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**A smart,
modern,
fair Australia**

Australian
Labor 

Draft National Platform

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Chapter 1: Labor's enduring values

1. We pay respect to the traditional owners of our ancient continent – the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples – their continuing connection to this land, and their right to a place of honour in our constitution and a full and equal share in our nation's future.
2. We are *a movement in service to the nation we love*, a country built on fairness, equality, justice and inclusion.ⁱ
3. *We are the engine room of national renewal, the generators of change, the pioneers of reform*, the party that builds for the future, and now, once again, we answer that call.ⁱⁱ
4. *We have a great objective – the light on the hill*: a Labor mission, both enduring and evolving.ⁱⁱⁱ
5. Enduring, because for more than 120 years we have championed fairness and opportunity as the essential qualities of a good society.
6. Evolving, because as agents of change and drivers of progress, our work is never done. *Others are simply marking time, we are breaking new ground.*^{iv}
7. We constantly seek to build a better future, for the *benefit of the whole of the people of Australia.*^v
8. The world that our party's founders knew is long gone, and the nation they built has changed beyond their grandest imagining. Yet we revere our Labor history, and their legacy.
9. We recognise the timeless truth of solidarity, organising and standing together with our brothers and sisters in the union movement to serve the best interests of working people.
10. We are a practical and pragmatic party, tinged with and touched by a romantic spirit. We have a tradition of ideals and ideas forged through cooperation, faith, consensus and trade unionism. Our heroes are social democrats, the world over: Robert Owen, William Morris, Beatrice and Sidney Webb, Keir Hardie, Jessie Street, Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt and Nelson Mandela.
11. We believe, as our forebears did, in the strength of parliamentary democracy and the power of politics to do good.
12. We stand for integrity and transparency in government and honesty in Labor, with no tolerance for corruption.

13. Labor is a party of principle, not protest. We strive for government and we seek to be measured by our deeds, marshalling the energy of the nation to *uplift the horizons and liberate the talents of the Australian people.*^{vi}
14. For us, the true reward of politics is progress. We are a party of evolutionary change and we are proud of our reform tradition, the vision that has remade our economy and society.
15. We respect the liberalism of a vital democracy and we fight to ensure that freedom is best given expression in equal opportunity, a decent social safety net and the alleviation of poverty wherever we find it.
16. We support the march of women through the institutions of power, and true gender equality: in opportunity, in pay, in leadership and in the complete elimination of family violence.
17. We look at the world differently to our opponents: we see it through the eyes of those without privilege, power or title.
18. Even in the hardest of times, we have always dreamed of building a better society. We have never wanted to tear it down.
19. *Our struggle has always been on behalf of the weak against the strong; for the poor, creating opportunity for those who never had a chance.*^{vii}
20. When a strong minimum wage, a fair day's and a decent pension work were radical notions, Labor made them universal rights.
21. When half a million Australians came home from war, Labor built the economy that found them work.
22. Where once Australia looked only inward, Labor offered a home to migrants whose cultures and traditions enrich us all.
23. University education was once a privilege decided by wealth. Labor made it an opportunity earned on merit.
24. For hundreds of thousands of families, illness or injury meant poverty, until Labor built Medicare.
25. When our national estate was under threat, Labor saved the Franklin and the Daintree.
26. Millions of Australians worked hard all their lives only to retire poor, until Labor created universal superannuation.
27. Our nation's failure to face the dark shadow of our history diminished us all, until Labor said Sorry.

28. Australians with disability were exiled to a second-class life in their own country, until Labor delivered the National Disability Insurance Scheme.
29. Our vision is for an Australia that offers all its citizens quality education, universal healthcare, opportunity in employment and security in retirement.
30. The historic success of our movement inspires us to greater effort, not complacency. We recognise that change in our society never stops, and our work is never done.
31. Our party has always found the courage to embrace change and adapt to the challenges of a new generation, to *carry on the task of building our nation to greatness*,^{viii} to write the country large.
32. We do not seek monuments of marble or stone, statues in parks or plaques on buildings. Our measure of success is a young person finding a fulfilling job, an apprentice gaining new skills and new self-respect and a student born into disadvantage bettering themselves through education.
33. We believe in the fair distribution of wealth and we embrace responsibility for its creation. For Labor, the choice between a strong economy and a fair society is always a false one. We know each is the precondition for the other and each supports the other.
34. We no longer hide behind the walls of ‘fortress Australia’: we face the world with confidence and the future with optimism. We choose to compete because we know we can succeed.
35. We stand for a smart, modern and fair Australia, building an economy and a society that rewards people for their ideas, their effort and their industry.
36. We believe in an economy that rewards risk-takers and job-creators, encourages entrepreneurs and small business owners and respects public service, public enterprise, tradespeople, service providers and the self-employed.
37. Our belief in prosperity is pragmatic, not dogmatic. A government that is strong and flexible, not brittle or rigid. We believe in the contribution of markets and the role of government.
38. Where once we sought to row, now we seek to steer: using competition to shape markets and let them work. We recognise that government can underpin markets, building institutions and underwriting stability, as well as allowing for better competition and more opportunity. Our focus is on the circumstances, purpose and merit of each decision, not shackled by ideology.

39. Our Commonwealth thrives on our people's common endeavour and we are at our best when the benefits of economic growth help everyone, include everyone and leave no-one behind.
40. We prepare for the future with world class education, giving every Australian child the chance to gain the knowledge and skills to adapt and succeed in the modern economy.
41. We create the skilled and smart jobs of tomorrow as a learning society dedicated to lifelong education, an innovation nation investing in science and discovery, and supporting our researchers and the CSIRO.
42. We believe in giving every Australian the opportunity of a good job – a job with a sense of security and fair pay.
43. We nourish the arts as the essence of our people's creativity and our nation's spirit.
44. We believe in equality and inclusion for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) Australians, in their daily lives and under the law.
45. Labor began the Snowy Mountain scheme. We brought sewerage and amenity to our outer suburbs. We invest in the regions, our farmers and agriculture, boosting our productive capacity through infrastructure that binds our nation.
46. We will save the Great Barrier Reef, conserve old-growth forests and take real action on climate change. We will pass on to the next generation of Australians a national environment in better shape than the one we inherited.
47. We must close the gap, so *all Australians, whatever their origins, are truly equal partners, with equal opportunities.*^{ix}
48. Labor believes in an Australian Republic, where our head of state is one of us.
49. We celebrate immigration, we cherish the miracle of multiculturalism and we believe in an Australia where migrants, refugees and people of all traditions and faiths, or no faith, are respected, valued, welcome and equal.
50. We believe in an Australia strong in the world and secure at home. We support the dedicated, brave professionals of our defence force and our security agencies who keep us all safe.
51. We are good international citizens, committed to the United Nations. We look outwards, and we see and seek a positive role for Australia in the world, defending human rights, promoting peace and offering a helping hand to the vulnerable.

52. We embrace our place in Asia, ready to seize the opportunities of the most profound economic transformation in human history.
 53. This is how we build an Australia where everyone has an equal opportunity to fulfil their potential.
 54. This is our Labor mission and *every individual can bear a hand in this great task.*^x
 55. Our movement's success has always depended upon our members, *the true believers. The people who, in difficult times, kept the faith.*^{xi} Their faith inspires us and guides us still.
 56. Our platform speaks with the voice of all our members. With it, we pledge ourselves to the best of our traditions and the betterment of our nation's future.
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ⁱ Julia Gillard, National Conference, 3 December 2011

ⁱⁱ Bob Hawke, National Conference, 26 June 1991

ⁱⁱⁱ Ben Chifley, 'The Light on the Hill', 12 June 1949

^{iv} Andrew Fisher, *Labor Call*, 26 October 1911

^v Chris Watson, House of Representatives, 18 May 1904

^{vi} Gough Whitlam, campaign launch, 13 November 1972

^{vii} John Curtin, Perth, 28 August 1940

^{viii} Frank Forde, House of Representatives, 5 July 1945

^{ix} Kevin Rudd, National Apology, 13 February 2008

^x James Scullin, Richmond, 17 November 1928

^{xi} Paul Keating, Bankstown, 13 March 1993

Chapter 2: A strong economy for all Australians

The contemporary challenge

1. Australia needs macro-economic policy to foster investment across the entire economy and ongoing reform and economic management to increase productivity, create good jobs and secure the future health of the Australian economy. This includes sector-by-sector measures to improve competitiveness, innovation and productivity. Modernising our infrastructure, managing the transition to clean energy, investing in skills and innovation and advancing tax reform are all necessary for Australia's economy to grow in all Australians' interests.
2. The mining boom generated an increase in our national wealth and created thousands of jobs. The mining construction boom has now ended and although production is picking up, the sector is under pressure due to dramatic falls in commodity prices. While Australia has received a permanent increase in our national income through the mining boom, the sector is now losing construction as well as production jobs, even as production and export pick up. Strong growth in employment will need to be generated in other sectors to keep our unemployment rate steady. Australians have benefited enormously from more than two decades of uninterrupted economic growth. Labor's economic priority is to continue this growth, in an inclusive and sustainable way. Climate change poses a significant risk to economic growth.

Labor values

3. Labor believes in economic growth, opportunity and fairness. Good economic management lifts economic growth over time, which raises living standards and lifts people out of poverty, turning aspiration into reality. A strong economy is necessary to a good society. Labor works to give all Australians a better quality of life and allow the broader community to share in our nation's prosperity.
4. Labor is a party of economic growth. We reject the arguments of those who do not believe in economic growth. This has always been essential to our agenda: from early Labor Governments' nation-building reforms and the creation of a genuinely national economy in wartime, to economic reform through the Hawke and Keating years and seeing Australia through the global financial crisis without recession. Labor rejects the false choice between economic growth and equality. Excessive inequality detracts from economic growth and damages the social fabric. Economic growth should be inclusive of all.
5. Opportunity and fairness are essential to Labor's economic approach: economic policy should create opportunities and governments should spread these to all Australians. Your family's wealth should not determine your ability to grow to your full potential. A strong economy allows Labor to deliver programs and services Australians need, and to support the most vulnerable. The benefits of economic growth should be redistributed through the

economy to those on low wages, not in work or reliant on welfare. Government should ensure people from all backgrounds and circumstances can both contribute to economic growth and benefit from it.

6. Labor believes in the power of ideas to transform our nation and build a richer, fairer and more sustainable future. Science includes knowledge of the world in all its forms. It is not confined to any one discipline. We turn to science and research to understand the world, and to help change it. Our unique situation – as a large country with a small population, as custodians of fragile ecosystems, and as a developed, responsible democracy – demands we invest in the science and research that will underpin Australia’s wellbeing in the 21st century. We recognise the imperative of harnessing new ideas, processes and technologies for the benefit of all Australians.
7. Innovation, science and commercialising scientific advances are essential to sustainable economic growth. Companies, organisations and individuals are the driving force behind innovation but Governments can and should enable and facilitate innovation. Australia’s economy needs innovation, venture capital, start-ups and the spirit of entrepreneurialism. Open markets, supported by a framework of pro-competitive rules, provide the best incentives for innovation, enterprise, investment and hard work.
8. Australia’s openness to the global economy has made us more competitive, productive and prosperous. Australians have benefited through job creation and rising incomes, lower consumer prices and greater choice. Our long-term prosperity depends on competing successfully in global markets. Australia needs to produce high quality goods and services the world wants to buy, and remove barriers to overseas markets. Labor will ensure skills development and training, infrastructure planning, tax and regulation frameworks do not hold businesses and workers back from achieving their full potential in global markets and ensure all Australians enjoy a fair share of the benefits of growth.
9. Strong and sustainable public finances are essential to fund progressive policy in future. Every Australian should be able to contribute to and benefit from economic growth and wealth creation through a fair tax system, quality public services, equal educational opportunities and a decent social safety net. Meeting the health care, pensions and education needs of future generations will require prudent budget management and prioritising support for those most in need.
10. The market will often create the most equal and efficient distributions of power, wealth and services, but markets sometimes fail. Strong regulatory frameworks in both the global and the Australian economies are important to ensure markets operate with transparency and openness, and to prevent and expose misconduct. Government should intervene to address market failures and the extremes of capitalism. Labor supports an active role for governments in addressing market failure and improving equity and social justice through the full range of government policy instruments including expenditure, taxation, regulation, and the provision of goods and services. Government action is required to ensure the Australian economy becomes an increasingly diversified advanced economy –

business by business and region by region – by providing world’s best infrastructure, supporting strategic industries, promoting skills, overcoming barriers to growth and supporting science and innovation.

11. Labor is the party of jobs and fairness at work. We believe in the benefits of decent, secure work for individuals and society. Every Australian capable of working should be encouraged to do so. Automation and technological advances are good for society and the economy, but these changes need to be managed to minimise negative impacts on individuals, regions and industries. There is also a danger automation will see the disappearance of traditional entry-level and manual jobs.
12. Australia needs an education system producing skilled workers who are well trained and capable of performing in high-technology, high-skilled jobs of the future. Australia’s innovation and education framework should foster and encourage the very best of Australian ingenuity, so Australia is setting the pace of technological change. Australians with good ideas should not be forced to leave Australia to see their ideas developed. Entrepreneurs and innovators from around the world should be encouraged and invited to come to Australia to see their ideas developed, deployed and commercialised.
13. Labor believes in creating stability and confidence in the market, and the importance of business and consumer indices remaining stable, at trend or above.

Labor priorities

Responsible Fiscal Policy

14. Labor will deliver sound public finances by adhering to a fiscal strategy that achieves a balanced budget on average over the economic cycle. This provides the flexibility for the budget to vary with changing economic conditions to support economic stability, while ensuring public finances remain strong over time. Achieving a surplus is not an end in itself, but it is an appropriate medium-term objective, as part of sound fiscal policy and economic management and taking into account the economic cycle.
15. Fiscal policy has an economic and social role in both the short and long term. Labor will keep government finances strong, while acting to support jobs and growth and investing in future prosperity. Fiscal support for the economy during the global recession saved Australian jobs.
16. Labor’s fiscal strategy will be guided by these principles:
 - As a consequence of the decisions made by the last Labor Government Australia’s public finances are in good shape, by contrast with comparable countries across the developed world;

- Fiscal policy should support growth and employment when growth is below trend and unemployment is above trend, and should accumulate surpluses and pay down debt during above trend growth;
- There are long-term revenue challenges, including because people are living longer;
- The Budget should be constantly reviewed and refined on both the expenditure and revenue sides, in the context of Labor's values and the need to address longer term challenges; and
- The tax system requires reform based on efficiency, equity and fairness.

17. Labor will be a responsible and careful steward of the nation's finances, supporting equity, opportunity and growth as the Australian people expect and deserve while paying for the activities of Government as fairly and efficiently as possible.

Stable Monetary Policy

18. Labor wants to lift sustainable economic growth, consistent with maintaining low and stable inflation. The Reserve Bank should remain independent fulfil each of its charter objectives of currency stability, employment and general economic welfare. The independent conduct of monetary policy by the Reserve Bank should continue and its medium-term inflation target of an average of two to three per cent over the course of the economic cycle should remain.

19. Labor will invest in the long-term drivers of growth and productivity so we can maintain growth with low inflation. Addressing supply-side pressures and increasing the productive capacity of the economy can reduce inflation and lower interest rates over the longer term.

Retirement Incomes and Superannuation

20. Labor is the party of universal, compulsory superannuation. Labor Governments established a world-class retirement income system for Australia. There is now over \$1.9 trillion in our national savings pool, making Australia number one in the world on a per capita basis. This gives working Australians the opportunity of a comfortable retirement and takes pressure off pension payments. Our national savings pool was also an important factor in ensuring Australia's banking system was well capitalised during the global financial crisis.

21. Labor Governments have ensured the long term sustainability and fairness of Australia's retirement income system, by increasing the pension age to 67, increasing the Superannuation Guarantee from 9 to 12 per cent, forcing superannuation funds to offer low-cost MySuper accounts, and introducing the only superannuation tax concession for low income earners through the Low Income Superannuation Contribution (LISC). The Coalition has sought to either abolish or frustrate these important reforms.

22. Labor will protect and grow superannuation to provide a comfortable retirement for all Australians. This will include, when prudent, ending the freeze of the Superannuation Guarantee at 9.5 per cent and fast-tracking the Superannuation Guarantee increase to 12 per cent, to provide millions of Australians with higher retirement incomes. The current system of superannuation tax concessions has seen more than 35 per cent of the value of tax concessions accrue to the top 10 per cent of income earners. Labor will reform this, ensuring Australia has a sustainable and fair retirement income system.

A Strong and Vibrant Small Business Sector

23. Labor believes in a strong small business sector that focuses on jobs, growth and the Labor principles of fairness and equity. Labor recognises the importance of small business to the Australian economy, employing close to 5 million Australians and contributing some 47% of private sector employment. Small business contributes more than \$330 billion annually to the national economy. Labor will encourage genuine small business activity and will ensure ABNs are not simply a means to transfer workers into insecure work with lower wages and conditions.
24. Small business is vitally important to regional economies with around 35 per cent of the total number of small businesses in each state located in regional areas, compared to 20 per cent for large firms. Over 95% of the businesses in Australia are small businesses; almost two-thirds have no employees and a further one quarter have only four or fewer employees. This means only 10 per cent of small businesses have more than 4 employees.
25. The strength and diversity of our micro, small and medium enterprises will determine Australia's prosperity over the next half decade. Small and medium businesses make a significant contribution to the economy through innovation, with over 85 per cent of the businesses in Australia engaged in innovation being small businesses.
26. Labor will pursue three essential policies to help small business: more taxation assistance and simplification, lower red-tape and regulatory burdens (including competition policy and national harmonisation), and better access to finance. The digital economy means the nature of small business is changing and Labor will adopt policies to make the most of this.
27. Labor will deliver preferential taxation assistance measures consistent with recommendations from the Henry Tax Review. Labor introduced numerous tax measures designed to assist small business with cash-flow to counter the effects of the global financial crisis. These measures included the instant asset write-off, tax loss carry-back, special depreciation for motor vehicles and the research and development tax incentive, which, when combined, were worth in excess of \$7 billion of direct assistance to small business.
28. In recognition that small businesses are fundamental to the economy, way of life and character of all our communities, both urban and country, Labor will support small

businesses by helping to facilitate them to better compete for government and private contracts, and by promoting industry networking between small and medium sized enterprises.

29. The Council of Australian Governments should deliver national reforms to reduce red tape and lower the costs of doing business across jurisdictions to benefit small business. Labor's record includes:
- Establishing the Small Business Superannuation Clearing House enabling small businesses to pay their employees' superannuation contributions to a single location;
 - Establishing the National Business Names registration service for a single online service, removing the requirement for a small business to register in multiple jurisdictions;
 - Introducing Standard Business Reporting through the use of the online standard business reporting; and
 - Worked through the Council of Australian Governments to deliver regulation and competition reforms under the Seamless National Economy framework.
30. Small businesses will be significant drivers of future economic growth. Small businesses are often the first to recognise new technologies; apply the energy, passion and entrepreneurial skill required to grow their business; and find new ways to work in an ever more connected world. Strong local small businesses support community cohesion: through the mum and dad businesses, fruit shops, butchers, dry cleaners, farm and rural businesses that contribute to the fabric of our community, satisfy local need, create relationships, support other local business and contribute to our sense of place and identity.
31. Micro and small businesses are variable and adaptable, and have the proximity and flexibility for Australians to arrange work around their life priorities. Labor will support micro, small and medium enterprises to do the things the nation needs to remain a competitive and cohesive nation: develop new ideas, explore new opportunities, transform themselves into viable thriving businesses, and provide the relationships and local servicing that supports community.
32. Small business contributes significantly to the economic and social well-being and prosperity of our nation. All small business people should share in this prosperity through sound Government policy settings.

A Professional Financial Services Industry

33. A comprehensive, professional, efficient and competitive finance sector is essential to allocating capital in the economy and delivering essential services such as banking, insurance and superannuation to the Australian community at fair prices. The industry is

essential to many business and personal activities through credit and other financial service. It provides significant employment and career opportunities for many Australians. For Australia to have a vibrant and functioning economy, firms should have effective governance in place to ensure corporate responsibility. With appropriate regulation, competition in the market is often the most effective way to ensure consumers receive value for money in these services.

34. Australia's system of financial regulation overseen by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission, the Australian Prudential Regulatory Authority and the Reserve Bank of Australia is strong. Labor will adequately resource Australia's regulators to continue their work.
35. Labor believes in the consumer protection principles (including consumer best interest duty and removal of conflicted remuneration) underpinning the Future of Financial Advice laws. We will consult further with the financial sector, consumer and retiree groups about the detailed implementation of financial regulation applying to all financial services (including insurance and banking).
36. Australia should be a strong voice in international efforts to address weaknesses in the regulatory and supervisory framework and ensure greater future stability in the global economy.

Trading with the World

37. Labor supports trade between Australia and the rest of the world because trade generates economic growth, creates jobs, improves living standards and reduces poverty. Labor has a long record as an advocate for an open global trading system. Reducing barriers to trade creates more competitive industries and benefits consumers through lower prices and greater choice. Trade is a pathway to a high-skill, high-wage future for working Australians.
38. Australia's trade success depends on its international competitiveness. There will be important trading opportunities for Australia in coming years through engaging with the Asia-Pacific region and ensuring our businesses take part in global value chains. Labor will ensure Australia can realise these opportunities through policies to improve Australia's international competitiveness and to give businesses and individuals the skills and capabilities they need to succeed in a globalised economy.
39. The benefits of trade can and must be shared fairly, both at home and abroad. Labor will invest in education, training, skills and innovation, building Australia's national infrastructure, and promoting the health and welfare of the community, so Australians benefit from the opportunities created by trade. While the benefits of trade liberalisation are significant, they can come at a cost to sectors, workers and regions that are disadvantaged by structural change in our economy. Particularly in the short-term,

adjustment support is needed for some sectors, workers and regional communities to ensure that they too are raised up, not left behind, by economic change.

40. Labor acknowledges the benefit of economic growth in developing countries, while noting that these benefits have not been shared fairly in many economies. More equal economic growth will create decent jobs, lifting people out of poverty, giving them economic independence and supporting human rights. Labor is committed to trade policies that are consistent with Australian values of justice and equality, community views and the interests of developing countries.
41. Labor supports the open, rules-based, multilateral trading system under the auspices of the World Trade Organisation. Multilateral trade agreements have been shown to deliver larger economic and social benefits than regional or bilateral preferential agreements. A rules-based, multilateral system, underpinned by core and enforceable labour and environmental standards, provides a framework for fairness and equity and is the most effective means to ensure governments around the world do not resort to universally damaging protectionism.
42. Labor will oppose low-quality piecemeal trade agreements in favour of fair and transparent multilateral agreements. When multilateral trade negotiations are not making satisfactory progress, Labor will consider high-quality regional or bilateral trade agreements that are in Australia's national interest and that support the multilateral trading system. Trade agreements must be consistent with Australia's social and economic values, be based on widespread consultation, provide for appropriate minimum and enforceable labour and environmental standards, take account of social and economic impacts and allow sovereign governments to make decisions and implement policies in the interests of their citizens.
43. Labor supports trade and investment liberalisation through the Asia–Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum. APEC is a driver of regional economic integration and Labor will take an active approach to its role in the region's economic architecture. APEC has a key role in promoting economic reform behind the border throughout the Asia–Pacific region and will promote these efforts. Labor will endeavour to strengthen APEC's role in mobilising support for the WTO's Doha Round. Australia should engage in the emerging regional trade and investment architecture under the auspices of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership and the proposed Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific.
44. Labor will work to:
 - Secure a successful conclusion to the World Trade Organisation's Doha Round that brings certainty to the international trading system and progress for free trade, especially for developing economies;
 - Provide leadership to the Cairns Group and seek reductions in agricultural subsidies and protection;

- Secure reciprocal new market access for all of Australia’s economic sectors;
- Address non-tariff ‘behind the border’ trade barriers such as excise tax arrangements, standards, customs procedures, subsidies and other restrictive measures which impede Australian exports;
- Reduce the costs to business of engaging in trade and taking part in global value chains through trade facilitation reforms; and
- Reduce the cost to business of accessing preferential treatment under bilateral trade agreements by ensuring such agreements have standardised and minimal administrative burden country of origin and other rules.

45. Labor will ensure Australians are informed about trade negotiations and will undertake full community consultation before entering new agreements. Labor will:

- Ensure that on commencing negotiations for all trade agreements, a document is tabled in Parliament setting out priorities and objectives, including independent assessments of the economic, employment, regional, social, cultural, regulatory and environmental impacts;
- Ensure that during trade negotiations, industry, unions and community groups are consulted on draft texts, proposals and requests for review and comment;
- Ensure that once the negotiation is complete, a package will be tabled in Parliament, including the proposed treaty and any legislation required to implement the treaty domestically;
- Ensure developments at the World Trade Organisation, and the positions a Labor Government takes there, are regularly reported to Parliament through the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade;
- Ensure Australian submissions and materials relevant to free trade agreement negotiations and the World Trade Organisation are made public, unless there are commercial-in-confidence reasons, or disclosure would damage our national interest;
- Review government consultative mechanisms to ensure they are open to, and representative of, business, unions, and environmental and community interests;
- Review the composition of delegations to World Trade Organisation Ministerial meetings, so they include appropriate representation from business, unions and non-government organisations; and
- Advance World Trade Organisation rule changes to ensure immediate publication of dispute settlement decisions, together with short, plain language explanations.

46. Labor supports strong anti-dumping measures to ensure overseas exporters do not damage our industry by engaging in anti-competitive and unfair trade practices. Australia’s anti-dumping system should be further reformed to ensure it does not lag behind the

systems of comparable countries, and is adequately resourced to ensure prompt investigation and resolution of disputes and to provide advice and support for small and medium sized enterprises.

47. Increased international trade brings with it the responsibility to promote higher labour standards for Australia and internationally. Labor will support greater cooperation between the World Trade Organisation and International Labour Organisation secretariats on trade and enforceable labour standards. Labor supports and promotes incorporation of enforceable core ILO Conventions and labour standards, as a minimum, in all international trade agreements. Labor will outlaw importation into Australia of goods or services produced with forced labour and child labour or prison labour. Labor will work actively to combat and overcome the scourges of forced, prison and child labour.
48. Labor will not allow trade agreements to limit the capacity of the Australian Government to determine immigration policies that promote education and training, permanent rather than temporary migration, local employment and fair employment standards. Labor will ensure future trade agreements do not prevent Australia from effectively regulating temporary migration, including by requiring genuine labour market testing for temporary work visas as well as Australian market wages and employment rights for immigrant workers where genuine skills shortages are deemed to exist. Labor will ensure trade agreements promote recruitment of local labour and protect the wages and conditions of local workers.
49. Labor supports the principle of national treatment so foreign and domestic companies are treated equally under the law. Labor does not support the inclusion of provisions in trade agreements that confer greater legal rights on foreign businesses not available to domestic businesses. Nor does Labor support the inclusion of provisions that constrain the ability of the government to make laws on social, environmental, labour and economic matters in circumstances where those laws do not discriminate between domestic and foreign businesses, such as investor state dispute settlement clauses. Labor will not ask this of Australia's trading partners in future trade agreements.
50. Labor supports current World Trade Organisation rules that allow all nations to determine for themselves the appropriate public-private mix in their health, education, water and welfare sectors and the distribution of government funding within these sectors, and to protect their cultural industries, and procurement and employment policies. Labor will vigorously oppose any trade proposals that would require Australia to privatise its public services including its health, education or welfare sectors, undermine the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, reduce government rights to determine the distribution of funding within these sectors, or remove protection for our cultural industries. Labor will oppose attempts to privatise water services under World Trade Organisation rules. Federal, state, territory and local governments should retain the flexibility to implement policies to encourage industry development, research and development, regional development and appropriate environmental, employment and procurement standards.

51. Labor will not support the expansion of intellectual property rights, which would extend monopoly patent rights to charge higher prices and would give copyright holders greater rights, at the expense of consumers.
52. The development assistance Australia provides under the World Trade Organisation's aid-for-trade initiative should support developing countries in establishing skills, infrastructure, regulatory and investment policies to support sustainable growth. We will deliver practical trade-related capacity building programs that improve the ability of developing nations to export, improve their international competitiveness, and engage with the global economy.
53. Labor recognises that trade is a necessary, but not sufficient, condition to promote economic growth in developing countries. We will work to ensure that nations throughout the world benefit from open markets and share in global growth. Labor will promote policies to achieve this in the World Trade Organisation, through trade agreements, at the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the International Labour Organisation and other international forums.
54. Increased international trade brings the responsibility to promote higher environmental standards for Australia and internationally. Labor is committed to the goal of sustainable development. Labor will work towards the removal of environmentally damaging subsidies, and promote mechanisms that balance the interests of environmental protection and open markets.
55. Australia has an important role and responsibility at the Asian Development Bank. Labor supports the inclusion of core labour standards in its decision-making, including the roles monitoring mechanism at the Asian Development Bank.
56. A well-balanced Trans-Pacific Partnership offers the prospect of more and better jobs through improved access to member countries' markets for Australian exporting businesses and their employees. Labor's position is that the Trans-Pacific Partnership must be consistent with the following principles:
 - Does not undermine the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and public health initiatives;
 - Provides for national treatment — so foreign and domestic companies are treated equally under the law, while not conferring greater legal rights on foreign businesses than those available to domestic businesses;
 - Does not require Australia to remove protection of cultural industries;
 - Retains the Foreign Investment Review Board and its powers to review foreign investment in the public interest;
 - Retains quarantine provisions to reduce the risk of imported pests and diseases;

- Retains the flexibility to encourage industry development including through research and development, regional development and appropriate environmental, employment and procurement policies;
- Contains enforceable labour clauses that require signatories to enforce core labour standards in International Labour Organisation conventions; and
- Contains enforceable environmental clauses that require signatories to meet all relevant international environmental standards, including those in applicable United Nations international environmental agreements.

Skilled Migration

57. Labor will adopt a long-term approach when setting annual immigration levels. Australia operates in a global economy with an increasing number of skilled and other workers wishing to migrate to Australia. We will engage with the Australian diaspora to strengthen economic and social ties with other nations.
58. Labor is committed to a range of policies to lift workforce participation and the qualification level of the workforce in response to an ageing population and the demand for higher levels of skill and mobility. Falling workforce participation could pose a serious capacity constraint on economic growth, and Labor will use Australia's skilled migration program as an important part of the policy response to this challenge.
59. Labor's immigration planning framework will take into account net overseas migration, its positive and negative impacts on employment and training opportunities for Australian residents, demographic trends and other factors, while responding to current and longer-term economic needs.
60. Labor's skilled migration policies:
- Will ensure that, as far as possible, skilled vacancies are filled locally;
 - Will be informed by ongoing consultation with industry, unions, the education sector and state and territory governments; and
 - Will identify emerging skill shortages in particular sectors and complement domestic training policies to fill those shortages.
61. Labor will administer a skilled migration program to:
- Supplement domestic training policies, targeting skills shortages that cannot be filled locally;
 - Balance the temporary and permanent skilled visa programs, recognising the increasing numbers of permanent visas granted onshore;

- Meet demand, with greater emphasis on migrants sponsored by employers into jobs where there are demonstrated skills shortages;
- Recognise particular skill needs across and within states and territories and metropolitan, regional and rural communities;
- Allow Australia to compete internationally for skilled labour;
- Include the necessary tests and checks, and resources, to ensure the integrity of the system and recognise the primary right of Australian workers to Australian jobs;
- Include rigorous safeguards to ensure employers have made all possible efforts to fill positions locally in order to protect the primary rights of Australian workers to Australian jobs and ensure migrants are not filling jobs Australians could be undertaking; and
- Protect temporary overseas skilled workers from exploitation.

62. Both permanent and temporary skilled migration are important to sustainable economic growth. Labor prefers permanent skilled migration to temporary skilled migration. Permanent migrants provide a stable, effective and targeted source of skilled workers. They have a greater stake in Australia's future and in integrating into all aspects of Australian community life. Permanent migrants are also less susceptible to exploitation and are more secure in their jobs, so permanent migration is less likely to generate negative impacts on all workers (whether local or migrant), in terms of wages, employment conditions and job and training opportunities.

63. Labor is committed to ensuring that no migrant is permanently temporary. This recognises that many permanent migrants begin their time in Australia as temporary migrants.

