOs and to move forward with mutual confidence and common goals.

Simply stated Labor desires to maintain and enhance the environmental qualities which make Norfolk Island distinctive, healthy, safe, pleasant and a stimulating place in which to live, so that the full physical and social needs of residents and visitors are met.

Objectives

Labor aims to:

36. Seek an expanded Commonwealth role in environmental management.
37. Enhance the environmental and heritage qualities of Norfolk Island.
38. Broaden and strengthen the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) legislation.
39. Broaden and define the meaning of stakeholders and review the Administrative Review legislation.
40. Increase protection of the marine environment, e.g. KAVHA area.
41. Maintain, support and extend policies that reduce waste production, encourage the prudent reuse of recyclable materials and improve toxic waste disposal.
42. Strengthen quarantine measures and controls on importation of hazardous substances.
43. Validate the status of public reserves and ensure management outcomes result in proper restoration of natural values and enhanced biodiversity.
44. Address weed control on an island-wide basis.
45. Ensure a fair and equitable taxation regime to fund environmental management.
46. Assume a leading role in environmental awareness.
47. Ensure proper protection of ground water resources.
48. Recognise climate change, its consequences and national and international obligations in relation to the issue.

Strategies

Labor will:

49. Accord the environment a higher profile in policy development including appropriate budgetary allocations.
50. In the absence of a State Government system of checks and balances on environmental matters, seek an enhanced role by the Commonwealth in environmental checks and balances.
51. Review the Norfolk Island Plan.
52. Seek Commonwealth involvement in the development and review of the Norfolk Island Plan and in planning decisions.
53. Introduce legislation for the protection of the marine environment.

54. Seek partnership funding at adequate levels from the Commonwealth for the implementation of a Conservation Strategy and Natural Resources Plan, including the Island's reserves.
55. Implement special purpose taxation for environmental management, based on a user-pays basis.
56. Conduct an extensive environmental awareness and consultation program to identify and define, the distinctive and most valued qualities of Norfolk Island and the outcomes desired by all stakeholders.
57. Support strategies which embrace source reduction and waste minimisation.
58. Develop and implement strategy for island wide weed control including a review of the Noxious Weeds Act 1916 and its administration.
59. Introduce legislation and protocols in relation to the importation of hazardous substances.
60. Conduct an 'official' review of the Conservation Strategy of Norfolk Island already compiled by NGO initiative in the past, to assist the development of future Labor environment policy.

Employment

Principles

ACT Labor through its Norfolk Island Sub-Branch acknowledges underemployment as an important and disturbing problem within the Norfolk Island community. It recognises that the failure to provide full and productive employment is a major failure of government and essentially a significant waste of human and economic resources. Equally if government fails to create the conditions for full employment basic desires for dignity, self-respect and satisfaction in the workplace will remain unfulfilled.

Labor recognises that the seasonal peaks and troughs of Norfolk Island's major industry tourism and the economic aberrations that have become a part of Norfolk Island's existence cause fluctuating employment opportunities but Labor nevertheless perceives that some reasonable opportunity exists for correcting these fluctuations in favour of Island residents. It is incumbent upon government to maximize these opportunities.

The Norfolk Island immigration system not only provides a legitimate tool for correcting unemployment but has also provided an opportunity for some employers to exploit the itinerant workforce to the detriment not only of the itinerant worker but also of the aspiring resident worker. Labor accepts that the immigration system extends ready and easy access by employers to outside labour thus exerting a downward pressure on wages and conditions generally.

Having said this, Labor recognises the vital role of the itinerant workforce in Norfolk Island and its legitimate expectation of fair and unbiased treatment.

Labor also recognises the importance of basic and further education in equipping the young for full and satisfying employment. Of equal importance is the requirement to work cooperatively with local industry in the creation and maintenance of attractive places of employment.

The fundamental principle underscoring employment policy lies in understanding a requirement to maintain a healthy and vibrant economy in which attractive job and investment opportunities might be found.

Objectives

Labor aims to:

61. Reduce unemployment and underemployment in Norfolk Island;
62. Create employment opportunities by;
 - a. maximising economic stimulation through public spending, and

- b. stimulation and promotion of industry, and
- c. the creation of industry subsidies in return for traineeships and apprenticeships.
- d. working cooperatively with business, industry, unions and other employee organisations, the community sector and the education sector, strive for a highly trained multi-skilled labour force.

63. Guarantee social justice in employment by promoting access and equity

Strategies

Labor will:

- 64. Maintain a high quality education system to adequately equip young people for employment and to create appeal in the labour market;
- 65. Review existing immigration laws and promote changes to ensure:
 - a. that there are no loopholes allowing the exploitation of itinerant labour,
 - b. that adequate and fair consideration is given to aspiring resident workers, and
 - c. that there is adequate provision to allow business expansion and establishment where job opportunities are an essential ingredient of the business program, and so that immigration requirements are not unduly prohibitive or restrictive;
- 66. Review minimum working standards legislation and promote changes where necessary to ensure:
 - a. that minimum standards are adequate to ensure job opportunities are sufficiently attractive,
 - b. that adequate protection exists against unfair dismissal ,
 - c. that the minimum wage is reviewed annually, and
 - d. that ready access is available to a simple conciliation and review process;
- 67. Introduce a legislative requirement that all expenditures of public monies be directed towards stimulation of the Norfolk Island economy while at the same time introducing measures to expose exploitation of the requirement;
- 68. Establish a review mechanism of immigration and other available data to regularly detect skills that are undersupplied by the resident labour market;
- 69. Adjust education training and immigration and labour market policies in an effort to correct the skills shortfalls identified by regular review;
- 70. Adopt strategic economic and industry development policies to encourage economic growth and a positive business environment, and
- 71. Develop in consultation with the community and industry specifically, an apprenticeship/trainee program financially supported by government.

Cost Of Living

Principles

ACT Labor through its Sub-Branch recognises that a rapidly increasing cost of living in Norfolk Island is a serious cause for concern, with recent significant rises in the cost of staple and other food prices, fuel costs and child care costs in the island and contributing to a continued outflow of younger residents to the mainland.

Labor can find little acknowledgement by past Norfolk Island governments of rising community concern about an increased cost of living and negligible focus on measurement, monitoring or control of prices.

The only relevant legislation dealing with such matters is the Retail Price Index (RPI) Act of 1983, the administration of which has been marked by irregular review of the basket of goods and far too few household expenditure surveys essential for the weighting of goods in the basket and if used correctly, capable of identifying changes in the expenditure patterns of demographic groupings. Labor notes that no Cost of Living Index is compiled in Norfolk Island. Whilst understanding the difference between a cost-of-living index and a cost-price-index (RPI) Labor accepts the maintenance of a robust RPI as an essential tool against which inflation in Norfolk Island might be measured.

Labor also notes importantly that no effort has been made to compile succinct statistics and other economic data against which government can determine policy. It is contended that had available data been regularly compiled and analysed in a professional manner, disturbing trends would have been evident and would likely have resulted in meaningful policy definition and adjustment.

In addressing the overall issue of Cost of Living in Norfolk Island Labor accepts that while there is a legitimate role for government in combating adverse effects of market dominance, price maintenance activities and general anticompetitive behaviour, regulation should not unduly burden commercial activities.

Objectives

Labor aims to:

72. Be alert to inequalities in the distribution of wealth and income and variations in the standard of living in Norfolk Island;
73. Conduct regular statistical gathering exercises for the purposes of policy planning;
74. Ensure the Retail Price Index is maintained in such a way that its integrity is assured;
75. Give official standing to a regular independent professional analysis of gathered economic and other relevant data against which policy can be reviewed;
76. Identify instances of market dominance, price maintenance activities and general anticompetitive behaviour in Norfolk Island, and
77. Ensure fairness and reasonableness in pricing policies and practices in government and quasi-government areas.

Strategies

Labor will:

78. Introduce legislation compelling local banks to provide relevant economic data on (at least) a six monthly basis;
79. Establish a timetable for regular review of the RPI and the conduct of Household Expenditure Surveys;
80. Expand the Household Expenditure Surveys to obtain data sufficient to identify trends in the expenditure of disadvantaged groups and to enable analysis by characteristics of income, employment and relevant demographics;
81. Assemble known economic data and statistics for professional analysis on a six-monthly basis;
82. Engage independent professional consultants to interpret and analyse known economic data and statistics in an agreed summarised and simple format;
83. Be flexible in the imposition of duty or taxes as a response to perceived need for industry or economic stimulus;
84. Investigate the extension of the jurisdiction of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) to Norfolk Island as a vehicle for investigating and regulating market dominance, price maintenance activities and general anticompetitive behaviour in Norfolk Island;

- 85. As an alternative to extending the jurisdiction of the ACCC develop suitable consumer protection legislation focusing on market dominance, price maintenance activities and general anticompetitive behaviour in Norfolk Island, and
- 86. In addressing COL maintain a focus on staples.

Health and Aged Care

Principles

Underpinning Norfolk Labor’s platform is recognition that, although primary responsibility for health care rests with the Norfolk Island Government, there is an overarching responsibility retained by the Commonwealth Government to ensure that all Australians have access to an affordable health care. Norfolk Labor notes that despite an extensive enquiry into Norfolk Island Health Services by the Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories (JSCNCET) in 2001 few of the recommendations, including those directed at the Commonwealth Government, have been implemented.

Seven years after the JSCNCET enquiry Norfolk Labor notes that most of the identified inadequacies in facilities and equipment remain. Additionally Norfolk Labor observes that in many cases financial debility remains a bar to accessing health and medical services. The compulsory Healthcare insurance scheme operated by the Norfolk Island Government continues to operate to the detriment of low-income earners who cannot afford the upfront fees or the general excess of \$2500 and thus deny themselves and their family proper health care.

In addition, financial constraints continue to impact on health care in other ways. There are on-going reductions in scheduled Healthcare benefits and a growing perception of diminishing financial support for pensioner medical referrals. There is anecdotal evidence to suggest that medical referrals for off-shore treatment, necessary to access Healthcare benefits, are influenced by concerns about the financial health of the scheme itself. There is also an absence of realistic program-based budgeting for health and clear evidence of an inability by government to adequately fund health services generally. Finally there is some evidence that a stable or increasing number of permanent geriatric patients is considered desirable by hospital administrators since it results in stable or increased cash flow for the hospital.

Norfolk Labor acknowledges that geographical isolation imposes inherent limits on health services. As isolated communities throughout Australia face increasing difficulties attracting general medical practitioners, Norfolk Island faces compounded difficulties. Uppermost are its inability to offer financially attractive incentives and its need to attract practitioners with basic experience in obstetrics, anaesthetics and general surgery.

Norfolk Labor also recognises that some of the limitations imposed by isolation can be addressed to a large extent by expanding e-health involvement and by ensuring a strong and stable program of visiting specialists.

Norfolk Labor also considers that the facilities and services for the elderly remain inadequate and unless radical changes occur increased demand from a rising number of elderly residents will render them even more inadequate.

Despite statistics showing that the elderly requiring care respond better when remaining in their own home simple measures to achieve this are not being taken. Additionally Norfolk Labor believes there must be a greater choice for those elderly folk who can no longer remain in their home Permanent care in the nursing facility at the hospital must be treated as a last resort.

Finally Norfolk Labor acknowledges as a philosophy that an equitable financial contribution should be made by community members towards the cost of health and aged care, provided at all times that the costs do not disadvantage low income earners in any way. Taxation is recognised as a part of this equation however Norfolk Labor deplors the

absence in Norfolk Island over many decades of any health related taxation as a means of funding.

Objectives

Norfolk Labor aims to:

87. Generally ensure that health and medical services are more affordable and therefore more accessible.
88. Ensure that financial circumstances are no bar to health and medical services.
89. Ensure that appropriate facilities are in place to properly support the visiting specialist program.
90. Identify any obstacles to exploitation of e-health opportunities.
91. Upgrade general health facilities to satisfactory standards, sufficient to meet projected demands into the medium to long-term future.
92. Identify and adequately cater for the needs of the elderly, particularly the infirm and those living alone.

Strategies

Norfolk Labor will:

93. Seek the extension of the Commonwealth Medicare scheme to Norfolk Island, if necessary on a phased basis over time and with early benefits of the scheme flowing to low-income earners.
94. As an interim measure review and revise existing health insurance arrangements (Healthcare) to make the scheme more equitable and affordable and to remove those features which disadvantage low income earners.
95. Seek extension of the Commonwealth Aged Care Act to Norfolk Island.
96. Seek extension of the Commonwealth Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme to Norfolk Island.
97. As an interim measure devise a means of subsidising the cost of medicines for those on low incomes.
98. Develop realistic health budgets based on programmed forward estimates.
99. Develop a health related taxation policy.
100. Investigate and implement a range of services that will enable the elderly to remain living longer in their own home.
101. Investigate options that will widen the choice of accommodation for those with diminishing independence.
102. Investigate e-health opportunities and implement measures to ensure full exploitation.
103. Form a consultative community group to review and report twice yearly on the operation of aged care services and the visiting specialist program.
104. Officially recognise those community groups that voluntarily contribute to health, medical and aged care services in Norfolk Island.

Education

Principles

Quality education is fundamental to the social, economic and political climate of Norfolk Island. It is the foundation of our future and should be recognised as a major priority of Government. It is the long term investment in education, which will enhance the quality of life of the people of Norfolk Island. For Norfolk Island to be a progressive and democratic society, it must support and extend quality public education as the vehicle to achieve this vision and as a basis for lifelong learning.

Norfolk Labor's education policy rests upon four principles:

Equity and social justice - Educational opportunity nurtures individual ability and need and must not be dependent on wealth or geographic location. Access to a quality education is the most powerful means our community has for addressing inequalities of opportunity and social disadvantage. A quality education also promotes the understanding and need to practice the ideals behind anti-discrimination in all forms.

Recognised levels of achievement - Access to a productive employment and to a higher and tertiary education is not only dependent upon levels of achievement but also upon certification of achievement under a strong established system of education recognised regionally.

Democracy - Education is the foundation of our democracy, where the habits and values of a free, tolerant and democratic community are learnt.

Prosperity - Education is fundamental to the prosperity of our community. Skills of enterprise, initiative and adaptability acquired through education provide access to new and ongoing lifelong opportunities.

All residents of the Norfolk Island community shall have full and equal access to quality education for themselves and their children at all ages from early childhood, with consideration for higher education needs. This access must not be limited by their social, cultural or economic background, gender, race, personal or religious beliefs or special needs.

Our education system must:

105. Prepare all individuals for a productive working life in which they are capable of adapting to the changes and the needs of the labour market.
106. Prepare all individuals for participation in higher and tertiary education.
107. Foster in each generation the values of tolerance, respect and democracy, without which prosperity, equity and social justice are not possible.
108. Provide all individuals with the opportunity to develop their potential as members of the local and global community.

Objectives

Norfolk Labor aims to:

109. Ensure a publicly funded and owned education system remains as the means to provide:
110. Equal opportunities;
111. Ensure that all members of the community are given an opportunity to participate in educational debate;
112. Ensure equity and access to quality educational programs for all through adequate funding at all levels;
113. Ensure equity and access to current and changing information communication technology for all;
114. Identify and cater for specialised education needs.

Strategies

Norfolk Labor will:

115. maintain the current arrangement with New South Wales Department of Education and Training and Board of Studies for the supply of an education package including curriculum, staffing, ongoing training and development funding, access to any state-wide or national testing programs such as the School Certificate, HSC, Naplan, Ella, Snap etc.

116. Establish and maintain close contact with any associations involved with the delivery of education on Norfolk Island.
117. Extend funding to cover early childhood education prioritising one year preschool education.
118. Extend funding to support further education and training by:
119. Reviewing current bursary, scholarship and allowance arrangements.
120. Creating relationships with State Governments to ensure training for apprentices and trainees that best suit the employer, apprentice and trainee needs.
121. Review current funding arrangements for the provision of Vocational Education Training, higher education and post school education, and promote changes to adequately resource these.
122. Review current special education provisions and promote changes where necessary that cater for all students with special needs (emotional, physical, social and intellectual disabilities, gifted and talented).
123. Review existing funding arrangements to ensure access to current and changing information communication technology, including school administrative programs such as Oasis and Ern (Electronic Registration Number).
124. Review current funding arrangements to ensure adequate capital investment.

People with Disabilities

Principles

Labor recognises the worth and dignity of people with disabilities. It is vital that we improve the quality of life for people with a disability and encourage and support their participation in the community.

Labor recognises the employment, housing, rehabilitation, educational, care and transport needs of people with disabilities, the need to ensure that their legal rights are upheld, that they are able to choose appropriate services and that they are not subjected to adverse discrimination.

Labor believes that a major factor in ensuring that people with disabilities are able to participate fully in our community is the recognition by our community of their contribution, and that of their carers.

Labor recognises the diverse and changing needs of people with disabilities throughout their lives.

Objectives

Labor aims to:

125. Ensure people with disabilities are able to obtain access and equity in the provision of health and community services and that these services are flexible and responsive to the diverse range of needs amongst this population.
126. Provide services to people with disabilities that recognise their physical, mental and emotional needs.
127. Establish and develop services and programs for the care of people with disabilities, which recognise their need for appropriate forms of care that support independent living and empowerment.
128. Ensure that the service providers who care for people with disabilities comply with appropriate standards of conduct that respect the dignity and privacy of these people, and ensure that they are properly supported in their work.
129. Provide an adequate and accessible public transport system that enables people with disabilities to undertake the daily business of their lives.

130. Ensure people with disabilities are able to take an active role in the decision-making processes of government that affect them.

Strategies

Labor will:

131. Ensure health and community services are flexible and responsive to the diverse range of needs amongst people with disabilities through training, professional and programme development and research.
132. Ensure that the service providers who care for people with disabilities comply with appropriate standards of conduct that respect the dignity and privacy of these people, and provide support for these carers through advocacy and support networks.
133. Provide an adequate and accessible public transport system that enables people with disabilities to undertake the daily business of their lives.
134. Establish forums and Advisory bodies so people with disabilities are able to take an active role in the decision-making processes of government that affect them.
135. Provide holistic health care to people with disabilities based on a system of case management, which enables their physical, mental and emotional, needs and enshrines an open dialogue between the professionals who work with people with disabilities.
136. Establish programs to assist people with disabilities to contribute to the development of our community.
137. Establish programs and services to advise families of people with disabilities of care options, and provide them with support throughout transitional phases.
138. Implement strategies for housing so that people with disabilities can enjoy the opportunities for appropriate, accessible and affordable housing which meets their diverse needs, lifestyle and locality choices.
139. Include consideration of accessibility for people with disabilities in the assessment of all development applications.

People with Disabilities

Principles

Labor recognises the worth and dignity of people with disabilities. It is vital that we improve the quality of life for people with a disability and encourage and support their participation in the community.

Labor recognises the employment, housing, rehabilitation, educational, care and transport needs of people with disabilities, the need to ensure that their legal rights are upheld, that they are able to choose appropriate services and that they are not subjected to adverse discrimination.

Labor believes that a major factor in ensuring that people with disabilities are able to participate fully in our community is the recognition by our community of their contribution, and that of their carers.

