

# Basic Principles of the Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)

## A. Origins

The Australian Labor Party has its origins in:

- the aspirations of the Australian people for a decent secure, dignified and constructive way of life;
- the recognition by the trade union movement of the necessity for a political voice to take forward the struggle of the working class against the excesses, injustices and inequalities of capitalism; and
- the commitment by the Australian people to the creation of an independent, free and enlightened Australia.

## B. Objectives

The Australian Labor Party is a democratic socialist party and has the objective of the democratic socialisation of industry, production, distribution and exchange, to the extent necessary to eliminate exploitation and other antisocial features in these fields. To achieve the political and social values of equality, democracy, liberty and social cooperation inherent in this objective, the Australian Labor Party stands for:

1. Redistribution of political and economic power so that all members of society have the opportunity to participate in the shaping and control of the institutions and relationship which determine their lives.
2. Establishment and development of public enterprises, based upon Federal, State and other forms of social ownership, in appropriate sectors of the economy.
3. Democratic control and strategic social ownership of Australian natural resources for the benefit of all Australians.
4. Maintenance of and support for a competitive non monopolistic private sector, including small business and farming, controlled and owned by Australians, operating within clear social guidelines and objectives.
5. The right to own private property.
6. Recognition and encouragement of the right of labour to organise for the protection and advancement of its interests.
7. The application of democracy in industry to increase the opportunities for people to work in satisfying, healthy and humane conditions, and to participate in and to increase their control over the decision-making processes affecting them.
8. The promotion of socially appropriate technology and the monitoring of its introduction to ensure that the needs and interests of labour, as well as the requirements of competitive industry and consumer demand, are taken into consideration.
9. The restoration and maintenance of full employment.
10. The abolition of poverty, and the achievement of greater equality in the distribution of income, wealth and opportunity.
11. Social justice and equality for individuals, the family and all social units, and the elimination of exploitation in the home.
12. Equal access and rights to employment, education, information, technology, housing,
13. Reform of the Australian Constitution and other political institutions to ensure that they reflect the will of the majority of Australian citizens and the existence of Australia as an independent republic.
14. Recognition and protection of fundamental political and civil rights, including freedom of expression, the press, assembly, association, conscience and religion; the right to privacy; the protection of the individual from oppression by the State; and democratic reform of the Australian legal system.
15. The development of a democratic communications system, as an integral part of a free society, to which all citizens have opportunities for free access.

16. Elimination of discrimination and exploitation on the grounds of class, race, sex, sexuality, religion, political affiliation, national origin, citizenship, age, disability, regional location, or economic or household status.
17. Recognition of the prior ownership of Australian land by Aborigines and Islanders, recognition of their special and essential relationship with the land as the basis of their culture, and a commitment to the return of established traditional lands to the ownership of Aboriginal and Islander communities.
18. Recognition and encouragement of diversity of cultural expression and lifestyle within the Australian community.
19. The proper management of Australian resources and protection of the environment, whether created by people or nature, to safeguard the rights of present and future generations.
20. Maintenance of world peace; an independent Australian position in world affairs; the recognition of the right of all nations to self-determination and independence; regional and international agreement for arms control and disarmament; the provision of economic and social aid to developing nations; a commitment to resolve international conflicts through the United Nations; and a recognition of the inalienable right of all people to liberty, equality, democracy and social justice.
21. Commitment to and participation in the international democratic socialist movement as represented by the Socialist International.
22. Recognition of the right of citizens to work for progressive changes consistent with the broad principles of democratic socialism.

## C. Principles of Action

The Australian Labor Party believes that the task of building democratic socialism is a cooperative process which requires:

1. constitutional action through the Australian and State Parliaments, municipal and other statutory authorities;
2. union action; and
3. ongoing action by organised community groups.

## D. Membership and Organisation

- Membership of the Australian Labor Party is open to all residents of Australia who are prepared to accept its objectives and who have associations with no other political party.
- Australian Labor Party policy is made by National Conferences comprising the National and State parliamentary leadership of the Party, together with elected delegates from all States, the Australian Capital Territory, the Northern Territory and Australian Young Labor.
- Party policy within the State and Territories is framed by conferences of delegates elected by constituent branches and affiliated unions.
- Policy within the Australian Labor Party is not made by directives from the leadership, but by resolutions, originating from branches, affiliated unions and individual Party members.