64. The skilled migration program should:

- Encourage a balanced approach between independent government-sponsored and employment sponsored migration;
- Provide information, including on workplace rights and responsibilities on arrival to Australia;
- Have the necessary checks to ensure that migrants have the competencies and qualifications claimed;
- Recognise the importance of English language skills for successful economic and social integration;
- Ensure skilled migrations are paid genuine market rates and have the same conditions as Australian workers; and
- Ensure that skilled migrants, if dismissed from their employment, can remain in Australia while any legal challenge to the dismissal is considered.

65. Labor will ensure all categories of temporary workers are not exploited through sham contracting.
66. Labor is committed to ensuring ‘whistle-blower’ status for skilled migrants who are exploited.
67. Labor recognises that skilled migrants will bring their families to Australia and our policies should ensure that they are able to fully participate in Australian life. This includes access to free public education for children, English language support and work rights for dependents.
68. Labor believes that a tripartite Ministerial Advisory Council on Skilled Migration, established in legislation and comprising representatives of government, unions and employers, should report to government on skilled migration issues. The Ministerial Advisory Council should:
- Ensure skilled migration programs provide a benefit to Australia and reflect local labour market needs;
 - Ensure skilled migration programs are transparent;
 - Provide advice in high risk cases, Regional Migration Agreements and high risk Labour Agreements, on whether proposed agreements are consistent with the objectives of Australia’s skilled migration programs;
 - Provide advice to refine and manage the Consolidated Sponsored Occupations List considering both occupation and regions; and
 - Be supported by a dedicated labour market analysis resource.
69. Significant numbers of permanent visas are granted to temporary visa holders already working in Australia. Transition to permanent residency status helps move an individual overseas worker onto a more secure footing. Labor will align the permanent and temporary migration programs to facilitate the conversion of temporary visa holders on to permanent visas and citizenship. Labor will strongly encourage employers to sponsor temporary visa holders for permanent residency where the visa holders are working under successful arrangements and have priority skills.
70. Labor will regulate all Australian employment and industries under Australian law, including those located on the landward side of the outer limits of the territorial sea of Australia, in the Exclusive Economic Zone, or in the waters above the continental shelf. Labor will review the Migration Act with a view to ensuring the definition of the ‘Migration Zone’ encapsulates all offshore Australian employment and industries.

A Fair and Efficient Tax System

71. Labor will deliver a fair and sustainable tax system. This should provide incentives for all Australians to work and undertake productive enterprise, while guaranteeing adequate revenue to fund the proper role of government, including quality public services and a more equal distribution of income and wealth. Public confidence in Australia's tax system depends on simplicity, transparency, and everyone paying their fair share.
72. Labor will continue our record of tax reform, guided by the principles of efficiency, fairness and simplicity.
73. Principles of fairness include:
- Horizontal equity, meaning that taxpayers on the same income pay about the same amount of tax;
 - Vertical equity, meaning that taxpayers on higher incomes pay a progressively higher rate of tax; and
 - Intergenerational equity, meaning the amount and mix of taxes paid by the current generation to properly provide for – and not disadvantage – upcoming and future generations.
74. The principle of simplicity requires the number of taxes to be as few, and taxation law to be as easy to understand and comply with, as is practicable.
75. Future tax reforms will:
- Ensure there is a sound revenue base for all levels of government;
 - Remove barriers to investment and workforce participation;
 - Support families;
 - Work to reduce inefficient taxes and taxes which punish good behaviour;
 - Boost savings and make superannuation fairer;
 - Ensure our corporate tax rate is fair and competitive;
 - Ensure corporations – at home and abroad – pay their fair share of tax, while encouraging investment and jobs growth;
 - Enhance the capacity of Australian business and industry to successfully integrate into the global economy, so Australian companies win places in global supply chains, while ensuring business pays its fair share;
 - Ensure multinationals cannot unfairly shift profits to minimise tax paid in Australia.
 - Preserve and enhance a progressive and fair tax system;

- Minimise high effective marginal tax rates, particularly on those moving from welfare to work and on second income earners in low- to middle-income families;
- Reduce inconsistencies in the taxation of income from different forms of assets;
- Ensure the tax system does not make housing less affordable for Australian families;
- Preserve Australia's financial stability and minimise the potentially harmful effects of excessive short-term financial speculation;
- Simplify the tax system for individuals and businesses while preventing avoidance activity; and
- Preserve allocative efficiency by minimising distortions to investment and consumption decisions, except where interventions address market failures and serve environmental or social purposes.

76. Labor will support efforts to establish an international agreement to require tax authorities to share information about individuals and corporations suspected of tax evasion or money laundering. Labor supports the growing global trend of requiring oil, gas and extractive industry companies to report publicly on their revenue, profits as well as taxes and royalties paid on a country-by-country basis.

Innovation and the Economy of the Future

77. Creating jobs is the essential objective of Labor's innovation and industry policy. Government and industry must be partners in the jobs and opportunities of the future, and this partnership must be structured to achieve clear capability, employment, training, research, innovation, local content and export objectives.

78. Labor recognises that the power of technology will affect increasing areas of the economy. We are committed to maximising opportunities for Australians to be employed in secure, high-wage, high-skill jobs and providing the digital infrastructure needed to underpin this. Labor's innovation policies will provide leadership in adapting the economy to these changes and encourage investment in new areas to provide jobs for those replaced by automation.

79. Australia today is competing in a global innovation race. To secure our future prosperity, Labor has established a clear aspiration that the nation will devote 3 per cent of GDP to research and development by the end of the next decade. To create jobs in an increasingly competitive and technologically advanced global economy we must invest in the drivers of economic growth by putting innovation, science and research at the heart of industry policy. We must foster a culture of entrepreneurialism across the economy, from start-ups to established businesses and within the public sector.

80. Labor will reinvest in the capabilities of Australian firms to attract new investments through a suite of measures, including through sectoral approaches. Governments, industry and research institutions should work together to make the transition to a clean energy future, overcome barriers to innovation and commercialisation, and meet the challenges of global competition.
81. Labor will foster the use of clean energy, especially wind and solar power, to drive industrial expansion. The clean energy sector is a key creator of jobs in its own right, and the jobs of the future should increasingly come from industries fuelled by clean energy sources.
82. Labor will transform the Australian economy through science and innovation. Our innovation agenda can re-tool Australia's industries, re-skill our people and build a new economy based on the latest technologies and advanced manufacturing.
83. Labor recognises that an impediment to early stage innovation and commercialisation is access to capital. Labor will work to remove impediments that inhibit the emergence of diversified sources of capital to support the work of start-ups and established firms.
84. Labor will work with the banking and financial services industry to develop a partial guarantee scheme that will support the development of Australian micro-businesses by improving their access to finance. We will create a new fund to help turn great Australian ideas into great Australian businesses by partnering with venture capitalists and licensed fund managers to co-invest in early stage and high potential companies.
85. Besides strengthening access to diverse sources of capital, our capacity to achieve these objectives is underpinned by the availability of high quality, relevant and accessible education and training. Through increased knowledge and skills, Australian citizens not only improve their individual work opportunities and living standards, but contribute to a stronger Australian economy and a more prosperous future.

Manufacturing

86. Labor's agenda for high-quality jobs through innovation includes support for a strong and competitive manufacturing sector. Manufacturers employ nearly a million Australians in high quality jobs, contribute around 8 per cent of Gross Domestic Product and undertake almost a quarter of all business research and development.
87. Manufacturing is essential to any advanced economy. Without a strong manufacturing sector, Australia will not have the diverse economic base it needs to overcome our dependence on unpredictable and increasingly volatile commodity prices and to capitalise on future economic growth opportunities.

88. Manufacturing produces high-value exports, nurtures essential skills and drives innovation across the economy. A dynamic manufacturing sector is an essential feature of a resilient and broad-based economy. Manufacturing productivity sustains activity in other sectors, including advanced service sectors such as logistics.
89. Australia's manufacturers have long been under severe pressure from the high dollar, which has increased import and export competition for Australian products. This pressure, which increased costs for Australian manufacturers by almost a third, is now beginning to ease. This represents an opportunity for Australian manufacturers, with appropriate assistance from the government and in partnership with unions, to foster new growth through innovation.
90. There is a legitimate role for government in supporting industrial growth and the development of Australia's economy. Diverse national manufacturing capabilities are needed to ensure that Australia is not overly exposed to unexpected changes in major industries. De-industrialisation results in relative technological decline, a diminished capacity for innovation, and squandering of new growth opportunities. Once manufacturing capabilities are lost, they may be lost forever and the nation will be poorer as a result. A Labor government will never allow this to happen.
91. With the right policy settings an internationally competitive Australian manufacturing sector has a bright future – the sector is well placed to raise productivity, make more specialised and high value-added products, enter new supply chains and capture niche markets. Australia needs an industry policy focused on these goals.
92. Manufacturing now matters more than ever in the knowledge-dependent and interconnected global economy. The measures Labor put in place in government encouraged Australian manufacturers to innovate and boost competitiveness, by shifting to high-technology, lower-volume forms of production for niche markets. Australia's strong reputation in areas such as quality standards, product safety, ethical labour and environmental standards are key competitive advantages that governments have a responsibility to monitor and maintain.
93. In government Labor will revive our innovation agenda and seek to support Australia's advanced industrial capacity in automotive manufacturing, shipbuilding, rail manufacturing and other advanced manufacturing industries, like defence, textile, clothing and footwear, medical technologies, pharmaceuticals and biotechnology, food, and pulp and paper. We will re-establish Innovation Councils in key industry sectors to ensure a tripartite approach to building the innovative capacity of Australian industry.
94. Labor recognises that affordable and abundant energy has been crucial to the development and ongoing competitiveness of Australian manufacturing and other industries. Labor commits to ensuring its overall energy policy is consistent with retaining

affordable energy, from both conventional and unconventional sources, as a national competitive advantage that underpins Australian business and manufacturing.

95. Australia will have an automotive industry. Labor will work with the domestic industry to ensure that its 100 years of experience is applied in developing a specialist industry that will manufacture automotive products for strategically chosen niche markets. This transformed industry will integrate high-end, value-adding engineering techniques, knowledge-intensive R&D, and innovative industrial practices. It will use Australian expertise to contribute to global advances in technology and product design, including autonomous vehicles, intelligent transport systems and telematics, new battery technologies, electric vehicle technologies, and alternative fuels, such as hydrogen and LPG. Maintaining this global industry will result in spill-over benefits to other advanced manufacturing sectors, including process manufacturing, health and technology innovation, rolling stock, defence and shipbuilding.
96. The automotive and shipbuilding industries are crucial to Australia's ability to retain and expand its advanced manufacturing capacity. Labor will act to prevent the loss of the existing skills and capabilities in these industries. We will pursue every opportunity to attract new investment in the automotive industry, and work with Australia's shipbuilders to tender competitively for new contracts.
97. In the automotive industry, Labor will seek incentives for component makers to enter new supply chains as the announced shutdown of motor vehicle production draws near. A Labor Government will work with state governments, employers, unions and local authorities in developing measures for retraining auto workers affected by structural change, and to support them in the transition to other forms of employment. Labor will also work with state governments, employers, unions and local authorities to ensure the impact on affected communities is mitigated to avoid entrenched disadvantage resulting from structural change.
98. Labor is mindful that without a shipbuilding industry Australia would face long-term strategic risk and uncertainty, creating a potentially dangerous dependence on overseas suppliers. In naval and other Government maritime procurement, a Labor Government would ensure a central role for Australian industry in the construction, maintenance and refit of vessels in Australian shipyards.
99. Labor recognises the specific pressures facing Australia's crucial textile, clothing and footwear (TCF) industries. These industries employ over 40,000 Australians in the formal sector and many thousands more in the informal sector as home-based workers. They maintain valuable skills and capabilities, and underpin regional economies around the country.
100. Labor will accelerate the transformation of the textile, clothing and footwear sector by supporting the development of new products and processes, targeting opportunities in ethical production and the high-tech, high-value end of the market. The conditions of

support to textile, clothing and footwear companies will be designed to ensure sustainable employment outcomes, ethical labour and environmental standards, and maintain capacity and build skills.

101. Labor will improve opportunities for Australian textile, clothing and footwear manufacturers in government tenders and will require all companies that tender for textile, clothing and footwear contracts to hold Ethical Clothing Australia accreditation. Labor will support the important work of Ethical Clothing Australia and work with agencies to extend requirements for ethical labour standards to companies tendering for government contracts that source their textile, clothing and footwear contracts from offshore.
102. Labor will support and assist TCF workers who lose jobs in the industry with an appropriate level of support for programs and services such as a non-means tested training allowance, training in English language and literacy, customised support for training and job-seeking, and funding for community-based organisations to advocate on behalf of redundant workers.
103. In order to maximise Australian industries' competitiveness in global markets, the federal government must work in partnership with state and territory governments, industry, businesses, unions, and research centres to lift productivity, improve workforce skills, foster innovation and collaboration, enhance competitiveness, and overcome barriers to growth, by, for example, improving access to investment finance and overseas markets.
104. Labor will address the historic underinvestment in too many manufacturing sectors and will look to models like the Clean Energy Finance Corporation, to improve access to finance. By partnering with industry and private finance providers, a Labor government will help ensure manufacturers are able to make the investments needed to over time to transform their operations and take advantage of new advanced manufacturing opportunities.
105. Small and medium businesses need independent advice to help boost their productivity, lift management skills, and bring new products to market. Labor will develop networks to enhance collaboration between industry and researchers so Australian firms benefit from cutting-edge research and new technologies.
106. Labor will continue Australian Industry Participation Plans for public and private procurement. Australia needs a more diversified economy that is not entirely dependent on commodity exports, sustaining high-skill, high-wage jobs, so we need to be clever in our purchasing. This is true of private purchases and even more for government procurement, because governments' buying power extends throughout the economy.
107. Labor will strongly advocate for Buy Australian programs and initiatives. Labor will adhere to a national interest test for government procurement policy by considering whole-of-life

costs, rather than purchase prices alone, and ensure procurement policies take into account the direct and indirect economic benefits of buying locally, including estimated taxation revenues, employment opportunities and industrial capability.

- 108.** Australian industry should act ethically both domestically and globally. Labor will ensure Australian enterprises' global supply chains are transparent and do not breach State and International Labour Organisation labour standards, international human rights, or slavery and human trafficking laws.

Industry, Science and Research Collaboration

- 109.** Governments and industry have a mutual obligation to invest in the jobs and opportunities of the future. Labor will preserve the Research and Development Tax Incentive to drive investment in innovation through the taxation system. Labor will develop measures to complement the incentive and increase co-investment in innovative manufacturing. Labor will build partnerships to turn research into results for industry, the public sector and the community.
- 110.** Labor will put Australia's researchers in the front-line of our industries. The Commonwealth Science and Industry Research Organisation (CSIRO) is critical to this goal. Labor recognises the immense value publicly funded research agencies such as CSIRO, the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation and the Australian Institute of Marine Science deliver when they collaborate with governments and industry, using their world class research and innovation capabilities to help create the jobs of the future. Labor will strengthen links between industry and universities and other research institutions to ensure Australia is at the forefront of developments in information technology, robotics, 3D printing, materials science, nanotechnology, aerospace technologies and other frontiers of science and engineering.
- 111.** Labor will use proven structures, such as the Cooperative Research Centres program, to build new collaboration between researchers and end-users. Australia's prosperity does not only derive from direct commercial outcomes. Labor will restore the public good aspect of the Cooperative Research Centres program and re-open the scheme to social and cultural innovation from the humanities and social sciences.

Science and Research

- 112.** Australia's publicly-funded science and research agencies should be properly resourced to support their critical contribution to society, productivity and economic growth. Australia's regional and rural science capabilities, including within publicly-funded research agencies such as CSIRO, are essential.
- 113.** Universities are repositories of knowledge, havens for advanced learning, sources of ground-breaking research, and hubs of community engagement. Labor will pursue twin

objectives: to ensure university funding adequately reflects the full cost of research and to maintain globally competitive success rates in grant funding. Incentives in university funding should encourage researchers to engage with end-users, including industry, to improve the impact of their research for industrial applications and the public good.

114. Researchers in universities and publicly-funded research organisations such as CSIRO create the bedrock knowledge that powers Australia’s innovation system. They perform the basic research that underpins future discoveries. They give us the means to manage our unique natural heritage, not only protecting our environment, but creating new jobs in biodiversity conservation and ecotourism. They undertake vital work in the humanities, arts and social sciences that helps us to understand the world around us, and to build a stronger and more resilient society. Labor is committed to maintaining government investment in basic research across all disciplines, recognising that the market rarely provides incentives for the private sector to invest in such research. .
115. Australia’s public research sector must pursue excellence. Universities and publicly-funded research agencies must be responsive to national priorities and to the communities that sustain them. Labor supports mission-based compacts to encourage universities to pursue diverse missions, based on their strengths. Labor will help smaller and regional universities to develop their research capacity in areas of strategic capability.
116. Australia’s scientists and researchers need world-class infrastructure to make breakthrough discoveries. We remain committed to delivering the research infrastructure Australia needs in the 21st century.
117. Labor will give Australian scientists and researchers the chance to collaborate and compete on the global stage. The great leaps of the past century were made possible by scientific experiments on a massive scale, far beyond the resources of any one nation. Australia should contribute our research strengths to international collaborative missions such as the European Molecular Biology Laboratory, the International Census of Marine Life and major astronomy projects like the Square Kilometre Array. Labor will support researchers from all disciplines to collaborate with their colleagues abroad, encounter new ideas and form and maintain valuable research networks with the best minds on the planet.
118. The active enthusiasm and support of the community is essential to the success of the Australian research enterprise — including its ability to reach out effectively to industry and the public sector. Labor supports Inspiring Australia, a program to bring the transformative power of science and research to every corner of the nation, and will promote Questacon’s vital education role.
119. Rigorous evidence-based policy advice is essential. Labor supports science advisory mechanisms and the engagement of the Learned Academies in providing expert advice to the Australian Government. Labor will ensure publicly funded research agencies such as CSIRO are represented on all relevant advisory bodies and councils, including those in the industry and innovation portfolio.

120. Australia’s research efforts should reflect the imperatives and opportunities of climate change, including the development of clean technologies and protecting our natural assets. Recognising the environmental importance, economic value and unique vulnerability of our tropical regions and marine environment, Labor will promote research in these critical fields.
121. Australia increasingly relies on space infrastructure. Our nation’s security and social and economic wellbeing depend on access to space-based research. Labor will deliver a National Space Policy to provide a clear statement of intent for Australia’s space-related activity and harness the strengths of our space research and industry sectors.
122. Labor will always defend our researchers’ integrity and independence. Science and research must be free of commercial influence and political interference. The previous Labor Government restored the independence of the Australian Research Council through the appointment of a high level Advisory Committee with the confidence of the university sector. We ensured the independence and autonomy of researchers working in our publicly funded research agencies and our universities by entering into binding charters and passing legislation to ensure scientific independence and academic freedom. Labor will build on this record to develop a Science Integrity Charter across the Federal public sector.
123. A strong research workforce is vital to Australia’s prosperity in the knowledge economy, but global competitive pressures are driving a relentless competition for research talent. The previous Labor Government introduced the Future Fellowships program to ensure that our nation is able to attract and retain outstanding mid-career researchers. Labor remains committed to supporting Australia’s best and brightest researchers throughout their careers. We will continue to work collaboratively with researchers and the business community to ensure Australia has the research workforce we need to reach our innovation goals.
124. Labor will foster a diverse research workforce and improve research training opportunities for early career researchers from all backgrounds. Labor will encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to pursue research careers, help to retain talented women researchers in the lab and as research leaders, and promote closer involvement by industry in hands-on research training.

Strengthening the services sector

125. A strong and efficient service economy is crucial to Australia’s long-term economic prosperity and ability to take part in the global services economy.
126. Australia needs high skill, quality jobs in the domestic services sector. Businesses that provide the services essential to consumers in a modern industrial society — such as financial, retail and personal services, transport, communications, information technology, data management, legal, medical, scientific, engineering, construction, education, tourism,

hospitality and leisure services — are vital to Australian prosperity. They penetrate services export markets in their own right and compete with imported services on cost and quality, and improve our ability to compete on the international stage by making export initiatives in other sectors more competitive.

127. Australian consumers increasingly receive services from off-shore locations unknowingly. Where services are provided from off-shore locations, this should be disclosed so consumers can make informed purchasing decisions. Country of origin disclosure legislation for services should grow and Labor will work with the industry and unions to ensure disclosure is appropriate in the area.
128. Service sector employers, in banking, communications and information technology in particular, have pursued off-shoring as a way of reducing costs. Employees and communities have felt the impact of this trend for a number of years. Labor believes all service sector businesses have a responsibility to support and promote new and better Australian jobs, creating opportunities for local employment as they grow their operations.
129. Service businesses that derive their profits from the Australian community should contribute economically and socially. Labor will deliver a service industries strategy led and developed by a representative task force. The strategy should focus on innovation and identifying capabilities that exist in the Australian economy that can provide the basis for a globally competitive services sector. The objective should be for Australia to establish itself in the global traded services economy. Implementation of the strategy will require:
- Stronger linkages between universities, industry bodies, training institutions business, unions, state and federal governments;
 - Improved skills through training and other targeted skills development initiatives;
 - Clusters, networks and mergers in parts of the Australian services sector through;
 - Encouraging leaders in the services sector capable of creating a globally competitive and productive sector;
 - Recognising that many successful businesses integrate services with manufacturing activity;
 - Better infrastructure with internationally competitive costs;
 - Effective roll out of the NBN to build competitiveness and productivity and strengthen the regional job market;
 - Better capabilities in data management;
 - New market linkages into the global services sector;
 - Greater investment from companies who can build an international presence for Australia; and
 - Marketing and branding of Australia’s key services sector capabilities.

130. Labor opposes the widespread use of sham contracting in the services sector. Sham contracting is the deliberate or reckless misclassification of the working relationship as a contract for services instead of a traditional employment relationship. This misclassification results in knowing or reckless behaviour designed to result in workers being denied employment benefits and protections, including superannuation entitlements.

Chapter 3: Building Australia's future

The contemporary challenge

1. Australia's geography is both gift and challenge. Australia is a vast island nation; global economic power has shifted dramatically to the Asia–Pacific and Australia is well-positioned to supply minerals, energy, food and an expanding array of services to the growing nations to our north. But Australia is also a dry continent, with a relatively small but rapidly growing population clustered in cities around our coast. The combination of vast commodity riches in our regions and relatively small population has meant Australia's transport and infrastructure challenges are greater than most. Australia needs nation-building governments to realise its full potential.
2. The Australian economy is diverse and economic priorities differ across industries and throughout regional, urban, coastal and remote Australia. State, territory and local governments play a critical role in delivering infrastructure and essential services, and in improving productivity right across Australia. This is reflected in Labor's policy approach.
3. Australia has long been known as a highly urbanised nation, with around 80 per cent of our people living in our capitals and regional cities – a social pattern now spreading across the Asia-Pacific. As our cities transform, and new urban patterns of living and working evolve, Australia should plan to use these valuable spaces to create productive, sustainable and liveable and globally competitive cities. Australia needs a government that will lead on cities policy.

Labor values

4. Labor builds our nation. Past Labor governments had the vision to build the transcontinental railway, the Snowy Hydro Electricity Scheme and to invest in massive urban infrastructure that provided running water to many Australian homes for the first time. During the global financial crisis, Labor's economic stimulus and investment in the future combined in a period of nation building, creating new opportunities in modern communications and transport for people and goods, lifting long-term productivity and competitiveness and creating economic prosperity.
5. Labor has its origins in the bush. The workers who sheared the sheep, ploughed the fields and dug the minerals were as important as the tradespeople in the cities in forming the Labor Party. Labor understands the regions and invests in them. The federal government has a role in regional development and federal Labor has introduced innovative policies to address regional needs and built infrastructure for the regions to prosper.
6. Australia needs national leadership in planning and delivering national infrastructure, including transport, water and communications networks. Building world-class

infrastructure creates jobs now, supports future jobs and grows our economy. Labor will work in partnership with the private sector in providing infrastructure and services where this is good value to the Australian community.

7. Labor will develop Australia's natural resources through a competitive minerals, resources and energy industry, backed by quality infrastructure links, which grow export-oriented jobs for our modern economy. Agriculture and fisheries industries will continue to contribute a large share of export revenue and economic activity in regional and rural Australian communities. These industries should be supported as they adapt to climate change and shifts in global markets.
8. Australia needs national leadership in planning our cities. Labor's role leading federal, state and local governments means Labor is able to deliver a mix of strategic, regulatory and project-based support for urban development.
9. Labor will support strong and dynamic regional communities. Regions are vital in Australia's economy. Labor invests in regional Australia and in nation-building infrastructure so our regions can prosper. Investment in quality government services, local skills development, social services and the digital economy is vital to regional Australia's economic health. Labor will use the local institutional expertise in our regions to deliver leadership on economic development and diversification through the structures of Regional Development Australia Committees and local government.
10. Safety and security is a paramount consideration in transport regulation and transport operations.
11. Labor recognises the challenges posed by climate change. New infrastructure will need to be built to withstand extreme weather events and additional and strengthened infrastructure will be needed to deal with sea level rises, particularly in built up areas. Climate change may affect settlement patterns and agriculture and tourism. Labor will give special attention to infrastructure projects which help affected communities and industries deal with change.
12. Labor will support a well-resourced public and private sector infrastructure workforce, whose rights are respected. Australians rely on these workers to deliver quality services, procure and operate infrastructure. Our investment in their skills and job security and respect for their rights at work is necessary to our community and our economy.

Labor priorities

A national infrastructure agenda

Leadership

13. Labor will provide leadership and coordination to increase nation-building investment in Australia's nationally significant infrastructure across the transport, energy, water and communications sectors.
14. Working with State, Territory and local Governments, a Federal Labor Government will implement its infrastructure policy guided by the following principles.

Productivity

15. The assessed contribution of projects and regulatory settings to national productivity will be a key factor in infrastructure decision-making.

Proper planning

16. Investment in new infrastructure involves choices and long-term vision. It also requires timely consultation with affected communities by the appropriate level of Government, generally the states and territories. Planning must be efficient and open, without being rushed or out of sequence, to get planning and delivery right, first time around.
17. Australia needs to separate short-term electoral cycles from longer-term infrastructure planning and delivery cycles, via strong institutional frameworks, providing a clear 'pipeline' of projects and initiatives. This 'pipeline' should be longer than fifteen years.

Infrastructure Planning Framework

18. Labor will maintain and enhance a clear national framework to support long-term planning for Australia's nationally significant infrastructure needs.
19. Labor will work closely with State, Territory and local Governments, via the Council of Australian Governments, to provide leadership and federal support for agreed projects and initiatives.
20. This framework includes identifying, prioritising and redressing inadequacies in Australia's nationally significant infrastructure, and identifying the best projects to address those inadequacies. The framework will also identify appropriate regulatory reform to ensure efficient use of existing infrastructure, and to remove obstacles to infrastructure planning, financing and delivery.

21. Labor's national infrastructure policy will be shaped by:

- The work of Infrastructure Australia, complemented by its State and Territory counterpart agencies, to develop a long term, coordinated, expert-led, national approach to infrastructure planning and investment;
- An evidence-based approach to identifying and prioritising nationally significant transport, water, energy and communications infrastructure initiatives;
- An open approach to options to address infrastructure gaps;
- Funding and financing through government grants and other support, including an ongoing investment fund for nationally significant infrastructure development;
- Providing a 'pipeline' of projects through the National Infrastructure Priority List and national audit of significant infrastructure;
- Early work to identify strategic corridors, and action to protect these corridors;
- Transparency and accountability;
- Targeting key areas requiring regulatory and governance reform to improve the utilisation of existing infrastructure; and
- Balancing national priorities with city and regional expectations of a fair share of funding for value-for-money projects.

Infrastructure Australia

- 22.** Labor will strengthen and resource Infrastructure Australia so it can open infrastructure bottlenecks, improve vital freight networks, assess projects, and promote private financing of domestic infrastructure by investors including superannuation funds, for the long term.
- 23.** Infrastructure Australia will work with counterpart agencies in the states and territories to address problems, identify solutions, evaluate options and recommend nationally significant projects that represent value-for-money.

Cost-benefit analyses and business cases

- 24.** Nationally significant infrastructure projects should be prior-assessed by Infrastructure Australia, based on a business case, a cost-benefit analysis and other objective criteria.

Transparency

- 25.** The community is entitled to understand and debate the reasons for government decisions. Few new infrastructure projects are free of costs in affected communities, while often the benefits are spread beyond the immediate community where they are built. Labor will consult with the community in a timely way when projects are being planned and delivered.

26. Assessed project business cases should be released, and details should only be withheld where this would genuinely risk taxpayer value-for-money.

Programs to address particular needs

27. There are particular transport infrastructure needs across the community. This is reflected in specific programs focused on these needs. Labor will fund targeted national programs, including:
- Nation building investment in projects including public transport and roads;
 - Urban and regional development and renewal programs;
 - Strategic infrastructure corridors;
 - Roads to Recovery – assistance to councils for local roads;
 - Black Spots – support for fixing sites with a poor safety record;
 - Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity – rest stops for truck drivers, safe loading and uncoupling; and
 - Transport Development and Innovation projects.
28. Labor will support renewal and where appropriate, expansion of Australia’s existing rail and road infrastructure.
29. Labor will support active travel, including cycling and walking.
30. Labor will promote social inclusion, including greater connectivity between residential communities and jobs centres. Good public transport improves social inclusion.
31. Labor will invest in projects in remote communities, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
32. Labor will improve access for disabled people to all forms of transport and public infrastructure.

Fairness

33. Projects and initiatives supported by a Federal Labor Government will incorporate fairness – that is, all states, territories, cities and regions are entitled to a share of national funding, based on project merit.

Project financing

34. Project financing instruments will be determined on a case-by-case basis to preserve value for money. Federal Labor will work as appropriate with the States and Territories, local government and the private sector, to finance priority projects.
35. Labor supports innovative approaches to financing projects, including public private partnerships, tax incentives, concessional finance, government guarantees, transport oriented development, value capture and seed funding via grants or availability payments. Labor will investigate and remove any unnecessary impediments to these. Labor will ensure maintaining infrastructure quality, the public interest and labour standards are relevant criteria in choosing financing methods.
36. Labor supports superannuation funds investing in infrastructure projects when this aligns with the best interest of superannuation fund members. Labor will investigate, and remove, any unnecessary impediments to appropriate investment of this kind, whilst ensuring high standards of accountability and governance.
37. The private sector should play an important role in increasing the scope of infrastructure project delivery, including through the involvement of superannuation funds.

Mode neutrality and public transport

38. There are often competing options to open transport bottlenecks, spanning different projects across road, rail, intermodal and ports, but also including separate regulatory and economic reform options. Labor will take a mode-neutral approach based on merit.
39. Specifically, Labor will be open to funding public transport projects, including urban passenger rail and rapid transit infrastructure – unlike the Coalition.
40. Labor will support active transport and appropriate urban design which improves liveability of cities and has positive health outcomes.

Smart Infrastructure

41. Infrastructure solutions will include using new technology for better management of existing infrastructure. Smart infrastructure like the federal Managed Motorways program, and the Australian Rail Track Corporation's Advanced Train Management System can deliver improved productivity at much lower cost than a new project.

Skills and jobs

42. Infrastructure planning and delivery is a key area requiring jobs and skills development planning for the future.

43. Labor supports processes to forecast and plan for skills development across the infrastructure chain, including project planning and assessment, project management, technical, trades and operational expertise. A clear pipeline of projects will aid skills planning.
44. The public sector should attract and retain the technical and business capability to represent taxpayer interests when infrastructure deals are being negotiated.

Transformative projects

National Broadband Network

45. Labor is a party of nation building. From the Snowy Mountains Scheme to the National Broadband Network, Labor builds the infrastructure of the future.
46. The National Broadband Network is the biggest, most important infrastructure project in Australia's history. It is vital to the way we will provide health services, deliver a world class education, deliver smart infrastructure and build a strong and growing economy.
47. All Australians should get broadband, no matter where they live or do business. Wholesale prices should be the same, whether people live in the city or the bush, and broadband should not be made more expensive for those Australians who can least afford it.
48. Fibre is the end game. A National Broadband Network for the 21st century will be rolled out across Australia, but because of the Coalition's limited vision, it will now need to be built in two stages rather than one.