Labor believes that people with disabilities have the right to feel safe in their own homes and in the community. Labor recognises that people with disabilities experience violence and abuse at a higher rate than the general population. This places a particular duty on governments and service providers to ensure policies and programs are designed to minimise the risk of abuse, prevent violence and address the needs of people with disabilities who have experienced violence or abuse.

Labor recognises the diverse and changing needs of people with disabilities throughout their lives.

Objectives

Labor aims to:

1. Ensure people with disabilities are able to obtain access and equity in the provision of health and community services and that these services are flexible and responsive to the diverse range of needs amongst this population.
2. Provide services to people with disabilities that recognise their physical, mental and emotional needs.
3. Establish and develop services and programs for the care of people with disabilities, which recognise their need for appropriate forms of care that support independent living and empowerment.
4. Ensure that the service providers who care for people with disabilities comply with appropriate standards of conduct that respect the dignity and privacy of people with disabilities, and ensure that they are properly supported in their work.
5. Ensure that people with disability are empowered and supported to report occurrences of violence and abuse, including through access to advocacy support, and to have such reports responded to appropriately. Service providers must ensure safeguards are in place to address the risk of violence and abuse within the service environment and must proactively respond to abuse or suspected abuse.
6. Provide an adequate and accessible public transport system that enables people with disabilities to undertake the daily business of their lives.
7. Ensure people with disabilities are able to take an active role in the decision-making processes of government that affect them.

Strategies

Labor will:

8. Ensure health and community services are flexible and responsive to the diverse range of needs amongst people with disabilities through training, professional and programme development and research.

9. Ensure that Government and service providers respect the right of every person to live free from violence. Further ensure that service providers who care for people with disabilities comply with appropriate standards of conduct that respect the dignity and privacy of people with disabilities, and support them and their carers through advocacy and support networks.
10. Ensure that: family and domestic violence strategies recognise that people with disabilities face a high risk of experiencing violence and abuse; domestic violence services are accessible to people with disabilities; and domestic violence policies and practices respond appropriately to the needs of people with disabilities who are affected by violence and abuse.
11. Provide an adequate and accessible public transport system that enables people with disabilities to undertake the daily business of their lives.
12. Establish forums and Advisory bodies so people with disabilities are able to take an active role in the decision-making processes of government that affect them.
13. Provide holistic health care to people with disabilities based on a system of case management, which enables their physical, mental and emotional, needs and enshrines an open dialogue between the professionals who work with people with disabilities.
14. Establish programs to assist people with disabilities to contribute to the development of our community.
15. Establish programs and services to advise families of people with disabilities of care options, and provide them with support throughout transitional phases.
16. Implement strategies for housing so that people with disabilities can enjoy the opportunities for appropriate, accessible and affordable housing which meets their diverse needs, lifestyle and locality choices.
17. Include consideration of accessibility for people with disabilities in the assessment of all development applications.

Planning and Development

Principles

As the party of social justice and equality, ACT Labor will plan and develop Canberra to increase the well-being of residents, enhance equitable and sustainable economic growth and respect the natural environment.

Labor upholds the principle that Canberra’s planning and development system is the key policy mechanism for representing the public interest and recognises the delivery of Labor’s policies will be enhanced by partnering with the community to promote inclusive, democratic and equitable planning and development practice.

Labor understands that the Indigenous peoples of the ACT have a significant position as original custodians of the land.

Labor recognises the importance of planning and development decisions being underpinned by a holistic and strategic spatial planning framework and for that framework to be evidence based in its consideration of immediate, medium and long term visions.

Objectives

Labor aims to:

1. Ensure that Canberra has planning structures that are consistent, impartial and independent, that promotes the equitable provision of infrastructure and services, and that foster accountability to the government and community through democratic mechanisms.
2. Implement a Land Use and Transport Policy, which will recognise that it is government that must ensure integration of Canberra’s transport systems, as well as integration between transport systems and our built and natural environments and the lifestyles they provide for.
3. Implement a Residential Development Policy which will provide for attractive, orderly and integrated development, by ensuring high quality visual and social amenity and the equitable provision of commercial and community facilities infrastructure are provided for through open, accountable and public mechanisms.
4. Develop a Heritage Policy which will regard Canberra as the finest example in the world of a fully planned city in the Garden City tradition and which will address the problems of existing heritage protection, to ensure the preservation and enhancement of the City’s unique natural, indigenous, built and cultural heritage.
5. Ensure that all planning and zoning decisions address the risks posed by climate change and natural disasters, utilising appropriate research on the threat to the built and natural environment and best practice in climate change and natural disasters mitigation standards.
6. Develop and implement an Urban Design Policy to guide best practice functionality and maximise amenity throughout Canberra’s built environment.

Strategies

Labor will:

Legislative Framework

7. Administer all planning functions in the ACT through an independent statutory authority.
8. Reassert our commitment to the leasehold system by providing for mechanisms for the effective, accountable management of the system.

9. Protect the public interest in the planning and development of public lands in the ACT and the conversion of special purpose leases.
10. Introduce a betterment tax regime that discourages speculative gain but provides incentives for lease purpose changes when the original lease is no longer appropriate.
11. Ensure that residential land in the ACT will be held under leases, subject to the payment of a capital premium on allocation, but not to rental obligations, except under special circumstances related to change of purpose of land use. The ACT Government should receive all revenue from the sale of leases of land.
12. Renew residential leases at the end of their lease terms without further payment.
13. Reconsider the existing relationship between statutory land use planning and the leasehold system.
14. Revitalise the system of community consultation within the planning process in order to ensure that the views of the community are addressed.

Transport and Land Use

15. Provide increased opportunities for higher density residential development in central locations thereby reducing travel distances and the consumption of land, water and energy.
16. Develop the ACT around the existing town centres, providing a greater number and range of local jobs and facilities within each town, so as to reduce the need for travel to the central area for employment.
17. Mandate a detailed transport plan based on the number of employees or customers of the facilities for all NEW commercial and government developments be provided by the developer or agency prior to approval
18. Co-ordinate the development of housing and jobs in each town area so as to provide residents of each area with a greater opportunity to work locally if they so desire.
19. Examine opportunities to locate Commonwealth and ACT Government Departments in town centres other than Civic.
20. Ensure a high level of integration between all transport modes, to provide for the most effective and equitable provision of transport links.
21. Implement the use of new technologies to provide for greater communication access while reducing the need for physical travel.
22. Ensure that appropriate analysis be made of the direct and indirect costs and benefits to the community of the provision of various transport modes to ensure that transport policy decisions are fully informed.
23. Plan Canberra's development with a structure that will minimise the need for new major roads with adverse environmental effects and maximise the possibility of improving the public transport system.
24. Recognising Canberra needs to grow but acknowledging as the urban environment expands, increased and new pressures will be placed on the natural environment, Labor will implement a Living City Policy of the natural and urban environment so both can prosper.

Residential Development

25. Ensure that residential development takes into account the needs of the community by providing a high quality of social and physical infrastructure.
26. Provide for access to good quality private and public open space on Territory Land and Residential Blocks to be a right of all and not unduly restricted by economic status.

27. Maintain land development responsibility within the public sector, through a public land development agency, to provide for high standards in the design, sustainability and equity of land development in the ACT.
28. Ensure that land is developed efficiently with minimum environmental impact and consistent with environmentally friendly and efficient principles of design.
29. Provide a land release policy that will assist residents into their own homes by providing sufficient serviced housing sites to meet demand and thus to hold down land prices.
30. Ensure the continued development of new and existing Town Centres through active and direct support from the public, private and community sectors to encourage a wide variety of community interaction and engagement, economic and social activity and employment.
31. Plan for all Town Centres to be efficiently and equitably provided with transport corridors.
32. Require residential development and re-development to be consistent with the Territory Plan, providing for viable and affordable housing choices for all social groups in our community, including public housing, low cost rental accommodation, older and disabled persons as well as a mix of high, medium and low density housing in appropriate locations.
33. Attain a high quality of residential development through the effective application of appropriate standards, properly resourced to achieve compliance.
34. Ensure that appropriate land use and social planning is implemented to foster positive community interaction and wellbeing.
35. Ensure that planning processes embrace garden city principles and promote the continuation of Canberra as a “Green City”.
36. Ensure that a public authority or authorities continue to develop and manage community facilities.
37. The ACT Labor Party commits to a public engagement and consultation process undertaking before the end of 2017 to inform strategic planning and development of the Gungahlin town centre.

Canberra’s Heritage

38. Ensure that current Heritage Legislation is strengthened and that a separate ACT Heritage Act is considered.
39. Provide for Heritage listings to be determined on the basis of their heritage value alone.
40. Give full legal force to heritage listings through appropriate drafting and effective resourcing.

Science, Technology, Innovation and Communications

Principles

Science and technology are key drivers of the innovation which has produced great social benefits and high economic growth over past centuries. The understanding and capabilities derived from research in science and technology provide an essential and continuing input to innovation that can enhance all aspects of our lives.

ACT Labor believes that the great leaps of the previous century were made possible by the steady pursuit of knowledge through scientific research, and the application and diffusion of technology to improve the social and economic lives of our citizens, and overcome the challenges of the past.

ACT Labor supports the vital role of public innovation, science and research agencies, including CSIRO, in expanding knowledge owned by all Australians for the benefit of all Australians. ACT Labor recognises that publicly funded innovation, science and research agencies must be properly resourced to support their critical contribution to society, productivity and economic growth.

ACT Labor will seek to apply up-to-date scientific knowledge, advanced technological skills and state-of-the-art communications infrastructure to address the future challenges and opportunities that are presented to the ACT community.

ACT Labor will act to ensure that the ACT is well placed to continue to contribute through the capabilities of our citizens and institutions, and that the outcomes from progress in science and technology are diffused more generally so that their benefits are more equitably enjoyed by the community.

Objectives

Labor aims to:

1. Support and promote world-class science and technology capabilities in the ACT which take advantage of the Territory's opportunities, facilities and organisations, which have no barriers to co-operation between scientific, commercial and government organisations in dispersing the economic and social benefits of science and technology, and which drive innovation within a highly competitive business sector.
2. Ensure that people throughout the ACT and Australia, regardless of their circumstances, have equitable access to a high quality, innovative, accessible, affordable and diverse range of communications and broadcasting services, through a responsive regulatory environment.
3. Ensure that the public sector maintains an integral role in the provision and regulation of communication and broadcasting services. All Australians, regardless of where they live, should have access to at least one National and one commercial television and radio service and one community radio service. Labor remains committed to the Australian Broadcasting Corporation as a wholly publicly owned, well-funded enterprise accessible to, and serving the interests of, all Australians.
4. Ensure that Australians, through Government, have control of broadcasting and communication services and encourage diversity of ownership in the private sector.
5. Facilitate and support the development of leading edge technologies in communications and broadcasting, through industry assistance schemes, and promote research and development in both the public and private sector.

6. Ensure that the Australian communications and broadcasting industries are economically successful whilst fully meeting their social responsibilities, and that they develop and reflect a sense of Australian identity, character and culture.
7. Ensure that race, gender, age, location or socio-economic circumstances do not restrict the access of people to a full range of communication and broadcasting services and that equality and equity of access to these services is maintained for all Australians
8. Ensure that the convergence of communication, broadcasting and IT technologies is recognised in the development of strategies, industry assistance programs and regulation of the industries with a forward view to maximise the social and economic benefits of the technological advances in the industry.
9. Increase competition in the market by fostering policies that enhance competition and bring efficiencies to the communications industry. These efficiencies are required if we are to have an internationally viable communications industry while still maintaining maximum benefits and protection for all Australians.
10. Facilitate the provision of nationwide choice of communications carriers for all consumers so that urban, regional and rural Australians share the benefits of competition.
11. Encourage the communications industry and citizens to maximise opportunities for the provision of different ideas, values, views, information and general entertainment.
12. Maximise the ACT and Federal Governments' levels of direct control of their information technology.
13. Ensure that the tendering process for local and Federal Government IT contracts are to be open and accessible to local IT industries.
14. Ensure that the ACT information technology industry is provided with government assistance to meet comparable national and international standards.
15. Foster closer ties between ACT higher education facilities and IT users to encourage a community of interest between universities and local information technology industries.
16. Ensure that government departments and entities recognise the importance of IT and IT training and that government policy reflects this view.
17. Ensure that adequate safeguards are in place to protect consumers in communications markets. That those safeguards are properly enforced, and that communications companies deliver high standards of service to consumers.

Strategies

Labor will:

Science and Technology

18. Recognise the benefits that can flow from research in science and technology in increasing economic growth, protecting our environment, and enhancing social development, mobility, and equality.
19. Recognise that jobs in sectors with heavy scientific and technological involvement are likely to be high-wage, high skill jobs that take advantage of, and can build on, the Territory's comparative advantages, and can provide a foundation for future prosperity.
20. Ensure that our education system provides a high-quality foundation for those seeking careers in science, and removes barriers to those who wish to stay in a scientific career in the Territory and contribute to our community's development.
21. Value our tertiary institutions as repositories of knowledge, havens for advanced learning, sources of breakthrough research, and hubs of community engagement.

22. Encourage, and remove barriers to, collaboration between scientific researchers, both within and across disciplines.
23. Encourage, and remove barriers to, collaboration between the ACT's universities, the CSIRO, CIT, Territory and Federal Government agencies, industry and households to develop and disperse scientific and technological advances.
24. Seek to invest in the Territory's world class scientific capabilities, both through direct investment, and through reducing barriers to external investment.
25. Ensure, consistent with other public policy goals, scientific independence and academic freedom in the pursuit of scientific and technological discovery.
26. Work with the private sector to ensure that there is an adequate pool of capital that can be used for proof-of-concept, prototype and commercialisation activities, to ensure that great ideas developed in the Territory will not be prevented from being tested in the market place and the benefits shared by the community more quickly.
27. Improve the accessibility of high quality research and data to government, businesses and households.

Telecommunication Services

28. Support and facilitate ACT broadband services, which will contribute to the social, cultural and economic advancement of the ACT.
29. Encourage the utilisation of skills within existing organisations across the ACT in order to create a new local Internet television and radio industry. Such organisations could include universities, institutes of technology, theatre groups and community radio as well as indigenous and ethnic communities.
30. Maintain the broadcasting of sittings of the ACT legislative assembly as an internet service to the ACT community.

Industry Regulation

31. Retain the role and powers of regulating the telecommunications industry with the Australian Consumer and Competition Commission (ACCC) and give greater powers to the regulator to ensure:
 - a. fair and equitable market conduct;
 - b. monitoring and enforcement of Universal Service Obligations and consumer service standards.
32. Maintain a role for the Australian Communications Authority (ACA) in technical and infrastructure development in line with industry policy goals.
33. Enhance and maintain the role and powers of the office of the Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman [TIO] as the independent office for consumers to have complaints and grievances dealt with. The TIO's powers should have coverage over all carriers and service providers in the industry.
34. Develop clear and comprehensive guidelines to outline the communication, interaction and coordination between all three regulatory bodies covering the telecommunications industry, being the ACCC, TIO and the ACA.
35. Ensure all carriers and other industry players should contribute to the cost of industry monitoring and regulation through licence fees and other charges. This contribution should be on an equal basis.
36. Develop policies to minimise the duplication of infrastructure so as to maximise the efficient use of resources in the industry.

Industry Development

37. Increase Australian owned telecommunications manufacturing and services through the direct means of Government procurement policies.
38. Assist players in the telecommunication industry through the establishment of Research and Development assistance schemes. Advise and assist service

providers on maximising benefits in developing international markets and utilising technological developments. Advise government on other direct and indirect industry assistance schemes and policy initiatives.

Consumer Service and Protection

- 39. Upgrade the "standard telephone service" and Universal Service Obligations to more appropriately reflect technological advances with a view to the role of telecommunications for all Australians.
- 40. Integrate a commitment to the continued provision of untimed local calls and directory assistance services to residential customers into the Universal Service Obligations.
- 41. Provide those in our community who are in greatest financial need with a rent-free residential line through Universal Service Obligations.
- 42. Conduct an assessment of the USO's and Community Service Obligations by a parliamentary committee once in the life of each parliament. Submissions from the ACCC, TIO and the ACA should be submitted to that committee.

Broadcasting

- 43. Promote the provision of high quality and innovative programming by providers of broadcasting services.
- 44. Ensure the highest possible levels of Australian content by continuing to support a guaranteed level of market access for Australian programs.
- 45. Encourage providers of services to reflect the diverse nature of Australian society in their programs, particularly the diverse ethnic and racial backgrounds embodied in the Australian community.
- 46. Encourage providers of commercial, national and community broadcasting services to be responsive to the need for a fair and accurate coverage of matters of public interest and of local significance.
- 47. Encourage providers of broadcasting services to respect community standards in the provision of program material.
- 48. Undertake a comprehensive review of broadcasting regulation, the role of the relevant authorities and a reassessment of complaints procedures. This review will take place in consultation with the industry and community.
- 49. Maximise opportunities for the provision of different ideas, values, views, information and general entertainment by encouraging industry to become innovative and proactive in the development of new technologies.
- 50. Ensure a reasonable mix of national, commercial and community services on all delivery technologies.
- 51. Ensure that Australian content regulation guarantees audience access to high levels of distinctively Australian programs, by encouraging the provision of programs that are creatively controlled by Australians.
- 52. Give priority in planning to improve the availability of services as far as possible in remote and regional Australia.
- 53. Ensure that the frequency spectrum management plan utilises the spectrum in an equitable and efficient manner for the public good.
- 54. Utilise industry development programs and introduce appropriate, targeted measures to support R&D for the development of interactive programs and services, in preparation for the introduction of widespread broadband services in Australia and the evolving global market.
- 55. Ensure that all domestic television, radio and other related equipment sold in Australia is able to receive all channels for use in Australia during the life of the equipment.

- 56. Develop general standards for equipment associated with the delivery and receipt of broadband and interactive services.
- 57. Develop wide-ranging safeguards for all broadcasting equipment to protect consumer interests.
- 58. Actively encourage and regulate for the elimination of sexism, racism and discrimination from programming and advertising content.
- 59. Encourage trade union participation in media industry management.

Public Broadcasting

- 60. Foster the further development of the ABC as an innovative and independent broadcaster, maintaining a comprehensive range of production and broadcasting facilities.
- 61. Ensure the ABC is in a position to participate in opportunities afforded by the developments in communications, broadcasting and production technology to strengthen its Charter activities.
- 62. Ensure that the ABC’s involvement in commercial activities does not, in any way, divert resources from the traditional free-to-air services and activities required by the ABC Charter.
- 63. Maintain adequate funding to ensure the continued extension of the Triple J Youth Network into regional Australia.
- 64. Ensure the continued operation of a vibrant Special Broadcasting Service.
- 65. Develop a Triple J youth network digital television channel to support Australian’s youth in media production and music.

Information Technology

- 66. Create an Information Technology Advisory Council [ITAC] for both the ACT and Federal governments, consisting of experts from both the private and public sectors that would advise those governments on a strategic plan and policy for IT.
- 67. Develop an Information Technology Master Plan for government departments, which will advise them on procedures and practices to achieve the governments IT, goals.
- 68. Provide funding for information technologies in public libraries, schools and other educational facilities to ensure increased public access and equity. This should include expanded training and support services that will help bridge the gap between those unable or unsure of how to enter the digital world and those more knowledgeable people.
- 69. Provide a specialised and continuing review of the social impact of IT, and in particular to maintain equity of access.
- 70. Provide a mobile on-line IT service that would function in a similar way to mobile libraries. This would provide regional areas and communities as well as lower income families with equitable access to information technologies.
- 71. Promote the creation of Australian online libraries to allow all Australians access to a wide range of quality works.
- 72. Monitor the impact of the law upon use of information technologies with a view to fixing or removing outdated or onerous provisions.
- 73. Ensure that local consortia are given maximum support to enable them to bid for government IT contracts
- 74. Develop or expand a technology park, capable of linking industry, government, communities and institutions. This development must take into account the economic, aesthetic and social benefits for the Territory

75. Foster and promote the presence of key industry personnel who would establish networks of IT professionals capable of attracting the best people from around Australia to the ACT
76. Provide a government review of the specific needs of sunrise industries and the subsequent formulation of taxation relief for these industries.
77. Facilitate the establishment and expansion of public and private sunrise industries along the lines of Cooperative Multimedia Centres by improving communication channels between finance providers and industry.
78. Promote joint ventures between government and private sector in the promotion and development of industries
79. Formulate IT industry schemes that assist and promote development and export potential of local IT companies.
80. Acknowledge convergent technologies and reflect them in government communication and IT policies.
81. Provide education programs targeted specifically at those groups most at risk of being 'left behind' in the information era, including the aged and women.
82. Commission an immediate review by the relevant authorities of the commercial relationship between carriers, Internet service providers and consumers to ensure the best outcomes for consumers.
83. Implement competition rules to ensure that service providers are not disadvantaged by the existing dominance in the Internet market place of telecommunications carriers.
84. Implement stringent Information Technology security systems and practices to protect both the national investment in IT, and the privacy of personal data.
85. Ensure that Australians may correct the misuse of their personal data by providing accessible remedies.
86. Ensure the protection of private data is maintained when Government functions are outsourced.
87. Promote innovative and creative information technology-based industries that develop and foster Australian culture and identity.
88. Promote increased information technology infrastructure in regional areas.
89. Work to make the processes of Government more accessible to both citizens and the private sector by means of information technologies.
90. Adopt the recommendations of the Model Criminal Code discussion paper on Computer Damage.
91. Recognising that Labor supports government policy aimed at educating and empowering parents and citizens with the knowledge and the tools to enable them to protect their children and families from being exposed to inappropriate violent and pornographic material on the Internet. Labor therefore supports the development of appropriate Internet filtering technology for this purpose. Labor does not support government policies that seek to prohibit Australians from viewing Internet content which is legal in other mediums, or which mandates the use of Internet filtering technology.
92. Labor supports a requirement for internet service providers to offer a filtered "clean feed" internet service to schools.

Space Science

93. Cooperate with a Federal Labor Government to promote space-related research and development, as well as commercial activities, in the Territory in view of the large pool of resources and skills available.

Seniors Affairs

Principles

Labor values the contribution older Canberrans have made and continue to make for the well-being of our community.

Labor believes that the opinions of older Canberrans should be sought regularly to provide guidance and wisdom for the benefit of our community.

Labor supports independent living arrangements for older people.

Labor encourages seniors to undertake, (or remain in) in the paid or unpaid workforce for as long as they wish.

Labor recognises that a secure and adequate income is essential for the well-being of older Canberrans.

Labor understands that access to high quality healthcare, aged care and support services are necessary requirements for healthy ageing.

Objectives

Labor aims to:

1. Value the contributions of seniors.
2. Ensure that seniors are able to take an active role in the decision-making processes of ACT government.
3. Provide services that support older people as they age while at the same time supporting independence.
4. Encourage health ageing and ensure access, equity and flexibility in the provision of health care, aged care and community services.
5. Provide an environment in which older people can feel comfortable to move freely and safely around the community and in the home.

Strategies

Labor will:

6. Encourage the representation of seniors in decision making forums.
7. Support the running of an Older Persons Assembly on a regular basis and ensure that its recommendations are addressed.
8. Encourage employers to retain older workers.
9. Frame Labor Government policies so that they don't act as a disincentive to older people to remain in the paid workforce.
10. Support and encourage the contributions of older people in unpaid work.
11. Support all efforts to promote high standards and appropriate qualifications in the workforce that cares for older Canberrans.
12. Support the provision of a public transport service that meets the needs of older people.
13. Support access to safe, secure, affordable housing for older Canberrans.
14. Encourage ACT governments to create opportunities to celebrate the achievements of older Canberrans.
15. Promote healthy lifestyle options for seniors.
16. Encourages seniors to participate in lifelong education.
17. Create a database of seniors to keep them up to date with policies and activities that affect them.
18. Promote strategies that help older people to plan well for their deaths.

Small Business

Principles

It is essential for the economic prosperity of the Territory that the small business sector grows and diversifies. This will enhance employment opportunities and assist the general wellbeing of the ACT community.

Objectives

Labor aims to:

1. Promote a business culture in the ACT that will assist small business to expand, diversify, invest and be innovative.
2. Ensure that small business operates in a fair trading environment.
3. Ensure that small business is not inhibited by unnecessary government regulations.
4. Strategies

Labor will:

5. Conduct a study to determine how best to assist the growth of small business in the ACT, especially those firms with export and/or import replacement potential. Such issues which might be analysed include:
 - a. Taxation;
 - b. Access to finance;
 - c. Management skills of business owners and operators;
 - d. The use of business incubators;
 - e. Business practice and regulation;
 - f. Intellectual property;
 - g. Quality assurance and quality control;
 - h. Training and access to technology; and
 - i. Government purchasing policies and practices.
6. Prepare a strategic plan for small business development.
7. Upgrade small business counselling, training and advisory services within the ACT Government Service.
8. Establish a small business consultative council to identify issues important to the development of small business in the ACT.
9. Protect small business from unfair and discriminatory practices, including by regulating relationships between lessors and small business tenants, and between franchisers and franchisees, to ensure fair-trading practices occur.
10. Review regulations applying to small business to ensure that they provide a public benefit outweighing the cost of business.

Sport and Recreation

Principles

Labor recognises the contribution sport and recreation makes to the health, lifestyle and social fabric of the people of the ACT. Sport and recreation assist markedly in offsetting both physical and mental health costs, while promoting social inclusion.

Current economic trends and an ageing population indicate increased time being available for sport and recreation. The ACT has Australia's highest participation rates in sport and recreation. Sport, recreation and racing bring economic benefits to the ACT and between them represent a major industry.

Labor recognises the contribution made, and pride engendered by the Territory's high performance sportspeople.

Objectives

Labor aims to:

1. Promote healthy lifestyles and the satisfying use of leisure time through participation in sport and recreation.
2. Support the development of high performance sportspeople through the provision of suitable funding and facilities.
3. Encourage and promote responsible and appropriate behaviour in sport and recreational activities for participants and spectators.
4. Encourage and promote opportunities for disadvantaged groups to participate in sport and active recreation.

Strategies

Labor will:

Participation

5. Promote the broadening of community participation in sport and recreation.
6. Promote the interests of organisations seeking to involve people in a wide range of recreation activities other than competitive sport.

Administration

7. Seek a clear and permanent identity for the Office of Sport and Recreation within the bureaucracy and provide for the Office a separate budget allocation.
8. Establish within the Office of Women a Sport Unit and a School Sport Unit.
9. Promote the development of training for administrators, coaches, officials and volunteers.
10. Reduce administrative red-tape where possible for sport and recreation clubs and associations.
11. Support the development of administrators, coaches and officials participating in high-performance sports through the provision of suitable funding, grants or training opportunities.
12. Support regular forums for administrators, coaches and officials from all sports to facilitate the exchange of ideas and information.
13. Ensure adequate regulation and safety.
14. Ensure that volunteering in sport and active recreation activities is recognised as community volunteering.
15. Facilitate work experience and volunteer opportunities with peak sporting organisations.

16. Facilitate links between sports science and technology with coaching and athletes.

Funding

17. Promote both private and public sector funding of sport and recreation
18. Maintain funding for ACT Sports House in real terms.
19. Ensure that funding is targeted at sports bodies unable to attract major corporate sponsorship, particularly women's groups
20. Incorporate into sports grants policies a 'code of behaviour' for participants and spectators, especially as it applies to the use of performance-enhancing drugs.
21. Examine current government funding of the sports and recreation industry with particular emphasis on the current taxation arrangements and how it impacts on the sports and recreation industry.
22. Continue to fund peak sporting organisations and, as far as possible, ensures funding is at least maintained in real terms.
23. Support funding measures that reduce the cost participating in sport and recreation

Facilities

24. Plan effective facility development that meets the needs of as many in the community as possible and identify and prioritise developments in areas of significant use.
25. Improve the standard and range of facilities by undertaking steps to identify the proposed usage and needs of sport and recreational bodies to ensure development is fit for purpose.
26. Ensure the planning of new residential developments provide for sport and recreation facilities, particularly publicly available spaces
27. Monitor the needs of sporting organisations and hand over management of facilities to the relevant peak sporting organisations where appropriate, taking account of any 'multi-purpose' element.
28. When allocating use of facilities, ensure reasonable access is provided to junior sports. For example, for ACT Government facilities, implement a policy of priority access for junior sports for the period of 5:00pm to 7:00pm to facilitate weekday training with senior or competition level sports to begin after this time.
29. Promote responsible services and consumption of alcohol at sporting facilities.

Women

30. Encourage the participation by women in all facets of sport and recreation so as to increase recognition and sponsorship opportunities
31. Promote equity in terms of funding and facilities
32. Promote the provision of an on-site child care at sport and recreation facilities, and provide funding where appropriate
33. Examine the reasons that women drop out of organised sport.

Juniors

34. Better integrate the administration of health, education and sport in the school curriculum.
35. Take steps to improve the number and standard of physical education teachers in all ACT Schools.
36. Ensure sporting education takes particular account of the needs of girls, children with disabilities and children from all cultural backgrounds.
37. Minimise the costs of facility hire for junior sports participants and where possible, ensure facilities are located at schools

38. For ACT Government facilities, implement a policy of priority access for junior sports for the period of 5:00pm to 7:00pm to facilitate weekday training with senior or competition level sports to begin after this time.
39. Promote the training and development of juniors participating as administrators, coaches and officials.
40. Facilitate links between school and local sporting clubs, including for facility use.
41. Promote greater use of development officers from key sporting organisations in Canberra to work alongside physical education teachers in schools to provide a broad range of sporting experiences in all ACT schools. Examples of existing programs are those offered by the Brumbies.
42. Support the introduction of inter-school sports competitions on a regular basis. For example, provide schools with free use of ACT Government facilities on weekdays and develop a winter and summer season schedule for appropriate sports activities.

Tourism

43. Support sporting events as part of the promotion of tourism that maximise the duration of visits by interstate and international visitors.
44. Encourage In Particular Women And Girls' Events, And Indigenous Events.

Boxing

45. Ensure adequate regulation and safety of boxing.

Tourism

Principles

Tourism is one of Australia's fastest growing industries and one of the nation's largest export earners. It is a catalyst in the ACT for economic growth providing substantial employment opportunities and promoting small business growth.

Tourism also provides a medium for cultural exchange.

Tourism to the ACT benefits visitors in better understanding the Australian system of government, the importance of our cultural heritage, and the importance of active involvement in our political structures.

The ACT is the 'Home of the Australian Story'

The ACT has a number of features that are attractive to tourism. These include the natural environment, well-planned urban environment, and Canberra's status as the national capital and outstanding cultural, conference, education and sporting facilities.

Objectives

Labor aims to:

1. Increase tourism development by investigating innovative and effective new mechanisms for increasing tourism benefits to the ACT.
2. Develop tourism infrastructure in the ACT to encourage increased benefits from tourism.
3. Further enhance and promote the ACT as the home of the Australian story – a must see destination for all Australians and international visitors.
4. Work collaboratively with the tourism industry to promote the ACT as a tourist destination
5. Use tourism as a means to attract new immigrants to Canberra

Strategies

Labor will:

6. Tourism Development
7. Continue to support Australian Capital Tourism in promoting the ACT and the broader capital region as a tourist destination.
8. Seek to promote a range of tourist experiences for a range of income levels, including family, school and community groups to the ACT.
9. Continue to promote the ACT as a premier meeting and convention destination, and continue to support the Canberra Convention Bureau in the promotion of the ACT to event coordinators.
10. Target in-bound tour operators to ensure that the ACT attracts an increased share of international visitors focusing on Canberra's status as the nation's capital and the bush capital. Particular effort will be made to determine the interests and requirements of tourists from the Asian and Pacific regions.
11. Investigate opportunities for eco-tourism in the ACT while ensuring that heritage, wilderness and sensitive areas are adequately protected from the effects of tourism.
12. Work with airlines, airline workers and their affiliated union representatives, and the Canberra International Airport to increase capacity on domestic routes, an expansion of direct flights into Canberra Airport, and the establishment of regular scheduled international flights into Canberra.

13. Promote Canberra as an attractive place to live.

Tourism Infrastructure

14. Ensure that ACT infrastructure is adequate to meet the needs of increased tourist numbers.
15. Continue to provide funding for hospitality and tourism related courses at the Canberra Institute of Technology and continue to seek industry contributions for training in aspects of tourism.
16. Work with the Commonwealth Government to jointly promote Canberra's national attractions, and to ensure the accessibility of the widest possible range of collections and displays within the national capital.

Australian Capital Tourism

17. Maintain sufficient funding to Australian Capital Tourism to promote the ACT as an attractive tourist destination and to coordinate the Territory's tourism effort in cooperation with the ACT's tourism industry.
18. Regularly update the ACT Tourism strategy to maximise the ACT's tourism performance and to attract an increased yield from tourism.

Transport

Principles

Transport services and infrastructure play a central role in the ACT economy and make an important contribution in meeting the community's employment, social and recreational needs. Transport is also a significant social justice issue as providing access and ensuring availability can make a major contribution in addressing social inequality.

Improved transport links to surrounding centres and major cities, and better-integrated services within the city itself, can improve the quality of life for citizens. The town centre planning concept is the central element of any transport planning strategy for Canberra.

Transport planning needs to be closely integrated with economic, social, employment, energy, environmental, land-use and infrastructure planning, and involve wide public consultation. Transport services should not be considered solely in terms of full cost recovery, as the operation of market forces alone is often a poor indicator of social, environmental and economic costs and benefits.

Objectives

Labor aims to:

1. Provide transport planning that addresses the transport needs of the ACT community taking into account the prospect of higher fuel prices due to global oil depletion.
2. Provide transport infrastructure and services that are responsive, viable and efficient and which realises social justice, environmental and economic benefits.
3. Provide public transport to the community that is responsive, safe, viable and efficient and which realise social justice, environmental and economic benefits.
4. Establish a Canberra Transport Authority.
5. Provide road infrastructure that addresses the road safety needs of all road users and fully complies with all Australian and appropriate International Standards.

Strategies

Labor will:

Transport Safety – Road Safety

6. Ensure that all users of the ACT's transport infrastructure irrespective of their mode of transport do so in a safe and effective manner and are aware of current rules and regulations and comply with those rules and regulation.
7. Promote and maintain an integrated Road Safety Strategy and Plan for the ACT.
8. Provide leadership in training and preparation of new vehicle controllers to ensure their fitness to control the chosen mode of transport (e.g. Truck, 4WD, Motorcycle, or bicycle).
9. Provide leadership and innovations in ensuring vehicle controllers maintain their skills throughout the life of their road use.
10. Conduct regular road safety audits and adjust strategies and infrastructure design and implementation to improve Road Safety.
11. Improve road side barriers to align with international best practice in relation to that improve safety outcomes for powered two and three wheeled vehicles.
12. Train crash investigators in the assessment of powered two wheeled (PTW) vehicles crashes in addition to other vehicle types.
13. Accurately assess all crashes using appropriate crash investigation techniques to ascertain cause and generate meaningful statistics upon which future road safety treatments can be made.

14. Work to fully integrate AusRoads Guide to Traffic Engineering Practice Part 15 - Motorcycle Safety into the ACT road engineering standards.
15. Implement a licensing system that educates drivers and riders and maintains their level of competence throughout their driving and riding life time. Such a system will align with or improve upon any national licensing and education strategy.
16. Investigate the feasibility of regular on-line road rule knowledge competency assessment as part of the 5 year renewal cycle, and implement such a system if suitable for the ACT.
17. Take into consideration the impacts of road maintenance methods on PTW (which includes motorcycles, scooters and mopeds) and modify the methods as necessary.
18. Ensure all riders and drivers are healthy enough to control a motor vehicle on the road.
19. Educate and encourage all medical practitioners that under the Road Traffic Act they are compelled to report when a patient is unfit to control a motor vehicle.

Transport Planning

20. Establish a Canberra Transport Authority (CTA).
21. Create a specific roads strategy for each region of the ACT (Belconnen, Tuggeranong, Woden/Weston Creek, Gungahlin, and Inner North/Inner South) in consultation with the community to help address the specific needs of transport in each region.
22. Recognising the transport inefficiencies in Canberra that arise from a dependence on the private motor vehicle, prepare a comprehensive transport plan, with wide public consultation, to serve the ACT to the year 2020.
23. Ensure that in developing a transport plan the CTA will adopt an integrated sustainable transport model based on: Walking Cycling, Motorcycling, and an effective and efficient public transport system that meets the infrastructure and service requirements of the ACT community and:
 - a. Identify the various transport modes in the ACT, and their relative costs and benefits;
 - b. Develop comprehensive economic, social and environmental indicators;
 - c. Identify transport solutions that are fuel efficient, viable and reduce adverse environmental impacts;
 - d. Recommend the most appropriate administrative arrangements for planning and providing integrated transport services in the ACT; and
 - e. Consult with local councils and the NSW State Government on ways in which regional transport services can be better integrated with ACT services.
 - f. Recognise the specific needs of Tuggeranong and the Lanyon Valley with regards to public transport, and develop a Tuggeranong integrated transport strategy in consultation with unions, community councils and the wider community.
24. Implement a comprehensive road planning and development strategy that addresses traffic congestion, environmental impacts and community amenity.
25. Encourage the development of Canberra airport as a regional hub.
26. Ensure social, economic and environmental factors are properly addressed in the upgrade of Canberra Airport to allow International freight and passenger movements.
27. Conduct regular assessments of the viability of alternative public transport systems including light rail.

28. Support the development of improved freight and passenger rail services to the ACT and the inclusion of Canberra in the Sydney - Melbourne transport corridor.
29. Consult widely with citizens, unions, employees and business and where appropriate, other governments and local councils, on future transport development in the ACT or affecting the ACT.
30. Explore with Commonwealth, State and local governments the ways in which motor vehicle costs can be further based on vehicle usage rather than vehicle ownership, in order to reduce their environmental impact and use of fossil fuels.
31. Cooperate with Commonwealth, State and local governments in the implementation of nationally agreed transport policies.
32. Cooperate with Commonwealth, State and local governments in transport planning, research and development and in particular the development of improved transport links between Canberra and other centres.
33. Increase the availability of wheelchair accessible taxis.