High Speed Rail

49. High-speed rail could significantly transform our longer distance travel options. Many nations already have high-speed rail, connecting major cities with fast surface transport.
50. High-speed rail on Australia's east coast, from Brisbane to Melbourne, can transform the future of cities and towns along the corridor, in effect bringing regional centres much closer to our major cities in travel time. This can create new possibilities for living and working, and substantially increases the stock of land close to major centres of employment. It can provide new opportunities for businesses beyond our major cities, and greater choice in long distance travel.
51. High speed rail is a transformative project. It is likely to be built in stages, and their sequence will be subject to the economic viability of the project and funding availability. Analysis shows the long-term benefits considerably outweigh the costs.

52. Labor will re-establish the High Speed Rail Planning Authority as a statutory body, and re-engage with the Queensland, NSW, Victorian and ACT Governments, local government and the rail industry, to continue planning and to begin the vital initial work of corridor preservation.

Inland Rail

53. Labor supports planning for an inland freight route from Melbourne to Brisbane, via Toowoomba and Parkes.
54. The 1730 km route will provide an alternative to the coastal road and rail north-south freight route, and would bypass Sydney. The route will use substantial parts of the existing freight network, which has already undergone substantial upgrades in recent years.

Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry

55. Australia's agriculture, fishing and forestry sectors have played a key role in national economic development throughout our history. They have generated a large share of Australia's wealth, helped shape our culture and identity, and underpinned the establishment of rural and regional communities throughout the nation.
56. In the century ahead of us, our agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors will retain a major role in creating wealth and jobs in rural and regional Australia, and generating export income as we capitalise on growing global food demand.
57. Labor's development of our agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors will be based on 'five pillars' – Financial Capital, Human Capital, Natural Resource Capital, Infrastructure Capital and Research Capital. These are necessary to the profitability, productivity and sustainability of Australia's agriculture, fisheries & forestry sector.
- Financial Capital – sufficient affordable funding;
 - Human Capital – people with the necessary education and skills ;
 - Natural Resource Capital – using our limited natural resources in the most productive and sustainable way;
 - Infrastructure Capital – the infrastructure needed to be competitive and profitable and to fully capitalise on export opportunities; and
 - Research Capital – a world-class research and development funding model and world-leading research, development and extension.
58. Labor will improve access to domestic and international markets for Australian agriculture, fisheries and forest products.

59. Australia has a key role - in collaboration with other nation-states – in addressing future global food security needs.
60. Innovations of agricultural biotechnologies, such as GM crops, are important in making Australian farming more productive, competitive, environmentally sustainable and improving financial returns at the farm gate. It is essential Australia maintains an independent, scientific and evidence-based regulatory system for GM crops to ensure the safety and the access by farmers of such innovations.
61. A rigorous, well-resourced and effective public sector-led biosecurity system is vital to the Australian economy, public health, and to keeping our clean, green and safe image – one of our key competitive advantages.

Minerals, resources and energy

62. Australia’s minerals, resources and energy industries and those who work in them generate a large share of Australia’s export revenue, support regional economic development, provide employment directly and indirectly and improve the living standards of the entire community; they also create wealth and opportunity in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
63. To lift the social, environmental and economic contribution made by minerals, resources and energy industries’ to Australia, Labor will:
 - Ensure Australian resource industries pay their fair share of tax and royalties;
 - Promote the sound sustainable development of Australia’s energy resources, taking into account domestic industrial, home and community needs and the need to ensure security of domestic energy supplies including gas, coal and electricity through market-based measures which encourage investment and support properly functioning gas and electricity markets;
 - Promote opportunities for Australian companies and workers to enter the global supply chains of multinational resource companies
 - Encourage the development of low emission fossil fuel and carbon capture, re-use and storage technologies;
 - Encourage downstream processing of minerals, resources and energy products, and, through public and private investment, the infrastructure necessary to achieve this;
 - Facilitate the commercialisation and export of minerals-related services and technology;
 - Create an efficient national energy market to enhance Australia’s natural advantages in downstream minerals processing for domestic and export markets; and

- Support modern maritime engineering excellence in export gas production, including the involvement of Australian engineering and industry within the supply chain.

64. Labor will ensure mineral development on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' land proceeds consistently with Labor's land rights and native title policy, improves Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people employment, business, education and training opportunities, and lifts Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' community development and self-determination opportunities.

Australia's cities – productive, sustainable, liveable

65. The national government has a distinct role in leading and coordinating urban development. We will build on the proud record of the Whitlam, Hawke-Keating and Rudd-Gillard Governments which led a national effort to make our cities more liveable, sustainable and productive.

66. Australia relies heavily on productive cities for national prosperity. Most of Australia's population and businesses are in urban areas and our cities are hubs of economic activity that link Australia to the global economy.

67. Rapid growth and development has imposed challenges such as patterns of growth, water supply, urban congestion, climate change and adaptation.

68. Australians take pride in their way of life and their liveable cities and our cities regularly appear in the top 10 of global rankings. Creating liveable cities attracts the best and brightest from around the globe, creating value for our economy, diversifying our culture and increasing the attractiveness of investment. Liveable cities are underpinned by efficient infrastructure, but also green parks and recreational spaces, amenity and accessible reconnected environment and water ways.

69. In Government, Labor delivered new urban development policies through a Major Cities Unit, which has now been abolished by the Coalition. Only a coordinated and integrated approach to urban policy development can improve the productivity, sustainability and liveability of major cities in Australia.

70. Labor will refocus the federal government on cities policy by:

- Appointing a Minister for Cities;
- Updating the National Urban Policy;
- Re-establishing the Major Cities Unit;
- Reconvening the Urban Policy Forum; and

- Publishing annually the State of the Cities Report and connecting it to the National Urban Policy goals.

71. Labor will work with and across all spheres of government at Council of Australian Governments, the private sector and the community to improve governance structures and develop integrated long term strategies to improve land use planning, housing affordability, settlement patterns and social cohesion, and to address climate change and urban congestion.
72. Labor's Minister for Cities will help coordinate federal government policy and federal government work with states, territories and local government to:
- Invest in properly integrated transport systems involving public transport and roads;
 - Invest in active transport solutions which connect with public transport, education and employment hubs;
 - Improve housing affordability through the use of urban planning, land supply and incentives;
 - Align greater housing density with public transport corridors;
 - Encourage best practice urban designs outlined in *Creating Places for People: An Urban Design Protocol for Cities*;
 - Promote jobs growth in outer and middle ring suburbs. This could be through direct investment, such as Badgerys Creek Airport and Moorebank Intermodal project by investing in research precincts around universities and hospitals, and through consideration of incentives for the location of business; and
 - Support connectivity and productivity through fibre-to-the-premise National Broadband Network.
73. Labor supports policies that reduce per capita environmental impacts in our cities, including more efficient building design and public transport systems.
74. A high level of mobility is necessary to unlock the economic potential of cities – so diverse and specialised skillsets can be brought together. This requires strong land use planning and investment in transport infrastructure. Labor will provide national leadership and work with state, territory and local governments and the private sector to deliver this. The rapid growth and outward expansion of cities over the last 50 years has created significant congestion on urban roads, lowering quality of life and reducing family and social time.
75. Safe, clean and efficient public transport in our major cities is critical to addressing the economic, environmental and social problem of urban congestion. The Coalition has cut all future federal funding for public transport.

76. Having a genuine opportunity to live near a job is essential for Australians to participate in the workforce and contribute to a productive national economy. Successful cities require affordable, diverse and well-distributed housing stock. Affordable housing is crucial to equal and inclusive cities.

Strengthening regional and remote Australia

77. All Australians, regardless of where they live or come from, should have reasonable and affordable services including:
- Secure and appropriate housing;
 - Transport;
 - Basic utilities;
 - Universal and affordable broadband facilities and telephone service;
 - Quality education and training;
 - Health and aged care;
 - Financial services;
 - Personal, family and social services;
 - Employment services;
 - Emergency services; and
 - Information on government programs and policies.
78. To this end, Labor will engage with regional communities to develop policies, undertake regional planning and ensure regional Australia and local government gets these services.
79. Regional development should be part of mainstream policy, while Labor will retain regional-specific programs. Labor will ensure transparency and accountability in the delivery of these programs.
80. Labor will provide a unique funding program for regional Australia. This fund will help regions to broaden their traditional economic base — through new partnerships, skills and technologies. In this way, communities will become more resilient, viable and sustainable for the long term. We will do this through a collaborative approach to regional development involving all levels of government, the private sector and local communities.
81. Labor recognises that minority groups in regional and remote communities are at risk of experiencing greater disadvantage. Labor will ensure that provision of services will be sensitive to culturally, sexuality and gender diverse communities.

82. Labor will strengthen the Regional Development Australia network of local advisory committees to engage with regional communities and local and state government. Labor is committed to ensuring Regional Development Australia committees operate in a transparent and accountable manner, are representative of their communities, and work closely with state and local governments. The committees must include persons who are genuinely local to each community falling within the geographic area and who will engage effectively to realise the opportunities for their region.
83. All three levels of government are essential in developing Australia's regions. Labor will provide national leadership and work with state, territory and local governments to implement targeted strategies and policies in regional Australia. These will include developing local industry and employment opportunities, delivering quality education, health, housing and community support services, and improving transport links.
84. Some areas of regional and remote Australia face unique challenges after the investment phase of the mining boom. We will work with these communities to find durable and sustainable policy solutions to the economic and social issues they face.
85. Labor will ensure regional Australia is an essential part of the solution to climate change, and will promote the benefits and opportunities of environmental sustainability.
86. Tourism provides important opportunities to regional Australia. Labor will support and encourage these opportunities, helping regional communities work together to identify funding opportunities.
87. Labor will support cities in regional Australia and promote policies to address the unique needs of these centres. These cities play a vital role in servicing regional and remote Australia. We will support their sustainable growth.
88. Labor will introduce region-specific policy programs for parts of regional Australia experiencing accelerated growth and for parts of regional Australia are facing significant challenges. These programs will help communities build sustainable, resilient, inclusive economies.

Local government

89. Local government is the level of government closest to the community. The role of local government has evolved beyond the traditional municipal and road services to delivering a broader range of services including:
 - Social services such as childcare, aged and home care, affordable housing, social and community and health services; along with arts and culture
 - Environmental services such as coastal management, improved waste management, energy, and climate change responses;

- Water efficiency, and improved catchment and water resources provision;
- Community infrastructure including sports grounds, swimming pools, parks, community centres and tourism facilities; and
- Regional planning, economic development and emergency services.

90. Labor is committed to partnerships with local government to improve local community services and infrastructure. Labor will help local government innovate in management and construction of social and community infrastructure to deliver benefits and opportunities for local communities.

91. Local government needs a secure economic base from which to deliver important services that benefit local communities and allow economic growth. Labor will:

- Provide funding through the ongoing Financial Assistance Grants with appropriate indexation of these payments so local governments can grow;
- Provide long term funding certainty to local governments recognising the important role it plays in communities across Australia;
- Increase funding for local government-maintained roads;
- Establish a mechanism to consult directly with local government to ensure it has strong and direct relationship with federal government;
- Work with local government to improve efficiency and financial sustainability of local governments;
- Ensure local government has a voice within Infrastructure Australia and is represented consistently across the Regional Development Australia network; and
- Participate in a range of programs to provide direct funding to local government.

92. Labor will work with local government to make our urban and regional communities more liveable and environmentally sustainable, including urban and regional planning, development assessment and approval processes.

93. Local government plays an essential role as a major employer. Labor supports workplace development programs that directly help local government.

94. Women's representation in local government — as Mayors, Councillors, and General Managers — remains unacceptably low. Labor will work with local government to increase participation by women and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in all aspects of local government. We recommit to reaching the goals of the 50 50 vision of Councils for Gender Equity to achieve enduring equality in local government.

95. Labor supports recognising local government in the Australian Constitution.

96. Local government reforms should improve community outcomes and reflect community needs. Labor encourages cross council shared services between local government authorities, noting the value to communities of local government operated services. Labor will review the National Competition Policy with a view to improving local government and its ability to respond to local community needs including emergencies.

Transport regulation

Transport safety and security

97. The safety and security of passengers, workers and the general public is a paramount consideration in transport operations.
98. Labor will prioritise security operations at our international gateways – ports and airports, including offshore installations - and resource relevant agencies, and regulate operators, to manage security risks.
99. Labor supports strong domestic and international transport safety regulation and oversight, and will prioritise agency resourcing and implementation of world’s best practice in safety regulation. Labor will pursue nationally agreed road safety reforms guided by the National Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020. Labor will also support the continuing work of the Road Safety Remuneration Tribunal in delivering safe, sustainable rates and conditions. Labor supports the ongoing work around safety being undertaken by the National Rail Safety Regulator.
100. When investing in transport infrastructure, Labor considers safety impacts as a key factor.

Land transport regulation

Strategic leadership

101. Labor will provide national leadership and coordination in development of ports and land freight options.
102. Infrastructure Australia’s National Ports Strategy and Land Freight Strategy will be the starting point for renewed work with states and territories in this area.

Competition

103. Labor supports modal competition as a key driver of quality domestic freight and passenger services at the lowest price. Modal choice, with minimal intervention, can keep downward pressure on transport costs. As freight costs are bundled into the cost of almost all goods consumed by consumers and businesses, competition is an important discipline keeping costs down throughout the economy.

Fair regulation

104. Consistent with a mode-neutral approach, Labor aims for regulation which applies the same cost base across competing transport modes. This should internalise currently external costs and benefits from transport modes in a fair manner. Each mode should be subject to Australian wages and conditions when operating in the Australian jurisdiction.

Streamlined regulation

105. Labor will develop a truly national transport policy so freight and services logistics systems are integrated across modes and can operate efficiently and competitively, with only necessary and nationally consistent regulation. Labor will streamline and improve the regulation, operation and development of land transport policy. Labor will work towards a single national system for each separate system of rail safety regulation, maritime safety regulation and heavy vehicle regulation. The single national system of regulation is estimated to be saving industry \$30 billion over a 20 year period.

Active transport

106. Labor encourages walking and cycling as forms of transport. There are considerable benefits for individuals and the community as a whole from a healthier, more active, more included population.
107. Labor will require active transport to be considered in land transport projects. Labor will support road safety, including for cyclists and pedestrians, and higher cycling rates.
108. Labor will implement and build upon active transport initiatives including the National Road Safety Strategy and National Cycling Strategy, including standardising data for fatalities and serious injuries, by transport mode, across jurisdictions.

Aviation

109. Labor will maintain a strong aviation industry with a secure Australian workforce.
110. Aviation plays a large part in connecting Australia to the world and linking our towns and cities, as well as servicing the needs of regional and remote communities. It is also a key factor impacting international and domestic tourism. Where new gateways are approved, Labor will provide timely support through Federal agencies such as customs and security.
111. Labor developed Australia's first ever comprehensive National Aviation White Paper (2009) which recognised safety and security are critical for the travelling public, and investment in well planned airports and a strong domestic market and general aviation sector are crucial for the long-term future of aviation in Australia.

112. Labor supports ownership provisions to keep majority ownership and governance of Australian international airlines in Australia.
113. Labor supports including labour standards in Air Transport Agreements. Labor supports fair and equal remuneration of aviation workers within the Australian and New Zealand Closer Economic Relations Trade Agreement region. Labor will take steps to ensure the intent of this platform is given effect on Australia's airlines however they are structured.
114. Labor supports the Civil Aviation Safety Authority's work for safety and compliance.
115. Australia needs aviation activity to be the priority on airport precincts. Labor will not allow other economic activity to inhibit aviation at these sites.
116. Labor will develop an integrated Sydney Aviation Plan to provide for Sydney's future airport needs. Labor supports a second airport for Sydney to serve the needs of the region and drives economic activity. Labor will ensure the operation of a second airport improves economic activity and job creation in western Sydney and minimises environmental impacts. Labor will maintain the cap and curfew at Kingsford Smith Airport and implement the long-term operating plan maximising take-offs over water.

Shipping

117. Australian needs a revitalised, strong Australian-flagged shipping industry with a secure Australian workforce. This is important for economic security, environmental protection, and national security reasons.
118. Over 99 per cent of trade to and from Australia is carried by ship. Australia has the fourth largest shipping freight task in the world. With the expansion of Australia's commodity trade, international shipping is becoming busier. Cruise shipping is also growing rapidly, delivering more international tourists to Australia, and around the coast.
119. Coastal shipping remains an important domestic freight mode competing with road and rail. Coastal shipping requires port access and quality linkages to land transport infrastructure.
120. Labor will deliver policies to revitalise the Australian shipping industry including taxation, regulatory and workforce development measures to provide a level playing field for Australian shipowners to employ more Australian seafarers, and to attract related functions to develop an industry cluster. Labor will foster Australian shipping and jobs, without closing the coast to international ships as many comparable nations have.
121. Labor will maintain its support and oversight of International Labour Organisation and International Maritime Organisation conventions, codes and recommendations.

122. Labor supports the Australian Maritime Safety Authority's work on safety, rescue coordination and compliance.

Transport and the environment

123. Our transport system needs to operate in harmony with the environment. Labor supports evidence-based measures to manage noise, air and groundwater impacts from transport infrastructure, motor vehicles, trains, aircraft and ships.
124. Australia needs careful management of shipping impacts on the Great Barrier Reef and other sensitive marine environments.
125. Australia should reduce transport related carbon emissions. Labor supports policies to recognise the value of the relatively low emission intensity of sea freight, rail freight, public transport and active travel.

External territories

126. Australia needs special arrangements between the Commonwealth and the External territories tailored to the particular needs and circumstances of each territory.
127. Labor will maintain and improve the legislative framework for self-governing territories and laws and services for the non-self-governing territories to deliver good governance.
128. The potential of our external territories and their people will be best realised when they have:
- Fair and equal opportunities similar to those in Australian states and mainland territories;
 - A diversified economy based on the diverse strengths of their populations and environments;
 - Economic, social and cultural development appropriate to the needs and circumstances of each territory;
 - Governance arrangements that are equal, fair, and sustainable and reflect islanders' desire for real decision-making power, responsibility and a level of autonomy; and
 - Access to all protections under Australia's Human Rights Framework, including economic participation and workplace rights, and human rights, including for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex Australians.

Northern Australia

- 129.** Northern Australia, the part of Australia north of the Tropic of Capricorn, makes a vital contribution to the national economy, particularly through its resources, agriculture and tourism industries. That is why Labor established the Northern Australia Ministerial Forum to collaboratively advance the sustainable development of the north. Northern Australian communities are richly diverse, existing in unique and fragile natural environments and exposed to the impacts of ongoing climate change.
- 130.** Northern Australia has significant social service needs and economic infrastructure requirements. Labor will remove policy and other obstacles for future investment in infrastructure. Labor will encourage sustainable development in Northern Australia that protects the region's natural environment, its water resources and its many social and cultural assets, while harnessing its potential, including greater use of renewable energy sources. Appropriate investment in water, energy, and transport and communications infrastructure is critical to the future development of Northern Australia.
- 131.** Labor acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are the traditional custodians of the land and today are major landowners in Northern Australia making them key partners for Northern development. Labor will work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities in Northern Australia to address systemic disadvantage, ensure quality education, housing and basic services, and enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to take advantage of employment opportunities.
- 132.** Labor will work with state and territory governments, industry, local government and the community to identify further opportunities for investment in Northern Australia.

Tourism

- 133.** Tourism will be a key driver of jobs and economic growth in Australia over coming decades. Labor will:
- Appoint a Minister for Tourism;
 - Support Tourism 2020, Australia's first national strategy to enhance growth and competitiveness in the tourism industry;
 - Maintain tourism as a national investment priority;
 - Invest in tourism infrastructure including airports, ports, roads and public transport;
 - Support taxation arrangements conducive to the industry's growth;
 - Work with the states and territories and Tourism Australia to resource and coordinate domestic and international marketing and promotion of Australia;
 - Pursue visitor visa reform to maintain and grow Australia's tourism competitiveness;

- Adopt new technologies to enhance the visitor experience from start to finish;
- Provide adequate tourist forecasting and research services, so accurate and robust data informs long-term government and industry investment;
- Address the threat of climate change to Australia's prized natural assets, support sustainable tourism and protect and promote Australia's environmental and cultural heritage;
- Appropriately target assistance and advice schemes to include tourism operators, most of whom are small businesses;
- Use our cities as a key international gateway and drawcards in their own right, and ensure Labor's cities agenda benefits the tourism industry;
- Grow tourism in regional Australia, given the potential of tourism to create jobs and support local communities;
- Deliver a nationally recognised formal training package based on agreed industry standards, including appropriate training and safe work policies with career options, appropriate recognition in wages of training and productivity outcomes, in co-operation with governments, industry and unions
- Enhance tourism employment and business opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in conjunction with appropriate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representative bodies, fostering tourism to build a wider understanding of the culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Uranium

134. Labor recognises that the production of uranium and its use in the nuclear fuel cycle present unique and unprecedented hazards and risks, including:

- Threats to human health and the local environment in the mining and milling of uranium and management of radioactive materials, which demand the enforcement of strict safety procedures;
- The generation of products that are usable as the raw materials for nuclear weapons manufacture, which demands the enforcement of effective controls against diversion; and
- The generation of highly toxic radioactive waste by-products that demand permanently safe disposal methods.

135. Labor accordingly will allow the mining and export of uranium only under the most stringent conditions.

136. In relation to mining and milling, Labor will:

- Ensure the safety of workers in the uranium industry is given priority. Labor has established a compulsory register for workers in the uranium industry that includes regular health checks and ongoing monitoring. The register is held by an independent agency and will be subject to privacy provisions
- Ensure that Australian uranium mining, milling and rehabilitation is based on world best practice standards, extensive continuing research on environmental impacts and the health and safety of employees and affected communities, particularly Indigenous communities
- Ensure, through public accountability mechanisms, that the Australian public is informed about the quality of the environmental performance of uranium mines
- Foster a constructive relationship between mining companies and Indigenous communities affected by uranium mining
- Prohibit the mining of uranium within national parks under International Union for Conservation of Nature protected area category 1A, category 1B, and category 2, and listed world heritage areas.

137. In relation to exports other than to India, Labor will allow the export of uranium only to those countries that observe the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), are committed to non-proliferation policies, and have ratified international and bilateral nuclear safeguards agreements. Labor will export uranium only to countries that maintain strict safeguards and security controls over their nuclear power industries.

138. In relation to India, an important strategic partner for Australia, commitments and responsible actions in support of nuclear non-proliferation, consistent with international guidelines on nuclear supply, will provide an acceptable basis for peaceful nuclear cooperation, including the export of uranium, subject to the application of strong safeguards.

139. In addition, Labor will work towards:

- Strengthening export control regimes and the rights and authority of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA);
- Appropriate international responses to violations of existing safeguard commitments;
- Limiting the processing of weapon usable material (separation of plutonium and high enriched uranium in civilian programs);
- Tightening controls over the export of nuclear material and technology ;
- Universalising of the IAEA additional protocol making it mandatory for all states and members of the Nuclear Suppliers Group to adhere to the additional protocol as a condition of supply to all their transfers;

- Criminalising actions of individuals and companies that assist in nuclear proliferation;
- The development of an international guarantee of nuclear fuel supply to states foregoing sensitive nuclear technologies;
- Revising the NPT to prevent countries from withdrawing from the NPT and passing a new resolution in the United Nations Security Council addressing the penalties for withdrawal from the NPT;
- Encouraging all nuclear states to join the NPT;
- Reserving the right to withhold supplies of uranium permanently, indefinitely or for a specified period from any country that ceases to observe the non-proliferation safeguards and security conditions applied to Australian uranium exports to that country, or which adopts nuclear practices or policies that do not further advance the cause of nuclear non-proliferation;
- Supporting the maintenance and enhancement of international and Australian safeguards to ensure that uranium mined in Australia, and nuclear products derived from it, are used only for civil purposes by approved instrumentalities in approved countries that are signatories to the NPT (with the exception of India) and with whom Australia has safeguard arrangements; and
- Seeking adequate international resourcing of the IAEA to ensure its effectiveness in undertaking its charter.

140. Labor will progress these commitments through diplomatic means including the re-establishment of the Canberra Commission to re-invigorate Australia's tradition of middle power, multilateral diplomacy. In doing so, Labor believes that as a non-nuclear armed nation and a good international citizen, Australia can make a significant contribution to promoting disarmament, the reduction of nuclear stockpiles, and the responsible use of nuclear technology.

141. Labor will:

- Vigorously and totally oppose the ocean dumping of radioactive waste;
- Prohibit the establishment of nuclear power plants and all other stages of the nuclear fuel cycle in Australia;
- Fully meet all Australia's obligations as a party to the NPT; and
- Remain strongly opposed to the importation and storage of nuclear waste that is sourced from overseas in Australia.

Chapter 4: Tackling climate change and our environmental challenges

The contemporary challenge

1. Taking meaningful action on climate change is urgent. 97 per cent of the world's scientists agree climate change impacts will grip the world if something isn't done about greenhouse gas emissions. Labor will ensure Australia does what's required to reduce its carbon pollution. Australia is particularly vulnerable to climate change. As a hot and dry continent, Australia has more to lose from climate change than other developed countries. Australia suffered through its hottest year in 2013; globally, 2014 was the hottest year on record. Fourteen of the world's hottest fifteen years ever recorded came in the last fourteen years. This harms our water security, coastal development, infrastructure, agriculture and health. The environmental consequences translate directly into economic costs. The longer we delay taking action, the harder and more expensive the change will be.
2. The world's biggest economies are all taking major steps to reduce carbon pollution and invest in new, cleaner technologies. The World Bank's 2014 State and Trends of Carbon Pricing report found around 60 forms of carbon pricing mechanisms across the globe. By 2016, 3 billion people will live in cities or provinces where emissions trading schemes operate. The cheapest, most effective way to address climate change is to put a legal cap on pollution, underpinned by a market mechanism that lets business work out the best way to operate within that cap. There also needs to be strong support for renewable energy development and generation.
3. The transition to a low pollution economy will affect workers and communities. This transformative period carries both opportunities and uncertainty for workers. Labor will ensure jobs in the clean economy provide security, decent wages and conditions. Labor will not only address the challenges but will pursue all opportunities to modernise our economy, build more and better jobs and build a future that is clearer, healthier, more equitable and ultimately sustainable.
4. Australia needs a clean energy future. This is Labor's long-term plan to reshape our economy and cut carbon pollution. Labor will transform Australia's economy to safeguard its growth over the coming decades. Australia's economy needs to remain competitive globally, and Labor's policy framework will ensure Australia works cooperatively with our international trading partners.
5. Broader environmental issues and environmental protection remain critical to Australia's future. This includes protecting our biodiversity and our treasured lived environments. By identifying, protecting and managing our built and cultural heritage, we conserve a valuable asset and ensure these places are experienced and enjoyed by future generations. Open and transparent environmental management systems are essential for effective

decision making, monitoring, assessment and reporting of environmental performance and outcomes.

Labor values

6. Government has an essential role in securing Australia's economic, social and environmental wellbeing.
7. Australia needs constructive, inclusive debate and evidence-based policy. Labor is informed by scientists, economists, environmental and climate stakeholders, farmers, business, industry and governments. Our consultation has been thorough and comprehensive and our policy is based on the views of the community and the experts.
8. Climate change requires a global response to limit global warming to no more than two degrees Celsius. Australia should play a leading role in global efforts against climate change. As one of the biggest polluters per capita in the developed world, Australia should do its fair share, in line with the advice from the world's leading scientists and in cooperation with our global partners.
9. Labor recognises and supports the passion of local environment conservation groups and the invaluable contribution they make to protecting and preserving Australia's environment. These groups play an important role in mobilising government action on local environmental issues and are critical, active participants in broader national conversations on issues such as climate change.
10. Protecting Australia's rich biodiversity is essential to our nation's environmental protection intentions. Labor will take a brave, concentrated and proactive approach to genuine ecological sustainability.
11. Labor will deliver a robust and integrated system of environmental management. Labor will develop improved environmental law to build on Australia's best-practice environmental governance. It will reflect Australians' expectations that environmental protection is essential and ensure an effective and efficient national approach to the management of matters of national environmental significance.
12. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people provide valuable guidance, knowledge and advice in preserving Australia's environment through their connections to land and sea country. Labor will work with Traditional Owners to ensure sustainable use of Australia's natural resources.

Labor priorities

Creating a clean energy future to address climate change

13. Effective climate change action is critical to Australia's growth and prosperity for future decades. This action needs to begin now. Labor will not leave the burden to the next generation.
14. The most urgent is reducing Australia's carbon pollution. As one of the world's biggest polluters per capita in the developed world, Australia should reduce its carbon pollution. Labor will ensure Australia plays a leading role in global efforts to mitigate the impact of climate change.
15. Labor is committed to the goal of limiting global warming to no more than 2 degrees and will ensure Australia's contribution to the task is fair and based on the best available independent scientific advice. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change suggests this will require advanced economies to approach net zero emissions by mid-century.
16. Labor will:
 - Put climate change at the heart of our commitment to deliver jobs, innovation and investment to build a prosperous, safe and fair Australia.
 - Introduce an Emissions Trading Scheme which imposes a legal limit on carbon pollution that lets business work out the cheapest and most effective way to operate within that cap. Labor's cap on carbon pollution will be based on robust independent advice and reduce over time in accordance with Australia's international commitments;
 - Develop a comprehensive plan to progressively decarbonise Australia's energy sector, particularly in electricity generation. A commitment to reinvigorate and grow Australia's renewable energy industry, encourage energy efficiency and invest in low carbon energy solutions, is essential to that plan;
 - Work to undo the damage that the Coalition Government has done to the renewable energy sector, and be ambitious in growing the renewable energy sector beyond 2020;
 - Restore integrity, independence and capacity to the environment and climate change portfolios and relevant science agencies; and
 - Work with the land sector and other stakeholders to store millions of tonnes of carbon in the land through better land and waste management.

17. In 2015 there is no restraint on releasing greenhouse gases into the atmosphere in Australia. A legal cap on carbon pollution underpinned by a market price creates a powerful incentive for all businesses to cut their pollution, by investing in clean technology or finding more efficient ways of operating.
18. Labor's will pursue lowest cost abatement. Reform at a sectoral level is also necessary to transition to a clean energy future. Sector-specific policies will include:
 - Electricity, including renewable energy;
 - Transport, including vehicle emissions standards; and
 - The land sector.
19. Labor will create a vibrant, clean technology industry in this country and pursue the enormous future job opportunities in new technologies and clean energy.
20. Labor will promote innovation and investment in renewable energy and encourage energy efficiency and low-carbon technologies. Our economy has successfully handled comparable structural changes over its history. Indeed rising prosperity and sustainable growth has been underpinned by transformative changes — new products and technologies, and the integration of our economy into the global economy set in train by the reforms of the 1980s and 1990s — embraced by Australians.
21. Policies to support industry and jobs must focus on regional workers and communities at the front line of the transition to a sustainable low pollution economy.
22. Growing diverse regional economies in areas such as the Latrobe Valley, Colley District, the Illawarra and the Hunter Valley is necessary to make the transition to a low pollution economy while ensuring this is a just transition for affected workers and communities. These communities and their traditional industries have underpinned our national prosperity and have been the source of jobs for generations of Australians. Labor will work with communities, unions and industry to develop a comprehensive regional development approach which supports the growth of sustainable new industries, technologies and practices.
23. Labor will promote collaborative planning between workers, employers and government to develop a full suite of policy measures to lift competitiveness and job growth in all its forms—from production and maintenance, through to research, design and development.
24. Labor will work with communities, unions and industry to develop a comprehensive approach to support the growth of sustainable new industries, technologies and practices which secures justice for workers and communities concerned. Labor will draw on international experience and world-leading policies to further enhance clean technology, investment and employment opportunities for Australians.