Transport Infrastructure

34. Ensure all members of the ACT community, in particular those with a disability, have access to transport services that are convenient, affordable and safe.
35. Implement parking and motor vehicle policies that redress the adverse environmental and economic impact of inappropriate vehicle usage.
36. Ensure that the ACT has adequate infrastructure to provide safe, efficient and environmentally friendly transport by private and public means such as cars, buses, bicycles, and industrial vehicles and by foot.
37. Encourage the use of environmentally responsible and economically efficient modes of transport such as public transport, bicycles, motor cycles and the use of carpooling and "park and ride" by:
 - a. Providing improved parking facilities for bicycles and motor cycles;
 - b. Setting fees and charges to reflect the economic and environmental costs and benefits associated with each mode of transport (In accordance with our Pricing Policy); and
 - c. Establishing additional bus lanes and other priority measures for public transport.
 - d. Running TravelSmart campaigns based on cost-effective and successful programs operating in other major cities.
38. Consult widely with citizens, unions, employees, business and other governments and local councils where appropriate, on the provision of infrastructure and services.
39. Improve and extend the cycleway network in Canberra.
40. Address transport development for Gungahlin in the following manner:
 - a. Upgrade existing infrastructure.
 - b. Implement upgrades of present public transport options.
 - c. Begin design development of future public transport options, including alternative bus options and light rail.
 - d. Construct additional infrastructure as needed, including completing the Gungahlin Drive Extension as a priority.
41. Ensure transport planning decisions are based on empirically validated traffic flow modelling and only implemented after proper consultation with, and consideration of, the interests of all relevant stakeholders, including community groups, workers and their affiliated trade union representatives.

Public Transport

42. Promote public transport as an integral part of the transport system of the ACT.
43. Promote public transport as the preferred option for commuter travel.
44. Improve access to ACTION services for all citizens and in particular for people with disabilities.
45. Undertake a review of the zonal system for fares and concessions taking into account equity considerations, time based fares, charges imposed for other transport modes and economic and service efficiency.
46. Promote the adoption of a national system of concession management and acceptance.
47. Extend the integrated bicycle and bus system by increasing secure storage at interchanges and exploring the use of bus mounted racks as well as maintaining and extending the park and ride system.
48. Explore alternative service provision by ACTION particularly for off-peak periods including the provision of on-demand buses.
49. Implement a bus replacement policy that converts the fleet to more fuel-efficient sources of energy, provides air-conditioning on all vehicles and allows for wheelchair access.
50. Grow Canberra's integrated public transport system, utilising ACTION and Capital Metro, creating a single public transport system managed Transport Canberra and provide a real alternative to driving by:
 - a. Building light rail – beginning with a creating north-south spine from Gungahlin to Woden through the City and the Parliamentary Triangle, then expanding the network over time;
 - b. Rolling out a Rapid Bus Network with more buses and more drivers to expand rapid bus services and provide vital feeder services; and
 - c. Creating a single ACT public transport system managed by Transport Canberra that has one ticket and one fare.
51. Maintain a single public provider for all bus services in the ACT to ensure a high quality of service is delivered to the community.

Electric Vehicles

52. Reduce barriers to uptake of Electric Vehicles by enhancing access to electric vehicle charging stations by:
 - a. Requiring all new builds, both residential and commercial, in the ACT to include Electric Vehicle charging capability,
 - b. Facilitate retrofitting of existing multi-unit complexes to provide for installation of Electric Vehicle Charging Points through appropriate amendments to the Unit Titles Act and Unit Titles (Management) Act,
 - c. Amending the Unit Titles (Management) Act and the Residential Tenancy Act so that the installation of Electric Vehicle charging points in multi-unit dwellings cannot be unreasonably denied.
53. Introduce a grant scheme to actively encourage the rapid rollout of charging points in residential dwellings across the ACT.
54. Expand the public EV charging station network with a preference for rapid chargers.
55. Investigate further options to incentivise the take up of electric vehicles, including but not limited to expanding access to car-pooling lanes to electric vehicles with single drivers and discounted parking fees.

Women

Definition: For the purposes of this document “women” refers to all women and is used to include heterosexual, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and intersex women.

Introduction

ACT Labor acknowledges and supports the principles, goals and directives aimed at achieving gender equality and enhancement of the status of women, enshrined in international treaties, conventions and resolutions endorsed by the global community under the United Nations, specifically the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action for Women, and the Millennium Development Goals.

ACT Labor plays a vital role in supporting the empowerment of women and in doing so identifies and addresses barriers to women’s full participation in society so that women may work, learn and live with a real experience of inclusion and equality in the ACT.

ACT Labor Values

ACT Labor values gender equality as the cornerstone of a fair society. ACT Labor values the contribution and respects the right of ACT Women to participate in all aspects of the Territory’s governance and its economic, educational, social and cultural life.

ACT Labor values women’s autonomy, economic independence, health and wellbeing and right to live in the Territory free from all forms of violence including gendered and intimate partner violence.

ACT Labor values the diversity of women’s cultures, families and lived experiences and acknowledges that all aspects of Territory life are substantially enhanced when women are able to participate to their full potential. ACT Labor acknowledges that all woman including Indigenous women, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered women, women living in rural areas, unemployed women, women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, migrant women, young women, older women and women with disabilities or mental illnesses, have a right to equal participation in all aspects of society.

ACT Labor Achievements for Women

1. Establishment of the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children
2. De-criminalisation of women’s access to reproductive health procedures

The ACT Labor Party actively promotes the welfare and social advancement of women in the community with attention to all policy areas of government.

ACT Labor Party

ACT Labor supports equal numbers of men and women at all levels in the Party organisation, and in public office positions the Party holds, within ACT and nationally.

ACT Labor will

3. Monitor the level of Women’s membership and participation within the ACT branch of the Australian Labor Party.
4. Report these figures annually as part of the Branch Secretaries report to the ACT Labor Annual Conference.
5. Support the provision of resources, wherever possible, to enhance the recruitment, training, participation and retention of women within the Party.
6. Expect an ACT Labor Government Cabinet to have equal numbers of men and women.

The Arts

ACT Labor acknowledges the contribution of women to Territory culture and the arts.

ACT Labor values women’s experience and understands that women’s participation in the arts is vital for an inclusive, dynamic and vibrant culture, in which women are able to fully share in the economic benefits that the arts deliver to the ACT economy.

ACT Labor acknowledges that women make up the vast majority of visual and performing arts students in the ACT and that there is a marked disparity between the number of women training for arts practice and the number of women who go on to a working career in the arts.

ACT Labor accepts that women face unique challenges when embarking on a career in the arts.

ACT Labor can encourage women in the arts sector by:

7. Informing Arts policy by the proactive sharing and monitoring of trends in gender balance and income by gender of those employed in the ACT arts sector, and those self-employed in individual arts practice through the analysis of census data and other methods of data collection.
8. Advocating for awareness of inclusive gender balance of ACT Government arts grants, both community and individual, and the gender balance of art collected by the ACT Government and commissioned through public arts programs.
9. Advocating that gender balance is a consideration in all ACT Government arts grants programs, both community and individual, and in public art collections and public arts commissions.
10. Advocating that priority be given (where appropriate) to the collection of art by women artists in ACT public collections where gender imbalance has been identified.
11. Incorporating into the ACT Women’s awards an annual Women’s Art Prize with three categories i.e., Emerging artists; Established artist; and Senior artists, that recognises women artists and the contribution women make to the Arts and Culture of the ACT.

Child Care and Caring for Dependents

ACT Labor recognises that women are more likely than men to undertake caring responsibilities in families for infants and young children, and to care for aged and/or chronically ill family members, and children with high needs and/or disabilities.

ACT Labor supports the participation of women in education and paid work and recognises that the ability for women to participate in education and paid work is a key factor in women’s economic independence and their ability to accumulate adequate superannuation savings for retirement.

ACT Labor recognises that child care enables women to fully participate in the economy. ACT Labor recognises that without access to local, quality, affordable childcare women are economically disadvantaged and the effects of this disadvantage often remain over a women’s lifetime.

ACT Labor supports breast feeding mothers in the community and workplace and supports the Australian Breastfeeding Association’s Breastfeeding Friendly Workplace Accreditation Standards.

ACT Labor supports:

12. Providing funding for the extension of the hours of existing day care centres and to establish additional day care centres.
13. Co-locating child care centres on existing and new primary school grounds.

14. Looking into the possibility of new primary schools being built with childcare facilities on site.
15. Workers in the childcare sector, specifically by the improvement of training, qualifications, wages and career paths.
16. Women to have access to appropriate, safe and clean facilities in all ACT workplaces (where appropriate) to breast feed their babies or express breast milk, in keeping with the Australian Breastfeeding Association's Breastfeeding Friendly Workplace Accreditation Standards.
17. The investigation of regulating parenting rooms to ensure appropriate, safe and clean facilities are available for women to breast feed their babies or express breast milk, which is separate from toilets and baby change areas.
18. The implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme including the provision of respite care, training and other support services for aged, chronically ill, children with disabilities and high needs, and other dependent family members.
19. Workers in the Carers sector, specifically by the improvement of training, qualifications, wages and career paths.

Community Participation and Access to Services

ACT Labor recognises that the community benefits when women are involved in aspects of society at all levels. Involvement and participation in community organisations, events and activities increases the recognition of women as valuable citizens and increases the opportunities for women to build skills, and to forge links with and support other women. Community involvement enables women to better represent their needs and wishes within their community and to have these needs and wishes reflected in local decision-making processes.

ACT Labor:

20. Encourages women's participation in community organisations.
21. Supports progressive women's organisations by offering specific grants to the women's sector.
22. Supports an ACT Women's Organisations and Services website to enable women to access accurate and up to date information on services and programs offered by ACT women's organisations.
23. Supports that information on services and programs offered by ACT Women's organisations is advertised and delivered in all ACT Child and Family Centres.

Criminal Justice and Legal Processes

ACT Labor understands that women subject to the criminal justice system have specific rights and needs.

ACT Labor recognises that women require legal information and support to enable them to make informed decisions regarding legal matters.

ACT Labor believes that women in the prison system should be treated with dignity and have their human rights respected at all times. The emphasis of all prison sentences should be appropriate rehabilitation so that at completion of their sentences women are able to positively contribute to the community.

ACT Labor:

24. Understands the need for women detained by police to have access to appropriate legal advice with appropriate legal aid funding.
25. Considers important the specific safety needs of young women, older women and their children who are detained by police.

26. Considers important the specific needs of young mothers and their children when women with young children are detained by police.
27. Considers important the specific safety needs of young women, older women and their children in the design of any remand centre that is part of a prison complex.
28. Believes that sentences of imprisonment should only be applied where case circumstances indicate it is the only appropriate sentence and when sentencing imprisonment, the primary principle is rehabilitation as distinct from punishment, and that these principles are equally applied to all convicted persons including women.
29. Advocates for and promotes the specific human rights of imprisoned pregnant women, young mothers and their children and that they be respected in the ACT prison system. Access to these rights should be transparent and accountable.
30. Encourages the establishment of a “half way house” with appropriate facilities to be available for women prisoners nearing the end of their sentences, to assist in rehabilitating them back into the broader community and reduce the chances of them re-offending.

Economic Independence

ACT Labor supports the economic independence of all women and understands that women’s economic independence and the ability to accumulate adequate superannuation savings for retirement are essential elements enabling autonomous decision-making and full participation in our economy and the community.

ACT Labor recognises that women who are primary carers, women who are dependent on a partner or parent for their financial security and women who work in casual employment are particularly vulnerable economically.

ACT Labor acknowledges that the majority of people living in poverty in the ACT are women, and is committed to developing appropriate strategies and services to reduce both the level of poverty experienced by women and the number of women experiencing poverty in the ACT.

ACT Labor understands that access to quality education is the most powerful means our community has for addressing inequalities of gendered opportunity and social disadvantage.

ACT Labor supports:

31. Monitoring of gendered trends in wages and poverty in the ACT.
32. Wage rises in feminised industries.
33. Advocating for the Monitoring of gender trends in under-employment and casualised work.
34. Financial education for women including understanding home ownership and superannuation, avoiding partner-transmitted debt, and rebuilding financial stability post relationship breakdown.
35. Services that provide financial counselling for women.
36. Education programs and small business start-ups for women.
37. Women in business awards schemes.
38. Women wishing to complete vocational education and establish careers and work in higher paying non-traditional areas such as engineering and building trades.
39. Working with representatives from the community, business, educational institutions, unions and the surrounding region on ways to ensure women are included in economic development opportunities and planning.

Education and Training

ACT Labor recognises that high quality education and training for women is fundamental to women’s economic independence and their full participation and contribution to the life and achievements of the community. ACT Labor understands that providing quality education is the most powerful means our community has for addressing inequalities of gendered opportunity and social disadvantage and that women’s education is fundamental to the prosperity of our community. Skills of enterprise, initiative and adaptability acquired through education provide women with access to new and ongoing lifelong opportunities.

ACT Labor also recognises that schools have a role in ensuring that children are able to identify gendered exploitation and discrimination. The provision of gender equitable curriculum, including respectful relationship programs, is fundamental to enable girls to comprehend more fully the options available to them and to enable boys to appreciate and respect women and girls.

ACT Labor is committed to equity in education to ensure educational opportunities nurture individuals’ abilities and needs and are not dependent upon their wealth.

ACT Labor:

40. Believes women should have full and equal access to high quality education for themselves and their children at all ages and that this access should not be limited by economic, cultural, linguistic or physical constraints.
41. Will encourage feedback and monitoring of women’s education and training participation levels to promote continuous improvement of outcomes in all subject areas.
42. Will investigate ways of ensuring that carer responsibilities do not prevent women from accessing education and training opportunities.
43. Understands the need for STEM subject’s skills training and promotes the educational initiatives to break down barriers and encourage women’s interest and skills through school curriculums to improve women’s ongoing participation in these fields.
44. Advocates for and promotes the management and funding of a public education system that will lead the private system in gender balanced outcomes and encourage non-government schools to fulfil their obligations to gender equity as government schools do.
45. Promotes the provision of a gender-inclusive curriculum including respectful relationships programs, sex education including sexuality and pleasure, and sexuality for women and girls with disabilities, and that women’s history is incorporated in the curriculum and taught to all students.
46. Supports the inclusion of comprehensive programs on sex education including contraception options being available through primary and secondary schools and community health centres.
47. Supports maintaining the existing system of neighbourhood-based pre-schooling and co-location of child care centres, schools, and preschools in order to better support working families.
48. Supports the establishment and continuation of out-of-hours school childcare centres using school property at appropriate concessional rates.
49. Supports school-aged mothers by promoting a culture of understanding and acceptability while providing them with appropriate facilities in order to fully participate in the school community.

50. Supports the investigation of relaxed out of area enrolment rules to enable parents to enrol children near the place of their employment.
51. Will aim for the provision of resources for access to flexible long day childcare on site or in close proximity to educational facilities, for student parents, in order that they are able to complete their education.
52. Supports working with relevant unions and providers of vocational education and training to further develop and enhance opportunities for women, particularly in non-traditional trades and the building industry.
53. Expects CIT to engage in long-range planning after wide consultation, to attract and train sufficient women graduates to help support growth areas of the ACT economy including the export market to ensure women share in the benefits of ACT economic growth.
54. Supports the establishment of additional community or neighbourhood houses and centres, and adequately resource these and existing community facilities, to assist in providing low cost, adult education programs. These programs should respond to grassroots community needs, including those of women, and reflect the culturally and linguistically diverse nature of the ACT community.
55. Expects the ACT-based universities to adopt and implement policies on gender equity which are compatible with those expected in other sectors of the ACT education system.
56. Understands women contribute extensively in academic research and teaching areas across ACT and Australia and believes women in academia have the right to equal pay, academic recognition, and promotion as men, through their achievements.
57. ACT Labour supports women in their pursuit of gender equity and breaking down barriers, to encourage women to participate more fully and continue in academic research careers.

STEM - Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics

ACT Labor is aware of the projected growth of employment requiring STEM subjects and skills and the role of schools in providing this. Research suggests 75 per cent of the fastest growing occupations now require STEM skills and knowledge. ACT Labor recognises that women are underrepresented in many STEM courses. At university women make up 20 per cent of engineering and related technology courses and 14 per cent in information technology. This equates to even less women participating in science, technology and engineering jobs.

To aid in meeting the emerging challenge of the developing economy, and to ensure women are able to continue to participate as valued members of the workforce and maintain respected, economic independence, Labor supports and advocates for strategies to advance women's continued advancement and participation in STEM education and occupations.

ACT Labor advocates for:

58. Educating and employing more teachers in STEM subjects in primary and high schools to teach curriculum, especially female teachers as role models to increase maths and IT literacy
59. Providing pathways for female students that decrease social barriers and encourage uptake into STEM courses.
60. Encouraging future female professionals into STEM university courses leading to jobs thereby assisting workplace retention of females in the field.

61. Acknowledging the need for female university academics as role models in STEM by providing equal opportunities for females in academia to remain in the workforce through more equitable work practices.

Employment

ACT Labor understands that women’s access to employment is fundamental to women’s economic independence. This is essential for autonomous decision making and full participation in our economy and community, as well as women’s ability to accumulate adequate superannuation savings for retirement.

ACT Labor recognises that employment provides women not only with a livelihood but also with dignity, self-respect and the opportunity for self-fulfilment. ACT Labor also recognises that women in the workplace often face gendered exploitation and discrimination and Labor is committed to developing appropriate strategies to help prepare women to overcome these barriers and to help men better understand women in the workplace are to be valued and respected equally.

ACT Labor:

62. Supports proactive implementation of pay equity, merit and affirmative action principles across all industries.
63. As an employer, will try to take the lead in establishing and promoting best practice in equity in pay, participation in all areas of work and levels of management, the provision of paid parental leave, and flexibility to enable employees to balance work and family.
64. Supports the inclusion in awards, agreements and employment legislation provisions to accommodate a variety of family arrangements, including same sex partners and cultural variations of families, including Indigenous family structures.
65. Supports wage equity and improved training qualification systems in feminised industries.
66. Supports health, safety and education programs for sex workers.
67. Supports investigating employment relationships in the sex industry to eliminate the risk of exploitation.
68. Expects the provision of , availability and access to appropriate, safe and clean facilities (where appropriate) in all ACT Government workplaces for women to breast feed their babies or express breast milk, in keeping with the Australian Breastfeeding Association’s Breastfeeding Friendly Workplace Accreditation Standards.
69. Encourages all non-government workplaces in the ACT to provide women employees with access to appropriate, safe and clean facilities for women to breast feed their babies or express breast milk in keeping with the Australian Breastfeeding Association’s Breastfeeding Friendly Workplace Accreditation Standards.
70. Will work towards increasing the availability of adequate and affordable high quality childcare facilities to enable full participation in the labour market.
71. Will monitor gendered trends in underemployment, part-time and casualised work and in the area of academic employment.
72. Believes the rights of casual and part time employees should be safeguarded wherever possible, understanding that this type of employment arrangement is dominated by women.
73. Supports the national paid parental leave scheme developed by Labor and ensure awards, agreements and legislation include paid parental leave in both the private and public sectors.