25. Labor will support the Clean Energy Finance Corporation and the Australian Renewable Energy Agency. Labor established these agencies in 2012 and together they have helped drive rapid growth in renewable energy and energy efficiency technology development in Australia.
26. Labor will restore a robust and independent Climate Change Authority to provide scientifically based advice and recommendations to help shape future policy direction
27. Labor will support high carbon emitting industries to become more energy efficient and reduce emissions.
28. Labor will make training and skills programs available for workers wishing to build skills in energy efficient technologies and transition to new, clean energy or low pollution industries.
29. Parts of Australia are feeling the impact of climate change now. Helping communities adapt to a changing climate is essential to Labor's long term plan to address the issues arising from reduced water and other resources, rising sea levels, warmer average temperatures and more frequent and intense extreme weather events.
30. Labor will work with state and territories and local councils and community organisations to identify and address their vulnerability to climate change.
31. The emerging technologies in reducing carbon pollution from the transport industry will make significant reductions in Australia's total carbon emissions.
32. Labor will introduce national vehicle emission standards. Transport emissions make up 16 per cent of Australia's total emissions. Making significant reductions will go a long way to Australia achieving its global emissions reduction obligations. Labor will model its measures on international jurisdictions that have been operating successful frameworks in this area. The Climate Change Authority report on light vehicle emissions standards (June 2014) recommends reducing the emissions intensity for all light vehicles (including passenger and commercial) from the current 192 grams of CO₂ per km (g CO₂/km) to 105g CO₂/km in 2025 through the implementation of mandatory standards.

National Environmental Law

33. The national government has an enduring responsibility to protect matters of national environmental significance. Labor has a proud history of national environmental protection laws. These have been instrumental in protecting Australia's greatest natural treasures for decades. Labor will not support handing approval powers under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999 to state and territory governments.

34. Labor will develop new frameworks for truly national protection and management of Australia’s natural resources. This will include:
- Management, governance and decision making structures and responsibility, including the independence of institutions involved in environmental protection;
 - Consistent standards and adequate data for decision making;
 - Efficient and certain regulation including streamlined environmental assessment processes;
 - Fair and efficient management of Australia’s environment as a foundation for ecologically sustainable jobs;
 - Enhancing biodiversity for the benefit of current and future generations; and
 - Resilience in the natural environment.
35. Labor will consider the appropriateness of a climate change trigger in the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999 and or successive framework, in the context of a comprehensive response to climate change. Labor will consider the appropriateness of a trigger to cover Australia’s system of national parks.

National and World Heritage

36. Australia has international obligations to protected World Heritage Areas, and areas subject to international treaties such as Ramsar sites. Human activity such as mining and oil drilling, as well as urban and commercial developments near World Heritage Areas, Ramsar and similar sites, can affect these areas. Labor will ensure any proposal within the vicinity of a World Heritage Area, Ramsar or area subject to an international treaty, is subject to a full independent Environmental Impact Statement, and is considered under environment protections and biodiversity conservation legislation.
37. The federal government is responsible to provide adequate heritage protection for Commonwealth properties of heritage significance. Our World Heritage Areas require coordinated management. Accordingly Labor will work with the States and Territories to better governance structures and management programs.
38. Labor will support the investigation and nomination of areas suitable for future listing in cooperation with traditional owners, state and territory governments and other stakeholders.
39. Labor will work with the Queensland Government and traditional owners to pursue resolution of outstanding Cape York tenure issues and subsequently pursue World Heritage

listing for appropriate areas of Cape York, recognising the importance of federal leadership and the consent of traditional owners.

40. Labor does not support mining or other resource extraction in national parks and World Heritage areas.

Securing the health of the Great Barrier Reef

41. The Great Barrier Reef is part of Australia's national identity. Australia is renowned for its incredible natural beauty. A healthy Reef ecosystem is significant to our culture, environment, society and economy.
42. The Great Barrier Reef supports many industries employing tens of thousands of Australians and is enjoyed by millions of domestic and international visitors each year. The survival of the Reef is dependent on the decisions of the Australian Government, industry and communities today.
43. Labor will fight to save the Great Barrier Reef by addressing climate change, improving water quality, strengthening our environmental laws and protecting the biodiversity of species and ecological habitats in the Reef.

Protecting biodiversity and natural resources

44. Labor will protect Australia's biological diversity through a national system of comprehensive adequate and representative parks and reserves, while using education, regulation and incentives to achieve ecologically sustainable use elsewhere in the landscape.
45. Labor will work with state and territory governments and landholders to develop, resource and implement threat abatement and recovery plans for threatened species and ecological communities, while preventing clearing that will have a significant impact on threatened ecological communities and critical habitats for threatened species.
46. Labor will work to ensure Caring for our Country programs and other volunteer and community programs like Landcare support local agriculture, conservation and environmental priorities as well as contributing to national priorities to improve biodiversity and sustainable farm practices. Community groups and volunteer networks play a role in raising awareness of local environmental issues and creating community momentum. Labor will support local and state based conservation councils and Environmental Defenders Offices.
47. Labor will cooperate with the states, territories and landholders to achieve a net increase in Australia's vegetation cover, to improve its management and to end broad-scale

clearing. Funding of state, territory and landholder projects will be conditional upon appropriate clearing controls being in place.

48. Labor recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' knowledge is a key to an environmentally and socially sustainable Australia.
49. Labor will:
- Support employment programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to work on and manage country, particularly through the highly successful Indigenous Ranger and Indigenous Protected Area programs;
 - Support new opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, particularly those in remote and regional communities, to participate in a low carbon economy through initiatives such as carbon farming;
 - Support Australians who live in remote communities reliant on diesel fuel for electricity, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, to transition their use to low-carbon alternatives such as solar; and
 - Encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' involvement in land management, including through national parks, tourism and state forests.
50. Labor will properly manage and protect our wetlands and will promote and honour Australia's obligations under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.
51. Labor will improve the social, economic and environmental benefits that flow from the sustainable management of Australia's forests.

A cleaner environment for living

52. The Australian community wants to live in a clean and healthy environment and Labor will empower it to achieve that goal.
53. Labor will support the advocacy and action of non-government and community organisations to protect our environment and heritage.
54. Labor will support the development of industries that minimise resource consumption, waste and pollution generation.
55. Labor will work with state and territory governments to coordinate a national approach to waste. This will capture the economic opportunities of a harmonised and strategic national waste reduction and recycling policies and be informed by the principles of ecologically sustainable development.

56. Labor will strictly control of pollutants and toxins in the environment, including the minimisation of the production, import and use of harmful substances, the development of alternative technologies and, where possible, the elimination of harmful substances.
57. Nations are responsible for the appropriate disposal of hazardous wastes generated within their boundaries. Labor will fulfil Australia's obligations to control trans-boundary movements of hazardous waste.
58. Labor will improve air quality and avert the serious health risks air pollution represents, particularly by promoting national air quality standards and monitoring and reporting air pollution.

Building energy capacity

59. Among Australia's greatest economic strengths is the extent and diversity of its natural energy resources, energy infrastructure and energy technology. Australia is both an important producer of established sources of energy, including coal, gas, oil and condensate, and a world-class developer of renewable and sustainable energy technologies.
60. Labor recognises the importance of and the community concern about coal seam natural gas from shales and tight formations. Labor will take action to ensure this is sustainable, science-based and safe, managing environmental impacts and ensuring sustainable local economic activity. Labor will ensure the industry operates at the highest environmental standards and will ensure the coal seam gas industry assesses and manages environmental and other impacts, including on water reserves and co-existence with other agricultural activities. The industry should engage constructively with affected landholders.
61. More efficient, diverse and clean energy supplies will increasingly enhance Australia's capacity for the downstream processing of minerals and other natural resources and more competitive manufacturing generally, providing employment benefits and the ability to ensure secure domestic gas supplies.
62. The continued development and application of new technology to improve the economic and environmental efficiency of energy production and consumption is vital to Australia's long-term international competitiveness.
63. Labor will improve our national energy capacity by facilitating cooperation and development involving state and territory governments, industry representatives, and unions, so Australia builds the necessary electricity industry transmission, distribution and generation facilities to meet electricity demands and ensure future supply.
64. Labor will encourage greater efficiency in the production, transmission and use of existing energy sources by:

- A concerted ongoing effort for greater use of clean and renewable energy sources and enabling technologies in domestic, transportation and industrial energy consumption through demand management;
- Consumer education programs, product standards and energy efficiency labelling schemes to encourage energy efficiency and consumer purchase of energy efficient products; and
- Encouraging energy audits for the industrial, commercial, transportation and residential sectors to inform users of their relative energy efficiency and how this can be improved.

65. Major opportunities are emerging in new and renewable energy technologies within the global energy market. Labor will:

- Support public and private sector research and development in innovative energy technologies and low-carbon technologies that are cleaner and more efficient;
- Encourage Australian development, manufacture and commercialisation of renewable energy technologies and low-carbon technologies for both domestic and export markets; and
- Encourage local and foreign investment to increase Australia's renewable energy technology and low-carbon technology manufacturing capability.

66. Labor's national energy industry policy will integrate the need to improve energy efficiency, abate greenhouse emissions and encourage development and commercialisation of new Australian energy industries, including renewable and sustainable energy technology.

67. Labor will protect household consumers in the new national energy environment, through access to competitively priced energy, proper regulation of the national energy market and viable dispute resolution mechanisms. We will ensure consumers are the focus of the energy sector and that network investments and costs are appropriately funded and fairly paid for by network users.

Preparing primary industries for climate change and future droughts

68. Australia needs a sustainable agriculture sector. To guarantee our food security and capitalise on the 'Dining Boom', Australia's agriculture sector must ensure farming practices are focused on the best and most efficient use of our limited natural resources. Climate change, including more regular and prolonged droughts, make this all the more important.

69. Increasingly, investors and consumers alike demand environmentally sustainable farming practices and respect for animal welfare standards.
70. Carbon farming can increase resilience to climate change, protect our natural environment, and increase farm profitability and food production. Increasing carbon storage in agricultural soils improves soil health and productivity.
71. Biodiverse revegetation will help restore degraded landscapes, provide biodiversity habitats and corridors, and help to address salinity, protect livestock and reduce erosion.
72. Labor supports Landcare and the uptake of sustainable farming practices and improved natural resource management.

Managing our water assets

73. Addressing Australia's long-term water issues requires national leadership.
74. Responsible management of water assets requires action on climate change, wise water use, secure water supplies and support for healthy rivers.
75. Labor will address the long-term problems of over-allocation of the water resources of the Murray-Darling Basin and the neglect of the health of its iconic rivers and wetlands. The problems facing the Murray-Darling Basin and other river systems will be exacerbated by climate change.
76. The Murray-Darling Basin is one of the most significant river systems in Australia with considerable cultural, social, environmental and economic value. Decades of over-extraction left many areas of the Basin close to collapse during the drought of the early 2000s.
77. The Murray-Darling Basin Plan helped realise the ambition of a healthy working Basin which supports healthy rivers, strong communities and sustainable food production. Over 1,900 gigalitres of water have been recovered for the environment. This water is already delivering substantial environmental benefits in providing environmental flows to wetlands and floodplains across the Basin.
78. Labor supports the Murray-Darling Basin Plan, which will keep the mouth of the River Murray open nine years out of ten and enable the export of salt and sediment from the system. Within legal and physical constraints, the Plan will return enough water to the Basin to protect key environmental sites, including the Ramsar wetland sites. Australia needs continued progress to new Sustainable Diversion Limits as the Plan is implemented. By continuing to purchase water from willing sellers and investing in water savings, Labor will improve the health of our rivers and facilitate an early transition in anticipation of lower Sustainable Diversion Limits under the Basin Plan.

79. Water is vital to regional and rural communities across the Murray-Darling Basin. That is why Labor is committed to continuing support for effective water efficiency projects in the Basin to help rural and regional communities improve the efficiency and productivity of water usage.
80. By improving irrigation water management practices and on-farm water use efficiency, and by modernising our irrigation infrastructure, this investment will enable more crops to be grown with less water. This approach will boost regional economic and employment opportunities in the Basin, and help underpin the future prosperity of irrigation communities.
81. Labor recognises the excessive burden of current duplicative reporting requirements on water use in the Murray-Darling Basin. Labor will lift this burden from basin communities by moving to a common reporting format.
82. Labor recognises that urban water is integral to the productivity, liveability and health of Australia's cities and regional communities. Clean, safe, affordable drinking water, together with clean environmental and recreational waters enhance the quality of life of all Australians and contribute to economic growth.
83. Climate change means we need to use water more wisely in our cities and diversify our urban water supplies and infrastructure so we reduce our reliance on rainfall and safely manage floods and other extreme weather events. Labor will support initiatives to improve water security for Australia's cities and towns, support for investment in wastewater recycling, desalination, stormwater harvesting and efficient water infrastructure.
84. Labor will support research and commercialisation of new technologies in improved water efficiency, desalination and water recycling.

Marine and coastal protection

85. Labor will achieve our marine ecological, economic and social objectives in an open, integrated, participatory and planned manner. Labor will use modern, best-practice public processes like marine spatial planning involving stakeholders in a transparent way, to create and establish a more rational, adaptive and strategic use of marine space and the interactions between its uses, including Australia's comprehensive network of marine reserves.
86. Labor will work with traditional owners and local fishing communities across Australia who wish to manage their take of natural resources, their role in compliance activities and in monitoring the condition of plants and animals and the impact of human activities on local and regional biodiversity. We will work together to improve ways of educating the public about traditional and community connections to sea.

87. In Australian waters and throughout the world's oceans, Labor will encourage protection for iconic marine species like whales, dugongs, turtles and sharks, and will promote the conservation and research of key bioregional health indicator species.
88. Labor is committed to protect Australia's waters from the risks associated with the use of super trawlers. Labor will ensure all super trawlers are thoroughly assessed using the most up-to-date science, thereby protecting our oceans and our recreational fishing spots.

Environmental diplomacy

89. Labor will re-establish Australia as a cooperative and engaged participant in international efforts to address climate change. Labor played a leadership role in developing effective international climate policy and Labor will return Australia to its position as one of the most attractive countries to invest in clean energy and climate change mitigation actions.
90. While the rest of the world has moved towards taking meaningful action on climate change, Australia has regrettably fallen behind after the winding back of Labor's historic climate policies. Labor will ensure Australia works cooperatively with our major trading partners and the rest of the international community on climate change action. Labor is committed to working within Australia's region with vulnerable developing countries to adapt to climate change. Labor will help Australia's neighbours, primarily in the Pacific and Timor Leste to prepare for and adapt to the effects of climate change.
91. Protecting the global environment is a vital foreign policy objective, as environmental degradation contributes to social and political conflict and undermines regional and international security.
92. Labor will consider ways to ensure greater transparency and accountability in extractive industries to ensure mining, oil and gas revenues are used for economic development and poverty reduction in resource rich countries.
93. Existing international environmental protection regimes need to be strengthened and new arrangements developed to address emerging issues. Labor will lead in multilateral forums that consider issues of environmental protection and sustainable development.
94. Labor will work to further strengthen the Antarctic Treaty System with particular emphasis on enhancing environmental protection.
95. Labor will work through international forums to address unsustainable fishing practices worldwide with the establishment of protected areas a particular priority. We will energetically seek to combat unsustainable, illegal and unregulated fishing in the Southern Ocean.

96. Labor remains firmly opposed to all commercial and scientific whaling, and will vigorously pursue all options to implement Australia's objective of a worldwide ban on whaling. Labor is committed to ensuring Japan adheres to the landmark ruling in the International Court of Justice against Japan's Antarctic 'scientific' whaling program.

97. Labor is committed to ensuring Australia's continued commitment to international climate finance, in line with the shared international goal of mobilising public and private funds to assist vulnerable communities address climate change.

Chapter 5: Decent jobs with fair pay and conditions

The contemporary challenge

1. Australia needs to create jobs. Decades of economic growth have not eradicated unemployment in Australia. Unemployment across our nation is now higher than in many comparable countries, long-term and intergenerational unemployment is a particular blight on some Australian lives, and some regional and suburban communities are marked by far higher rates of unemployment.
2. Inequality in Australia is growing. The rapid pace of technological change and the transformation of the workforce are challenging job creation and fairness at work. Australia needs to create jobs with the fair pay and conditions which are essential to higher living standards and a more equal economy.
3. Australia is a fair wage country in a low wage region. Competitive external pressures on our economy create an argument for some to cut Australian wages and conditions. This would be bad for confidence and demand, damage economic growth, and put Australia on a race to the bottom on wages and condition. Australia can only ultimately succeed by being better, not cheaper, than our competitors in the world.

Labor values

4. The Australian Labor Party was founded to improve the lives of working people. Early Labor governments transformed working conditions and lifted living standards in Australia. Every Australian should have the opportunity to develop the skills to adapt to changes in the economy. Every person who can work should be given that chance. Our economy needs more working people, and many people want more work. We need to find a way to meet these complementary needs.
5. Fairness in the workplace is fundamental to Labor values. Adapting to change must never be an excuse to erode hard-won working conditions. Insecure work is a particular threat to those conditions. Protecting the rights of working people will always be essential to Labor's purpose. Working people have to be able to join together to bargain collectively for improvements to their lives.
6. Improving work-life balance, enabling time for parenting and family life, is part of Labor's modern vision for work. So is leading Australia's transition to a high-skill, high-wage, diverse and sustainable economy. So too is seizing the opportunities of longer lives and giving Australians greater choice and control over work as they age.
7. A secure, meaningful job is a fundamental source of self-respect and identity, providing dignity and belonging and fostering social inclusion.

8. All employees are entitled to a strong safety net of fair, relevant and enforceable minimum standards, including through legislation, the award system, and minimum wages. There is a right to equal pay for work of equal or comparable value. Employees undertaking the same work in the same workplace should be afforded the same entitlements.
9. Labor believes in the necessity of superannuation to fund a decent retirement.
10. Labor believes in increasing workforce participation. Government should provide unemployed Australians with the support they need to transition into meaningful work.
11. Pregnancy discrimination should be eliminated – helping parents to take time off to care for their new baby is in the community interest. Paid parental leave helps new parents stay connected with the workplace when they take time off to care for a baby, and it helps employers retain skilled staff. Childcare and parental leave remove barriers to work for parents and improve productivity and participation for the economy.
12. Government should support people to balance their work and family life, including flexibility for employees to combine work and family responsibilities. People should have the choice of common leisure time on weekends and holidays. People should be able to take personal leave for caring responsibilities. There is a right not to work excessive or unsociable hours, and to be adequately compensated for this kind of work.
13. Labor believes in safe and socially inclusive workplaces which do not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex status. Labor believes in improving wellbeing and productivity through safe, socially inclusive workplaces, that value diversity and are free of discrimination, including on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex status.
14. Education and training is necessary to social mobility in Australia and the lifelong acquisition of skills and knowledge creates the opportunity for individuals to improve their living standards and for the nation to grow and prosper. Investing in skills and training, infrastructure, innovation and entrepreneurship creates jobs.
15. Government should protect workers from unfair dismissal, from labour market risk not of their own making, and from discrimination in obtaining and keeping employment. Labor believes in international labour standards and their effective implementation in Australia.
16. Every workplace injury is preventable. Industry, employers, trade unions and workers should be supported to reduce workplace risk, hazards and injury and to achieve the highest standard of workplace safety. If a worker is injured at work, on the way to work, or as a result of the negligence of their employer or a third party, their rights to both statutory no fault benefits and common law compensation should be respected and protected. The dignity of injured workers, and their rights to be compensated for their

injuries, should be protected. Injured workers should be rehabilitated and helped to return to work in a suitable role.

17. Employees have fundamental democratic rights to representation in the workplace, to freedom of association, and to organise and be represented by a union. Employees are best represented in their workplace through membership of their relevant trade union. Unions and union delegates give employees a voice at work, create harmonious and productive workplaces, facilitate workplace change, resolve disputes as they arise, improve occupational health and safety, and improve ongoing training opportunities.
18. Australia's trade unions, the legitimate representatives of the workforce, should be fully consulted and involved across a range of industrial, economic and social issues.
19. Labor believes in the right to collective bargaining in good faith.
20. Balance in the workplace is achieved through an independent umpire, acting in the national interest, who can ensure the fair and effective resolution of disputes and the fair application of workplace laws. Australia's workplace relations system should balance the needs of business with the important social and economic need of creating and sustaining good, secure jobs. Workplace relations laws should promote harmonious and productive relationships between employers and employees. Labor believes workplace relations laws should reduce inequality, promote fairness, job security, good wages and working conditions, and employment growth.
21. Labor believes all employees and employers, in every workplace, are entitled to the same basic rights and responsibilities. Government should be responsible for providing practical, quick and low-cost assistance to help employers and employees understand their responsibilities.
22. Labor will adhere to these values in Government as an employer.

Labor priorities

Transition to work

23. Labor will help more people participate in the workforce through a combination of active labour market programs, support, incentives and responsibilities. Labor will create an effective employment services system based on evidence of what works to help people achieve sustainable and meaningful employment and to help employers meet their labour and skill needs. Labor will ensure the integrity of employment services, in the interest of job seekers, business and taxpayers.
24. Labor will improve employment opportunities and support for disadvantaged job seekers including young people, women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people with

disability and the long term unemployed, older Australians and retrenched workers. Labor will recognise the transition from school, university and vocational education into employment.

25. Labor will help people who live in places where there is intense disadvantage to participate in employment.

Improving participation for carers

26. Labor will help people manage their work and caring responsibilities through paid parental leave, rights to unpaid parental leave of up to two years, the right to request part-time work, or other flexible work arrangements, and the right to work reasonable but not excessive hours. Labor will add to the national paid parental leave scheme for a child's primary carer and their partner. Labor will encourage employers to top up the earnings of workers receiving paid parental leave so they can enjoy their regular income and entitlements while on parental leave.
27. Labor will deliver affordable, quality childcare and before and after school care, and will consider changes to taxation, superannuation, work and industry arrangements to support this.
28. Labor will ensure flexible working arrangements accommodate unpaid caring work, without discrimination, financial or otherwise. Labor will ensure the right to request changes to working arrangements to meet caring responsibilities is equitable for all employees. Labor will deliver effective support for transition to work when caring responsibilities change, including education and training.
29. Labor will regulate and educate employers to promote equal opportunity, gender pay equity and work and family balance. Labor will improve gender pay equity including through effective data collection from business by government. Labor will develop an equal pay for equal work strategy underpinned by legal obligations. Labor will act to bridge the gap in women's retirement incomes.

Improving participation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

30. Labor is committed to halving the gap in employment outcomes between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians by 2018, supporting 100,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to find and sustain a job by 2018.
31. Labor will work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to improve employment opportunities and the job readiness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, whether they live in urban areas or remote communities. Labor will ensure participation programs in remote communities focus on skill-formation and are not a substitute for real employment.

32. Labor will support procurement opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' businesses and otherwise supporting the growth of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander business sector. Labor will work with communities and businesses to develop economic, employment and training opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including in remote communities.

Investing in Skills and Social Mobility

33. Labor will help Australians acquire the skills they and the labour market need now and in the future.
34. Labor will work in partnership with industry, union and professional representative bodies to deliver high quality training to equip people with nationally recognised and transferrable skills for current and emerging employment opportunities; improve productivity, make our workplaces internationally competitive, and improve job satisfaction and employment prospects. Effective industry and government co-investment models should upskill existing workforces, including in language, literacy, numeracy and digital skills.
35. Apprenticeships and traineeships should deliver for the individual and industry, for young people and for mature-age workers. Labor will work with state and territory governments to ensure we have a strong and responsive TAFE system. Labor will ensure high quality training is delivered regardless of whether the provider is private or public sector. Labor will establish industry-led skills councils with representation from employers and unions.
36. Labor will protect vulnerable individuals from unscrupulous practices in the training sector and there will be appropriate consequences for such improper conduct. Labor will provide training opportunities to Australians who are vulnerable to unemployment.

Jobs with decent pay and conditions

37. Australia needs a modern award system that is relevant to the workplaces of the 21st century and addresses the particular needs of workers in different industries and occupations.
38. Labor will work with State and Territory Governments to achieve a national minimum standard for long service leave to form part of the National Employment Standards. Labor will work with state and territory governments to ensure consistent treatment of public holidays, including the issue of Easter Sunday and the treatment of Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day where they fall on weekends.
39. Australia needs wage levels for apprentices and trainees to fairly balance a living wage with incentives for employers to train the next generation of skilled employees. Labor will promote better skilled and secure jobs through industry driven workforce development research and planning and the establishment of a tripartite government agency as an

authority on workforce development policy advice and to conduct skills and workforce research, including into the quality and security of jobs and the future working life in Australia.

40. Labor is committed to a minimum wage that will support decent living standards.
41. Labor will address the gender pay gap, including by requiring Fair Work Australia to take into account the principle of pay equity when conducting periodic reviews of modern awards.
42. Labor will work with State and Territory Governments, employers and unions to facilitate the portability of entitlements including through industry-wide schemes.
43. Labor will support employers and unions to develop working time arrangements that are consistent with employees' preferences and needs and that will reduce excessive working hours and maximise employment creation. Penalty rates for excessive or unsociable hours, and for weekends and public holidays should be retained.
44. Labor will ensure the workplace relations system reduces the incidence of underemployment and insecure work. Labor will strengthen the laws that prohibit sham contracting. Labor will set an objective test for determining when a worker is a casual. Labor will protect labour hire workers.
45. Labor will protect vulnerable seafarers in the coastal trade and to promoting fair labour standards in the Australian shipping industry.
46. Labor recognises the disadvantaged position of outworkers in the Textile, Clothing and Footwear sector. Outworkers require specific regulatory protection in order to control the exploitative conditions under which they are employed and ensure they are deemed to be employees and receive all employee entitlements including superannuation.
47. Labor will consider the issues around fly-in, fly-out working conditions, including the protections, health and wellbeing of workers and their families.
48. Labor will work with employers, unions and community organisations to remove obstacles to the employment of people with disability.
49. Labor will prevent transfer of business, corporate restructuring, phoenixing, insourcing or outsourcing arrangements to be used to avoid obligations in the Fair Work Act, an award or a collective agreement.
50. Labor will not seek to reduce industrial obligations or terms and conditions through Government outsourcing.

51. Labor will protect redundancy pay as a basic employment right. Labor will protect employee entitlements from the risk of company and market failure with a Fair Entitlements Guarantee that includes redundancy pay (up to four weeks per year of service), annual leave, long service leave, notice, superannuation and unpaid wages. Employers should be obliged to make proper provision for employee entitlements. Labor will develop further mechanisms to protect workers' superannuation in the event of corporate collapse.
52. Labor will introduce an improved ranking of employee entitlements relative to other creditors, ensuring employers and directors meet their responsibilities, and ensure any burden placed on taxpayers is reasonable. Labor will amend corporations law to strengthen the recovery of employee entitlements including prohibiting corporate and director conduct which has the consequence of preventing recovery. Employee creditors and their representatives should also have the capacity to directly recover employee entitlements.
53. Labor will support the work of the International Labour Organisation, particularly within our region, to improve international labour standards and champion respect for internationally recognised workplace rights.

Safety at work

54. Labor will advance its workplace safety agenda through Safe Work Australia, the national body overseeing the development of model Occupational Health and Safety laws. Labor will work cooperatively with states and territories to develop national Occupational Health and Safety Laws to reflect best health and safety practice within Australia and internationally. Labor will ensure tripartite oversight of workers' compensation and workplace safety.
55. Labor will work with employers, unions and the States and Territories to restore dignity and support for injured workers who have suffered as a result of the erosion of their rights and benefits. Labor is committed to improving Comcare to ensure injured workers get fair compensation for their injuries or illness, and are rehabilitated and helped to return to work in a suitable role. Labor will oppose any changes to Comcare to allow employers to exit other Australian Workers' Compensation schemes, thereby undermining the viability of those schemes. Labor does not support any move to outsource or privatise Comcare.
56. Labor will work cooperatively with employers, unions and States and Territories to develop a national regulatory framework for Occupational Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation in the shipping, offshore oil and gas, and stevedoring industries. Labor will improve workplace safety in high risk sectors including on farms, fishing vessels and in forests with farm organisations, unions and governments; through research, raising the profile of safety issues, codes of practice, and where these means fail, appropriate regulation. Labor will protect owner-drivers and employees in the road transport industry

by maintaining safe rates, conditions and payments systems for employees and owner-drivers; covering all parties in the transport supply chain; and by a strong and effective education and enforcement regime.

57. Labor will protect the community from exposure to asbestos-related disease, in cooperation with states and territories, by improving asbestos awareness, and management and removal of asbestos from the built environment. Labor will work towards a full world-wide ban on the mining, manufacture and use of asbestos, to be implemented and oversighted by tripartite international processes and to ensure ongoing protection and support is provided to victims of asbestos-related disease and their families and to ensure people are protected from asbestos and asbestos related diseases.
58. Labor will provide the highest level of protection to the community, workers and the environment from chemicals by ensuring the efficient and timely assessment of all chemicals; by requiring safety data to be complete, up to date and comprehensive (including nano forms of bulk chemicals) and by reducing the risks posed by chemicals.

The right to organise and be represented

59. Labor will protect employees' right to access union representation at work in reasonable locations at appropriate times. Labor will ensure delegates are able to organise and effectively represent employees, including paid training leave. Labor will work with trade unions and employers to ensure due respect for workers' rights to join a union without hindrance or discrimination, and using modern payment methods.
60. Labor will promote and ensure good faith bargaining in workplaces including by developing guidelines on good faith conduct in negotiations to allow access to and assistance from the independent umpire to resolve disputes. Labor will maintain a low-paid bargaining stream in which workers who are substantially reliant on the safety net are able to participate in bargaining, with the involvement of third parties where relevant, through a special authorisation from the independent umpire.
61. Labor will include unions alongside business, community and other appropriate interests in constituted boards, committees and consultative bodies that provide advice to the government. Labor will work with trade unions and employers to ensure employees have access to adequate information on their workplace rights, relevant industrial agreements, occupational health and safety and other employment information.

The workplace relations system

62. Labor will ensure all workers and employers have equal access to assistance from the independent umpire to resolve disputes including by requiring dispute resolution procedures in agreements provide for arbitration where disputes cannot be resolved through discussion, conciliation or mediation.

63. Labor will retain the Fair Work Commission and the Fair Work Ombudsman ensuring understanding of and compliance with workplace laws. Labor will deliver effective, low-cost, informal and prompt resolution of disputes through the Fair Work Commission, the Fair Work Ombudsman and small claims procedures in the courts.
64. Labor will provide a balanced and effective compliance regime, which will provide procedural and substantive fairness to all parties in the construction industry.
65. Labor will work with State Governments to develop a truly national workplace relations system for the private sector.

Chapter 6: New opportunities for an ageing Australia

The contemporary challenge

1. Australia's population is undergoing a profound change: our people are living longer than ever before. Each year, more people reach Age Pension eligibility age than reach working age. This longevity is a result of advances in health, technologies and lifestyles. While this demographic shift creates some challenges, it is a historic achievement and offers social and economic opportunities for the nation. Labor celebrates this – we do not see longer lives as a problem or a burden.
2. Senior Australians want to contribute to the Australian economy and society through business, education, employment and volunteerism. Australians want active, happy, healthy and productive lives in retirement and should be supported to do so. Governments have a responsibility to ensure senior Australians get the support, security, care and services they need.

Labor values

3. Longer lives are a social and economic asset to be celebrated and harnessed. All Australians deserve respect, dignity, security and choice as they age.
4. Australian communities should enable senior Australians to lead healthy and productive lives. Labor will provide support and services to senior Australians including housing assistance, public transport and community infrastructure.
5. Labor created the pension and we have protected it for more than 100 years. Labor built universal superannuation. We will always ensure Australia's post-retirement income system is strong and sustainable, giving senior Australians the financial support and security they deserve.
6. Senior Australians should be free from the atrocities of elder abuse and neglect, intentional or unintentional. Senior Australians should be free from fear of physical, psychological, emotional, sexual or financial abuse.
7. Senior Australians' contribution to our national prosperity and economic development should be recognised. Senior Australians deserve honour and support in their continued contributions in employment, volunteering, caring and the community. Labor will remove barriers to mature age workforce participation, including age discrimination, and will provide better and more flexible work environments for older Australians. Older Australians make an important contribution as mentors in business and community life.

8. Older Australians are entitled to affordable, accessible and high quality aged care services. Australia has the skills, talents and abilities to protect and grow aged care services and expertise as trade and export opportunities emerge.
9. Older Australians should have fast, reliable and affordable broadband access to connect with family and friends, employment and business, and where appropriate, health and other services.