74. Believes that as an employer, Labor should attempt to establish and promote best practice on the provision of maternity and parental leave, including paying superannuation to parents whilst on paid and unpaid parental leave.
75. Aims to develop and implement comprehensive training and employment programs tailored to the special needs of long-term unemployed women and women re-entering the workforce after long periods caring for dependents.
76. Continues to support return to work grants for ACT women.
77. Supports the ACT developing and maintaining a gender equitable, highly trained, multi-skilled labour force by working cooperatively with business, industry, unions, the community sector and educational institutions.

Health

ACT Labor aims to promote well-being and prevent disease and acknowledges that women have particular and changing health needs.

ACT Labor values women's autonomy in respect to their health and wellbeing and understands that women's autonomy in accessing health services for themselves and their dependent's is essential for women's full equality of participation in the ACT community.

ACT Labor understands that women's access to health services is related to their social and economic circumstances, education, employment opportunities, social support, cultural background, personal safety and quality housing, all of which have a significant impact on their health.

ACT Labor understands the need for community health services to be available in all areas, with special consideration given to areas of population growth. An accessible, high standard quality health service for women is a benchmark commitment of ACT Labor.

ACT Labor:

78. Promotes appropriate standards of informed consent and autonomy to be applied
79. Fosters the provision of health services for women being provided by qualified staff who are sensitive to the special needs of women.
80. Expects that the Women's Health Service meets community needs with services available in regional locations attached to community centres and with services extended to include salaried female obstetricians and gynaecologists.
81. Encourages community involvement in the management of the Women's Health Service and the employment of doctors who are skilled and experienced in women's health matters.
82. Promotes equality of access to health services for women through the recognition of linguistic and cultural differences, prevention of physical barriers and the provision of advocacy services.
83. Believes and advocates that for any health service, information about the nature, purpose, effects, any associated risks and side effects as well as available alternative treatments, is provided. This information will be available in a community language if required.
84. Supports the continuing provision of Women's Health Services that provide birth control advice, and safe and legal surgical or medical abortion on request, but no sterilisation or abortion without the woman's consent.
85. Will maintain appropriate protest exclusion zones from both building entrances and buildings outside reproductive medical facilities to ensure a patient's right to privacy, and right to access medical facilities, free from harassment are upheld.
86. Promotes and supports the availability of appropriate reproductive and sexual health advice and education for all women, particularly young women, pregnant

- women, women seeking assisted pregnancies, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered women, and menopausal and post-menopausal women.
87. Supports comprehensive programs on sex education including contraception options are available through primary and secondary schools and community health centres.
 88. Encourages the provision of free contraception particularly to concession card holders, student and pensioner concession card holders as well as Health Care card holders with a view to funding a trial over a number of years of the provision of free contraception of choice to both men and women in ACT.
 89. Supports the introduction of a requirement for health practitioners and pharmacies who choose not to supply relevant reproductive health medications, products and procedures, to display clearly visible signage that informs consumers, in plain language, about which particular reproductive health medications and products they refuse to supply, in order to enable consumers, particularly women, to make an informed choice as where to present prescriptions to be filled without intimidation, humiliation or embarrassment.
 90. Supports the implementation of policies that work towards the prevention of infertility with particular attention to infertility caused by sexually transmitted diseases, environmental factors and previous medical treatment.
 91. Supports and advocates for the provision of community education programs particularly designed to communicate to young women and senior women, including through digital media, on the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, including Gonorrhoea, Chlamydia, and HIV.
 92. Will work towards ensuring women have access to fertility advice, counselling and assistance.
 93. Supports research into the medical, legal and ethical issues surrounding surrogacy and all reproductive technology procedures with a view to producing appropriate legislation.
 94. Supports the offering of a range of birthing options for ACT mothers including antenatal clinics, the Canberra Midwifery Program and Birth Centre.
 95. Supports the development, implementation and maintenance of a web-based information portal that provides information on birthing options, models of care, available hospitals and facilities, and breastfeeding and post-natal support in the ACT and Queanbeyan.
 96. Understands the need to advocate for an expanded range of services provided for post-natal support, particularly post-natal depression.
 97. Advocates for service provision and encourage women to access programs such as HPV vaccinations, cervical and breast cancer screening.
 98. Supports the provision of free, publicly available breast and osteoporosis screening for women over the age of 40 years.
 99. Supports free screening, such as mammograms and ultrasounds, to survivors of breast cancer, regardless of age or medical diagnosis, with a referral from their medical practitioner.
 100. Promotes public awareness of the availability of these programs and the importance of these diseases through publicity and educational seminars.
 101. Promotes the establishment of services that focus on the health needs of older women, particularly in the area of support services for menopause.
 102. Believes in the importance of addressing through education, issues of ill health for elderly women such as poor nutrition and osteoporosis.

103. Supports the development of and funding for nurse practitioners and foster a collaborative relationship with medical practitioners.
104. Is committed to supporting the work of allied health professionals as part of the health care team that work collaboratively to meet the needs of women and their families through all developmental stages of the life cycle.
105. Aims to provide opportunities for women in the community to be consulted and to actively participate in decisions regarding future directions of community health centres, their location and their services.
106. Supports the establishment and maintenance of adequate facilities for the treatment of addiction to drugs and alcohol, including a detoxification unit, in partnership with community organisations that are responsive to the particular needs of women and their family situations.
107. Supports the provision of drug and alcohol treatment halfway houses with safe and secure accommodation services that will reflect the needs of women and their family situations.
108. Recognises the special needs of women with psychiatric disabilities or a mental illness to access properly resourced advocacy services.
109. Is aware of the impact of current arrangements on both families caring for a person with mental illness, and police and emergency services personnel.
110. Fosters the promotion and provision of support services including counselling and respite care for the families of those who suffer from psychiatric disabilities or mental illness.
111. Supports counselling and respite care for the families of those who suffer from psychiatric disabilities or mental illness are available both at the time of a crisis and an ongoing basis.
112. Supports the funding for allied health professionals to continue in the provision of these mental health counselling and support services.
113. Supports the examination of mental health legislation to ensure the protection of civil rights and to enable the delivery of appropriate care and treatment.
114. Supports the specialised and quality health care for Territory women provided by the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children.
115. Supports the recruitment of obstetric and gynaecological staff who display knowledge and sensitivity to women's health needs in ACT public hospitals.
116. Encourages and advocates for the equal representation of women on all ministerially appointed management and advisory boards within the ACT health system.
117. Encourages research into women's health issues.

Housing

ACT Labor recognises the right of all ACT citizens to live in housing appropriate to their needs and is committed to the adequate supply of affordable housing that is well located, of good quality, secure in tenure, and contributes to an environmentally sustainable and energy efficient city.

ACT Labor understands the importance of appropriate and affordable housing for women and recognises that access to independent housing for women is a fundamental element to enable women to participate in work, education and the community.

ACT Labor acknowledges that many women in the ACT are living in inadequate housing and recognises the role adequate housing plays in reducing poverty, ensuring health, safety and a decent standard of living for women and their families.

ACT Labor understands that public housing is a key element of effective urban governance. It forms an essential part of the housing continuum which also includes community housing and private housing, occupied on a rental or home ownership basis.

ACT Labor recognises that women have different housing needs at different stages of their lives.

ACT Labor recognises that older women who are single, on low incomes and in the private rental market are especially vulnerable to housing stress and homelessness.

ACT Labor understands that provision of housing suitable for women must include diversified housing options to cater for different stages of life, varying financial and personal circumstances of women and their families. This includes short, medium and long term accommodation options in the public, community and private housing sectors.

ACT Labor recognises that homelessness encompasses a diversity of experiences including living in an inadequate dwelling, a lack of tenure, the inability to control living space and the absence of security, stability, privacy and safety.

ACT Labor understands that women often experience homelessness differently from men, and that domestic violence is a frequent factor behind a woman's decision to leave her home.

ACT Labor recognises that housing affordability is a particular challenge for women because on average women live longer, earn less, have less secure work tenure and less superannuation than men.

ACT Labor:

118. Continues to support diverse affordable housing models for women including public, community, co-operative, private rental and home ownership.
119. Encourages the practice that public and private housing for women is distributed within and between all suburbs, in order to create socially harmonious communities.
120. Understands that the location of housing for women needs to be easily accessible to community, health and recreation facilities, employment centres, schools, and public transport, with consideration given to those people with needs, requiring distance from those areas where such facilities are found (e.g. main roads or town centres) and that housing should be within walking distance of public open space.
121. Supports public housing being designed to accommodate the safety and security needs of women and their children.
122. Continues to support women's crisis and post crisis accommodation services, including women post release from prison, remand or other programs that have restricted their movements.
123. Continues to believe that progressive women's organisations providing safe refuge accommodation and counselling services for women and children fleeing family violence should be provided with adequate support.
124. Supports the facilitation of the transition of women from crisis into suitable permanent housing.
125. Supports the provision of appropriate emergency housing to women experiencing homelessness.
126. Continues to support accommodation services for women whose particular cultural or personal circumstances are best served by single sex accommodation.
127. Promotes access to housing is equitably provided to all women, including migrant and refugee women, women with disabilities, and women with dependents, and is designed and fitted with appropriate safety requirements in mind.

128. Will undertake ongoing research into gendered housing disadvantage and future housing needs of women to guarantee the adequacy of future public housing stock for women.
129. Supports the provision of appropriate, affordable and long term housing options suitable for older women, taking into consideration their specific needs such as access to healthcare, transport, and transition into aged care.
130. Will consult with older women about their experiences and needs when developing homelessness and housing strategies.
131. Will develop policies to improve housing affordability and encourage women into home ownership.

Law Reform, Access to Law and Legal Education

ACT Labor understands that Law is important in guaranteeing the protection of women's rights and individual freedoms, ensuring women's safety and the democratic rights of women to participate in our society.

ACT Labor recognises that women require legal information and support to allow full participation in the community and to enable women to make informed decisions regarding legal matters.

ACT Labor:

132. Believes that information on Federal and ACT anti-discrimination legislation should be available and accessible in the community and that advice on the effect of the legislation is available to women.
133. Will facilitate and encourage a review of child neglect legislation to examine absent parent responsibilities in cases of neglect.
134. Aims to introduce amended family violence evidence legislation to enable initial victim witness statements taken by police to be used in court.
135. Supports the examination of the amendment of the definition of family violence in legislation to include children witnessing violence.
136. Supports the examination of the amendment of the definition of strangulation offences in legislation to include "acts of strangulation not intended to render the victim unconscious."
137. Supports the legal recognition of same sex couples under the law in matters such as marriage and relationships, parenting and employment opportunities.
138. Maintains support for a safe legalised sex industry including legalised sex work in the ACT.
139. Supports the proper consideration of cultural differences, including for Indigenous and culturally and linguistically diverse women, when providing legal information.
140. Will consider the needs of women and their families, particularly survivors of harassment and violence, and their experiences of the legal system, within an active process of law reform.
141. Supports an ACT Women's Legal Centre funded by the Federal Government.

Machinery of Government

ACT Labor believes good government ensure women's needs and concerns are fully considered in all government decisions and programmes.

ACT Labor:

142. Supports a continual dialogue and strategic alliances between government policy makers and women's community groups and organisations, service providers and unions, including them in formal decision-making through consultative bodies and other forums.

- 143. Supports and promotes a register of women nominees to boards is maintained and publicised so that women are aware of the register.
- 144. Will foster the equal representation by women on each ACT Government board, statutory and non-statutory body and authority, and that the gender imbalance existing in paid board positions is addressed.
- 145. Supports that all proposed cabinet decisions should be assessed for gender impact.
- 146. Maintains continued support of the annual Women’s Budget Statement.
- 147. Continues to support the ACT Office for Women, and a Minister for Women.

Multicultural Affairs

ACT Labor acknowledges the contribution made by women from the many different cultural and linguistic groups within the ACT community, and recognises and respects the harmonious cultural and linguistic diversity of the ACT community.

ACT Labor is committed to equity of access to and enjoyment of community resources for all residents of the ACT.

ACT Labor understands that women arriving for humanitarian reasons as part of migration programs have special requirements.

ACT Labor:

- 148. Believes all residents, including women, in the ACT community should have access to services and participate in all activities in the community without fear of discrimination on the basis of cultural ethnicity, religion, or race.
- 149. Will work towards assisting refugees and humanitarian entrants to recover from their experiences and settle into the community with special consideration for the needs of women by the supporting the provision of specialist health and counselling services and assistance for those women suffering the effects of rape, torture and trauma.
- 150. Supports “learn to drive” programs for refugee and humanitarian entrant women.
- 151. Understands the importance of providing the means to ensure that women from culturally and linguistically diverse community have sufficient information to make informed decisions on issues affecting them and have the opportunity and ability to participate in community and government decision-making processes.
- 152. Believes that “best practice” services are flexible and responsive to client needs to achieve access and equity, particularly in childcare, education, health care, housing, and legal services.
- 153. Supports interpreting services that respect people’s privacy, rights and cultural beliefs, and support training and developing interpreters of both sexes in cross cultural communication and specialist language skills.
- 154. Believes that laws, government policies and practices need to be culturally appropriate and should not prevent or inhibit culturally and linguistically diverse communities, including women, from practising and maintaining their spiritual and cultural beliefs, subject to Australian law.

Safety

ACT Labor acknowledges that being and feeling safe, at home and in the community, is a fundamental right that has yet to be achieved by and for women. Violence or abuse in any form, against women and their families, is harmful and unacceptable. ACT Labor recognises that violence includes physical, emotional, mental and financial abuse.

ACT Labor believes all members of the community have the right to live free from violence and deplores the current epidemic of male and intimate partner violence against

women in our community. ACT Labor is particularly concerned at the escalation of male and intimate partner violence against women that is resulting in an increasing number of women being murdered by current or former intimate partners.

ACT Labor accepts that the vast majority of family and sexual violence is committed by men against women. ACT Labor accepts that building gender equity is crucial to the prevention of violence against women. ACT Labor recognises that early and forced marriage is occurring at alarming rates in Australia and may be occurring in the ACT. It is a form of violence that predominantly impacts women and girls, but may also impact boys and young men. It is a practice that has been culturally enshrined for thousands of years, which will not end through criminalisation alone.

ACT Labor is committed to preventing family and sexual violence from happening, holding perpetrators to account for their actions and providing support to women and children who experience violence.

ACT Labor expects government to act on this issue by focusing on prevention, early intervention and appropriate responses to sexual assault, family violence and early and forced marriage. Labor recognises that women escaping violence and abuse need particular support to obtain appropriate housing options, health services and legal advice and protection.

ACT Labor believes in and supports:

155. The importance of considering the specific safety needs of young women, older women and their children when developing policy in all relevant areas.
156. The development of programs to educate and engage the community to positively change attitudes and behaviours within intimate partner relationships.
157. The promotion of programs to educate the community and increase the understanding of the nature, prevalence and seriousness of violence committed by men and intimate partners against women, including sexual harassment and assault, controlling behaviours, economic and emotional abuse.
158. Undertaking programs to help communities to transition away from the practice of early and forced marriage through respectful engagement and dedicating resources to support victims who are not eligible for the Commonwealth-funded program because they are unable or unwilling to support the prosecution of their families under Federal laws.
159. Establishing a range of new programs in schools, the media, unions, workplaces and local communities that add to the existing ones intended to educate about and promote respectful non-violent relationships and gender equity including specific programs aimed at ending the stigma, shame and silence associated with family and sexual violence.
160. Including targeted prevention programs and activities to support highly vulnerable women, including women with partners or dependents with mental illness, with disabilities and from culturally and linguistically diverse communities.
161. Developing early intervention programs that identify and target individuals and groups who exhibit early signs of violent behaviour or of being subjected to violence.
162. Voluntary (and where appropriate, court ordered) men's Behaviour Change programs, including ongoing groups for men who use or have used family violence:- i.e. providing information; developing skills to change their behaviour and referring them to other services as required.
163. Providing training for mainstream services on how to work more effectively with men who have used violence against women.

164. Developing a Behaviour Change program for adolescents who use violence in the home to increase safety and reduce the likelihood that they will offend as adults.
165. Providing specialist treatment to address problem sexual behaviour or sexually abusive behaviour displayed by children or adolescents.
166. Creating an integrated Family Violence system to provide consistent, coordinated and timely responses for women and children and hold perpetrators to account after violence has occurred.
167. The position of Coordinator General for Family Violence services.
168. Continuing to support the Sexual Assault Multidisciplinary Centre involving co-located partners: police investigators, sexual assault counsellors/advocates and child protection workers, to provide improved support for adult and child victims of sexual assault, enhanced investigation of sexual offences and child abuse, improved quality of evidence in sexual offence cases, increased reporting, reduced complaints withdrawn from justice, and ongoing improved engagement with health and support systems.
169. Immediate crisis care services, such as emergency accommodation for women and children, after-hours services, and police and legal support services.
170. Providing sexual assault support services including counselling, advocacy and support to child and adult victims/survivors of sexual assault.
171. Providing training for judges and the legal profession on issues surrounding sexual assault, family violence and early and forced marriage.
172. Providing training for police on issues surrounding sexual assault and family violence victims and perpetrators with mental health conditions.
173. Providing training for mental health workers on issues surrounding sexual assault and family violence victims and perpetrators with mental health conditions.
174. Legal services for women experiencing family violence.
175. The inclusion of family violence leave in all ACT government workplace agreements and encourage its inclusion in all ACT non-government workplace agreements.
176. Investigating a program of zero interest loans of up to \$10,000.00 to cover the relocation costs of women who no longer feel safe in their homes.
177. The provision of adequate longer term services such as health, vocational training, housing and support for women who have been the survivors of sexual assault, family violence or violence in any form to empower women and children to rebuild their lives.
178. An active policing model to manage recidivist offenders and ensure police receive training in relation to domestic violence issues and that police continue to work cooperatively with domestic violence crisis services.
179. That Domestic Violence Orders are notified to the Family Court to prevent contradictory orders being made.
180. A strengthened graduated offences regime including the continuation of interim orders and the introduction of 24 hour incarceration periods for breaches of Intervention Orders to ensure greater consequences for breaches of Intervention Orders.
181. Improving family violence Intervention Orders to enable the inclusion of provisions to remove the offender's or alleged offender's name from a tenancy agreement so that victims are not forced to leave their home.
182. Improving family violence Intervention Orders processes by streamlining court procedures, reducing delays and waiting times.