Labor Priorities

10. In Government, Labor made the aged care system stronger, more sustainable, more transparent and easier to access through its Living Longer, Living Better reforms. Labor remains committed to implementing the Living Longer Living Better reforms.
11. Labor will:
 - Ensure senior Australians can participate to their full capacity and potential in the economy and in community life;
 - Improve the wages and conditions, skills, professional development and career advancement, of senior Australians, to meet Australia's aged care workforce needs
 - Emphasise wellness, independence and ageing-in-place, and address chronic health conditions, the importance of independence and mobility, fall prevention and wound management;
 - Expand health care services in the community, at home and in residential aged care;
 - Support educational programs such as Broadband for Seniors to give senior Australians' more and better modern information and communications technologies;
 - Support older Australians to reskill as they transition through phases of work and into semi-retirement and retirement;
 - Deal with the particular challenges faced by senior Australians in regional, rural and remote areas, senior Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, those from LGBTI communities and with culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds;
 - Improve and enhance legal protections, consumer protections and financial security for senior Australians;
 - Address discriminatory perceptions of senior Australians which may hinder their full social participation;
 - Promote respect for older Australians, and oppose age-discrimination and elder abuse;
 - Help the growing numbers of Australians experiencing dementia;

- Expand quality palliative care and increase awareness and uptake of advanced care plans to provide Australians with better control and choice over end of life planning; and
- Determine the true cost of care through independent research and in consultation with stakeholders.

Retirement Incomes

12. By 2050 there will be approximately four times as many 80 year olds as there are today and twice as many 65 year olds. There will be 2.7 people in the workforce for every person aged 65 years or older.
13. All senior Australians deserve to share in Australia's rising community living standards and to live with dignity and financial security in retirement. Labor will lift retirement incomes fairly and take pressure off the aged pension. Labor will provide a strong and sustainable pension system. Labor will maintain and strengthen pension indexation to reflect the rising cost of living and broader community living standards.
14. A highly skilled, ethical, professional financial services industry is essential for the financial well-being of senior Australians. As many Australians as possible should be able to access high quality and affordable financial advice, particularly when making decisions about their retirement incomes. Lifting the standards for financial advice will encourage more Australians to undertake retirement planning. Labor supports strong consumer protections to uphold the best interests of senior Australians in the provision of financial advice.

Ageing and Aged Care Services

15. Australia's aged care system should give older Australians:
 - The right to fair, sustainable, quality care services appropriate to their needs;
 - Greater control over their care arrangements;

Our aged care system should be underpinned by a highly qualified and well paid workforce capable of meeting older Australians' needs.

16. Aged care policies should promote independence, wellness and the continuing contribution and active involvement of older Australians, with their friends, families and communities.
17. All senior Australians have a right to safe and secure aged care services, whether in a residential facility or in the home.
18. Many Australians, as they age, come to rely on the support provided by the aged care sector with services ranging from low level home support with domestic chores to full

residential care. Labor will align services with the needs and preferences of older Australians, acting on the principle of ‘consumer directed care’ and Labor’s *Living Longer, Living Better* aged care reforms.

19. Labor will take into account demographic changes and rural and regional supply challenges and ensure the supply of aged care services meets current and future demand. Labor will provide an adequate number of residential aged care places offering a high standard of care and subject to relevant regulation.
20. Senior Australians want to stay in their own homes for as long as possible. Australia needs a growing system providing support and care services in the home. Labor will provide services to help older Australians remain independent and in their own homes, close to their family and community, wherever possible.
21. Labor will hear the voice of residents of aged care facilities, their families and other interested parties about the quality and nature of care and maintain a strong and robust complaints process.
22. Quality residential aged care recognises the social needs of residents as essential to their care and well-being.
23. Labor recognises the need to provide culturally appropriate aged care, including strategies that address:
 - The propensity of older Australians from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds experiencing dementia to revert to their first language;
 - The need for older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to maintain contact with their culture and country; and
 - Discrimination against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex senior Australians.

Accordingly, Labor has amended the Sex Discrimination Act to cover sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status, removed exemptions to this law in aged care facilities and implemented strategies that recognise the special needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex senior Australians in aged care facilities. Labor will continue to respond to the needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex senior Australians.

24. Labor recognises the profound grief, suffering and loss experienced by members of the Stolen Generations as a result of forced removals and other past government policies. Accordingly, Labor will provide appropriate aged care services that take into consideration their particular needs.

25. For Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants, the impact of childhood experiences in institutions and children homes is ongoing. These ‘care-leavers’ have special needs in aged care services and deserve an aged care system that is responsive and appropriate for their needs.
26. Preventive health measures and vigilant care are necessary to reduce chronic illnesses among older Australians and keep seniors as healthy as possible.

Quality Aged Care Workforce

27. The aged care services sector workforce performs valuable work, providing care, support and services that enable older Australians to live rich, fulfilling lives. Labor recognises that care staff, including nursing, personal care and support workers, deserve to be paid and supported appropriately, with appropriate career paths.
28. The workforce requires ongoing training, development and support in the context of the ongoing aged care reforms, with a focus on reablement, wellness and the uptake of technology.
29. Labor recognises there are acute workforce shortages in the sector. Labor will work with all industry stakeholders to ensure the aged care workforce is properly paid and supported, with incentives put in place to attract and retain staff. This includes properly benchmarked and funded rates of pay through appropriate industrial instruments. Labor will deliver fair and competitive wages and conditions for aged care services workers through an open and sustainable pricing system.
30. Labor recognises the aged care services workforce offers an increasingly diverse range of career and work opportunities. Along with nursing, health and care workers, the sector needs to attract and arrange for professional and specialist workers including those in allied health, information technology and communications, innovation, design, architecture, investment, financial planning, and the like to ensure Australia remains at the forefront of aged care service provision in the world.
31. Labor will work with the sector to develop and implement an aged care workforce strategy to improve career and training pathways, improved management, workforce planning, supervision and wages. In addition, Labor will seek to promote aged care services as a secure industry for employment, with increasing investment, development and opportunities, as a result of the ageing population.

Dementia

32. The growing incidence of dementia is one of the biggest health challenges of the 21st century, in Australia and across the world. Living with dementia can be confusing and frightening for the person with dementia, their family and friends. All people experiencing

dementia should be treated with dignity, respect and compassion and should have quality home or community care and support or residential care facilities.

33. People living with dementia should be supported so they can stay connected to their communities and remain independent as far as is possible. Communities need support to enable people living with dementia to contribute. Labor will support local communities to improve dementia awareness, build dementia-friendly community infrastructure, fund education and training programs about dementia, create employment opportunities and provide appropriate support programs for people experiencing dementia.
34. Australian researchers, scientists and practitioners have made great advances to find a cure, improve treatment and develop appropriate models of care. Labor will continue to invest in this vital work.

Chapter 7: A world-class education for all Australians

The contemporary challenge

1. The social and economic challenges we face in the 21st century mean the need to build a smart Australia is more urgent than ever. Education is the great enabler, not only to give our industries the knowledge and skills they need to innovate and prosper, but also to promote social mobility and social harmony.
2. Our education system must prepare a new generation of Australians for the jobs of tomorrow. Yet today too many students, particularly from disadvantaged communities, are not reaching their educational potential. Too many children still have their future determined by their postcode.
3. Education is essential to each Australian reaching their full potential, and is crucial to building our national prosperity. For Australia to prosper we must be one of the most highly educated and skilled nations on earth. This requires investment and improvement in education at all levels: early childhood, the primary and secondary years, Vocational Education and Training and higher education.

Labor values

4. All Australians have the right to a high quality education, regardless of their social background.
5. Quality education in the early years is crucial for a child's development. Early childhood education should be universally available, affordable and of the highest quality.
6. Every student in every school should get a quality education that meets their individual needs.
7. Every Australian in every community should have access to free, secular, high quality government schooling and government policies should recognise this. Adequate public funding is necessary for quality public education and training.
8. Greater equality in educational outcomes is important for strengthening social inclusion and promoting opportunity. Neither background nor disadvantage should be a barrier to educational achievement for any child.
9. Labor will make our schools and education institutions more transparent and accountable.
10. The right to education includes the right to an environment free from bullying and harassment, including racist, sexist, homophobic or transphobic bullying and harassment.

11. Quality vocational education and training is a crucial driver of participation and productivity and a significant contributor to social inclusion and civic participation. For millions of Australian school-leavers, it is the entry point to work and further education. To deliver the high-skilled workers and citizens of the future, engaged in lifelong learning, vocational education and training must be a national priority. A strong public sector technical and further education –TAFE – is essential, supplemented by a quality private sector.
12. Labor will ensure access to higher education is based on talent and hard work, not on a student’s bank balance or family income. We will never support policies to reduce access to higher education for students from low-income or disadvantaged backgrounds.
13. Australia needs excellence in all aspects of higher education from teaching and learning, to research and engagement with industry and the community. Universities are critical drivers of social and economic wellbeing within their regions, and are essential to Australia’s innovation system. As public institutions, universities must work with governments to address national priorities and ensure our nation prospers in a rapidly changing world.
14. Labor will create opportunities for career-enhancing learning and life-long learning in older age through our educational institutions including Vocational Education and Training and universities.
15. Education and training is essential to reduce Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples’ disadvantage and provide opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Labor will work in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities and families to develop and implement education and training access, attendance and outcomes in order to close this gap.

Labor priorities

Early Childhood: The best start for every child

16. Early childhood education and care is a priority for Australia’s economic interests and a priority for families.
17. Australia should expand affordable, high quality, integrated early learning and care programs. Early education and care programs should meet the learning and development needs of individual children, including children with disability. Early intervention programs for children at risk, and children with extra educational or developmental needs, are particularly important.
18. High quality learning and development experiences in the first five years of life are critical to children's cognitive and non-cognitive development. This includes play-based learning. Early childhood education and care has a proven link to life outcomes. As a result, learning

and development should be at the centre of our system of early childhood education and care. Creating this 21st Century early childhood education and care system is the responsibility of all levels of government.

19. Investing in the early years has long term economic and social benefits. Quality early childhood programs offer a strong return on investment through reduced expenditure on later interventions, and are necessary to a skilled and productive workforce. Early childhood education and care is the first step in lifelong learning and enrichment.
20. Expenditure on early education and care in Australia is currently below the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development average. Labor is committed to improving quality standards and availability so Australian children do not fall behind those in comparable countries.
21. Quality early education in the year before school leads to higher levels of student achievement. Kindergarten and preschool is a shared responsibility of the federal and state and territory governments, and Labor will work with the states and territories so all children have access to this important opportunity.
22. Children – particularly vulnerable and disadvantaged children – should have access to at least 15 hours a week of kindergarten and preschool in the year before school. Australia needs to achieve this.
23. Accessible and affordable early childhood education and care is essential for parents, especially women, to return to the workforce. To achieve this, Labor will:
 - Provide high-quality early education and care options that are flexible, accessible, affordable and convenient for parents;
 - Ensure government funding is tied to both workforce participation and quality care outcomes; and
 - Support employment and education participation by providing early education and care and out of school hours care options that are flexible, accessible and affordable.
24. Cost should not be a barrier to early childhood education and care for Australian families. Labor will target assistance to alleviate income and location disadvantage in early childhood education and care.
25. Early childhood education and care is one of the most valuable careers for our nation's future. Quality early education and care can be provided only by a highly skilled, professional and well paid workforce. Labor supports improved wages and conditions for educators, and acknowledges parents alone cannot afford to meet this increased cost.

Quality education for children should be supported by quality training for educators which meets strict quality controls.

26. Historical barriers to genuine enterprise bargaining in the early childhood education and care sector have resulted in low wages for skilled childcare professionals. These include the predominantly female workforce, multiple small sites of employment, limited community recognition of the work and the high responsibility placed on the workforce, making industrial action difficult.
27. Labor will continue the implementation of the National Quality Framework.
28. Labor will:
 - Support the professional development of early childhood educators;
 - Maintain minimum qualifications required of educators;
 - Support staff-to-child ratios that enable educators to develop secure attachments with children;
 - Actively plan to meet changing workforce needs, including the need for more degree-qualified Early Childhood Teachers; and
 - Properly regulate any new federal programs to deliver flexible forms of care, or care in the home, to protect quality standards and educators' wages and conditions.
29. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children should receive quality, culturally rich early education and care services. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be encouraged and supported to train as early childhood educators.

An excellent education for every student, in every school

30. Universal, high quality school education is a necessary condition of social justice, prosperity and opportunity. No student should miss out on achieving their potential because of the means of their family, where they live, or the school they attend.
31. Labor will work to implement a properly funded national needs-based and sector-blind school funding model consistent with the Gonski reforms. We will work with the states and territories to ensure all schools operate at a resource standard that meets the needs of students.
32. School education is too important to Australia's future prosperity to be solely the responsibility of individual states and territories. All students have the right to attend high quality, well-resourced schools, and the federal government is necessary to ensuring the

equality and quality. Schooling is the shared responsibility of the states and territories, and the federal government.

33. Equality in education is essential for social inclusion. Every student should have the teaching and learning resources needed to achieve their best. This requires targeted needs-based investment to overcome disadvantage, including for students from low socio-economic backgrounds, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, students with disability, students with limited English, and students in rural and remote areas.
34. Labor will work cooperatively with the states and territories to increase school funding and ensure this drives evidence-based reforms that lead to higher academic achievement and better teaching and learning. Federal investment in schools should always be transparent and accountable and subject to all schools in all sectors meeting national standards in curriculum, teaching and learning.
35. Labor strives for each generation of students to achieve more than their parents. Australian students should be among the very highest performing in the world, not only in academic achievements, but in their social, personal and emotional development and their creative abilities.
36. Australia needs an independently determined national curriculum, free from political or commercial influence. National student assessment and reporting should be carried out independently. The curriculum should prepare students to be healthy, active and engaged citizens, equipped with the academic and life-skills they need to succeed in the workforce and further education. The curriculum should also support Vocational Education and Training in schools.
37. Developing skills in science, technology, engineering and mathematics is strategically and nationally important. Labor will support our schools to encourage more people to study and teach science, technology, engineering and mathematics subjects, and to lift competency standards.
38. Labor will support primary and secondary teachers to undertake professional development in science, technology, engineering and maths, with a focus on coding and programming. We will provide incentives for new and recent science, technology, engineering and maths graduates to continue their study and become teachers. Under Labor, more qualified teachers will be able to connect with young Australians and engage them in the science, technology, engineering and maths disciplines that will drive the jobs of the future.
39. All students benefit from completing Year 12, and Labor will work to continue improving Year 12 retention rates. To achieve this, Labor will help schools to offer programs to meet the aspirations and interests of all students, including Vocational Education programs. There should also be alternative pathways to complete Year 12, because all young

Australians – including those not in the school system – deserve the opportunity to complete school education or its equivalent regardless of their circumstances.

40. The work of principals, teachers, and support staff in educating the next generation of Australians is invaluable. Labor will work to lift the status of the teaching profession, and support improved practice and continued professional development for teachers and principals.
41. Maintaining the highest standards in initial and continuing teacher education is urgent and important. Universities have a responsibility to ensure prospective teachers are of high academic ability, receive a quality education, and are properly supported throughout their studies. This includes ensuring all students have access to substantial and meaningful practical classroom experience.
42. Education support workers and non-teaching support staff do important work contributing to schools. These workers should be directly employed by the states and territories to ensure a cohesive and integrated education community.
43. Labor supports a mandatory Indigenous Studies component as part of all teachers' pre-service training. Labor will work with teacher educators and the teaching profession to ensure all teachers have a good understanding of Indigenous education issues and the knowledge to work effectively with Indigenous communities and families.
44. Labor believes our schools must be safe environments that enable all students to learn – including same sex attracted, intersex and gender diverse students. Labor will continue working with teachers, students and schools to tackle bullying and discrimination, and ensure our schools are safe and welcoming places for same-sex attracted, intersex and gender diverse students.
45. Every Australian in every community should have access to high-quality free, secular government schooling. Our public schools are among our nation's most important institutions, and it is a fundamental responsibility of governments to ensure they are adequately resourced to deliver an excellent quality education. Labor is fully committed to the principle of excellent, universal public education and will not pursue the privatisation of any aspect of public schooling.
46. Parents have a right to choose non-government schooling. Non-government schools should receive support that reflects need and is consistent with the creation of a diverse and inclusive society.

Students with Disability

47. All children should have the skills and opportunities to participate in society. Children and students with disability should have access to the same education opportunities as all Australian children and students.
48. All children and students with disability should be recognised as learners, and given every opportunity to discover and fulfil their learning potential. Labor will invest to improve educational outcomes and promote inclusion for all children, particularly those with disability.
49. Labor will ensure the National Disability Insurance Scheme provides early intervention services for children with disability so they can learn and develop to their full potential.
50. Labor is committed to needs-based school funding so our schools and teachers are equipped to meet the needs of students with disability. Labor will work with states and territories to see needs-based funding for students with disability become a reality for all children with disability, right across Australia.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians

51. High quality education is critical to Closing the Gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Australia should ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people get the same opportunities as others.
52. More Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are attending school than ever before, but current levels of school participation and attainment remain unacceptable.
53. Labor remains committed to Closing the Gap in early childhood education; school attendance; reading, writing and numeracy achievements; and Year 12 completion.
54. Labor will work to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children get early childhood education, as evidence shows the benefits of early education extend to improved school results and life outcomes.
55. Labor is committed to needs-based school funding so our schools are equipped to meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and to improve educational attainment and employment outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

Strong transitions from school to work or training

56. The transition from school to work, training or higher education is a crucial time in every person's life. Students who do not make a successful transition face the prospect of

diminished opportunities and the heightened risk of unemployment and social exclusion throughout their adult life.

57. Labor is committed to improving the post-school transition for young Australians. This includes:
- Strengthening vocational education in schools;
 - Working with employers to create more opportunities for young people to develop technical and work skills while completing Year 12; and
 - Improving career education so all students get appropriate and useful information about a wide range of career options; and
 - Ensuring school equips students with financial literacy, including an understanding of taxation, superannuation and personal finances.
58. Governments should do all they can to encourage young people to stay at school, and developing a range of learning pathways within and alongside schools is crucial. Students who leave school before Year 12 should be supported in their transition to the world beyond school.

The vocational education and training system of the future

59. Labor will deliver a high quality and responsive training system to meet national skills needs and contribute to economic growth. Labor is proud of the strong role played by the labour movement in building the TAFE and vocational education and training sector.
60. Quality should be at the centre of the national training system. Confidence in the national training system, its individual programs and the quality of its graduates should be the highest priority for government. As both governments and individuals invest in their training they have a right to expect training to be of a quality and standard to improve the chance that it will lead to employment or relevant further study.
61. Public TAFEs should be the major provider in the vocational education and training system. An effective skills and training system relies on the availability of a strong and responsive public sector provider. The ability of vulnerable individuals to get vocational and further training should not be lost because of the poor availability or affordability of courses. TAFE is the provider responsible for the broader economic and social imperatives of governments. Labor will work with state and territory Governments to ensure the TAFE system is capable of delivering its responsibilities as the public provider.
62. Labor will work with the private sector to clarify its roles and responsibilities so students can make informed decision about qualifications that meet their needs for further education or employment. Private providers will continue to deliver specific expertise to

both industry and individuals and meet some of the national training demand, and should be able to operate in a system where quality assurance supports them to provide quality training and not be forced into a low-cost race to the bottom.

63. Labor is committed to policies to support effective life-long learning. In a modern economy, the post-secondary education system is critical to the ability of all Australians to participate in retraining and renewal of qualifications. Many students now seek vocational skills and knowledge as a value-add to their university degree. Labor will work with the vocational education and training and university sectors to develop two-way pathways between the sectors.
64. Labor supports access and equality in the vocational education system. The Vocational Education and Training system most often provides education and training for students from disadvantaged backgrounds, in particular through public TAFEs. All Australians, regardless of their life circumstance, deserve the opportunity of a post-school education and to complete a pathway to work or further study.
65. Labor’s vocational education and training system will be based on the following principles:
- A national system with high quality nationally-accredited qualifications that provide life-long pathways to work and further study – with the student at the centre;
 - Quality assurance in all aspects of recruitment, delivery and assessment, and a requirement for strong consumer protections and student concerns and complaints mechanisms, both internal and external to the training provider;
 - Competency-based qualifications developed in cooperation with industry, unions, professional bodies and educators, through expert advisory bodies such as Industry Skills Councils;
 - Public provision through TAFE must be at the centre of the VET system, supplemented by quality private providers, with neither undermined by low cost and substandard quality competition;
 - Affordability and availability to meet the needs of new workers, existing workers, young people and industry participants;
 - Diversity and accessibility so people with disability, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, people from culturally and linguistically diverse and other students from non-traditional backgrounds can flourish;
 - Affordable, flexible adult and community education entry points to education and training, including language, literacy and numeracy programs;
 - Well-developed research on skills for the future and their contribution to participation, productivity and innovation to support the system;

- Recognition and support for quality teaching through professional teaching qualifications and standards for TAFE and VET teachers; and
- Transparent governance, funding and performance supported by an efficient, comprehensive and independent regulation and auditing system.

66. To ensure the national economy has the qualified skills base it needs to grow, innovate and prosper, Labor will:

- Maintain the integrity and international reputation of Australia’s trade qualifications and ensure Australians have relevant, valued and portable qualifications, including a rigorous process of recognising skills obtained overseas;
- Work in partnership with industry and unions to ensure existing workers are able to update their knowledge and skills post-school in order to sustain their participation in work and the viability of the industry;
- Ensure people from educationally and vocationally disadvantaged backgrounds, including those who would benefit from ‘second chance’ education, have access to training;
- Support TAFE to deliver its dual roles of training provider and community education resource, including offering training and careers advice to people seeking to enrol;
- Create a responsive, rigorous system of well-resourced and appropriate flexible delivery methods, integration of work and learning experiences, and recognition of prior learning;
- Encourage the inclusion in qualifications of transferable skills and knowledge that ensure the qualification is robust, equips workers for innovation and enables them to adapt to new technologies and processes;
- Ensure clean and environmentally sustainable practices and skills are included in relevant training packages and qualifications;
- Give workers who are in businesses and industries facing restructuring broad-based and relevant vocational education to secure new employment and a career path, at the earliest possible time; and
- Link vocational education and training strategies with industry and innovation development policy.

Boosting apprenticeships and traineeships

67. Australia has been well served by our internationally recognised traditional trades apprenticeship system. Apprenticeships have been the backbone of our skilled trades and

technical workforce and have provided a valuable and rewarding career for millions of Australians.

68. The success of the system derives from an enduring partnership between government, business, trade unions, TAFE and other training providers. Because of these links and the focus on opportunity and quality, the apprenticeship system is strongly supported by parents and communities, particularly those with high youth unemployment. Its viability as a training and employment pathway has also seen the successful growth of mature-age apprenticeship schemes.
69. In more recent times the development of the parallel pathways of traineeships has been an important addition to this form of training. Traineeships should be an important and viable pathway for the employment sectors not covered by traditional trades.
70. A modern and sustainable apprentice and traineeship system needs to adapt to the changing structure of the workforce and to seek opportunities to improve the form, structure and duration of training without undermining the strength and value of the qualification. The diversity of Australia's workforce is an important strength, and should be reflected in and supported by the apprentice and traineeship system. Apprentice and traineeship pathways should be open to people from diverse backgrounds and promote opportunities for broader representation of both genders in non-traditional trades and occupations.
71. Employers of all sizes should be encouraged and supported to take on apprentices and trainees. Labor has previously expanded access programs and mentoring support to ensure more Australians would be able to upskill in preparation for undertaking an apprenticeship. In order for apprentices to succeed, governments should pursue opportunities for the creation of apprentice and trainee places and encourage successful completions.
72. Labor will:
- Establish and implement minimum national standards and individual training plans to protect apprentices and trainees;
 - Support quality programs and higher skill levels so public funding is directly linked to the level of training effort, the completion of quality outcomes and the development of future skills needs;
 - Ensure all apprenticeships and traineeships deliver full qualifications consistent with the national qualifications framework;
 - Ensure trade qualifications promote a combination of work and on-the-job training;
 - Sufficiently fund on and off-the-job training, especially in regional and rural Australia;

- Support the role of group training companies, recognising their special capacity to enhance opportunities in sectors such as resources, major projects and for small and medium businesses; and
- Continue to review and provide appropriate incentives – payments and support programs – to both employers and apprentices to maintain commitment to the provision and completion of apprenticeships and traineeships.

Higher education

73. Australia needs a strong, sustainable, affordable and accessible higher education system to equip Australians for the jobs of the future. Investing in higher education is necessary to growing a high quality public university sector and in turn to educate the graduates needed by an economy based on knowledge, skills and innovation.
74. All Australians, regardless of their background or where they live, should have the opportunity of higher education.
75. Higher education is important in shaping a fairer, more socially inclusive society. We will work towards the key national objectives of:
- A target of 40 per cent of 25–34 year olds holding bachelor level degree or higher by 2025;
 - A target of 20 per cent of university undergraduate enrolments made up of low socio-economic background students by 2020;
 - Closing the gap in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples’ participation and retention in higher education for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander academic staff; and
 - Improve access to university to more students with disability through innovative programs to support universities ensure equal access.
76. Labor will ensure future funding for Australia’s public universities responds to these priorities, while reflecting broader student demand and recognising the importance of meeting public good and labour market needs. Because the jobs of the future will increasingly require literacy in science, technology, engineering and maths, Labor will provide incentives for more capable students to study these critical disciplines at university, with a focus on encouraging more women to undertake subjects where they are currently under-represented.
77. Universities also have a responsibility to support all students to succeed in their studies and to graduate with the skills and knowledge they need to prosper in the workforce. Labor will consider mechanisms to encourage universities to provide practical, industry based work placements for students and improve university to industry links. Labor will encourage universities to build entrepreneurship education and training into a wide range

of programs, helping to boost the innovation capability of Australian business enterprises and the wider community.

78. Labor is committed to excellence in higher education. Universities should be accountable for maintaining quality standards in both teaching and research. The community expects that, as self-accrediting institutions, our public universities produce the highest quality graduates, particularly in qualifications vital to the health, safety and welfare of other Australians such as nursing, teaching and engineering. Transparent entry standards, regulation of quality and external verification are also necessary to protecting the reputation of public universities, the value of an Australian qualification, and our ability to attract international students to study in Australia.
79. Higher education improves the quality of our lives by fostering higher learning. The pursuit of knowledge is an important end in itself, and Labor will protect the autonomy of public universities and the essential principle of academic independence.
80. Labor will ensure universities, while independent, are accountable for public funding and work in partnership with the federal government. Labor introduced mission-based compacts to help universities align their resources to their areas of strength and strategic interest, and to help the sector as a whole more effectively address our national priorities and needs. We will strengthen partnerships with universities to ensure they respond to areas of national need and deliver outcomes in priority areas.
81. There are clear differences between public universities and other higher education providers. Labor opposes the privatisation of higher education and will not undermine public universities in the name of contestability, efficiency or deregulation.
82. Regional universities and campuses play an important role in making higher educational opportunities available to regional students and in the social and economic life of their communities. Excellence in research capability and research training in Australia's regions is vital to their future prosperity.
83. Labor supports strong, effective oversight of the international education sector, with the protection and welfare of international students at its core, through a risk-based regulatory framework, independent scrutiny and quality assurance. Recognising the mutual benefits of international education, Labor will also improve opportunities for Australian students to study abroad.
84. Labor strongly opposes the deregulation of fees, or the introduction and use of full fee degrees for undergraduate award courses in Australian universities.
85. Labor strongly supports Australia's world leading HECS-HELP, VET FEE-HELP, FEE-HELP and related income-contingent loan programs. These ensure greater participation in tertiary education by allowing students to defer the cost of their studies until they are earning a

decent income. Australian students make a significant contribution to the cost of their education. Labor will ensure HECS contributions do not create financial disincentives to study.

86. Education costs and financial pressures on students act as a barrier to participation in tertiary education. Labor supports a strong, sustainable and targeted system of student income support that provides more help to Australian students who need it most. Students who do not have the means to support themselves during their university study will be provided with adequate support.
87. Labor strongly supports student involvement in the management of their university communities and in university decision-making processes. It is important funding is made available for student-run services and independent advocacy. Labor will support students in the creation of democratic, student-run representative bodies and safeguard the right for students to voluntarily organise themselves on campus. Good student amenities and services like early childhood education and care, health services, counselling, advocacy, and sporting facilities are vital to university participation and the quality of students' experience on campus and should be securely and adequately funded.
88. Flexible and online delivery can improve university teaching and learning, including through technologies and community spaces that support learning for disadvantaged students. The purpose of these should be to improve the student experience, while maintaining academic rigour and ensuring qualifications offered through these technologies meet appropriate quality standards.

Chapter 8: A health system for all

The contemporary challenge

1. Health is critical to the quality of life of all Australians. Health affects everything we do – our standard of living, our employment, our relationships and how we participate in the social and economic life of our country.
2. Increasing rates of chronic ill health are creating new acute care demands on our health resources. New cures and technologies are bringing wellbeing to our people and raising expectations of a healthy life, but require significant public and private investment and return. The complexity of contemporary health care itself, and the complexity of a national system for health care in a federation, requires constant improvement and reform. Australia's future depends on our ability to adapt our health care system to meet the needs of all Australians.
3. The resources required for good health rely on a strong economy, but good health is crucial to Australia's future economic strength. Good health boosts productivity and improves workplace participation – a healthier country has a stronger economy. A strong and inclusive health system is a major competitive advantage for Australia. The health of any one Australian affects all Australians.
4. Labor created Medicare, our unique universal health insurance scheme that has seen Australians achieve some of the best health outcomes in the world. We created Medicare because we believe Australians should get the healthcare they need, not the health care they can afford. Today Medicare remains necessary and effective and strengthening Medicare will always be essential to Labor's health policy.
5. Investing in early detection and protection of chronic disease can not only save lives but also reduce pressure on our health system, particularly as the population ages.

Labor values

6. Labor has a long and proud history in health. Successive Labor Governments have driven the advancement of Australian health policy:
 - The Curtin Government introducing a national pharmaceutical, hospital and medical benefits scheme. These historic reforms made possible the establishment of Medicare and Commonwealth funding to the States for public hospitals;
 - The Chifley Government continued this legacy by creating the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme in July 1948, a scheme on which all Australians today rely for affordable access to essential medicines;

- The Whitlam Government established Medibank - our first national health insurance scheme without which Medicare would not exist;
 - The Hawke-Keating Governments re-established access to universal health care with Medicare – which continues to provide Australians with universal access to general practice along with high quality care in our public hospital system; and
 - The Gillard-Rudd Governments delivered record investments in health, including in public hospital funding, cancer services and health infrastructure, the largest ever mental health funding package, a national organ and tissue donation scheme, Australia’s very first children’s dental scheme and the world’s first plain packaging legislation to reduce rates of smoking.
7. Labor built Medicare and only-Labor will invest in and strengthen Medicare. It is essential to our vision of a fairer Australia. The core principle of Medicare is universal access to health care. A Labor Government will extend, defend and improve a universal health system for all Australians.
 8. A fairer and more equal society is one in which all Australians are able to get high-quality and affordable health care, including any necessary medicines, decided on health care need, not their capacity to pay.
 9. The social determinants of health are crucial to more equal health outcomes. A fairer and more equal society requires this, particularly among Australians who live in regional, rural and remote areas or who belong to populations experiencing disadvantage. This is especially true for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. Labor is committed to Closing the Gap in life expectancy between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.
 10. Australia’s health care system is the responsibility of all levels of government with the involvement and support of the community and not-for-profit sector. This relies upon co-operative, transparent and accountable reform arrangements driven by evidence.
 11. Labor has long championed the important role of the Commonwealth in health – Labor established Medicare and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, reformed Commonwealth-State financial relations in health care and provided greater levels of funding for public hospitals, workforce development, health infrastructure, medical research and prevention.
 12. Only a strong and properly resourced public health system, including a well-supported primary care and preventive health system, provides the opportunity for all Australians to reach their full potential. The public health system should be complemented by a strong and sustainable private health care system. Both provide individuals with choices in health care and contribute to Australians’ good health.
 13. Doctors, nurses, allied health professionals and health support workers work tirelessly to care for Australians. They, along with care professionals, workers and consumers should

have more opportunities to engage in constructive debate about reform of our health care system. All health workers have the right to organise collectively and for their union representatives to contribute positively to a high quality public health system.

14. A strong primary care system which includes a focus on prevention will be critical to addressing chronic disease and put Australia in the best position to meet our future health care challenges.
15. Labor has an unshakeable commitment to an excellent universal public hospital system and will oppose any moves to privatise public hospitals or their functions.