183. Introducing amended family violence evidence legislation to enable initial victim witness statements taken by police to be used in court.
184. Amending the definition of family violence in legislation to include incidents witnessed by children.
185. Amending the definition of strangulation offences in legislation to include acts of strangulation not intended to render the victim unconscious.
186. Developing and implementing Forced Marriage Protection Orders to protect women over age 18 who are at risk of being sent overseas for forced marriage.
187. Incorporating early and forced marriage into the Territory child protection framework and operational protocols for responding authorities.
188. Incorporating forced marriage (regarding adults) into the Territory family violence framework and operational protocols for responding authorities.
189. Increasing the capacity for and participation in court-directed men's behaviour change programs targeting offenders, including support for those in prison or on community-based orders.
190. Establishing a high level Violence Against Women and Children Advisory Group consisting of key sector experts, together with key Ministers, to be convened by the Minister for Women to raise the profile of violence against women and children, to improve co-ordination across government and community and to identify major and emerging issues.
191. Conducting a full enquiry into violence against women in the ACT including a review of all relevant programs, services, and ACT Legislation including the Domestic Violence and Protection Orders Act 2001 and the Domestic Violence Act to recommend ways to improve the safety of women in the ACT.
192. A national approach to family violence orders including being an active participant in the Standing Council on Law and Justice.
193. Considering the specific safety needs of young women, older women and their children when developing policy in all relevant areas.

Sport and Recreation

ACT Labor recognises that sport and recreation activities are important components of community participation for women and girls.

ACT Labor:

194. Will promote women's and girl's sport and recreation needs to foster equal consideration in debates and decisions regarding resourcing.
195. Will take into consideration attempts to rectify the under-resourcing of women's and girls' sport and recreation needs as part of any decision about the future distribution of resources.
196. Understands that the safety and accessibility of sporting and recreation facilities need to be considered in planning and provision of these, as these are key factors for women when deciding whether to utilise sporting and recreation facilities.

Youth Affairs

Principles

Labor has traditionally played a large role in the protection of the rights of young people and improving their lives. This role has come mainly through activism for safer working conditions, supporting families, and where they break down, supporting the young people within these families. Labor supports the international conventions, which have been ratified by Australia in relation to the care and protection of young people, particularly the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the Child.

Labor recognises and supports the aspirations of young people seeking employment, education and training; targeted health, accommodation and support programs which assist those in specific need; and wider community support mechanisms which assist young people and their families. Labor also recognises the diversity of the youth population, and that many of the issues that arise for young people are common to other members of our community. Therefore, it is important to provide flexible services, programs and policies that attend to the changing needs of young people and the wider community.

Labor believes that young people of the ACT play an important role as responsible citizens in our community and should be consulted directly during the development of policy and programs that affect them.

Objectives

Labor aims to

1. Focus on the centrality of a supportive and nurturing family life for the full development of children and young people as well as the need to support young people who do not have this support.
2. Recognise the diversity of changing physical and mental health needs from infancy to adulthood.
3. Reduce youth unemployment, whilst ensuring equitable access to job opportunities for young people.
4. Promote education services, which enable relevant personal, community, scholastic and vocational development.
5. Promote adequate community services for all young people, especially addressing our community's needs for improved:
 - a. Supported public housing;
 - b. Health services
 - c. Mental health services;
 - d. Accessible and safe venues for social events, including public space;
 - e. Services accommodating ethnic and indigenous Australian diversity; and
 - f. Family and youth crisis support.
 - g. Address the factors implicated in youth suicide with a view to reducing the youth suicide rate.
 - h. Assist young people to be responsible citizens in the community and empower them to exercise their legal rights, and provide access to the law based on competence, not age.

Strategies

Labor will:

6. Establish a Youth Advisory Council with a diverse membership of young people who will provide policy input to the Government.

Family Life

7. Support the review and, where necessary, the reform of the Children's Services Act 1986 to reflect community values and ensure the protection of children's rights.
8. Provide follow-up services to families in difficulty, including "on-the-ground" support services, such as respite care, one-to-one family support and one-to-one support for children.
9. Develop programs and policies to assist families reconcile and/or reunite after breakdown, where appropriate.

Education and Training

10. Coordinate job creation initiatives with education, training and support services, in particular:
 - a. Youth involvement in education and training curricula development and participation in forums addressing youth' industrial relations issues;
 - b. Encouraging ACT schools to maintain viable work experience and job seeking skills programs;
 - c. In consultation with young people, address welfare issues which may impede social, educational and career life. These factors may encompass homelessness, family or other conflict, health, discrimination, legal rights and responsibilities.

Income Support

11. Audit the provision of local government services to ensure they provide an equitable level of service and support based on need rather than age.
12. Provide equitable income and study support.

Accommodation

13. Provide crisis and respite family, child and youth accommodation during times of intense interpersonal or personal conflict or change, with assistance to transfer to appropriate longer-term accommodation as required.
14. Provide equitable access to medium term public housing accommodation for those requiring assistance when making the transition to independence; and
15. Provide additional safeguards against house eviction for the young and young parents.

Health

16. Provide specialised health care information services to young people and their careers, particularly to improve the focus on mental and reproductive health, along with social health issues associated with drug and alcohol abuse.
17. Establish adolescent hospital wards and facilities, especially for psychiatric services and de-toxification services, coupled with more compassionate law enforcement.
18. Promote healthy physical activity through sport and recreation.
19. Promote health life alternatives through measures such as nutrition education, community health centres and drug education.

Suicide

20. Establish a review into youth suicide, which will have broad terms of reference allowing a full examination of the possible causes of suicide and suicidal behaviour.
21. Subject to wide public consultation and advice from relevant authorities, ensure that the recommendations of such an inquiry are implemented and reviewed comprehensively on an ongoing basis.

22. Provide adolescent support services, which focus on the treatment, early intervention and peer intervention/support mechanisms for young people at risk.
23. Provide professional development on youth suicide, and encourage tertiary education institutions to incorporate youth suicide training in their courses.

Law

24. Ensure that young people have access to education, which outlines both the responsibilities within the community and their rights under the law (for example tenancy rights, financial services, legal rights, etc.).
25. Review Juvenile justice in the ACT, including Children’s Services Act, to achieve best practice in juvenile corrections.
26. Maintain a dedicated magistrate for children’s court matters.
27. Collect and analyse statistics about juvenile justice matters.
28. Raise the age of criminal responsibility to 10 years.
29. Expand non-custodial sentencing options for young people that retain young people’s dignity, and are properly monitored.
30. Provide mediation services wherever possible as an intermediate stage in Magistrates’ hearings.
31. Continue diversionary conferencing and adult friend programs as effective deterrents to incarcerating young people.
32. Enact legislation to support the diversionary conferencing scheme.
33. Encourage an emphasis on working with young people in police training.
34. Review police interview procedures and amend them if they do not comply with the Beijing Rules for interviewing young people.
35. Provide support for those who have served sentences and need to re-integrate into the community and workplace.
36. Provide a special legal support in the ACT for young indigenous detainees.

Working Life

37. Ensure that young people moving from education or training to employment have access to information on workplace issues, such as the existence of employment conditions, occupational health and safety, superannuation and the role of trade unions.
38. Ensure that young people in the workplace receive fair and equitable wages and conditions.

Conference Resolutions

Community Services and Social Justice

General Resolution 1: Public Housing Investment in Canberra

ACT Labor notes:

That the ACT Government is currently delivering the biggest ever public housing renewal program that will deliver 1288 new homes across the city.

That a targeted and well-funded public housing program contributes to building inclusive and fair cities and gives support to many in our community who are doing it tough.

That providing public housing in every Canberra suburb through a 'salt and pepper' approach in order to reduce the large pockets of disadvantage that have occurred in the past promotes both Labor's, and our community's own views of inclusiveness and equality.

That the Public Housing Renewal Program has:

- Committed \$550 million for a renewal program through to 2019 to deliver 1288 new dwellings:
- To date delivered nearly 400 renewed public housing dwellings
- That government will continue to work with various communities to find common ground on proposed new developments in their suburbs to ensure newly constructed developments are welcoming for new tenants and enhance existing communities.

ACT Labor also notes that this Public Housing Renewal Program has and will continue to deliver hundreds of new jobs for local Canberrans during the life of the program in direct construction roles as well as other industries.

ACT Labor strongly reaffirms its support for this program of social policy investment and congratulates the ACT Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, and the Chief Minister for their ongoing affirmations of their support to deliver public housing across the ACT.

ACT Labor also congratulates the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party for their recent policy announcement supporting housing affordability that seeks to make housing, and the associated challenges with securing housing, a key priority for an incoming Labor government.

Further that ACT Labor condemns the Liberal Opposition who continue to drive anti-public housing sentiments and divide our community through simplistic fear mongering over such an important Labor policy initiative.

General Resolution 2: Social and Affordable Housing in New Suburbs

ACT Labor notes the importance of ensuring government policy is robust to enable growth in social housing stock across the city; and in ensuring we are promoting more housing options by delivering affordable housing options in new suburbs.

Further, ACT Labor notes that several new large greenfield developments are currently underway, or about to commence across the ACT including the CSIRO owned Ginninderra land development which is expected to deliver several thousand dwellings, and which sits within the planning control of the National Capital Authority (NCA); and the Ginninderry Joint Venture which has commenced a 30-40 year project.

ACT Labor calls on the ACT Government to ensure that greenfield and urban renewal housing developments include allocations of land for both social housing, and affordable housing. These allocations should be in line with government policy at the time of delivery of the suburbs.

ACT Labor also calls on Federal Labor Parliamentarians and the ACT Minister for Planning to strongly advocate to the Federal Government and the NCA for the inclusion of social and affordable housing into the CSIRO-owned Ginninderra development.

General Resolution 3

ACT Labor calls on the ACT Government to ensure that there is an appropriate, ongoing investment into the provision of new public housing dwellings whenever new land is released for housing developments, commensurate with the Governments objectives. This commitment acknowledges that all Canberrans deserve a place to call home, whether that is via public, social or community housing, affordable rental opportunities, or home purchase.

ACT Labor notes the ACT Labor Government's ongoing investment into social and affordable housing, and its commitment to developing a new Housing Strategy which will include new initiatives for public, social, community and affordable housing options for Canberrans; and that the ACT Housing and Homelessness Summit will be held later in 2017.

General Resolution 4

The Turnbull Government is failing its most vulnerable citizens and treating them with little respect. This can be seen through the policies they have pursued with the Community Development Programme which requires participants, most of whom are Aboriginal, to work 25 hours a week to receive their unemployment benefits, and the more recent announcement that the Government will test drug and alcohol testing on 5000 job seekers claiming Newstart Allowance.

It is abhorrent that jobseekers and unemployed persons face possible hardship and homelessness due to this so called "welfare cheats initiative" in each of these policies. These policies serve to further isolate and disenfranchise unemployed persons by stigmatising them as "lesser" citizens "ripping off" society and the tax payer.

ACT Labor condemns the Turnbull Government's budget announcement to drug and alcohol test 5000 job seekers.

ACT Labor condemns the Community Development Programme which requires participants to work longer hours than people in metropolitan areas for the same welfare payments, or risk months cut off from government support.

ACT Labor supports the development of an effective policy response by Federal Labor that treats all Australians, including those who are marginalised and disadvantaged, with dignity and respect and in a manner that reduces inequality.

General Resolution 5

That the ALP deliver a plan in Government for expanded universal access to 15 hours a week of preschool for all children from 3 years old up to school age.

Universal access should be funded by the Federal Government to deliver an approved preschool program including fully funding the wages of qualified early childhood professionals teaching the program.

The ALP believes that every child in Australia, following the introduction of paid parental leave, should have more affordable access to early childhood education and care with vulnerable and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children receiving free access.

ACT Labor congratulates the ACT Government on its election commitment and progress to date on developing an early childhood strategy that will consider the needs of all children and ensure that they are set up for education and a path to a good life.

Economics & Employment

General Resolution 2

ACT Labor:

1. Reaffirms its support for Federal Labor's plan for manufacturing as contained in the current National Platform; and
2. Calls on the ACT Government to work together with Federal Labor to deliver on Labor's plan including by supporting Australian manufacturing in the ACT

General Resolution 4: The Strength and Diversity of the ACT Economy

The Barr Labor Government has undertaken significant work to strengthen the ACT economy, leading to it in April being declared the second strongest economy in Australia by the CommSec 'state of the states' report. The Barr Labor Government has created an environment where business is thriving, which has led to strong employment figures and increased trade.

ACT Conference also recognises the strong contribution the public sector has made, and will continue to make to the strength of the ACT economy.

ACT Labor calls on the ACT Government to continue its efforts to diversify and strengthen Canberra's economy.

General Resolution 5: Regional, National and International Transport and Trade Links for Canberra

ACT Labor congratulates the ACT Government on its efforts to build regional, national and international transport and trade links for Canberra.

This is most notably reflected in passenger and freight links to Singapore and Wellington, operating out of Canberra International Airport since September 2016.

ACT Labor calls on the ACT Government to continue its successful work in this area, with focuses of work to include, but not necessarily be limited, to:

1. Improved rail links to Sydney
2. More low-cost flight options to Australian cities, and
3. An increase in flights from Canberra to other international cities and trade hubs.

General Resolution 6

ACT Labor supports the proposition that opportunities for tax avoidance by wealthy individuals be removed through consideration of measures such as a rule (also known as the 'Warren Buffet Rule') which requires very high income earners to pay at least a minimum average tax on their total income, thereby ensuring that these very high income earners cannot end up paying a lower than average rate of tax compared with low to middle income earners.

General Resolution 7

The Nationals' recent decision to decentralise agencies currently based in Canberra is blatant pork barrelling and will not only have dire repercussions for our city but also:

- Is an expensive and unnecessary cost.
- Hurts affected workers, their families and the communities they live in.
- Negatively impacts the services agencies deliver to the Australian community.

ACT Labor notes that thousands of jobs have been cut from Commonwealth agencies, including in Centrelink, Medicare, the ATO, Defence and CSIRO. ACT Labor supports restoring regional public sector jobs and supports investment in public services in regional areas, where that is supported by service delivery requirements and a suitable local labour market, as a more effective way of ensuring there are good jobs in Australian regions.

It is essential that Canberra continues to remain the centre of public administration in Australia. The Australian community benefits from a strong unified public service. Locating key policy and regulatory agencies in Canberra ensures collaboration between agencies and allows the recruitment of skilled and experienced public servants. Ill-considered relocations of public sector work from Canberra does not benefit the Australian community.

A Turnbull Federal Government that consistently attacks the public service is now also treating the public sector simply as a job provider for regional Australia, regardless of the appropriateness of such moves, viewing public sector jobs as little more than a local electoral and economic stimulus. It ignores both the public policy objectives of the work and the benefit of maintaining a centre of excellence in public administration in the national capital.

The key concerns are evident with the decision to move APVMA from Canberra to Armidale, where we have seen:

- Real damage to the fundamental functions of the agency.
- A bill of at least \$23 million for taxpayers
- Experienced staff leaving, left citing that they could not move from their families or communities - with almost a third of staff going from July 2016 to mid-February 2017
- The loss of experienced regulatory scientists cutting regulatory approvals needed by industry.

ACT Labor condemns the Turnbull Government's move to decentralise specialised agencies from the Capital and acknowledges that this has resulted in a reduction of expertise and capability.

ACT Labor will fight against any moves of agencies from Canberra to the regions in order to protect the local economy and protect the benefits to the Australian community of a public service based in Canberra.

ACT Labor acknowledges the work that the Barr Labor Government and Labor Federal Senator Katy Gallagher and MPs Gai Brodtmann and Andrew Leigh have done on this issue.

General Resolution 9: The Big 4 Accounting Firms

ACT Labor notes:

- The Big Four Accounting Firms, EY (Ernst and Young), KPMG, Deloitte and PwC) facilitate widespread corporate tax avoidance and aggressive minimisation by national and multinational corporations.
- The Big Four fail to comply with corporate transparency laws by using opaque partnership structures.
- The Big Four have irreconcilable conflicts of interest by providing tax advice and auditing services to national and multinational corporations.

ACT Labor resolves:

- To continue to support transparency measures in corporate taxation;
- To condemn the Big Four for their enabling of corporations to avoid paying taxes that fund public services;
- To call on the ACT Government to advocate, through COAG, for a feasibility study on the benefits and method to break up the Big Four Accounting Firms along audit and tax lines.
- To call on the ACT Government to support local jobs by amending procurement guidelines to reduce the use of the Big Four;
- To call on the ACT Government to investigate what powers it may have to increase transparency and accountability with the Big Four, including whether it is possible to require them to produce General Purpose financial reports.

General Resolution 10: Ensuring workers voice on government boards

ACT Labor notes the concerning concentration of corporate and senior executive members on ACT Government boards and advisory bodies. ACT Labor notes that

responsible governance requires diversity of experience, beyond the narrow experience and perspectives provided by corporate and finance professionals and senior executives. ACT Labor further notes the lack of accountability caused by concentration of corporate voices on ACT boards and advisory bodies.

ACT Labor notes that ensuring workers have a formal voice on ACT boards and advisory bodies is a sensible proposition. ACT Labor further notes that the most effective way to reduce inequality and social injustice is increased union membership. ACT Labor notes and supports former treasurer Wayne Swan’s statement in June 2017 that “it is crucial that workers’ voices are heard in key public institutions”, including the Reserve Bank.

ACT Labor notes and supports the ACT Government’s affirmative action target for board appointments.

ACT Labor resolves to:

1. Express its concern at the lack of diversity, and workers’ and community voices, in the recent board appointments by the ACT Govt to the new Suburban Land Authority and the City Renewal Authority;
2. Express concern at a similar lack of diversity, and workers’ and community voices in appointments by the ACT Govt to a range of boards including: the Government Procurement Board, the Capital Metro Project Board, the Cultural Facilities Corporation Board, the CIT Board, the Gaming and Racing Commission Board, Investment Advisory Board, Climate Change Council, or Defence Industry Advisory Board;
3. Express concern at the lack of action by the ACT Govt in providing workers and their representatives an institutional voice in key public institutions;
4. Call on the ACT Govt to immediately review and amend its policies for the selection and appointment of part time office holders to ensure that workers’ representatives be appointed to governing boards (including of statutory authorities), industry and key advisory bodies, and management boards and advisory committees;
5. Call on the ACT ALP Branch Policy Committee Coordinator to develop a party policy to ensure workers voices are heard on ACT Govt ministerially appointments to governing boards (including statutory authorities), industry and key advisory bodies, and management boards and advisory committees, and that the concentration of corporate and financial appointments is reduced;
6. Calls on the ACT Govt to provide a half yearly report to the ACT Branch Council, and to the ACT Labor Advisory Council (ACTLAC), on progress towards implementing this policy.

General Resolution 12

ACT Labor notes the following:

1. The ACT greyhound racing industry has a 100% unionised staff with ALP-affiliated unions

ACT Labor calls on the relevant ACT Government Minister(s) and relevant AWU Secretary to formally consult developments in the industry and the interests of union members.

Education

General Resolution 1

ACT Labor:

1. Condemns the Liberal Government’s attacks on young people contained in the recent unfair budget including the outrageous changes to university fees and HECS repayment rates,
2. Notes that in Government, Labor lifted overall investment in universities from \$8 billion a year in 2007, to \$14 billion a year in 2013,
3. Believes that if Australia is to have a strong, high productivity economy, we should be investing in education, not cutting it like the Liberals are doing, and

4. Supports the federal caucus' campaign, led by Tanya Plibersek and Terri Butler, to hold the Government to account for jacking up students' fees while giving big businesses a tax cut.

General Resolution 2: On a Strong Public School Sector in the ACT

Education will always be a core Labor value.

ACT Labor notes that more than 60 per cent of all ACT students were enrolled in an ACT Government school as of February this year. This represents a significant increase in public school enrolments over the last five years.

ACT Labor:

1. Supports a strong public school system,
2. Congratulates the work done by the Barr Labor Government to strengthen the education experience for students at Canberra's public schools,
3. Calls on the Barr Labor Government to continue delivering on improvements to the public education sector.

General Resolution 3

That ACT Labor notes the success of the Safe Schools program in combatting bullying and prejudice against LGBTIQ students and congratulates the Safe Schools Coalition on their initiative. We call on Federal Labor to use the Safe Schools framework as a model for the development of a similar program to combat prejudice and bullying faced by students in other circumstances such as students with disabilities and students from culturally diverse backgrounds.

Environment & Planning

General Resolution 1: Renter's Rights

ACT Labor calls upon the ACT Government to investigate improving the rights of renters in the ACT including investigating the following:

- Encouraging longer term stability through offering contracts that last longer than a year,
- Modernising rental bonds though ensuring that default bond returns from the ACT Bond Board are electronic payments and email correspondence, not through cheque and conventional mail; and that such bonds are returned within five working days of applications being sent to the Bond Board.

General Resolution 2: Investigation of ACT Apartment Standards

ACT Labor calls on the ACT Government to surpass the Victorian Labor Government's recent legislation and investigate delivering more stringent minimum standards for new apartment building in the ACT including:

- 2.7 metre room heights,
- Improvement of overall construction quality,
- Running water, electricity and optical fibre internet connections requirements,
- minimum square meterage for bedrooms,
- minimum square meterage for living rooms in small apartments and large apartments, and
- Require Effective cross-ventilation for 40% of apartments in a building.

General Resolution 3: Biodiversity Considerations in Developments

Given that engagement with the broader natural environment is important in any development, ACT Labor calls on the ACT Government to consider carefully the biodiversity and natural environmental corridors surrounding greenfield development projects.

General Resolution 4: In Support of Woden Renewal

Woden Town Centre has been abandoned by the Federal Government, which has pulled thousands of public service jobs out of the centre.

ACT Labor calls on the ACT Government to lead the urban renewal process in the Woden Town Centre by:

4. Continuing to allocate additional ACT Government resources into the Woden area
5. Encouraging more private sector investment into Woden, and
6. Delivering on the outcomes finalised in the Woden Town Centre Master Plan.

General Resolution 6

ACT Labor commends the ACT Labor Government for getting on with the job of building Light Rail Stage 1 from Gungahlin to Civic. Stage 1 is delivering vital construction jobs today and once completed in 2018 it will be the foundation for a permanent city-wide network of public transport infrastructure.

General Resolution 7

ACT Labor commends the ACT Labor Government for establishing Transport Canberra, a single public transport authority for the Territory. The creation of Transport Canberra fulfils a long-held platform policy and will lead to the necessary creation of a single integrated public transport network managed by a single transport planning authority.

General Resolution 8

ACT Labor commends the ACT Labor Government for the creation of the City Renewal Authority. By using the proven precinct based approach, by prioritising design and planning expertise and by focussing on improving public spaces, the Authority will help build a modern and liveable city for Canberra residents.

General Resolution 9

Street lighting, footpath lighting and bike track lighting in the ACT is inconsistent throughout the territory and is a big personal safety issue for residents.

The ACT is surrounded by beautiful bushland and as a result we have the added risk of animals on the road, which can be difficult to catch early enough with little street lighting. Furthermore, our large cycling population travelling late at night should feel safe on the roads and if they cannot be seen by cars on their way home this puts them at huge risk.

Pedestrians late at night should have the security of street lights so that they can feel safe going from one place to another and be able to see where they are going. We need to improve lighting so that Canberrans are able to enjoy our nightlife without feeling they are at risk near the dark unlit parks and on the streets.

ACT Labor supports a plan to improve street lighting, footpath lighting and bike track lighting in the ACT as a matter of personal safety.

ACT Labor believes that the provision of street lighting should remain in public hands in order to provide the best services for residents.

ACT Labor notes that the ACT Government manages over 79,000 streetlights and commends the government for commencing a procurement process for the upgrade and maintenance of the streetlight network across the Territory.

This contract will upgrade the streetlights to energy efficient LED light fittings. It will guarantee energy efficiency outcomes and a smart operating system over the life of the contract resulting in improved level of service for the community, reduced operation and maintenance costs, and increased safety. The streetlight network will form the backbone of the ACT's Smart City platform.

General Resolution 10

ACT Labor supports the national standardisation of Electric Vehicle charging outlets to build a universally accessible system comparable to the petrol station network.

General Resolution 11: Ecology Centre of Excellent

The Tuggeranong and southern region of the ACT is an ideal location for ecological studies from early childhood to post-graduate qualifications. Its proximity to diverse ecosystems ranging from alpine environments to native grasslands, managed commercial forestry and agricultural enterprises and its natural waterways makes it the ideal setting for an ecology centre of excellence.

ACT Labor call upon the ACT Government to investigate the opportunity to partner with education providers from all levels of the sector, including universities, for the establishment of an Ecology Centre of Excellence within Tuggeranong and southern regions of the ACT.

General Resolution 12: Lights on the Lake

ACT Labor call upon the ACT Government to seek out Community Partners willing to organise, coordinate and deliver community based events focussed on Lake Tuggeranong. Such events should be designed to attract large community involvement across the lake and may include a Light & Lantern Festival (Lights on the Lake), food-fairs, sailing, rowing and Dragon Boating activities, and music and cultural events.

General Resolution 13: Securing the Asbestos Response Taskforce

ACT Labor notes that the Asbestos Response Taskforce is now the preeminent authority in Australia in public policy making, legislation, procedures and practices for the control, safe removal and management of asbestos.

That ACT Labor calls on the ACT Government to ensure that this expertise is maintained for the public good, by:

- Ensuring that the knowledge of the Asbestos Response Taskforce is enshrined within the ACT Government by retaining the position of Coordinator-General for Asbestos Safety, together with sufficient human and budgetary resources, to lead on asbestos issues in the ACT and nationally;
- Working collaboratively with other agencies in other Australian jurisdictions, including the Commonwealth’s Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency, to ensure the expertise of the Taskforce is put to the best possible use in the interests of the health, safety and well-being of our fellow Australians
- Examining innovative options for exporting the Taskforce’s expertise to other jurisdictions and internationally;
- Not outsourcing the Taskforce;
- Reporting bi-annually to the Branch Council, and annually to Conference, on progress made and steps taken by the Coordinator General in advancing the ACT’s leadership in asbestos safety.

Foreign Affairs

General Resolution 2: Palestine

ACT Labor believes that Labor’s national platform should be amended to include the following:

1. A Labor government will immediately recognise the State of Palestine.
2. A Labor government will call on Israel and Egypt to lift the blockade of Gaza.

To be notified to the National Policy Forum and the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party.

Health

General Resolution 1: Organ Donation

ACT Labor calls upon the Australian Labor Party to investigate options to improve the rate of organ donation across Australia, including the option of removing post-death vetos and moving towards an opt-out system.

Reports show the ACT recorded the highest national donation rate in 2016 and the ACT Government has recently committed \$150,000 to Gift of Life to help them continue their work in the community highlighting the importance of being an organ and tissue donor.

General Resolution 2

ACT Labor:

1. Notes that the ACT has the lowest rate of bulk billing and the second highest out of pocket costs for General Practice services of any state or territory,
2. Recognising that affordable access to general practice can contribute to decreased expenditure on acute care, calls on the ACT Government to:
 - a. Investigate and implement policies at a territory level which will make general practice more affordable, including implementing strategies funded in this year's budget to incentivise more GP groups to deliver bulk-billed care, and
 - b. Continue to lobby the Commonwealth Government for better funding of Medicare.

General Resolution 3: Support of Nurse-led Walk in Centres

Healthcare has always been a priority for ACT Labor. As such, ACT Labor strongly supports nurse led walk-in centres as a key part of Canberra's health system.

ACT Labor notes that the Gallagher Labor Government led the nation by opening free nurse-led walk-in centres in Belconnen and Tuggeranong, and that the Barr Labor Government has further committed to the nurse-led walk in centre network with ongoing funding and a 2016 election commitment to expand the network.

ACT Labor calls on the ACT Government to:

1. deliver its commitment to construct and commence operation of new nurse-led walk-in centres in Weston Creek, Gungahlin and the Inner North by 2020.
2. continue reviews of the nurse-led walk-in centre system to seek additional avenues for improvement and/or future expansions of the network into other areas of Canberra, should such expansion be deemed to deliver positive health outcomes for Canberrans.

General Resolution 4: Adult and Adolescent Rehabilitation & Care (AARC) Initiative

ACT Labor call upon the ACT Minister for Health to, as a priority, initiate a feasibility study into the establishment and construction of a Residential High Care facility for younger adults and adolescents to be situated on Canberra's Southside.

This study should include consideration of opportunities for partnerships with philanthropic organisations, health care providers and models of care that receive NDIS funding, as well as how such a facility might be adequately resourced.

General Resolution 5: Lanyon Valley Walk-in Centre

ACT Labor commends the 17-18 ACT Budget commitment to expand the network of Walk-in Centres and notes a Walk-In Centre will be established in the Weston Creek region. ACT Labor call upon the Minister for Health and Wellbeing to examine the community health care services available to residents on the south side of Canberra and consider access to Walk-In Centres for these residents, as well as potential for including basic imaging and pathology services within the Walk-In Centre model.

General Resolution 6: Palliative Care

As the ACT population is ageing the demand for Palliative Care services is increasing. Further, existing Palliative Care services have not been designed to meet the specialised needs of children and adolescents and their families/carers. It is recognised that in the 2016-17 Budget the ACT Government provided \$2.1m to expand palliative care services, including a dedicated paediatric palliative care nurse.

ACT Labor call upon the ACT Minister for Health to, as a priority, initiate a feasibility study into the expansion of Palliative Care services in the ACT, including access to services in the Tuggeranong Valley for younger adults and adolescents.

This study should include consideration of opportunities for partnerships with philanthropic organisations and appropriate health care providers.

General Resolution 9

ACT Labor believes that a trial of supervised injecting facilities is necessary to help reduce the risks associated with street-based injection and meet our health-related human rights obligations.

Health risks associated with injection drug use can be successfully addressed by adopting widely advocated risk minimisation measures. It is unreasonable to continue to assert that, because there is a belief that illegal activity should not be encouraged that harm minimization measures should not be put in place. The ACT Labor government must address the needs of health-care consumers who are street based injecting drug-users, many of whom are among the most marginalised and disadvantaged in our community. They are also most at risk of overdose and contraction of disease.

General Resolution 15: Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (Prep) Availability on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS)

ACT Labor congratulates the ACT Government's publicly funding 200 ACT places on the NSW EPIC Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) trial to provide access Truvada® for PrEP for those at higher risk of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) acquisition based on sexual and recreational drug use behaviour.

We note that improving the appropriate uptake of treatment as prevention ie PrEP, while monitoring and evaluating the impact of implementing this approach including feasibility, acceptability and outcomes, is a priority action under the Seventh National HIV Strategy 2014 2017.

We note that in the absence of PBS listing, there are significant barriers to access to PrEP, including financial, with a cost at approximately \$150–350 per three month supply through the Personal Importation Scheme. This financial barrier is particularly acute with research showing gay men earn around 20 per cent less than their heterosexual counterparts. Additionally, overseas imports increases the risk of spurious, falsely-labelled, falsified and counterfeit medicines.

We are therefore disappointed to note the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee's (PBAC) rejection of submissions to add Truvada as use for PrEP to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). In the minutes of its July 2016 meeting, PBAC "noted that the efficacy of Truvada was highly dependent on adherence, and that it is not clear if subjects at high risk of contracting HIV due to self-reported low adherence to safer sex practices would also have lower adherence to medication." We believe that the reasons why a person may have a 'low adherence to safer sex practices' are complex and varied, and should not be the basis for withholding PrEP as a necessary addition to the HIV prevention toolkit. We believe that drawing a comparison between risk behaviour and adherence to medication is illogical, and is unhelpful, stigmatising and homophobic.

We congratulate the ACT Government for its commitment to advocating for the PBS listing of Truvada for PrEP. We call upon the ACT Government to continue to examine ways to facilitate and improve universal access to PrEP, particularly until PBS listing occurs.

We call upon the ALP Federal Parliamentary Caucus to continue to advocate for PBS listing, and to examine and support measures that further universal access to PrEP.

Indigenous Affairs

General Resolution 1

ACT Labor notes that the current Turnbull government is overseeing some of the worst attacks on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers and community organisations in a generation.

Not since the wins of the Wave Hill Walk Off have we seen government sanctioned wage discrimination like this.

The Community Development Programme (CDP) undermines the industrial rights of 37,000 workers of which 31,000 are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers. The CDP forces workers into 25 hours of labour, provides no federal occupational health and safety or workers 'compensation protection, provides no superannuation, no workplace employment standards and could be exploited by employers as a free source of labour.

While the federally mandated maximum wage that oppressed the workers at Wave Hill is gone, the Community Development Programme remains, mandating that the people in remote communities work longer hours than people in metropolitan areas for the same welfare payments, or risk months cut off from government support.

The Government had also attempted to outsource CDP compliance and payments from DHS onto CDP providers, reducing responsibility that Government have over the programme. While the Bill that attempted to do this did not pass at the time, it is still on their agenda and in character with their current pattern of outsourcing services.

ACT Labor supports ending any employment discrimination against all Australian workers and condemns the CDP. ACT Labor demands equitable treatment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers.

General Resolution 2

The APSC currently has a Commonwealth Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment Strategy which states that by 2018 representation of Indigenous Employees will have increased to three per cent in the whole APS. This is to be achieved through agency specific targets, to reflect an agency's current Indigenous representation and regional footprint.

While the use of realistic targets is important, having different targets in each agency results in a disparity of work for Indigenous workers in the APS and does not improve representation in some agencies.

ACT Labor supports the target of a minimum of 3 per cent per agency to make sure Indigenous representation is evenly spread across the APS, unless the agency already has a target that is higher than 3 per cent. ACT Labor advocates for the restoration of retention and clear career progression pathways to the Employment Strategy to reduce the rotating door of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander recruitment where new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees are recruited to meet the 3% target while large numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees leave the APS.

Industrial Relations

General Resolution 3

ACT Labor notes that the ACT Government and Unions have entered into negotiations for replacement agreements for ACT Government public sector workers. ACT Labor notes that the bargaining parties are committed to negotiating in good faith and that progress is occurring but that significant work remains to be done.

ACT Labor considers that Superannuation is a critical issue for all employees including ACT government workers. ACT Labor notes that:

- Securing employer contribution rates in legally enforceable enterprise agreements protects workers from threats to cut rates by hostile employers.

- Women’s retirement incomes remain significantly lower than men’s and that unpaid parental leave is a significant factor (while not the only factor) giving rise to this disadvantage. Provisions in enterprise agreements are the only legal mechanism to address this disadvantage for women workers in accumulation superannuation schemes.
- There is inequity across the service with approximately 7500 employees receiving lower employer contribution rates than other ACTPS workers who are performing the same work.

ACT Labor notes that members of the CPSU and other unions employed in the Australian Public Service have been fighting back against a neo-liberal anti-worker bargaining agenda for over three years. At the commencement of bargaining, the anti-worker Abbott/Turnbull Government moved to attack public sector workers superannuation entitlements. As Superannuation rates were contained in legally enforceable enterprise agreements the attack failed. Conference supports Unions protecting members against potential attacks like these in the future.

ACT Labor will seek positive outcomes for ACT Public Service employees through enterprise bargaining. ACT Labor calls on the bargaining parties to:

- Consider and address the above issues in resolving bargaining; and
- Protect the pay, rights and conditions of workers while addressing the service needs of the community.

General Resolution 4

Centrelink is clearly in crisis, and the community urgently needs more investment in the vital services provided by public servants. The 1100 job cuts to Centrelink in the recent Federal Budget, on top of the 5000 permanent jobs already cut, will mean even longer wait times on the phone or in Centrelink offices, and longer processing times, for people using Centrelink services.

ACT Labor notes that Coalition Government attacks on the Commonwealth public sector have caused not only massive job losses but have also driven agencies such as Centrelink into crisis, resulting in the robo-debt debacle and in 36 million phone calls to Centrelink being unanswered last year. They are now commencing the process of privatising social security by creating an outsourced call centre which will leave the community with even worse customer services, as well as proposals to outsource social security payments which we have seen proposed for certain Centrelink programs.

ACT Labor condemns the Federal Coalition Government’s sustained attacks on the Department of Human Services, including Centrelink.

ACT Labor condemns the Turnbull Government’s move to outsource parts of DHS and the APS.

ACT Labor acknowledges the Federal Labor Party’s commitment at the last federal election to lift service standards for the Australian community by converting casual jobs at DHS into permanent jobs.

ACT Labor calls on Federal Labor to continue working with the unions to improve vital service delivery and public service provision to our community.

ACT Labor supports public service jobs and public investment in services.

General Resolution 5

Despite increased community demand for quality public services, the federal public service has seen unprecedented growth in casualised and insecure workers undertaking what is permanent work. The 2017 federal budget announced further outsourcing, sending Immigration and Centrelink work to private companies.

The number of short term contracts and level of outsourced labour hire in central policy agencies in Canberra is fundamentally damaging the policy making capacity of these agencies.

Furthermore, the increase in outsourced IT of Government agencies has resulted in diminished capability and understanding of IT needs for the APS.

ACT Labor notes that insecure work and casualisation in the public service cuts capability, results in poorer policy outcomes and cuts the essential services needed by the Australian community.

ACT Labor resolves to support community campaigning by unions to stop the outsourcing and casualisation of the APS workforce.

ACT Labor calls on the ACT Government to examine current use of short term contracts, casualisation and outsourced labour hire across the ACT Government and to work with unions to minimise insecure work in ACT government and across the ACT.

General Resolution 6: Wage Theft

ACT Labor calls on the ACT Government to include wage theft into the Criminal Code 2002 (Australian Capital Territory) as a criminal offence. The possibility of criminal persecution will ensure employers think twice before underpaying their staff and will adequately punish those who continue to do so.

General Resolution 7: Insecure Work

ACT Labor calls on the ACT Government to implement the following measures aimed at addressing insecure work in the ACT:

- The ACT Government should become an employer of last resort, providing employment to immigrants who are in the process of undergoing an investigation into their industrial rights.
- The ACT Government should limit its reliance on casual and temporary contracts in the ACT Public Service.

General Resolution 8: Local Jobs Code

The majority of ACT workers remain waiting for the ACT Government to deliver on its commitment to introduce the Local Jobs Code.

Problems of insecure work, sham contracting, tax avoidance, unsafe working conditions, wage theft and union hostile workers persist.