Labor Priorities

Rebuilding Australia's health care reform program

16. Labor will:
 - Work to build the architecture needed for health care reform in preventive health, primary care and hospitals;
 - Strengthen cooperation on health care reform between governments by reintroducing incentives and targets into Commonwealth/State funding agreements that minimise cost shifting when it comes to health care;
 - Seek opportunities to ensure the health system integrates care across all levels of the health system and all life stages to enhance physical, mental and social wellbeing;
 - Strengthen the primary health care system to ensure improved coordination and identify gaps in service delivery, with a view to addressing unmet need, preventing avoidable hospitalisation and providing opportunities for health prevention and preventative injury; and
 - Create more opportunities for consumers and health care professionals to participate in improving our health care system.

Promoting wellness, preventing disease

17. Labor believes in national leadership to improve the health of all Australians. This is a vital social and economic priority. We cannot allow the challenges of an ageing society to be compounded by increasing numbers of working-age adults being denied participation in the labour force because of preventable chronic and complex conditions.
18. Health maintenance, promotion and illness prevention are essential to combating the rise of preventable chronic diseases and governments should accept their responsibilities in this context. Progress also requires substantial changes in personal behaviour, which can

only be sustained with the active participation of all levels of government, the non-government sector, health professionals, local communities, and individuals.

19. Prevention is essential to the Australian health care system, along with a focus on addressing chronic disease risk factors including diet, alcohol, tobacco and physical inactivity. Labor will:
- Facilitate early health care interventions in the lives of children, to encourage healthy habits for life, reduce obesity and promote physical activity;
 - Work to find solutions to address the problem of alcohol abuse, especially binge-drinking amongst young people and at-risk populations;
 - Take strong action to educate young people about the dangers of illicit drug use;
 - Continue world leading policies to reduce smoking levels;
 - Provide greater opportunities for health professionals to provide advice and support to people about improving their lifestyles, in order to improve health outcomes and reduce hospital admissions;
 - Encourage healthy lifestyles;
 - Support and encourage health education as an important part of optimising public health outcomes.
 - Work with all levels of government, Primary Health Networks, local communities, health professionals and individuals to encourage all Australians to live longer, healthier lives;
 - Undertake specialised health education programs targeted at Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and those from non-English speaking backgrounds to ensure all Australians have the best chance at a healthy life; and
 - Support and develop programs in health promotion, illness prevention and relapse prevention, as well as treatment, recovery and disability services to improve the mental health and wellbeing of all Australians.
20. Labor accepts the science and expert evidence that climate change will have an impact on health outcomes and this is already becoming evident in Australia.

Strengthening Primary Care

21. The stronger our primary care system, the better Australia's health outcomes are. Primary care is the frontline of our health care system.
22. General practitioners work in collaboration with nurses, allied health professionals and pharmacists providing the best possible care for millions of Australians in the community every day.

23. Labor will strengthen primary care, in particular the care provided through general practice. Labor will:
- Work with general practitioners to strengthen primary care, including expanding multidisciplinary care in primary health care teams and improving pathways between our hospital, residential aged care and primary care systems;
 - Protect and maintain bulk-billing to ensure all Australians can afford GP care;
 - Upgrade existing GP infrastructure to allow more services and training to be delivered within general practice settings;
 - Expand and better coordinate after-hours GP care and GP care for those in residential aged care;
 - Promote the appropriate use of TeleHealth services;
 - Continue the development, uptake and use of e-health records;
 - Train health professionals, particularly in rural, regional and outer metropolitan areas of need;
 - Improve incentives for primary health professionals to work in regional areas;
 - Maintain Medicare access for nurse practitioners and midwives; and
 - Cut red tape that takes doctors away from treating patients.
24. Medicare is essential to strong primary care. Labor is opposed to any weakening of Medicare through opting out, or the direct or indirect means testing of Medicare and bulk billing. Medicare must remain a universal, fully funded system for all Australians.
25. Labor is opposed to additional or particular services being provided to private health insured patients in general practice settings that undermine the universal access principle of Medicare.

Specialist care

26. Australia has highly skilled specialists working across both the public and private health sectors. Our specialists provide world-leading care in public and private hospitals and clinics; they participate in and lead clinical research, and teach both at home and internationally.
27. Labor is concerned many Australians, especially in rural and regional areas, are unable to find, or afford, the specialist care they need. To address this Labor will:
- Work with healthcare organisations to improve access to specialists;
 - Provide opportunities for specialists to consult within general practice settings in the community;

- Support the use of telemedicine for appropriate specialties;
- Create new opportunities for specialists to work with nurse practitioners;
- Continue the development, uptake and use of e-health records;
- Expand opportunities for specialist training; and
- Provide incentives for specialists to work in rural, remote and regional and outer metropolitan areas of need.

A hospital and secondary care system that works

28. Australia needs a high-quality public hospital system accessible to all Australians. Labor also recognises there is role for private hospitals.
29. Australia needs continued reform of the public hospital system, anticipating increasing demand in coming years due to higher rates of chronic disease and longer lives. Labor will re-establish cooperation with the states and territories to avoid cost-shifting, improve transparency and create an efficient public hospital system. Labor will work with states and territories through the Council of Australian Governments to strengthen our public hospitals, and to improve services in areas including elective surgery and emergency services.
30. Labor will:
- Expand primary health care and prevention services to help people avoid hospital by keeping well;
 - Respond to health problems that cause large numbers of hospital admissions, such as tobacco, alcohol and avoidable GP-type presentations;
 - Build capacity of supporting clinical services to ensure they maintain their expanding role in the delivery of high quality public health care
 - Expand the use of technology including the delivery of eHealth systems where appropriate, that allow patients to ensure their health information is available for both their hospital and primary care health practitioners; and
 - Improve systems of training of high-quality staff to work in public hospitals.
31. Labor will improve transparency and accountability in our hospitals, both public and private. This will ensure:
- Hospital performance data is reported in a transparent and nationally-consistent manner;
 - Hospital safety and quality reporting is conducted to the highest international standards; and

- Australians get the information they need to make informed choices about their health care.

32. Government is best placed to deliver a strong and quality public health system focused on patient care and positive health outcomes. Everyone has a right to quality health care, irrespective of their capacity to pay.

Access to medicines

33. Labor will ensure all Australians get affordable, essential medicines through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). The PBS was first introduced by the Chifley Labor Government and has provided Australians with free or subsidised medicines for over 65 years. It has contributed significantly to the good health outcomes Australians enjoy.

34. Over the next decade many of the new drugs that are expected to become available will be more specialised and targeted treatments, increasing pressure on the PBS to ensure Australia does not miss out on new medicines at the same time as maintaining a robust system for entry. This is especially so for cancer drugs and other drugs that treat life-threatening illnesses. Labor's reforms have ensured the sustainability of the PBS to this point, and we will ensure the PBS gains from the best models overseas to respond to future challenges.

35. Labor will ensure the safety of medicines available in Australia.

Palliative Care

36. Labor is committed to provide individuals nearing the end of their lives and their families the highest standards of palliative and end-of-life care, whether they are at home, in community facilities or in acute facilities.

37. People with incurable terminal illness can endure great hardship and deserve high quality coordinated palliative care and support services. Labor believes each individual should be given the opportunity to plan for the final stages of life and be given appropriate personal control of the types of medical treatments and interventions they receive during this period. Labor will expand the availability of advance care planning.

38. Labor recognises the particular end-of-life care needs of populations such as young people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, culturally and linguistically diverse communities and people living in rural and remote areas.

39. Palliative care services must be properly integrated with medical intervention services.

The health workforce

40. All efforts should be made to ensure there is an adequate supply of highly-trained doctors, nurses, allied health professionals, health support workers and medical educators to all parts of the nation, including a vibrant health and medical research workforce, so all Australians can get the health care they need.
41. Labor will improve Australia's health workforce — by training more doctors, nurses, allied health professionals and health support workers and better using the skills, expertise and experience of existing health professionals. Labor will strengthen the health workforce and prepare Australia's health system for the future, recognising the expanding workloads of the health workforce and the need to address the consequences of this.

Doctors

42. Labor will:
- Restore general practice as the central coordination point of primary care and lift the efficiency and effectiveness of the primary care sector to reduce pressure on hospitals;
 - Restore a national approach to health workforce planning to ensure an appropriate supply and targeted distribution of Australia's health workforce;
 - Ensure Australia educates and trains enough doctors to meet the needs of patients throughout the nation;
 - Provide incentives to increase the numbers of doctors and other health professionals in rural and regional Australia;
 - Work to improve the retention of doctors in the workforce and in the study of medicine;
 - Deliver high-quality training facilities for GP training;
 - Encourage people from linguistically and ethnically diverse backgrounds to enter all levels of the health workforce; and
 - Increase the numbers of and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people at all levels of the health workforce.

Nurses

43. Labor supports nurses and their critical role in the health care system. Labor supports expanded training and employment opportunities for nurses through primary and acute care settings and the extended role of midwives and nurse practitioners.
44. To support and strengthen the nursing workforce, Labor will:

- Provide nurses with the clinical training they need to expand their valuable role;
- Make sufficient university and Vocational Education and Training places available to nursing students;
- Support the expanded role for nurse practitioners and midwives, with access to Medicare and the PBS; and
- Expand and support the aged care nursing workforce.

Allied health professionals

45. Multidisciplinary team-based care is an important element of our healthcare system. Allied health professionals have an important role to play in such teams. By supporting allied health professionals in convenient locations, multi-disciplinary general practices make it simpler and easier to access the care families need
46. Allied health professionals are critical to good health outcomes for the community. Labor will:
- Provide allied and ancillary health professionals with the clinical training they need, including through adequate supervised practice placements;
 - Better integrate allied health professionals into local primary health care services; and
 - Make sufficient university and Vocational Education and Training places available for allied health professionals across the nation.

Health support workers

47. Health support workers do important, valued work in our hospitals and in the health community. Without the contribution of these workers, the health system could not function properly.
48. Labor supports fair pay and conditions and dignity at work for health support workers. Labor will support these workers and their unions to ensure our high quality public health system is maintained.

Investing in health and medical research

49. Australia has long boasted some of the best scientists, researchers and medical pioneers in the world. The successes of our researchers — both as individuals and as part of organisations — has meant less disease, better treatment and improved quality of life for Australians.

50. All Australians benefit from health and medical research, particularly when that research is translated into improved primary and hospital care, aged care, or better prevention strategies to address chronic disease risk factors of diet, alcohol, tobacco and physical inactivity. Our national economy also benefits as research findings lead to the development of innovative new industries and better health outcomes. Research needs to be embedded throughout the health system and actively involve all health professionals.
51. Labor will enhance Australia's reputation as a world leader in high quality, innovative research and development activities by working towards the recommendations of the Strategic Review of Health and Medical Research. While encouraging business funding for health and medical research, we will also ensure an ongoing commitment of public funding for those areas of research less likely to attract private sector support, including research on conditions or diseases less amenable to treatment by drugs and medical devices, or areas too rare to attract commercial interest.

Investing in e-health

52. Labor recognises the crucial role information and communications technology plays in health care by improving coordination and reducing duplication to deliver better health outcomes.
53. To drive better use of information and communications technology in health, Labor will:
- Continue to build the eHealth record system while ensuring appropriate privacy and security protocols protect consumers' rights;
 - Encourage all Australians to apply for an electronic health record that will improve the coordination of care, eliminate duplication, and reduce the likelihood of errors;
 - Work with health care professionals to increase utilisation of eHealth and the uploading of required data;
 - Integrate eHealth records with hospital, pathology, diagnostic imaging, medicine compliance and other clinical systems and where appropriate, seek to deliver more health care solutions into people's own homes; and
 - Expand the rollout of TeleHealth services for specialist medical care where the efficacy is already proven.

Supporting public and private health

54. Both public and private sectors play critical roles in Australia's world-class health system. While governments have sole responsibility for managing the public health sector, they should also support a strong and sustainable private health care industry.
55. Labor will:

- Ensure public and private health services complement each other;
- Ensure all necessary services are provided in the public health system;
- Encourage public and private hospitals to work together, including for elective surgery;
- Improve both systems by encouraging competition, innovation and new uses of public and private health providers;
- Apply high standards to both public and private health services including reporting of both public and private hospital performance;
- Regulate the private health industry to ensure value-for-money products are available to all policy holders;
- Work to eliminate surprise gap payments for private health insurance holders;
- Increase the sustainability of private health insurance for Australians, with specific regard to premium increases;
- Ensure the benefits of private health insurance rebates are available to Australians who need them most; and
- Retain patient choice and good clinical decision-making as the essence of health care.

Addressing health inequality

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health

56. In 2008 Labor initiated a national partnership between Federal state and territory governments to address the shameful gap in health and life expectancy between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians. The annual Closing the Gap address to Parliament is our national annual report card on progress in achieving Closing the Gap targets in health.

57. Labor's approach to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' health is built on:

- A commitment to the Closing the Gap targets;
- A commitment to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan which sets out the strategy for meeting those targets;
- An understanding that healthy lives are heavily influenced and determined by the social and economic environment; and
- A commitment to the community controlled health sector in the delivery of culturally appropriate primary health care services.

58. Only modest progress has been made since the targets were adopted. Much more needs to be done.
59. In Government Labor will focus on:
- Tackling chronic disease, particularly diabetes and renal diseases, and the shared risk factors contributing to the mortality and morbidity of health outcomes;
 - Smoking rates among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians
 - Preventive health, by addressing the common risk factors of chronic disease, alcohol, tobacco and physical inactivity, particularly amongst young children;
 - Mental health disorders, with specific regard to the unacceptable tragedy of youth suicide;
 - Health workforce capacity, including in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health organisations; and
 - Reducing the impacts of alcohol on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities.
60. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health organisations should be strengthened to ensure best practice management and quality care standards.
61. Labor will fully implement the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan.

Regional, rural and remote health

62. Australians living in remote, rural and regional locations typically have poorer access to health services, higher out-of-pocket medical expenses, poorer health outcomes and a lower life expectancy than those living in metropolitan and urban centres.
63. Labor will:
- Promote opportunities for medical and allied health students to train in remote, rural and regional communities and encourage them to return to those areas once their training is completed;
 - Ensure nursing and allied health workforce planning for remote, rural and regional communities recognises geographically specific health workforce shortages;
 - Work with local governments, Primary Health Networks and GP groups to develop community-specific models for GPs and other specialists to practice in areas of shortage;
 - Ensure adequate governance of health services for remote, rural and regional communities, particularly in primary care settings;

- Take account of the needs in remote, rural and regional Australia in dealing with alcohol and other drugs;
- Improve coordination between public, private and non-government health care providers, including Primary Health Networks and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders' medical services;
- Address barriers to people in remote, regional and rural communities getting mental health and dementia care services, including by providing services where people live or nearby, rather than hundreds of kilometres away in regional cities; and
- Act to reduce the rate of youth suicide in rural communities, especially among young men, young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and young lesbian, gay bisexual, transgender and intersex people.

Women's Health

64. Australia needs better health outcomes for Australian women, and targeted policies to help ensure the health system is more responsive to the needs of women. Labor will:
- Fully implement the National Women's Health Policy;
 - Take account of the needs of lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex women, including the provision of culturally appropriate health services;
 - Improve services and choices in health care available to women, based on access to Medicare and the PBS and targeted health prevention programs; and
 - Support the important role of Breast Screen Australia as well as other cancer treatment and support services and research.

Child and maternal health

65. Interventions to improve the health of mothers and their babies can have a profound lifelong impact. Labor will:
- Promote maternal and child nutrition, including support and encouragement of breastfeeding;
 - Implement policies to address peri-natal depression and to improve prevention, early detection and support services for expectant and new mothers;
 - Improve the information available to mothers about the options available for childbirth regardless of income or geographical location;
 - Support the ability for midwives to access Medicare and PBS services;
 - Ensure continuity of care is available after a baby is born;

- Deliver special programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers and babies, to reduce mortality rates and improve health;
- Support programs to increase the proportion of children born at a healthy birth weight; and
- Promote immunisation and work with the primary care sector to develop local solutions in those areas and populations where vaccination remains low.

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex health

66. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people have specific health needs and fairness demands suitably targeted programs.

67. Labor will:

- Address the particular health needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex people, working in partnership with these communities and LGBTI health peak bodies;
- Provide training for health care workers about issues of sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status;
- Support programs to prevent suicide, and for improved mental health, for high risk groups, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex Australians;
- Provide better for the needs of young lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex Australians, particularly in rural, regional and outer urban areas; and
- Continue to ensure Medicare and the PBS supports anti-discriminatory policies for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex Australians and same sex couples and their families are not discriminated against when they use Medicare or the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

Men's health

68. Australia needs better health outcomes for Australian men. Recognising men are generally worse at visiting their GPs and seeking care when it is needed Labor will:

- Fully implement the National Male Health Policy;
- Develop and implement policies to improve male mental health and prevent male suicide;
- Support policies to address the gap in life expectancy between males and females;
- Implement policies and programs to reduce the incidence of prostate and bowel cancer, including the continuation of bowel cancer screening; and
- Consult with the relevant communities about the specific health needs of gay and bisexual men, and men who are transgender or intersex, and about the provision of

culturally appropriate health services, and ensure their appropriate resourcing and promotion.

Senior Australians' Health

69. Longer lives present both opportunities and challenges for our health care system. Senior Australians face distinct health challenges and conditions that require targeted care and support.
70. Labor will:
- Promote healthy ageing and provide greater opportunities for senior Australians to control their own health care and treatment choices;
 - Ensure greater coordination across the system to ensure senior Australians receive the highest quality of continuous care; and
 - Ensure senior Australians are supported to make informed choices about their care.

The Health of People with Disabilities

71. The National Disability Insurance Scheme provides opportunities for people with disability to participate more fully in work and the community.
72. People with disability experience many health challenges and their experiences of the health care system can be fragmented and discriminatory. This often includes denial of the care they need when and where they need it.
73. Labor will:
- Better integrate the care provided to people through the National Disability Insurance Scheme and Medicare; and
 - Improve access to health care services for people with disability not eligible for the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Young people

74. Young people have specific health needs.
75. Labor will:
- Place a particular focus on young people's health needs, including addressing physical and mental health needs, providing age appropriate services, providing impartial medical advice, ensuring the privacy of medical records, delivering drug and alcohol education and promoting a healthy lifestyle; and

- Adopt an integrated health-based approach to youth suicide that works with existing community structures, including addressing depression, neglect, abuse, drug and alcohol problems, access to firearms, school and workplace bullying, homophobia and other forms of discrimination.

Health priority areas

Mental health

76. A strong primary health care system with universal provision of GPs, community health care and other primary health services is an integral component of the support provided to people experiencing mental disorders or at risk of mental ill health.
77. Labor will build on its legacy of investments in mental health and commitment to mental health reform. We will focus on the delivery of a more integrated, cross-sector and whole-of-government mental health care system which is centred on early intervention and prevention as well as the provision of more intensive and better coordinated support services for people with mental illness.
78. Historic reforms like Labor's National Disability Insurance Scheme will help to achieve better outcomes for people with severe and persistent mental illness by helping them to get timely support and grow in independence.
79. The majority of people suffering from mental illness have non-enduring symptoms, which may resurface sporadically. Labor will ensure these people will get resources and information on the mainstream support and treatment they need, when they need it.
80. Mental health services should be less crisis-driven and more preventative and recovery-driven. Supporting people to participate in the community, particularly through employment and education should be a key feature of Australian's mental health system.
81. Investing in community mental health services and support for families and carers of Australians living with mental illness is critical to ensuring all people who are suffering from mental illness get the resources and the information they require, from early intervention to recovery, including the most effective care and support options.
82. Labor will:
 - Lead and promote reform of Australian's mental health service system;
 - Develop and deliver policies and programs to support and promote good mental health and wellbeing and to encourage Australians to get mental health care early;

- Ensure people experiencing mental illness can get more and better co-ordinated services, both clinical and non-clinical, and improve the lives of the most disadvantaged and socially excluded;
- Target support to people who need it most including young people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex people, and those living in socio-economically disadvantaged communities that are currently underserved;
- Provide more support for mental health services in rural, regional and remote areas to improve equality of access for communities across the country;
- Build the capacity of Australia’s mental health workforce so people can get mental health services when and where they need it;
- Help to prevent and address homelessness among people with mental illness;
- Improve support for people with mental illness to participate in the workforce;
- Provide respite and support for family members and carers of people with mental illness;
- Break down barriers to seeking care by reducing the stigma around mental health through ongoing public education activities; and
- Monitor the implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme to ensure people continue to get support for mental illness at an appropriate level.

83. Labor will focus on efforts to prevent suicide by identifying and addressing the causes of suicide and ensuring the provision of services and support targets those most at risk.

84. Australia needs a strong independent organisation to ensure there is effective monitoring, assessment and reporting on the mental health system in a way that provides greater transparency and public accountability.

Alcohol and other drugs

85. Labor will respond to the harm caused by alcohol and other drug abuse with early intervention, effective treatment and harm minimisation policies. Labor is committed to evidence-based policy for dealing with alcohol and other drug related harm.

86. Labor will:

- Support the ongoing development and implementation of the National Drug Strategy ensuring it includes support services, harm minimisation, demand and supply reduction, law enforcement and national and community campaigns and interventions; and

- Develop a new National Alcohol Strategy that includes a focus on an evidence-based measures to prevent and reduce alcohol-related harms, including alcohol related violence.

Oral health

87. Dental health is important to overall general health and strongly linked to socio economic status. Labor recognises the importance of addressing the dental health needs of all Australians. The lack of appropriate dental care for many disadvantaged Australians represents a significant gap in the provision of universal health care.

88. Labor will:

- Improve the delivery of dental services in Australia and work with the states and territories to reduce public dental waiting lists; and
- Work towards the aspiration of universal access to dental care. Labor's Child Dental Benefits Scheme, which has seen four million services delivered in its first full year of implementation, is a significant step forward.

Sexual and reproductive health

89. To improve reproductive health for men and women, Labor will:

- Provide universal access to fertility advice and control programs and promote advice on the safe use of contraceptives;
- Support the rights of women to make decisions regarding reproductive health, particularly the right to choose appropriate fertility control and termination and ensure these choices are made on the basis of sound psychological and medical advice;
- Support research into the causes of infertility and work to ensure access to assistive reproductive technology programs is not determined by economic circumstances or any form of discrimination, whether on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or relationship status; and
- Enforce the ban on the cloning of human beings.

90. Labor recognises the importance of renewing efforts to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS (including adopting prophylactic treatments, subject to the approval of independent regulators and any recommendation from the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee) sexually-transmitted infections, and blood borne viruses, in partnership with the non- government organisation sector and driven by expert evidence.

Chronic disease

91. Levels of chronic disease, such as cardiovascular disease, cancer, type 2 diabetes and kidney disease are largely preventable and correlate strongly with socio-economic status in Australia, disproportionately disadvantaging poorer communities both economically and with regard to health outcomes. Chronic disease has become the leading cause of preventable death in Australia and one of the greatest challenges facing our health system, responsible for 90% of all deaths and 85% of the burden of disease.
92. Labor will address the chronic disease challenge by:
- Targeting the causes of chronic disease, particularly in economically disadvantaged and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, by working with local government, Primary Health Networks and the primary health care sector more broadly;
 - Improving access to primary health care multi-disciplinary teams and explore and trial innovative models for management of chronic disease, including coordinated case management, involving the community and not for profit sectors where appropriate;
 - Leading the world in action to reduce rates of smoking; and
 - Developing preventative health policies and solutions, including those that focus on obesity, and physical inactivity/sedentary lifestyles.

Chapter 9: A fair go for all

The contemporary challenge

1. The modern economy presents new challenges to fairness, after thirty years of great social and economic change. Labor policies will respond to the rapidly changing nature of our labour market, our families and our economy.
2. Understanding the causes of social exclusion and disadvantage is essential. People can get trapped in a spiral of disadvantage caused by family circumstances, low expectations, poor housing, unemployment, age, illness or discrimination. Certain groups are more likely to be excluded, including jobless families, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, LGBTI people, people with mental illness or disability, new migrants and refugees, and people experiencing homelessness.
3. Labor prevented the global economic downturn from creating widespread disadvantage in Australia. Labor firmly believes government is responsible to ensure secure jobs and living standards are protected. Labor will develop policies to protect and expand decent, secure jobs, prepare Australians for the jobs of the future and improve living standards.

Labor values

4. What Australians have long called ‘the fair go’ is the heart of Labor’s identity and the centre of our vision for the nation.
5. Fairness is essential to all our policies. We will work tirelessly to ensure every Australian has the opportunity to share in our national prosperity. This means developing policies and providing services which improve the lives of our most disadvantaged citizens and ensuring no Australian is left behind. It also means addressing extreme inequality and all the social and economic costs of that inequality.
6. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have a special place in our nation as Australia’s first peoples and as custodians of the oldest continuing cultures in the world.
7. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples experience particular disadvantage when compared to other Australians. Labor will work in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to achieve the change they aspire to, for themselves and for their children, including Closing the Gap on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples’ disadvantage in Australia. This commitment is underpinned by Labor’s support for the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which includes the right to self-determination.

8. Affordable and secure housing is essential to wellbeing, participation and inclusion. All Australians should get safe, affordable and appropriate housing throughout their lives. Labor will make homelessness a high priority.
9. Families are essential to our communities and our society, and should be supported to give their children the best opportunities in life.
10. Australians need to engage in a range of activities, including artistic, cultural and sporting activities, to have a fulfilling life. Arts, culture and sport contribute to broader social and economic goals. Arts and culture are fundamental to Australia's identity, beginning from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander traditions of creative expression. Our creative industries are important to the wellbeing and fulfilment of Australians; they contribute to social cohesion and are increasingly important to our economic success, driving innovation and lifting productivity. Sport improves health and fitness and has the power to bring communities together, crossing cultural, religious and political divides. It teaches self-discipline and teamwork to our children and often is a source of immense national pride.
11. Labor has always stood for equality. Labor has helped people overcome disadvantage based on class, gender, sexual orientation, disability, religion, cultural background and racial prejudice. We have always pursued the fair go, tolerance and respect. We oppose all attempts to divide Australians by pandering to prejudice. Australia's diversity is one of the greatest sources of strength in our nation. Our national unity is based on mutual respect, shared values and a commitment to work together to build a stronger Australia.
12. Labor is a party of opportunity for all. All Australians should have the opportunity to work, to learn and to participate fully in family and community life. Spreading opportunity requires growing participation in work and the economy and better support for families to share opportunity with their children. It also requires the broad range of activities and services that make life liveable and fulfilling.
13. Our commitment to social justice means we measure ourselves by our treatment of those among us who are most marginalised. Addressing the root causes of poverty, disadvantage and social exclusion is essential to Labor's cause.
14. Labor is a party of compassion. Not everyone is able to perform paid work. These Australians deserve respect and ongoing support, including financial support. Carers deserve the same opportunities as other Australians to participate in work and the community, and live a fulfilling life.
15. Labor will recognise and protect human rights. This actively helps create a more inclusive society. Labor has a Human Rights Framework to increase community awareness of human rights and to provide greater scrutiny of compliance with our international human rights obligations.

16. Labor recognises the importance of community and public services in helping individuals and connecting people. Community and public services provide essential support to the most disadvantaged in our society. Community and public services meet the direct needs of individuals and create social cohesion in communities. Developing a highly skilled workforce in community and public services, and a strong and sustainable community and public sector, is vital to meeting the nation's challenges. Labor will work in partnership with these sectors to address complex contemporary challenges.
17. Australia is an inclusive and multicultural country. Labor upholds these values. Immigrants and refugees have made an important economic and social contribution of throughout our nation's history. Australia's diversity is a source of national strength and a critical factor in nation building. Labor supports a multicultural society underpinned by Australian citizenship and respect of Australian values and will maintain non-discriminatory migration policies and respect the heritage and customs of migrants.
18. For the Australian people to have confidence and trust in the integrity of our migration system, Labor believes it must be built upon rigorous procedures and processes that protect our national interest and our national borders while also treating individuals with fairness, dignity and humanity. Labor believes in dealing with the complex issue of those seeking Australia's protection by giving expression to the values of compassion, fairness and generosity. These values are at essential to the Australian identity. Labor will treat people seeking our protection with dignity and compassion and in accordance with our international obligations, the rule of law and core Australian principles of fairness and humanity.
19. Citizenship is critical in our culturally diverse society. Australia should encourage all permanent residents to become citizens. Labor's citizenship process will focus on the principles underlying Australia's citizenship pledge: Australia's democratic beliefs and laws, and the rights, responsibilities and privileges of Australian citizenship. Australian citizenship is a critical part of encouraging participation in the Australian community. Labor will remove unnecessary and unintended barriers to citizenship, particularly for vulnerable groups of migrants.
20. Labor will act against all forms of discrimination, vilification or harassment and harmonise anti-discrimination laws and procedures.
21. Labor supports the appropriate protection of the religious freedom of all people.
22. Labor will act against the exploitation, including sexual exploitation, of women and children, either in Australia or overseas.
23. A creative nation is a productive nation. The arts and creative industries are fundamental to Australia's identity as a society and nation, and increasingly to our success as a national economy. Labor will ensure Australia's cultural sector—incorporating all aspects of arts,

cultural heritage and the creative industries—has the skills, resources, and resilience to play an active role in Australia’s identity and future. Consistent with its proud history of support for the arts, Labor will develop and champion innovative and forward-looking national culture.

Labor priorities

Creating an inclusive Australia

24. Labor is committed to giving every Australian the help they need to access the opportunities society has to offer. Our emphasis is on supporting people to enable them to take up available opportunities for work in order to help them improve their circumstances. It recognises that policies and programs need to work in a cohesive and complementary way to deal with the variety of challenges which vulnerable Australians and disadvantaged people face. It requires sustained action across all levels of government and with the private and community sectors.
25. All Australians should be able to participate in community life at all levels, through employment, volunteering, community service and education. Social inclusion requires that people have the capabilities, opportunities, responsibilities and resources to participate.
26. Labor will make Australia more inclusive. Labor will:
 - Support families and creating strong and cohesive communities;
 - Make our economy competitive and strong;
 - Create the opportunities and resources for every Australian to participate in the economy and community life; and
 - Ensure services which are provided to all Australians meet high standards.
27. Disadvantage is often a result of multiple, complex and interconnected barriers to participation. Labor will act on evidence about the causes and consequences of social and economic disadvantage. Labor will:
 - Support families to give their children the best opportunities in life, including a safe home, a good education, positive role models, and help with parenting skills;
 - Support people who do not have a source of income from employment to increase the work opportunities available to them;
 - Improve the life chances of children at greatest risk of long-term disadvantage, including through the National Child Protection Framework;
 - Reduce the incidence of homelessness;
 - Improve outcomes for people living with disability or mental illness and their carers;

- Close the gap in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' disadvantage;
- Break the cycle of entrenched and multiple disadvantage in particular neighbourhoods and communities; and
- Ensure fair services by maintaining front line access to government services in regional and rural Australia.

Multiculturalism

28. Australia is a multicultural country. Multiculturalism enriches our economy and our society.
29. Labor will combat racism and respond to expressions of intolerance and discrimination with strength and, where necessary, the full force of the law.
30. A multicultural society delivers social, cultural and economic benefits for all Australians.
31. Labor will ensure government services are more responsive to the needs of culturally and linguistically diverse Australians.
32. Labor's policies will reflect the benefits of multiculturalism to our nation, respect our cultural diversity, and harness the economic potential of our people.
33. Labor will continuously improve treatment of newly arrived refugees and humanitarian entrants as they make new lives in Australia, including:
 - Providing practical settlement services, English language tuition, case management where required and encouragement and facilitation for social inclusion, leading to full participation in Australian society; and
 - Better employment outcomes for newly arrived refugees and higher employment participation in the long term.
34. Fairness in Australia is built on five pillars: economic growth, equitable social policy, quality government services, strong families and communities, and partnership for change.
 - **Economic growth** — making our economy strong and competitive. To improve social outcomes over time and between generations, government economic strategy needs to be consistent with sound fiscal and macroeconomic policy settings.
 - **Equitable social policy** — creating the opportunities and resources every Australian needs to participate in the economy and community life. This includes providing an adequate social safety net. It requires increasing the productive capacity of people with disability, people on low-incomes and people marginally attached to the labour market through local skills, training and employment. Labor will also help people to choose capability, resilience and independence.