Every day kept waiting for a local legislative answer to these endemic problems is a day too long.

ACT Labor calls on the Chief Minister to provide additional support, focus and resources and to take whatever further action that may be required to ensure that the key pre-election promise is delivered without further delay.

General Resolution 9: Canberra Hospital Cleaners

Over one hundred cleaners are employed at the Canberra Hospital. These cleaners have not had a wage increase for five years. Despite working hard to deliver an essential service to the community they are paid less than two thirds of the pay that ACT Government employees receive for cleaning the Woden car park.

The cleaners are employed by a contractor providing the services to government. They have bargained for wage increases but the employer's final offer (60cents extra per hour) is unacceptable. The employer claims that there are insufficient funds in the contract price to pay anything more.

The bureaucracy has confirmed the contractor's claims but says that this is not their problem.

Industrial action at the hospital seems inevitable.

ACT Labor calls on the Minister of Health to take immediate action to improve the wages offer made to cleaners in the hospital.

Cleaners working in the public areas of the hospital, in clinical wards in the emergency departments, surgical theatres and throughout the hospital deserve to be paid at least those rates applying to directly engaged government cleaning staff.

General Resolution 10: Gaming Industry Reform

United Voice represents the interest of workers across the hospitality industry including those working in clubs and in the casino.

Workers interest are rarely considered in the debate regarding poker machines, harm minimization, the casinos expansion plans, community contributions and the clubs industries plans to become less reliant on gambling revenue. The interests of competing employer and political groups dominate.

The recent action by the Canberra Southern Cross club to cut their employees penalty rates are illustrative of how far some clubs have moved from the notion of local not-for-profit organisations run for the benefit of their members.

The Casino has won government support for poker machines and planning approvals whilst maintaining anti-union employment practices.

ACT Labor calls on the ACT to develop a comprehensive plan for the ACT gaming industry that addresses public concerns and the industry as a whole but has at heart policies that will create well trained, secure, safe and well paid employment where union rights are respected.

General Resolution 11: School Cleaning

The review of ACT school cleaning contracts has moved the government closer to meeting some of the major objectives of the Local Jobs Code and what should be the objectives of any Labor Government.

“Labor believes that government has a responsibility to ensure disreputable, rogue and unsafe companies are not the beneficiaries of taxpayer funds. Labor believes that government should be a model-purchaser of goods and services, and use its purchasing power to set high standards for workplace safety and rights, and quality.” - From 2016 Labor Conference Resolution

ACT Labor also supports and encourage workers to join and be active in their union.

The review of school cleaning contracts, in addition to removing exploitation, sham contracting and tax avoidance the new standardised contracts provide the following:

- Support for collective bargaining and above award wages;
- Off-site inductions and onsite inductions with union access;
- Support for paid delegates leave;
- Paid biannual meetings of cleaners; and
- Specific provisions which prevent employers with discouraging union membership.

Significant problems have been faced by cleaners over the past two years due to failures in the system including insufficient contract monitoring and enforcement.

This too had been improved with the monthly monitoring of all aspects of the cleaning contract including industrial and safety obligations which form a significant part of the key performance criteria of the contract.

ACT Labor congratulates the Minister for Education and her staff on their focus and hard work undertaken to ensure that cleaners not only work in safe and secure jobs but also have opportunities to learn about the Australian union movement, their rights and how to organise and advocate for their own interests.

General Resolution 12: Equal Pay/Big Steps

The current industrial relations system has thus far failed to deal with the inequity caused by the gender pay gap.

Workers in eight centres across the ACT walked off the job earlier this year as a part of the Big Steps campaign run by United Voice members. The Big Steps is a campaign that seeks to end the undervaluation of work for the predominately female work force that provides early childhood education in long day care centres.

As well as taking on the job action to express anger and frustration and to highlight the issue to the wider community the campaign seeks to increase funding to the sector.

United Voice is also pursuing the issue of pay equity through a claim before the Fair Work Commission.

ACT Labor calls on the ACT Government to make a submission to the FWC in support of the unions pay equity claim, promote union membership amongst workers and to continue to lobby the federal government for increased funding.

General Resolution 13: Charity Collection Workers

ACT Labor notes:

- Charity fundraising is predominantly done by for-profit sales and marketing companies on behalf of the charities. Charities raise over \$1 billion each year from face-to-face fundraising alone.
- Most face-to-face fundraising workers are temporary visa workers or working backpacker visa workers engaged in an illegal sham-contracting arrangement.
- In 2016, the Fair Work Ombudsman announced a charity fundraising supply chain investigation following several prosecutions by the FWO of charity fundraising companies.
- The ACT Government regulates charity collections, although it recently abolished charity collection licensing and has not replaced it.
- There are approx. 160 charity collection workers in the ACT, engaged by approx. 10 for-profit companies, and collecting on behalf of approx. 10 national and international charities.

ACT Labor resolves:

- That the exploitation of charity collections workers is unacceptable and violates community expectations that charities engage workers in an ethical manner.
- That access to public spaces by charities and for-profit companies for fundraising is a privilege
- That charity executives and directors must take responsibility for the behaviour of for-profit companies that fundraise in the charity's name; and
- Calls on the ACT Government to:
 - take action within 12 months to protect charity works by working with unions to create the necessary legislation and regulatory regime to cover all businesses in the supply chain of charity collections, to ensure those businesses treat their workers fairly, and in accordance with their industrial and safety obligations.

General Resolution 14

ACT Labor notes that Work Safe ACT has historically been an independent regulatory authority with the principle purpose of reducing the number of people injured at work.

ACT Labor notes that the 2015 amalgamation of Work Safe ACT into Access Canberra was done without consultation. ACT Labor further notes that since 2011 and before its amalgamation into Access Canberra, Work Safe ACT was a branch within the Regulatory

Services Directorate. This has created the situation where the Work Safety Commissioner reports to the Minister for Regulatory Services, not Minister for Workplace Safety.

ACT Labor also notes the recent change to Work Safe ACT’s “compliance framework”, which was introduced without consultation with unions. This new framework creates an inappropriate emphasis away from compliance and enforcement of the law.

ACT Labor further notes that each year there are over 3000 private sector workplace injuries and hundreds more in the public sector in the ACT. ACT Labor notes that up to 36 percent of workers, mainly in insecure and low-wage work, don’t report injuries, or lodge workers compensation claims, if they are hurt at work.

ACT Labor finally notes the views of the union movement, which has recently unanimously stated that the interests of worker safety has “not been well-served” by the amalgamation of Work Safe ACT into Access Canberra.

ACT Labor resolves that:

- Work Safe ACT should be an independent, stand-alone statutory regulatory authority separate from Access Canberra;
- The Work Safe Commissioner should be the chief executive officer with sole responsibility for administration of the ACT Work Health and Safety Act 2011;
- The Work Safe Commissioner, as chief executive of Work Safe ACT, should not also be administrator, director or commissioner for other Acts;
- Work Safe ACT and the Work Safe Commissioner should report solely to the Minister for Workplace Safety;
- That the policy of the ACT Government should have as its key priority the compliance with, and enforcement of, the ACT Workplace Health & Safety Act 2011, to ensure the protection of workers’ safety.

General Resolution 15: Licensing Labour Hire

The rise of insecure work is a social and economic crisis. Over 32,000 Canberra workers are engaged in an insecure form of employment. For a few this a choice, for many it is simply all there is.

The decline of secure, decent jobs threatens not only the notion of a fair go for all but our very social cohesion. Insecurity at work leads to anxiety at home and fear in the community. Insecure work disproportionately impacts women, young people, and migrant workers.

Current and future generations should be able count on secure work, rather than just have their grandparents recount it to them.

ACT Labor resolves:

- Resolves that a secure job should be recognised as a fundamental right at work.
- Calls upon all Labor MLAs and Federal parliamentarians to enact any and every legislative and regulatory change which makes this a reality, including but not limited to the following measures:
 - a. The urgent establishment of a licensing scheme for the labour hire industry in Canberra that protects the rights of workers and ensures only responsible and credible organisations may trade in the supply of labour.
 - b. Within the ACT Government, establish a clear policy for directorates that sets out stringent conditions for the procurement of labour hire, and prevent the use of labour hire to avoid obligations under ACT Government enterprise agreements.
 - c. Within the ACT Government, advocate for strong national licensing of labour hire through national forums including COAG, as well as directly with like-minded jurisdictions.

- d. Within the Federal sphere, support amendments to the Fair Work Act to allow workers to take industrial action to support job security outside of bargaining periods. The Act currently prevents workers from taking industrial action while allowing employers to outsource jobs between bargaining.

This General Resolution is to be forwarded to the FPLP Caucus Secretary.

General Resolution 16: No PaTH Internships

ACT Labor notes that:

- The Federal Government's PaTH internship program is regressive, job destroying and undermines Australian wages and working conditions;
- The PaTH internship program will replace up to 10,000 fully paid jobs in the retail sector with Commonwealth Government paid \$4 per hour position for young people;
- The PaTH internships may be unlawful under Australian law;
- Provide unscrupulous businesses, including companies with a track record of prosecutions for underpayment of workers, a means to severely exploit young people seeking work or a career;
- The PaTH internship program has a poor record of ensuring ongoing jobs for participants with fewer than 15 percent of interns resulting in a real job;
- The PaTH internship program has been condemned by unions, community groups and employers;
- The Federal Government has wrecked over 100,000 apprenticeship places nationally, and devastated Australia's TAFE system.

ACT Labor therefore:

- Resolves to condemn the PaTH internship program as an exploitative program that undermines wages and displaces paid jobs;
- Calls on the ACT Government to introduce a policy to discourage the use of PaTH internships by entities that receive funding from the ACT Government;
- Calls on the ACT Government to prohibit the use of PaTH internships within the ACT Government and ACT Government entities;
- Calls on the ACT Government to invest in genuine programs to promote secure employment for young people, including apprenticeships, genuine traineeships, publicly funded TAFE, and university.

General Resolution 17

ACT Labor supports a strong safety net that provides a fair and decent wage system based on collective bargaining, awards and strong minimum standards including penalty rates.

General Resolution 18

ACT Labor supports the recognition of the fundamental right of employees to bargain collectively either at an industry, industry sector, supply chain or enterprise level.

General Resolution 19

ACT Labor recognises that the changing organisation of work requires regulation of work, whether direct employment, labour hire, owner truck drivers, outworkers, contracting, "gig economy", franchised and other forms, to maximise secure work with a fair minimum safety net of conditions and protections for all workers no matter how they are engaged to perform the work. To achieve this Labor is committed to making legislative changes to ensure franchisors are jointly liable for breaches of laws regulating work, within their franchise network, by franchisees.

General Resolution 20

ACT Labor supports a universal not for profit superannuation system based on the industry superannuation fund representative trustee governance model.

General Resolution 21

ACT Labor in Government will work with the Federal Government to:

- expedite increases in the superannuation guarantee initially to 12% and then incrementally to 15%;
- increase penalties on employers who fail to pay workers superannuation entitlements;
- remove work and age limits for superannuation payments so all workers are entitled to superannuation payments; and
- amend the FEG so that when a business is wound up any unpaid superannuation entitlements of workers are eligible to be paid under the FEG system.

General Resolution 22

ACT Labor will introduce measures to effectively reduce the significant disparity in the retirement incomes of men and women.

General Resolution 23

ACT Labor supports access for all workers to industrial tribunals and courts with conciliation and final arbitration powers on all work-related issues.

General Resolution 25

ACT Labor will work for nationally consistent laws that ensure franchisors are jointly liable for breaches of laws regulating work, within their franchise networks, by franchisees.

General Resolution 26: We Won't Wait

ACT Labor recognises that everybody wins when a worker who is experiencing domestic violence keeps their job:

1. Paid work plays a critical role in enabling a worker and their children to leave an abusive relationship.
2. Workplaces that provide a safe and supportive environment for their employees very quickly become employers of choice. They have higher retention rates, higher staff morale, less absenteeism and higher productivity.
3. ACT Labor recognizes that many people living with violence resign, or are terminated from their jobs because they need to take time off work to deal with injuries to themselves and their children, or to attend appointments with counsellors, police and courts, because the perpetrator of violence will not allow them to leave the house or when trying to organize their escape from violence,
4. ACT Labor recognises the steps taken by the ACT Government to provide 20 days paid leave for ACT Government employees and congratulates the Government for this action
5. ACT Labor recognizes that if a worker living with violence leaves their job it is much harder for them to find help or to leave that violence.
6. ACT Labor fully supports the ACTU campaign, We Won't Wait, for a minimum 10 days paid domestic violence leave as a universal entitlement for all workers to be enshrined in the National Employment Standards and relevant State & Territory legislation.
7. ACT Labor Government will continue to advocate at COAG along with other Labor leaders for all Governments to work together to ensure 10 days paid leave is provided for all workers.
8. ACT Labor calls on Federal Labor to also support a minimum 10 days paid domestic violence leave and commit to enshrining that in the National Employment Standards when in Government.

Legal and Administrative Reform

General Resolution 1

ACT Labor:

1. Condemns the Federal Liberal Government's cuts to funding for Community Legal Centres;
2. Recognises the important role that Community Legal Centres play in ensuring equal access to the law; and
3. Calls on the ACT Labor Government to:
 - a. Review the current resourcing of the community legal sector and Legal Aid and their capacity to provide services to the community,
 - b. Continue to advocate to the Federal Government for the reinstatement of funding to the sector, and
 - c. Investigate means by which the ACT Government could fund the community legal sector.

General Resolution 2

ACT Labor calls on the ACT Labor Government to urgently adjust ACT drug-driving laws, to bring them into alignment with both our drug possession laws and community expectations based on our drug possession laws, by accounting for actual levels of drug traces, and thus likely driver impairment.

ACT Labor urgently calls on the ACT Labor Government to;

1. Reform the ACT drug driving laws to remove criminal penalty for low levels that do not impair driving
OR
2. Change the method used to test for drug use from testing for just any traces of marijuana in the body to testing the level of driver impairment.

General Resolution 3: Establishing an ACT Independent Commission Against Corruption

1. ACT Labor commends the Hon Andrew Barr MLA and the ACT Parliamentary Labor Party (ACT PLP) for their commitment to anti-corruption and efforts to establish an ACT Legislative Assembly select committee to investigate an ACT independent integrity commission (the select committee).
2. ACT Labor supports the establishment of an ACT Independent Commission Against Corruption (AICAC) with functions and powers to prevent, investigate, and root out corruption both in the ACT and, with the assistance of and through equivalent Commonwealth, state, and territory anti-corruption commissions, nationally.
3. The AICAC should be independent of government and should be resourced and staffed to enable it to operate effectively and efficiently.
4. The design of the AICAC should be informed by the findings of the select committee, the NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption, the Victorian Independent Broad based Anti-Corruption Commission, and other successful anti-corruption commissions around Australia and globally.
5. ACT Labor calls on the ACT PLP to support the establishment of the AICAC.

General Resolution 4: Establishing a Commonwealth Independent Commission Against Corruption

1. ACT Labor commends the Hon Bill Shorten MP and the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party (FPLP) for their commitment to anti-corruption and efforts to establish a Senate select committee on the need for a National Integrity Commission (the Senate committee).
2. ACT Labor supports the establishment of a Commonwealth Independent Commission Against Corruption (CICAC) with functions and powers to prevent, investigate, and root out corruption both at a Commonwealth level and, with the

assistance of and through equivalent state and territory anti-corruption commissions, nationally.

3. The CICAC should be independent of government and should be resourced and staffed to enable it to operate effectively and efficiently.
4. The design of the CICAC should be informed by the findings of the Senate committee, the NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption, the Victorian Independent Broad based Anti-Corruption Commission, and other successful anti-corruption commissions around Australia and globally.
5. ACT Labor calls on the FPLP to:
 - a. support the establishment of the CICAC within six months of the final report of the Senate committee; and
 - b. if the federal Government fails to establish the CICAC (or establishes only an inferior body), establish (or appropriately expand and resource) the CICAC within six months of the election of an incoming federal Labor government.

General Resolution 5

That ACT Labor calls on the ALP National Conference to adopt the restoration of self-governing territories' ability to make legislation relating to voluntary euthanasia.

Women

General Resolution 1

ACT Labor supports removing a free vote on abortion in the Australian Labor Party's National Rules, and implementing a binding vote in favour of a woman's right to choose on all members of the party elected to public office.

General Resolution 2

ACT Labor calls on its delegates to the next National Labor Conference to vote in favour of implementing a binding vote in favour of a woman's right to choose on all members of the party elected to public office.

General Resolution 3

The ACT is historically a leader in abortion law reform, currently leading the country in legislation protecting women and their reproductive choices. Law reforms include that of decriminalisation and exclusion zones around facilities to ensure safe and accessible healthcare can be provided to women seeking services.

However, currently services are only provided by one outsourced provider within Canberra, being Marie Stopes International, with both surgical and medical procedures costing \$500. These costs mean that women must make the choice if they wish to undertake these services sacrificing other parts of their lives with women being known to take out loans to pay for the service.

At such a cost, it has become problematic for women on low incomes, students and people on welfare to afford services.

As such ACT Labor commits to undertake expanded services to provide safe, affordable and accessible services to women. This includes investigating the ability to provide medical termination services through prescription at pharmacies, with a list of these pharmacies collated and publicly available and government run sexual health clinics, absorbing full costs for health card holders and providing discounted services to all other women.

This should only be implemented if it doesn't contribute to making Marie Stopes, our current only surgical abortion provider in the ACT, less viable as a service.

General Resolution 5

With over 57,900 APS employees located in the ACT, recent efforts by federal agencies to address gender inequality are a welcome development. There are clear inequalities divided along gender lines in take home pay, superannuation, numbers of women in senior

leadership positions, as well as the impact of domestic violence on the working lives of women.

In the APS there is a gender pay of 12%, which is better than the national average of 17.3%, but it has sat around this level for more than 20 years. These discrepancies are no accident and ACT Labor recognises that the union movement have been leaders when improving working conditions for women, and should continue to work towards lobbying industries to adopt gender equality strategies and work alongside them in their formation.

In the ACTPS there is a gender pay gap of 3.6% in the context of a 10.8% gender pay gap ACT-wide.

ACT Labor supports the continued examination of what progress has been made on workplace gender equality in the APS so far and what more needs to be done.

General Resolution 6

ACT Labor calls on the ACT Government to commence implementation of the Pharmacy signage legislation, as supported at the 2014 conference, by the end of the year and report progress back to the committee as a matter of priority. Currently, pharmacies are able to refuse to supply any prescription, medicine or item based on the particular religious or ethical views of the particular pharmacist. Paragraph 89 of the Women's Platform states:

89. Supports the introduction of a requirement for health practitioners and pharmacies who choose not to supply relevant reproductive health medications, products and procedures, to display clearly visible signage that informs consumers, in plain language, about which particular reproductive health medications and products they refuse to supply, in order to enable consumers, particularly women, to make an informed choice as where to present prescriptions to be filled without intimidation, humiliation or embarrassment.

General Resolution 7

That ACT Labor adopt policy to address cultural forms of domestic violence, specifically Early and Forced Marriage (EFM) and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) practices.