- **Quality government services, a strong independent and appropriately resourced public service** – ensuring services which are provided to all Australians are appropriately funded to meet high standards, especially for those Australians who need them most but may have difficulty accessing them. Labor will ensure the quality and accessibility of mainstream services and target the right support directly to the most disadvantaged individuals and communities.
- Labor will build a world-class education system which prepares children for work and life, including through lifting the quality of education in the most disadvantaged Labor will deliver world-class health and community services which improve life outcomes, particularly for the most disadvantaged and people with disability, including through expanded primary and preventative health services, linking people to the range of supports they need before crises occur, and at critical life transitions. Labor will improve the supply of affordable and accessible housing. Australia must close the gap for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in areas including life expectancy, education, health, housing and employment
- **Strong families and communities** — supporting families to give their children the best opportunities in life and creating strong and cohesive communities, especially in areas experiencing entrenched and multiple disadvantage. Labor will support families to give their children the best opportunities in life through paid parental leave, better quality childcare and family support programs. This requires supporting vulnerable families and children at risk by ensuring family support programs focus on vulnerable people, reduce red tape for service providers and ensure payments are spent in the interests of children. Labor will ensure Australians on low or fixed incomes get fair and equal financial products, including emergency relief, no- and low-interest loan schemes, matched saving schemes and financial literacy support;
- Labor will ensure all communities benefit from the opportunities afforded by Australia’s strong recovery from the global economic downturn and from future economic growth. We will support strong, diverse communities, free from discrimination, violence and abuse, by confronting intolerance and promoting respect and a sense of belonging for everyone; help individuals and communities affected by disasters and critical incidents to recover and build resilience; and improve social infrastructure in communities and supporting volunteering
- **Partnership for change** — creating new and innovative partnerships with all sectors of the economy, so all levels of government, businesses and not-for-profit organisations are working together to build a stronger, fairer Australia. This includes maintaining a strong and sustainable community sector, including smaller, not-for-profit, locally-based organisations can rally the support of local communities. It requires working in partnership with the community sector and its representatives, including workforce representatives, to develop solutions to our nation’s complex issues, and formalizing the relationship between government and the community sector by building on the National Compact between the Australian government and the third sector. Labor will deliver sustainable funding, driven by best outcomes at a local level that protects a diversity of services which are embedded in their

community. Labor will encourage community organisations to work together, and not against one another, to deliver for the most vulnerable members of our society.

- Labor will investigate new models of social enterprise and social investment. We will work with philanthropic foundations and individual donors in areas of national priority like reducing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disadvantage and improving child health outcomes. We will effectively coordinate action across sectors to prevent and reduce homelessness; and work together with business to help Australians living with disability and mental illness to participate in work and community life.

Human rights

35. A Human Rights Framework that reflects our international obligations is necessary to reflect our commitment to fundamental rights across social and economic policies. We are committed to promoting awareness and understanding of human rights, supporting the international human rights instruments to which Australia is a signatory, and properly funding and supporting the Australian Human Rights Commission, an independent agency that plays a critical role in our society. Labor will adhere to Australia's international human rights obligations and will seek to have them incorporated into the domestic law of Australia and taken into account in administrative decision-making and whenever new laws and policies are developed.
36. Labor introduced a Human Rights Framework that:
- Invested in a comprehensive suite of education initiatives to promote a greater understanding of human rights across the community;
 - Through the National Action Plan on Human Rights required that each new Bill introduced into Parliament is accompanied by a statement of compatibility with our international human rights obligations; and
 - Established a new Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights to provide greater scrutiny of legislation for compliance with our international human rights obligations.
37. Labor will:
- Develop federal anti-discrimination laws into a single Act to remove unnecessary regulatory overlap and make the system more user-friendly;
 - Review legislation, policies and practices for compliance with the seven core UN Human Rights treaties to which Australia is a party (which are listed in the framework); and
 - Review the Human Rights Framework and consider whether it could be enhanced through a statutory charter of human rights or other similar instrument.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

38. Labor is committed to the recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Australian Constitution. This will be an important step towards a more reconciled nation based on strong relationships of mutual respect. Labor supports meaningful and substantive change to recognize the unique and special place of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and reflect our nation's fundamental belief in equality and non-discrimination. Labor will work to build public support for constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
39. The acknowledgement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as traditional owners and continuing custodians of country is an important mark of respect and reconciliation at appropriate events, including at the opening of the Federal Parliament. Labor supports welcome to country ceremonies at significant public events.
40. Labor acknowledges the First Nations status and aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, as well as their contribution to Australian society.
41. Reconciliation is an important vehicle for healing and justice in Australian society. Labor will support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the broader community and corporate and non-government sectors to promote reconciliation.
42. Labor supports mainstream funding and service delivery and a stronger focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander outcomes.
43. Labor will comply with the Racial Discrimination Act in the development of policies relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
44. Labor supports the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Declaration affirms the entitlement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people peoples to all human rights and fundamental freedoms as recognised in international law and provides an aspirational framework for future dialogue. Australia's formal support was welcomed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, key Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, UN experts and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner. This support underlines Labor's desire to work in good faith with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, acknowledging our relationship will be tested and evolve over time.
45. Land and water are the basis of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander spirituality, law, culture, economy and wellbeing. Native Title and land rights are both symbols of social justice and a source of valuable economic opportunity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

46. Land rights and Native Title are property rights under Australian law. Labor will work to accelerate the resolution of outstanding land and Native Title claims in partnership with other stakeholders. Negotiation produces better outcomes than litigation. Land use and ownership issues should be resolved by negotiation wherever possible.
47. Labor supports the statutory recognition of inalienable freehold title under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*.
48. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have a right to live on their traditional lands. Labor will provide essential services to remote communities.
49. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures enrich the nation and are integral to our national identity. Strong cultural identity is essential to the health, social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Labor supports initiatives to strengthen the rich and diverse cultural practices, knowledge systems and cultural expressions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
50. The National Congress of Australia's First Peoples is the national peak representative body of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Labor will support the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples, which gives Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples a forum to express their views and aspirations, and will work with other existing institutions and bodies at the national, state, and regional level.
51. Community control and direct involvement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the planning and delivery of programs and services is important. Labor will invest in high performance community controlled Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people organisations to deliver the services Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples want and need.

Closing the Gap

52. Closing the gap in life expectancy, employment, health and education outcomes between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and other Australians is a national priority. Closing the Gap requires enduring commitment from all levels of government and the corporate and non-government sector, and partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, to deliver the change they seek.
53. After decades of underinvestment and neglect, major reforms and unprecedented investment should be made in education, health, employment, housing and services, governance and infrastructure.
54. Labor's commitment to Closing the Gap is evidence-based and includes measurable, open and transparent targets. The Closing the Gap targets are:

- To close the life-expectancy gap within a generation;
- To halve the gap in mortality rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children under five within a decade;
- To ensure access to early childhood education for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander four years olds in remote communities within five years;
- To halve the gap in reading, writing and numeracy achievements for children within a decade;
- To halve the gap for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in Year 12 (or equivalent) attainment rates by 2020;
- To halve the gap in employment outcomes between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within a decade; and
- To Close the Gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people school attendance within five years.

55. Labor supports developing three additional Closing the Gap targets in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and organisations:

- To increase participation in higher and further education, by ensuring greater opportunity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to continue their learning in the fields of their choice;
- To improve access to services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability, by ensuring 90 per cent of eligible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people will receive funded support under the National Disability Insurance Scheme by 2020; and
- To address the high rates of engagement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, particularly young people, with the criminal justice system.

56. All governments should be held accountable for their progress in Closing the Gap to achieve a change for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Labor will coordinate a national approach to achieving the Closing the Gap targets and will work in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to achieve long-term and measurable improvements with an independent and regular reporting framework.

57. Labor puts families at the centre of our work to Close the Gap, and will work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families to give children the best start in life. This requires a comprehensive early childhood strategy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, including wider provision of antenatal care services, sexual and reproductive health services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and maternal and child health services.

58. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander early years services, including the Children and Family Centres, are critical to help families give children a strong start in life so they are healthy, strong in their identity and ready for school.
59. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children suffer more violence than other women. Labor pledges to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to reduce violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children.
60. Too many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are in the child protection system. Labor will improve child safety and reduce the number of children entering care. Labor will work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to ensure children in care maintain contact with their culture and community.
61. Levels of incarceration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, particularly young people, are unacceptably high, and continue to rise. The House of Representatives Standing Committee Report *Doing Time — Time For Doing* and the 1992 Report of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody identify the systemic causes of incarceration experienced by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
62. Australia needs to address Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' interaction with the justice system including lower rates of offending and victimisation and better community safety. Labor supports justice reinvestment and the development of a justice target under the Closing the Gap framework to ensure coordinated action, accountability and progress to reduce the disproportionate incarceration rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Suspicious deaths in custody should also be treated in a manner that maintains public confidence in the justice system.
63. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples experience a higher burden of illness, die at a younger age than other Australians and too often do not get adequate health services. Addressing the health status of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples requires a comprehensive approach beyond health services to include cultural wellbeing and connection to the land, education, environmental health and employment and training opportunities, as discussed in Chapter 8.
64. Education and training is fundamental to improving employment opportunities and reducing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' disadvantage. Between 2007 and 2013, Labor increased Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student numbers in higher education by 26 per cent. It is essential that children go to school each day. Labor will work in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and schools to support families and children to engage with schooling and improve educational outcomes, as discussed in Chapter 7.

65. Labor will improve job readiness employment opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to halve the employment gap by 2018, through a range of strategies and policy approaches discussed in Chapter 5.
66. Labor delivered the Apology to Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, in particular the Stolen Generations. Labor will work in partnership with the Stolen Generations members and their families to comprehensively respond to their needs as a distinct group. Labor supports the Healing Foundation and its work to aid healing in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and the programs arising from the Bringing Them Home Report.
67. The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, *Sport – More than Just a Game* found sport is vital to positive outcomes in health and mental health, stronger cultural identity and social inclusion. Labor will support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' participation in sport to contribute to Closing the Gap in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' disadvantage.

Rights and Opportunities for People with Disability

68. People with disability have the same rights as all Australians.
69. Government should help remove barriers that prevent people with disability from exercising those rights and ensuring they receive the support they need to participate fully in society.
70. Labor will ensure people with disability and their families are not treated like second class citizens, but get equal opportunities to participate in life, and to be free from discrimination in our workplaces, services and communities.
71. People with disability and their families should be supported as individuals to have choice and control in their lives.
72. Services for people with disability should be tailored to individual circumstances to improve opportunities to participate in work and in the community.
73. Mainstream community services should be inclusive and accessible to citizens with disability and their families. Labor will help improve their capacity for this.
74. People with disability are persons before the law. Labor will promote their right to make choices for themselves.
75. Labor will implement the 'National Decision-Making Principles' published in the Australian Law Reform Commission's (ALRC) 2014 report, *Equality, Capacity and Disability in Commonwealth Laws*, namely:

- Everyone has an equal right to make decisions and to have their decisions respected;
- Persons who need support should be given access to the support they need in decision-making;
- A person's will and preferences should direct decisions that affect their lives; and
- There should be appropriate and effective safeguards in relation to interventions for persons who may require decision-making support.

76. These principles promote the autonomy and independence of persons with disability, and are underpinned by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities. Australia is a signatory to this Convention.
77. Labor will appoint a strong, independent Disability Discrimination Commissioner to advocate for people with disability affected by discrimination and to engage the community in understanding and contributing to the human rights of people with disability.
78. Labor will improve the range, diversity and quality of services for people with disability, including by delivering income support and employment services; focusing on early intervention, individual and personalised choice and control; and working cooperatively with state and territory governments to expand accommodation options, personal support including in-home support and individualised arrangements to support community participation and inclusion.
79. Labor will improve access to buildings, including dwellings, communications, transport, health care, aids, equipment and the justice and education systems, for people with disability and their families.
80. Australians with disability should be assured quality care and support, free of abuse and violence.
81. Collaboration between people with disability, their families, advocacy groups, the workforce and their unions, and service providers is essential to for high quality support services which enable people with disability to reach their goals and aspirations, and maximize opportunities for full participation and inclusion in the community.
82. People with disability should have every opportunity to participate in employment.
83. Labor will ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability have every opportunity to participate in employment and in the community, and get care and supports specific to their needs.

84. Labor will ensure people with a disability from a linguistically and culturally diverse background are supported to participate in the community.
85. Organisations of people with disability and families should have a strong, united voice to be able to provide advice to government and to strengthen the capacity for people with disability to exercise genuine choice and control over their lives. This is in line with the United Nations convention.
86. Advocacy is essential to support people with disability and safeguard them from abuse, neglect and exploitation. Labor will strengthen advocacy within the sector.
87. People with disability and families should be able to choose to become members or to receive advice and support from organisations specialising in a particular disability, as well as from organisations specialising in population groups.
88. Labor respects the roles of advocates for people with disability and family based organisations and will strengthen them to be as effective as possible.

National Disability Insurance Scheme

89. Labor created the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) – the largest ever reform to Australia’s disability support system.
90. The National Disability Insurance Scheme will transform the lives of around 460,000 people with disability, their families and carers, and give people with disability more choice and control over their lives.
91. Labor created the National Disability Insurance Scheme because the existing disability system is completely broken. For too long Australia’s disability support systems have failed to provide people with disability, their families and carers with the support they need.
92. Labor will roll out the National Disability Insurance Scheme in full and on time.
93. Labor will create new types of user-led services to ensure people with disability have the choice and control over the services they receive.
94. All Australians deserve to have the peace of mind that if they or a loved one acquires disability; they will get the support and care they need to participate in the community.
95. The National Disability Insurance Scheme is an important economic reform that will create jobs and unlock the productive potential of thousands of people with disability and their carers.

96. Through the National Disability Insurance Scheme, Labor will stimulate innovation and expand services, creating new, skilled job opportunities for Australian workers to meet the expanding demand from people with disability and families.
97. As the NDIS is rolled out across Australia, Labor will support present and future service providers to better attract, develop, train and employ the sector's workforce.
98. Labor supports a fully funded National Disability Insurance Scheme to support people with disability while also maintaining and enhancing attractive remuneration, job security and career development opportunities for the disability sector workforce. Retraining and attracting a qualified and experienced disability sector workforce ensures genuine choice and control for people with disability.
99. Labor strongly supports the vital work performed by all staff in the sector and will address the capacity, skill and remuneration issues affecting the disability workforce due to the huge expansion of the sector under the National Disability Insurance Scheme. Ongoing workforce attraction and retention is necessary to ensure quality care and outcomes for people living with a disability. Labor will work with disability services workers and their unions, service providers and stakeholders to develop and implement a disability sector workforce strategy to improve sector capacity and maintain and enhance quality standards. Labor will
- Enhance skill levels and continue professional development of the workforce, including quality and relevant training;
 - Protect and maintain employment standards through the National Disability Insurance Scheme funding mechanisms, with proper regard to relevant industrial instruments;
 - Support employment and training models to enhance job security and minimise the spread of casualised and insecure work;
 - Develop best practice standards and accreditation of supports in consultation with stakeholders so quality controls are established, maintained and properly funded; and
 - Direct funding to client services and limit administrative and brokerage costs.
100. Labor will work closely with the states and territories on the details of full rollout, based on evidence about high level of need for services across Australia's cities, regions, rural and remote areas.
101. Labor will ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with disability fully benefit from the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

- 102. Labor will invest in disability research. Research, evidence and information are essential to support service innovation, planning and quality, as well as informed choice by National Disability Insurance Scheme participants.
- 103. People with disability and their families know best what will help them to live full lives as independently as possible in the Australian community.
- 104. Labor is committed to peer support and will work with people with disability, their families and carers to develop consumer demand and ensure people with disability and families are exercising full choice and control in their lives.

National Injury Insurance Scheme

- 105. Labor will create a National Injury Insurance Scheme (NIIS) that complements the National Disability Insurance Scheme.
- 106. A person-centred National Injury Insurance Scheme for catastrophic injuries will revolutionise support for people with disability by reducing the large inequities in lifetime care and support that currently exists across Australia.
- 107. The National Injury Insurance Scheme should be based on the recommendations of the Productivity Commission, covering the four main causes of catastrophic injury which require a NIIS, namely motor vehicle accidents, medical accidents, workplace accidents, and general accidents occurring in the home or community.
- 108. The only factor that should determine the level of care someone receives is the level of support they require, not the cause of their injury.
- 109. Labor will work with the states and territories, as well as key sectors and industries, to develop and implement the National Injury Insurance Scheme as a federated model of separate state-based no-fault schemes to provide lifetime care and support for people who have sustained a catastrophic injury.
- 110. The National Injury Insurance Scheme is critical to a sustainable National Disability Insurance Scheme. It will also aid development of a modern rehabilitation system to provide necessary early intervention for people with acquired disability.

National Disability Strategy

- 111. The National Disability Strategy is the key avenue for Australia to implement its obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- 112. Labor will act on the National Disability Strategy's six priority areas to improve the lives of people with disability, their families and carers:

- Inclusive and accessible communities — the physical environment including public transport; parks, buildings and housing, digital information and communications technologies; civic life including social, sporting, recreational and cultural life;
- Rights protection, justice and legislation — statutory protections such as anti-discrimination measures, complaints mechanisms, advocacy and the electoral and justice systems;
- Economic security — jobs, business opportunities, financial independence, adequate income support for those not able to work, and housing;
- Personal and community support — inclusion and participation in the community, person-centred care and support provided by specialist disability services and mainstream services and informal care and support;
- Learning and skills, early childhood education and care, schools, further education, vocational education, transitions from education to employment and life-long learning; and
- Health and wellbeing — health services, health promotion and the interaction between health and disability systems, wellbeing and enjoyment of life.

113. Labor will work with states and territories to reduce the over-representation of people with disability, particularly people with cognitive impairment, in the justice system, both as victims and offenders.

114. The National Disability Strategy will guide Labor’s work with states and territories to bring about change in all mainstream services and programs as well as community infrastructure.

Supporting Our Carers

115. Families and carers contribute valuably to our society. Carers should have rights, choices, opportunities and capabilities to participate in economic, social and community life.

116. People who care for sick and elderly relatives and people with disability and mental illness deserve acknowledgement and support for the job they do and their selfless contribution to Australia.

117. Carers take on enormous responsibilities often at both a personal and a financial cost. Many carers experience substantial financial hardship, reduced education and employment prospects, lower levels of health, and anxiety, depression and chronic grief.

118. Carers play an invaluable role in providing care and support to loved ones, and deserve the same opportunities as other Australians to participate in work and the community, and live a meaningful life.

119. Carers need effective employment conditions including transition to work when caring responsibilities change.
120. Labor will consult with carers, their representative peak bodies and service providers to identify and overcome impediments, including inflexible working arrangements and financial and practical support for carers in our community.

Financial Security for People with Disability and Carers

121. The Disability Support Pension and Carer Payment are and should remain an essential part of our social safety net for people who need it.
122. Labor will ensure the Disability Support Pension and Carer Payment are properly indexed, so they keep pace with the cost and standard of living.
123. Labor will fight any attack on the Disability Support Pension and Carer Payment that will leave vulnerable people worse off.

Homelessness

124. Labor aims to end homelessness not manage it. Labor will fund homelessness services, giving particular emphasis to improving the connections between homelessness services and mainstream services and to getting people who are homeless into employment.
125. Labor is committed to halving homelessness by 2020 and will resume the 12- year strategy laid out in the 2008 White Paper to reduce homelessness. Labor will
- Provide stable, affordable and long-term housing, emphasising ‘housing first’;
 - Expand models of support to end homelessness long-term, such as Common Grounds and Foyers;
 - Provide support services to help maintain stability in housing;
 - Increase early intervention and prevention services;
 - Prevent exits from care into homelessness;
 - Ensure appropriate access to mainstream services, such as employment services;
 - Better integrate service provision and provide outreach support; and
 - Encourage private sector investment in homelessness and housing affordability.
126. Poor access to affordable housing is linked to homelessness. Labor will use future funding agreements to strongly encourage the states and territories to prioritise people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in the allocation of social housing and to provide them with services to help them maintain their tenancies.

127. Labor will work with the states and territories and stakeholders to improve services for those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Labor will also support research and data collection on homelessness to create more reliable and timely data which will help optimise government policies.
128. Mental illness can be a cause of homelessness, and can be in itself caused by homelessness. Labor will enhance services to people with a mental health condition or disorder who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
129. Labor acknowledges the young lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people are at significantly higher risk of homelessness, and commits to support dedicated services aimed at addressing this issue.

Labor's National Housing Strategy

130. Having a home is essential to financial, social and emotional wellbeing. All Australians have the right to secure, affordable and appropriate housing throughout their lives. Having a genuine chance to live near job opportunities is also essential for Australians to participate in the workforce, and to contribute to a productive national economy.
131. A functioning housing market relies on a strong and growing economy. The federal government should work actively with states and territories and other major stakeholders to address market failures.
132. Housing improves social, economic and environmental outcomes.
133. Improving housing affordability is a major challenge that demands federal and state government action across infrastructure, tax, planning, financing, development, cities, social services, workforce development and industry policy.
134. This requires cooperation and coordination across sectors of the economy and especially between Governments so policy initiatives meet their intended objectives. The federal government has an important leadership role. The former National Housing Supply Council assisted in informing that reform and a body, ideally a statutory body should be established to monitor performance and measure housing need based on key demographic trends, socio-economic and cultural factors.
135. An appropriate governance mechanism to facilitate coordination of homelessness and affordable housing policy and service delivery should be re-established, potentially within the Council of Australian Government structure. This co-ordination mechanism should:
- Ensure engagement with community organisations delivering housing and homelessness services;



- Be informed by national data sets including housing supply and usage of specialist homelessness services; and
- Receive clear reports from all parties about what they are doing to achieve to stated outcomes of plans and agreements associated with homelessness and affordable housing.

136. The challenges facing the Australian housing market include a growing population and changes in family structures. Working at all levels of government, Labor will develop strategies which will provide an appropriate and diverse mix of housing solutions which are data driven, evidence based, and focused on future projections. These strategies will incorporate planning for a significant, growing and so far neglected need for multigenerational housing.

137. Labor will provide appropriate crisis support for the most vulnerable.

138. Labor will enact policies to help Australians purchase affordable housing including:

- Economic policies designed to keep downward pressure on interest rates and create a competitive housing finance sector;
- Assistance for low to middle income households to own homes;
- Programs to expand the supply of affordable public, community and private rental; and
- Ensuring impediments to building new homes are no greater than necessary.

139. The National Affordable Housing Agreement should bring together a range of policy approaches. The NAHA is the mechanism to commit all governments to joint action on housing policy and reforms including:

- Expanding the supply of housing, particularly affordable rental accommodation;
- Delivering more efficient and effective housing, land and infrastructure development;
- Improving opportunities for first home buyers to enter the market;
- Reforming the social housing sector to improve the public housing sector and expand the not-for-profit (community) housing sector;
- Better integrating housing and other services to strengthen communities and build safe and healthy neighbourhoods close to jobs;
- Expanding institutional investment in providing affordable housing;
- Promoting housing options to minimise adverse environmental impacts;
- Preventing and reducing homelessness; and

- Improving housing outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, particularly in remote communities.

140. Labor will review the National Affordable Housing Agreement before the renegotiation of the next agreement. The new agreement will:

- Expand the not-for-profit sector to boost the overall supply of social housing;
- Set targets for expansion of stock in each state and territory;
- Promote partnerships between the public, private and community sectors;
- Ensure social housing growth is achieved by greater use of available land;
- Promote economic and social participation of public housing tenants; and
- Help ease the pressure on social housing by improving the wider housing market's delivery of housing.

141. Australia needs national leadership to support home ownership and make home ownership more affordable. Labor will

- Support first home owners;
- Reduce the cost of new homes through measures such as streamlining planning processes or defraying the impact of infrastructure charges;
- Nationally regulate consumer credit so all home providers are appropriately regulated and as far as possible borrowers are protected from taking on unsustainable home loans;
- Develop pathways into home ownership for low and moderate income earners such as key workers and social housing tenants including shared equity products;
- Explore tax relief mechanisms for first home owners;
- Explore mechanisms to support low and medium income earners who are at risk of mortgage default maintaining their home;
- Develop mechanisms to encourage older home owners to 'right-size' their homes; and
- Ensure housing market settings enable first home buyers to compete on a level playing field with other purchasers.

142. Much of the urban infrastructure to support new residential areas is a long- term community asset. Labor will work with state, territory and local governments to:

- Ensure new home buyers do not unfairly bear the costs of such infrastructure, with infrastructure charges levied on developers appropriately reflecting the cost of infrastructure related to specific developments;

- Find innovative ways to finance infrastructure for a broader community benefit; and
- Reduce development costs by improving national consistency in building codes and urban design regulations and streamlining approval processes.

- 143.** Most rental accommodation will be provided in the private rental market. Labor will monitor rent costs in the private rental market and examine mechanisms to maintain affordability. Labor will maintain programs to improve the affordability of private rental accommodation. Rental assistance should recognise actual housing costs and help people move from welfare to work.
- 144.** High rent costs exacerbate economic and social pressures in some communities. Labor will work to ameliorate the effects of sharply rising rent costs on local communities.
- 145.** Labor will encourage greater private investment in the affordable rental sector. Labor will consider the National Rental Affordability Scheme approach in future policy development.
- 146.** Australia needs a strong and vibrant social housing sector to improve housing affordability for low and moderate income earners. The social housing sector incorporates public housing authorities, community housing organisations and a range of other not-for-profit housing organisations.
- 147.** Labor will support a viable social housing sector. Labor will work with all state, territory and local governments and community housing sector to expand, reform and improve social housing including:
- Setting targets for a growth in public and community housing stock in each state and territory, based on a national assessment of need;
 - Ensuring maintenance programs keep social housing stock at acceptable standards;
 - Supporting the renewal of public housing estates, to create mixed communities and tenures, improve access to jobs and transport and integrate services;
 - Promoting partnerships between the public, community and private sectors and supporting innovative approaches to increase access to finance;
 - Supporting the substantial growth of the community and not-for-profit housing sector, which is better able to leverage housing assets to build more social and affordable housing for Australians in need;
 - Ensuring public housing rental rebate policies do not require tenants to pay more than 25 per cent of household income in rent, unless there is an agreement with the housing authority to charge a higher rate for additional services;
 - Ensuring social housing tenants are supported to maintain their tenancy by linking tenancy management with health, disability and other support services, with

specific support for tenants who are vulnerable or marginalised, including tenants with a mental illness;

- Improving the capacity of public and community housing to help tenants move from welfare to work, including creating employment opportunities for public housing tenants;
- Ensuring public and community housing tenants in all states and territories get independent mechanisms to review decisions made by housing providers;
- Supporting programs which ensure people are made aware of and can get the various forms of housing assistance;
- Where appropriate to ensure social housing is targeted to those most in need, encouraging social housing tenants to transition into other forms of affordable housing ; and
- Overseeing a strong national regulatory system for the not-for-profit housing sector to encourage the expansion of the sector by attracting private finance and avoid unnecessary red tape.

148. The rights of renters must be protected. Labor will fund adequate housing consumer services. Labor will apply appropriate regulation and standards to improve the rights of renters and will work with states, territories, local government and the community sector to:

- Introduce national tenancy standards for all residential tenancies, including caravan park residents, boarders and lodgers, to ensure tenants' rights are protected in matters such as eviction, unfair rents, repairs and maintenance, quality of rental accommodation, appeals and bond security;
- Ensure all states and territories have independent review mechanisms for resolving tenancy disputes with the power to overturn evictions and unfair rents, determine bond or rental disputes and refer matters for prosecution where necessary; and
- Support the regulation of tenant databases though stronger privacy protection including independent monitoring of compliance and access to affordable dispute resolution processes.

Housing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

149. Secure and affordable housing in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, particularly remote communities, is critical to Closing the Gap in life expectancy between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and other Australians.

150. Labor will invest in new housing and in refurbishing existing housing stock to address chronic overcrowding in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

151. Many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people live in cities and regional centres, and the housing challenges faced in these communities differ greatly to those in remote communities. Labor will work with Aboriginal owned and controlled community housing providers to deliver accessible, affordable, appropriate and secure housing to meet the social, cultural and economic aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
152. Labor supports the aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, including in remote communities, to home ownership. Labor will work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to support this aspiration and increase home ownership rates.

Women

153. Much remains to be done to achieve equality between Australian women and men to enjoy the same rewards, resources and opportunities.
154. Women remain underrepresented within civic and corporate institutions, including the Labor Party; remain disadvantaged by the gender pay gap; and their career progression is still disproportionately affected by pregnancy and carer responsibilities
155. Courageous and inspirational women throughout our history have made great achievements for the equality of women and men in Australian society, and toward Labor's long-held commitment to policies to underpin gender equality.
156. Our whole nation benefits from the full and equal participation of women in education, work and decision-making, not least through better productivity and competitiveness.
157. We need to build a stronger partnership between men and women to achieve our goals. Labor will do this through:
- An industrial relations system to protect minimum level of standards for the most vulnerable workers, many of whom are women; and to provide employees the right to request family friendly conditions such as extended unpaid parental leave, and flexible and part-time work to support people to manage the competing interests of work and family;
 - Regulation and education for employers to promote equal opportunity, gender pay equity and work and family balance;
 - Policy and law to promote diversity, including through the participation of women on company boards by aiming to increase the representation of women on Australian Government boards to 40 per cent by 2016;
 - Maintaining a fair government-sponsored paid parental leave scheme;
 - Improving the accessibility of affordable quality childcare and before and after school care;

- Promoting equal educational and training opportunities for women, particularly for women who have spent time out of the workforce to care for their children;
- Recognising and valuing women's paid and unpaid work;
- Supporting and encouraging men to take an increased role in care giving and domestic labour;
- Providing women with financial literacy and superannuation information and tailoring that information to their needs, having regard to the disproportionate representation of women in part time and casual work and the long-term implications for their financial security and superannuation; and
- Ensuring all employees, including those who worked minimal hours in part-time or casual work, will continue to receive compulsory superannuation contributions.

Prevent Violence against Women and Children

158. There is no clearer symbol of continuing gender inequality in our society than violence against women. Addressing family violence must be a national priority. Family and domestic violence will only be prevented by working in partnership with all Australians and requires changing attitudes through teaching respect in our schools, our sporting clubs, our military, our workplaces and the media and will work with all sectors of the community on prevention programs.

159. Labor will take decisive action against family violence and make critical investments to ensure addressing family violence is a national priority.

160. National leadership is required to coordinate judicial and social services reform across jurisdictions to better deal with family violence in a new comprehensive national strategy. Labor will

- Support victims of family violence going through court by resourcing community legal assistance including culturally-appropriate support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people;
- Improve the capacity of the judicial system to deal with family violence;
- Delivering more certainty for homelessness services supporting women and children escaping family violence situations;
- Enable women and their children experiencing family violence to remain safely in their current home and community;
- Establish greater perpetrator accountability mechanisms and divert perpetrators from the path to violence;
- Address fragmented responses to family violence;

- Support sound research and ongoing measurement to underpin policy approaches, identify emerging challenges and track progress; and
- Deliver primary prevention and early intervention.

161. Labor will consult the many organisations working to address family violence and will ensure women’s voices are heard in the development and delivery of our strategy. Labor aims to reduce gendered violence by improving how governments work together, increasing support and creating innovative and targeted ways to bring about change..

162. Labor will

- Support respectful relationships and attitudinal change in our culture, institutions and in individuals, with a focus on young people;
- Encourage men and women to treat each other as equals;
- Lead whole of community action to prevent violence;
- Consider diverse experiences of violence across sectors in the community;
- Deliver innovative services and integrated systems, helping victims to rebuild their lives supported by community-wide responses including specialist services, and offer more services to people who hurt others to help them stop using violence;
- Improve perpetrator interventions to prevent and track incidences of violence; and
- Continuing to expand the evidence base on violence against women and children, including understanding emerging challenges and incidence of violence, tracking attitudinal change and target and prioritise resources.

Children

163. Every child has a right to a safe, healthy and happy childhood. Labor will support families to give their children the best start in life, and will work to protect children at risk from disadvantage and abuse.

164. The National Child Protection Framework represented the highest level of collaboration between governments and with non-government organisations to improve the way agencies, payments and programs interact to help prevent abuse and better protect children identified as being at risk.

165. Labor will:

- Improve prevention and early intervention through a national, collaborative approach;
- Deliver more effective responses for children in care and leaving care;
- Improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children; and

- Attract and retain a skilled professional workforce to improve child protection systems.

166. Labor will protect children from exposure to inappropriate material over the internet, at home, school and at other public access points.

167. Australia must respect and understand the experiences of past adoption practices. Labor will work with the states and territories to develop a uniform national system for adoption. This includes harmonisation and best practice for fees, document access and format, as well as support for all families impacted by adoption and procedures for inter-country adoption. These will prioritise the best interests of the child and ensure adequate safeguards against child trafficking risk.

168. Labor will develop a national approach to children and the law, which will:

- Recognise the best interests of the child as a primary consideration;
- Base sentencing primarily upon the principles of restorative justice;
- Set standards for court procedures where children are involved as witnesses, victims or offenders;
- Set standards for support, counselling and rehabilitation services for child victims and offenders within the criminal justice system;
- Support research into causes of juvenile crime; and
- Include a National Children’s Commissioner.

Young Australians

169. Australia needs better representation of young Australians in national debate and policy development.

170. Labor will engage with young Australians, including through social media and new technology.

171. Labor will support young Australians to reach their full potential, by investing in education, training and employment to build resilience so our young people can successfully negotiate the many transitions through life.

172. Labor will particularly focus on young people’s health needs, including physical and mental health, drug and alcohol education, the promotion of positive body image and a healthy lifestyle.

173. Australia needs to prevent and reduce the damage being caused by the increased sexualisation of children in the media and popular culture.

174. Street violence can affect Australians of all ages. Labor will work in partnership with young people to prevent street violence and the perceptions of street violence in our community so young people are not disproportionately affected by street violence either as victims or perpetrators.
175. Labor will ensure a national voice for the Australian youth sector.

Support for the Community Sector

176. Labor supports a vibrant, strong and innovative community sector.
177. The sector makes an enormous social and economic contribution. It provides frontline services to our most vulnerable people including early intervention and crisis support for those at risk of homelessness, escaping domestic violence or who are excluded from their communities. The sector builds the capacity of communities to respond to entrenched and emerging social challenges and create opportunities for the participation and inclusion of all Australians.
178. Support for the most vulnerable and marginalised people in our communities is always best provided in a partnership between the Government and not-for-profit community sector.
179. Labor will develop and maintain a genuine partnership based on mutual respect and trust, providing the opportunity for the sector to have strong voice in the design and implementation of social policy and programs.
180. Labor will create a platform to consider sector-specific challenges, including the uncertainty and loss of capacity caused by recent funding processes, the lack of a clear pathway on regulation, the role of volunteering and innovation in service delivery, as well as the critical role of advocacy in developing and implementing effective policies and programs to achieve real outcomes for those most at risk of social exclusion.
181. Labor is committed to working with the community sector and its workforce representatives to establishing a new model for funding these types of services that better addresses the needs and interests of the people they support and the local communities in which they work. Funding of community services such as early intervention and crisis support services in our community should be: sustainable; focus on collaboration rather than competition between providers; support local and diverse service provision; and recognize that not-for-profit organisations are always better positioned than for-profit corporations to provide these crucial frontline support services.

Removing discrimination

- 182.** Labor will enact legislation prohibiting discrimination on the basis of a person's sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex status, and the removal of such discrimination from Commonwealth legislation.
- 183.** All people are entitled to respect, equality, dignity and the opportunity to participate in society free of hatred or harassment and receive the protection of the law regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex status.
- 184.** Consistent with this belief, in 2007 Labor audited Commonwealth laws to identify discrimination against same sex couples. In 2008, Labor passed laws to remove discrimination from 84 pieces of Commonwealth legislation. In 2013 Labor amended the Sex Discrimination Act to outlaw discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex status.
- 185.** Labor will ensure all couples whether married or de facto do not suffer discrimination.
- 186.** Labor will amend the Marriage Act to ensure equal access to marriage under statute for all adult couples irrespective of sex who have a mutual commitment to a shared life.
- 187.** Labor will not alter the existing Section 47 of the Marriage Act which ensures that nothing in the Act imposes an obligation on a minister of religion to solemnise any marriage.

Justice in the community

- 188.** Access to justice is essential to the rule of law and integral to the enjoyment of basic human rights. It is an essential precondition to social inclusion and a critical element of a well-functioning democracy.
- 189.** Labor is committed to ensuring our justice system is fair, simple, affordable and accessible, and based on principles of early intervention to help people resolve problems before they escalate and lead to entrenched disadvantage.
- 190.** People on the margins of society often have the highest levels of interaction with the justice system. Australia's system of justice should provide security for all Australians, protect property, deter and prevent crime, compensate victims and rehabilitate offenders.
- 191.** Labor supports a charter of rights for the victims of crime based on the United Nations Charter of Victims' Rights (Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power 1985), and laws providing for victim impact statements, the provision of witness support and information, and standards for the treatment of victims by the criminal justice system.

192. Labor will ensure the Commonwealth's investigation, prosecution, defence and judicial processes are separate, independent, adequately resourced and appropriately accountable.
193. The independence of the judiciary is fundamental to the rule of law and our democratic society. The courts should be accountable. Labor will ensure judicial appointments are made through a transparent and merit-based process in which all those eligible for appointment to judicial office have the opportunity to be fairly and properly considered. Labor will work with the judiciary to ensure the judicial system is efficient and adequately funded. Labor will work with the courts to evaluate and improve service delivery.
194. Labor will adequately resource and support the leading law enforcement agency of the Commonwealth, the Australian Federal Police.
195. Labor is committed to the rule of law and basic principles of justice including that people accused of a criminal offence are not compelled to incriminate themselves; that they are not subject to prolonged detention without charge; that persons charged with a criminal offence are presumed innocent until proven guilty before an independent court; that after being charged, they are informed of details of the charge within a reasonable time; that charged persons are tried without undue delay; that they are given a fair trial including, in the ordinary course, the right to see and hear the evidence against them; that people charged with serious criminal offences are provided with legal representation if they are unable to afford legal representation of their own; that people shall not be found guilty of any crime, the elements of which did not constitute a crime at the time of its commission; that people convicted of a criminal offence shall have the right to appeal against conviction and sentence to a higher court; that no penalty heavier than what was applicable at the time of the commission of a crime shall be imposed on a convicted person; and that evidence obtained illegally, by torture, coercive techniques or by improper investigative practice is inadmissible.
196. Labor will provide national leadership to resource our system of legal aid in partnership with the states and territories. Labor will support general and specialist community-based legal services and clinical legal education schemes.
197. The legal profession plays a fundamental role in the provision of access to justice. Labor supports the creation of a modern, efficient and accountable national legal services market regulated by an independent body, to achieve full accountability and maintain the independence of the legal profession.
198. Labor will reform our laws and legal system to reflect the traditions, values and aspirations of all Australians, and meet the needs of our modern democratic society. Labor will adequately resource the Australian Law Reform Commission so it can provide independent and comprehensive advice on all aspects of law reform.

Custody and sentencing

199. Sentencing should achieve deterrence, punishment, retribution and rehabilitation. Labor supports the just and humane treatment of accused people in custody and offenders in prison. Labor will conform to Australia's international human rights obligations and strive for world's best practice in its treatment of prisoners.
200. Prison is a last resort. Labor supports the appropriate use of noncustodial sentencing options for all offenders. This principle is particularly important for young people, and all effort should be made to divert children from long-term involvement in the criminal justice system. How the criminal justice system treats juvenile offenders greatly influences whether they will re-offend. Labor will take all reasonable steps to ensure minors are not incarcerated in adult prisons.
201. Labor opposes mandatory sentencing and detention regimes; they are often discriminatory in practice, conflict with the role of the judiciary as an independent arm of government, and have not proved effective in reducing crime or criminality.
202. Labor supports:
- Efforts to reduce the unacceptably high rates of incarceration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and in particular, young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people;
 - Special attention to prevent deaths in custody, particularly among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people;
 - Training police and prison officers to understand Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' culture and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' social context;
 - Efficient, culturally appropriate legal aid services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people that recognise the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within the criminal justice system;
 - International treaties allowing the repatriation of Australians in overseas prisons;
 - Consistency in sentencing with a sufficient degree of appropriate discretion so as to enable sentences to be tailored to the circumstances of each individual case;
 - Programs consistent with victims' rights, based upon restorative justice. Restorative justice to encourage community spirit and responsibility in the offender and to restore the victim and the community to their pre-offence state of security.

Family law

203. The best interests of children should be the paramount consideration in Family Law disputes. Resolving family disputes should focus on counselling and family dispute

resolution, with litigation as a last resort. Labor will ensure community-based services such as counselling and family dispute resolution are accessible, affordable and equipped to resolve entrenched disputes.

204. Labor will develop and implement measures to ease the anxiety and stress of family breakdown. In particular, Labor will ensure:

- The rights of children are paramount;
- There is a just division of relationship property;
- The important and valuable contribution of a partner to family care and homemaking is recognised;
- The Family Law system protects those at risk of family violence or child abuse;
- The particular needs, customs and practices of diverse cultures are appropriately respected;
- Children are not disadvantaged by the structure of their family or by the circumstances of their conception;
- Disputes are resolved in a timely, effective and affordable way; and
- Litigation in the family law court system is efficient and streamlined.

Migration and Refugees

205. Labor believes in dealing with the complex issue of those seeking Australia's protection by giving expression to the values of compassion, fairness and generosity. These are values which are at the heart of the Australian identity.

206. Labor will treat people seeking our protection with dignity and compassion and in accordance with our international obligations, the rule of law and core Australian principles of fairness and humanity.

207. Labor recognises that, under the Refugee Convention, asylum seekers have the right to seek protection and asylum and that, regardless of the mode of arrival, this is not illegal under Australian or international law. Accordingly, Labor rejects the practice of referring to asylum seekers as 'illegals'.

208. Labor believes that as a country Australia must not harm people.

209. The issue of those seeking protection is both a global and regional one. Accordingly, in order to achieve a long-term resolution to the issue, it must be dealt with through international cooperation and not unilateral action. Within our region, Australia must play a leadership role.

210. A fundamental principle in treating those seeking protection with humanity is to provide as much certainty as possible. An aspiration of certainty in all matters around asylum seekers, including the duration of assessing refugees' claims, must underpin Australian policy.

International Engagement

211. Labor will seek to lead debate on the new agreements and understandings required to ensure that the Refugee Convention and the international protection system function effectively over the long-term, including encouraging countries in our region to provide protection to those in need.
212. Recognising that irregular movement is a regional issue that requires a co-operative regional approach, Labor will engage with Australia's neighbours to seek innovative and effective solutions to the irregular movement of people through the region. This approach will include multilateral engagement, particularly through the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime (the Bali Process), and bilateral arrangements of a type envisaged by the Regional Cooperation Framework agreed at the Bali Process Ministerial Conference in March 2011.
213. The phenomenon of people smuggling has a long history arising from the need for people to escape from danger and persecution. Labor also recognises that those who decide to leave a country in perilous circumstances have the right under the Refugee Convention to determine their means of departure. However, recognising the risk to life of people travelling on unsafe, unseaworthy and overcrowded boats, Labor supports measures to reduce such journeys by working with regional neighbours and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to eliminate any pull that people smugglers may have over vulnerable protection claimants by:
- Addressing people smuggling at its source;
 - Pursuing strong regional and international arrangements which provide access to protection in countries of first asylum to deter secondary movements of asylum seekers;
 - Developing the capacity, both in countries of first asylum and transit countries, to improve living standards and protection outcomes for asylum seekers who may be vulnerable targets of people smugglers;
 - Expediting the claims for refugee status by asylum seekers in the region; and
 - Increasing the humanitarian intake of genuine refugees from source and transit countries to create an orderly pathway to resettlement in Australia and provide asylum seekers with an alternative to irregular boat travel to Australia.
214. Noting that Pacific Island nations have a particular vulnerability to the effects of climate change, and that these nations have expressed a clear desire for Pacific peoples to

continue to live in their own countries where possible, and acknowledging Australia's unique responsibilities in the Pacific, Labor will:

- Support Pacific Islanders to remain in their homelands as the first response to this challenge;
- Work to assist with intra-country relocations when citizens have to be moved from low-lying areas to higher ground; and
- In the event that in the longer term permanent migration becomes necessary for some Pacific Islanders, work in close consultation with the region to ensure that appropriate settlement is achieved.

215. Labor will continue Australia's contribution to international aid efforts to alleviate the pressing humanitarian needs of displaced persons.

Humanitarian Migration Programme

216. Labor aspires to progressively increase Australia's humanitarian intake to 27,000 places per year.

217. In continuing Australia's generous humanitarian program, Labor will provide appropriate support for the travel and resettlement of refugees and others requiring Australia's protection.

Australia's Border

218. For the Australian people to have confidence and trust in the integrity of our migration system, Labor will fund and maintain robust border security measures that support the orderly processing of migration to our country and protect our national interest and our national borders.

219. Labor will ensure that asylum seekers who arrive by irregular means will not be punished for their mode of arrival.

220. Labor is united in its commitment to prevent further loss of life at sea of vulnerable children, women and men. Labor will:

- Meet its obligations to the maritime principle of safety of life at sea which requires a response to assist in the rescue at sea of vessels in distress;
- Consider introducing further penalties for serious people smuggling offences; and
- Ensure repatriation of crew members who are proven to be juveniles.

221. To support Australia's strong border security regime, Labor will maintain:

- An architecture of excised offshore places; and
- The non-statutory processing on Christmas Island of persons who arrive unauthorised at an excised place, except where other arrangements are entered into under bilateral and regional arrangements.

Immigration Detention

222. Under Labor’s policies, the presumption will be that unauthorised arrivals who enter for the purpose of seeking asylum will, after appropriate checks, be detained only if the need is established.

223. Labor believes that community-based processing is the most reasonable, humane and cost effective approach for supporting asylum seekers while their claim for protection is assessed.

224. Labor’s humane and risk-based immigration detention policies and practices will be guided by key immigration detention principles, namely:

- Three groups will be subject to mandatory detention. Labor will strive to ensure that this is for no longer than 90 days.
 - All unauthorised arrivals, for management of health, identity and security risks to the community. Labor will strive to ensure this is for 90 days only;
 - Unlawful non-citizens who present proven unacceptable risks to the community; and
 - Unlawful non-citizens who have been proven to persistently refuse to comply with their visa conditions;
- Detention that is indefinite or otherwise arbitrary is not acceptable and the length and conditions of detention, including the appropriateness of both the accommodation and the services provided, will be subject to regular review;
- Detention in an IDC is only to be used as a last resort and for the shortest practicable time;
- People in detention will be treated fairly and reasonably within the law;
- People in detention will be provided an appropriate standard of care including the provision of health and education services; and
- Conditions of detention will ensure the inherent dignity of the human person.

225. Labor’s humane and risk-based immigration detention policies and practices will include a commitment to ensure that after the necessary health, identity and security checks every humanly practical effort will be taken to remove children and their families from immigration detention centres (IDCs) into alternative suitable arrangements.

226. Labor will ensure that all Australian Government involvement in detention facilities it operates or funds is subject to transparent, independent oversight. Provisions for this oversight will be reflected in all contracts with service providers. Labor in government will use its best endeavours to provide for this oversight in any relevant international agreements.
227. Recognising the inequities of the policy of charging immigration detainees a daily maintenance rate while in immigration detention, Labor extinguished such detention debts and will oppose any attempts to reinstate this practice.
228. As soon as the reasons for mandatory detention have ceased every effort must be made to remove asylum seekers from IDCs through community detention or the granting of bridging visas with work rights. Means-tested access to migration assistance, along with access to appropriate social services, will be provided while the merits of an asylum seeker's application are assessed.
229. The provision of services at IDCs will remain with private sector contractors for the term of the current contracts. In evaluating the future form of detention facility service provision the views of all stakeholders, including the relevant trade unions must be taken into account.

Refugee Assessment

230. Labor believes protection claims made in Australia should be assessed and reviewed on the individual merits with procedural fairness ensuring that our international human rights obligations are met. Accordingly:
- The assessment and review of protection claims will be underpinned by robust, efficient and transparent processes that ensure fair and consistent outcomes, including access to review and independent advice;
 - The assessment and review of protection claims must be independent and free from any political or diplomatic interference;
 - The processing of protection claims must be streamlined to enhance the quality of decision-making, to provide more efficient pathways for prompt resolution of visa status and to alleviate the courts' immigration case-load burden; and
 - The Stone Review process will be maintained as an important mechanism for ensuring the fairness of Australia's security assessment system.
231. Labor will require the National Security Legislation Monitor to advise on establishing other mechanisms for:

- Independent review of the adverse security assessments that ensures procedural fairness while recognising that processes may be required to protect intelligence sources and methodology; and
- The management of those whose adverse assessment is upheld.

232. Labor will explore options other than indefinite detention, including third country resettlement, to deal with refugees with adverse security assessments in a way that does not jeopardise Australia's national security interests.
233. Reporting on the '90 day rule', which requires that refugee status determinations are concluded within 90 days from the time of application, has been an important accountability measure in ensuring that the Government operates in a timely way in assessing protection applications.
234. Labor in Government will reintroduce the 90 day rule into the Migration Act.
235. The existing fast track assessment process under the auspices of the Immigration Assessment Authority and the limitation of appeal rights does not provide a fair, thorough and robust assessment process for persons seeking asylum.
236. Labor in Government will abolish this fast track assessment process.
237. Labor believes the Refugee Convention plays a critical role in Australian law. Referring to the Refugee Convention in the Migration Act 1958 is good legislative practice.
238. Labor in Government will reintroduce the appropriate references to the Refugee Convention into the Migration Act.
239. Protection visa applications made in Australia should be assessed by Australians on Australian territory.
240. Under legislation passed by Labor, complementary protection claims should be considered by way of the protection visa framework.

Australia's Protection

241. Those found to be owed Australia's protection under the Refugee Convention, Complimentary Protection or and other international instruments will be given permanent protection under the Migration Act.
242. Those not found to be owed Australia's protection under the Refugee Convention, Complimentary Protection or and other international instruments will be promptly returned only after any relevant legal avenues have been exhausted.

243. Temporary Protection Visas place refugees in an ongoing state of uncertainty and prevent meaningful settlement, creating hardship for refugees and denying Australia the benefit of their contribution.

244. Labor in Government will abolish Temporary Protection Visas.

Settlement of Refugees

245. Australia's settlement support services are regarded as the best in the world. Labor is committed to maintaining this and accordingly will ensure that sufficient focus and resources are directed to our settlement services.

246. Labor will provide appropriate English language tuition as an essential settlement service which is critical to the achievement of full social and economic participation of refugees.

247. Labor will seek to improve the availability and integration of Commonwealth-funded migrant and settlement services. Labor will ensure settlement service policies are:

- Informed by advice from the Refugee Resettlement Advisory Council, the Settlement Council of Australia and other key stakeholders and the community; and
- Coordinated in partnership with state and territory governments, local councils, community organisations and service delivery providers.

248. Labor is committed to ensuring that services across government for refugees are culturally responsive, universally accessible and consistent with Labor's social inclusion agenda.

249. Labor acknowledges the positive effect regional settlement can have on rural locations. Labor supports the settlement of suitable humanitarian entrants in regional locations with the support of state and local governments and local communities.

The Economic and Social Contribution of Migrants and Refugees

250. Labor recognises the economic and social contribution throughout our nation's history. Labor regards Australia's diversity as a source of national strength and a critical factor in nation building.

251. Australia is and will remain a society of people drawn from a rich variety of cultural, ethnic, linguistic and religious backgrounds. Australia is and will remain a multicultural society.

252. To support Australia's multicultural society, Labor's migration policies will:

- Remain non-discriminatory;
- Respect the heritage and traditional customs of migrants and their children;

- Recognise the importance of all aspects of the migration program, including skilled, family and humanitarian streams;
- Support Australia's social cohesion by encouraging universal respect for Australia's democratic beliefs and laws, and the rights, responsibilities and privileges of Australian citizenship;
- Consistently oppose those who foster extremism, hatred, ethnic division or incitement to violence; and
- Be evidence-based, supported by rigorous research and evaluation.

253. Labor believes that there is an inequity for New Zealand citizens living in Australia under the terms of the Trans-Tasman Travel Arrangements (TTTA). Labor believes that there should be consideration given to the permanent residency status and potential citizenship arrangements for New Zealand citizens living in Australia under the terms of the TTTA.

Arts and culture

254. Arts and culture are essential to the good life; while a creative nation is a prosperous nation. All people can participate in arts events and education and express their creativity in an array of different cultural forms. Labor will not only support artists, we will strengthen communities and develop a creative culture so Australians are ready for the challenges and opportunities of life. Australia's cultural institutions play an important role and Labor will support these institutions to collect, preserve and make available Australia's cultural heritage. Arts and culture also contribute to innovation and lift productivity.

255. Labor will build on and further develop Creative Australia, the national cultural policy adopted by Labor in 2013.

256. Arts and creativity play an important part in the daily lives of all Australians, and Labor will integrate arts and culture policy within broader social and economic goals. Australia needs stronger links between creative culture and action to lift productivity, spread innovation and strengthen community cohesion.

257. Labor's will:

- Ensure what the government supports — and how this support is provided — reflects the diversity of a 21st century Australia and protects and supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people culture;
- Encourage the use of emerging technologies and new ideas in new artworks and the creative industries, and enable more people to enjoy and participate in arts and culture;
- Support excellence and world-class endeavour and strengthen the role for the arts in telling Australian stories here and overseas; and

- Increase and strengthen the capacity of the arts to contribute to our society and economy.

258. Australia needs:

- Greater participation of all Australians in Australia’s cultural life, especially in disadvantaged and marginalised communities;
- An active role for public arts and culture programs in schools, in regional communities and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and throughout our cities and suburbs;
- The Australia Council funded and operating as an independent and expert grant making body which works closely with arts organisations and individual artists;
- Great national collecting institutions able to tour their collections to be open to all Australians;
- The film and television industry supported and funded, encouraging increased private investment, training further talent and assisting market development through Australian local content requirements on free to air and pay television as well as diverse new technologies;
- Australian stories being created and told by Australian performers and crew in Australian film and television production; and
- Strong local markets supporting the Australian music sector.

259. Labor will improve access to local markets and support for independent and emerging artists building overseas careers.

260. The legal framework of copyright is necessary to ensure the income generated by arts, culture and heritage is fairly distributed between the creators and the institutions and entrepreneurs who make it available. A successful copyright framework will support the education, arts, culture, and heritage of Australia by:

- Developing and maintaining a national identity in the Australian creative industries;
- Protecting the intellectual property rights of content creators;
- Supporting new and emerging Australian creative talent;
- Meeting consumer expectations of speed to market;
- Securing the supply and diversity of Australian-produced intellectual property;
- Promoting competitive, sustainable and innovative Australian creative industries; and
- Promoting exports of Australian creative product to foreign territories.

Animal welfare

261. All animals should be treated humanely. Labor will work to achieve better animal welfare and consistent application and enforcement of animal protection statutes by harmonising relevant federal, state and territory laws and codes. Labor will:

- Establish an independent office of animal welfare;
- Phase out cosmetic testing on animals or on products used in the production of cosmetics; and
- Oppose any 'Ag-gag' legislation.

Fair and equal government services

262. Labor embraces new technologies to provide convenient, more efficient and more effective delivery of services through the Express Plus apps and the MyGov portal. MyGov now provides citizens with easier, faster and secure access to Medicare, Centrelink, Child Support, DVA, NDIS, PCEHR and ATO. There are currently 5.8 million active MyGov accounts.

263. Human service delivery should be defined by fair and equal government services for all citizens. The design of government services should place the citizen at the centre.

264. Labor will:

- Ensure that government service delivery is appropriately resourced to deliver quality and timely services to Australian citizens;
- Increase the skills and capacity of staff in all areas of customer engagement;
- Maintain a robust, responsive and contemporary digital information system;
- Maintain a network of accessible service centres throughout Australia capable of providing real time performance information to citizens;
- Pursue a Service Delivery Reform agenda to improve choice and standards in delivery;
- Establish an e-citizen's Charter promoting transparency, accountability and democratic participation;
- Redirect resources saved by digital service delivery to deliver intensive case management programmes for those in greatest need and to ensure digitally excluded citizens are not disadvantaged;

- Integrate, where practical and appropriate, Department of Human Service digital services with other government digital platforms;
- Develop a departmental e-Government research centre laboratory in line with international best practice from within existing departmental resources. The laboratory will conduct research aimed at continuously improving DHS digital service delivery; and
- Protecting the integrity and privacy of the personal records of Australians using government services by keeping all data and processing work associated with the delivery of government services within the public service.

Chapter 10: Strong democracy and effective government

The contemporary challenge

1. Changes in Australia's population, society and economy are creating new needs and modern democratic engagement and service delivery should reflect those needs. As communication technology improves, our national broadcasters are able to provide more content to more diverse audiences. As technology makes government more open, our public services and elected representatives should become more accountable. As our population ages, services will need to adapt to meet the demand for greater choice and control. These changes present new challenges to our democratic processes, our public services and the community and not-for-profit sector.
2. Our public services and institutions are critical to creating the Australia of the 21st century. Long term planning to fund the public service is necessary. This will ensure the public service can attract and retain the high skilled employees needed to provide high quality policy solutions and better services.
3. Labor has always invested in our nation's public services and public institutions, to serve the common good, achieve broader social democratic goals and give individuals the support they need to fully participate in their community. This commitment holds strong today.
4. Labor will strengthen Australian democracy and give Australians a real say in shaping our future. Since before Federation, Labor has supported and respected Australia's democratic institutions and values and the Westminster Parliamentary tradition from which they are derived. A strong public service is essential to support the Government. Labor is committed to a strong, capable public sector. Governments must have more than just great ideas; they must competently deliver them.

Labor values

5. Australia's Constitution and Federation need to be modernised to resolve the funding and administrative problems that prevent government effectively dealing with the challenges of today. Our constitutional framework should recognise our role as an independent nation and our federal funding and administrative structures reflect our status as a nation, not as a number of colonies.
6. Government should be transparent and driven by electoral mandate, not hidden and unaccountable power. Government should be free of the vested and sectional interests that undermine the ability of government to act in the national interest, whether through donations to political parties, lobbying activities, or restrictions on freedom of information.

7. Democratic and accountable government demands the highest standards of transparency and probity in the conduct of government and public services. It creates a vital role for our public media and broadcasting in informing and educating our citizens. An effective democracy also requires a healthy electoral process and a flourishing civil society.
8. Elections and voting are essential to democracy, and ensuring all Australians can exercise their democratic franchise regardless of social class, race or background is an enduring Labor value.
9. Government at its best is an enabler: providing the necessary regulation and opportunities for achieving our broader social democratic goals. Labor will shape government so it delivers through collaboration and partnership and encourages deliberative solutions to complex challenges.
10. Labor will uphold and strengthen the role of the Australian Parliament as a critical expression of our democracy. Labor will treat the essential role of Parliament and parliamentarians with dignity and respect.
11. Labor's tradition of nation building extends beyond our essential economic and physical infrastructure. Labor will invest in public services and institutions, the community sector and our national and community media and broadcasting infrastructure, which is necessary to a fair, inclusive and well governed society.
12. Australia's public services provide essential services for the entire community, while also delivering long-term policy advice for government in the national interest. Public services should be efficient, high quality, effective and accountable. They should be protected from interference from government, the private sector or political parties, and from decisions to outsource public services not made solely on cost.
13. Labor will foster a culture of integrity within Commonwealth public institutions – a culture of openness and honesty, transparency and accountability, with the highest ethical standards and zero-tolerance for corruption. Labor will enhance public confidence in public administration by supporting the Australian National Audit Office, the Australian Public Service Commission, Parliamentary Estimates, the Commonwealth Ombudsman and other integrity measures which create this culture of integrity.

Labor priorities

Open and accountable government

14. Labor has strengthened citizens' rights of access to Government material and documents.
15. Labor will continue to promote transparency and accountability by maintaining and promoting a transparent culture across Australian Government agencies and will continue

to support robust mechanisms for Public Interest Disclosure, Freedom of Information and mechanisms for receiving, investigating and prosecuting complaints concerning alleged corruption in public office or administration.

16. Labor is committed to observance of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption and will ensure the development and implementation of a national anti- corruption plan.
17. Labor will ensure more effective international engagement on anti-corruption matters including by joining the Open Government Partnership.
18. Labor has established whistleblower protection in the public sector. Labor will introduce whistleblower protection across the private sector.
19. Labor recognises the importance of corruption prevention and education as integrity building measures in addition to corruption investigation, detection and enforcement. In Government Labor will review the existing mechanisms for receiving, investigating and prosecuting complaints concerning alleged corruption in public office or administration to ensure we have the most efficient and effective arrangements in place. Labor will ensure that all bodies that have special powers to inquire, investigate, and make findings in relation to alleged corruption, are required to have regard to the rules of evidence and natural justice.
20. In office Labor established a Code of Conduct for Ministers and their staff. Ministers, staff and all members of Parliament should follow clear standards relating to their behaviour, contact with lobbyists, receipt of any gifts, and disclosure of any potential conflicts of interest which may affect them carrying out their public duty.

Government procurement

21. Labor will promote a procurement strategy to safeguard and grow skills, investment and jobs, under existing international obligations, so Australian businesses can compete locally and internationally. As the biggest purchaser of services, the Federal Government has an important role to play to ensure where possible services are sourced locally.
22. Labor will take into account a range of considerations when determining what constitutes good value for money, not just purchase price. Government agencies will not be forced to choose the cheapest supplier whether at home or abroad when that choice would cost taxpayers more in the long run because the products or services on offer are inferior in quality or have high ongoing costs. Agencies will also not be forced to choose the cheapest supplier when this would have detrimental social or environmental effects. Agencies will be required to consider all direct and indirect benefits and costs over the whole life of each product and service, including jobs, skills and investment, along with the performance history of each prospective supplier (including industrial relations, environmental and, where appropriate, community engagement).

23. Labor will ensure industries that derive their business and profits from the Australian community contribute economically and socially into the future.
24. Labor will:
 - Be a model purchaser and deal with people who are fair employers (compliant with industrial legislation, Awards and Agreements, Workplace Health and Safety standards and superannuation and workers compensation legislation) throughout the life of the contract; and
 - Give preference to companies that provide sustainable (i.e. over the life of the contract) employment opportunities for local workers.
25. Labor recognises the importance of both value for money and compliance with government policy and Fair Work Act in procurement processes. This is why the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines require that suppliers comply with workplace relations laws.
26. Labor is committed to ensuring that Government procurement decisions are based on ethical as well as value for money considerations
27. Labor will use existing procurement mechanisms such as multi-user lists and coordinated procurement, or if necessary introduce a pre-qualification system, to require prospective tenderers to demonstrate their compliance as a condition of the ability to tender. Labor's changes to the FMA Regulations to allow the issuing of the Commonwealth Cleaning Services Guidelines is an example of the government acting where there is demonstrated non-compliance with the Fair Work Principles in particular sectors. To ensure compliance, this process will need to be transparent, and be subject to oversight by a tripartite body where appropriate. The Productivity Consultative Committee which includes representatives of unions, business and the government will advise on areas of concern.
28. Direct government procurement represents only a proportion of the money the Australian government expends each year. Labor will also examine extending procurement policies (including those that promote good workplace relations outcomes and Australian industry participation) to other areas of expenditure including grants and other funding. Labor will investigate ratifying ILO Convention 94, on the payment of market wages in government procurement, as an additional measure.
29. To further enhance transparency, Labor will ensure agencies keep records of, and make available on request, the details of any sub-contractor engaged by a contractor in respect of a Commonwealth contract for procurement. Labor is committed to the vital role of the public service in implementing procurement transparency.

30. Labor is committed to improving opportunities for Australian companies to compete for business through the Procurement Coordinator it established. The Procurement Coordinator will review and advise on practices across government; handle and review complaints; aggregate procurement information and submit an annual report to the government.
31. Labor will use procurement to support the growth of the Indigenous business sector and will urge states and territories to implement similar reforms to their procurement policies.
32. Labor will:
- Ensure government procurement delivers world-class public services, through fair and open procurement processes free of corruption and discrimination;
 - Ensure a robust objective public interest test occurs if services are shifted from the public sector and that it is not done for the purpose of lowering wages and conditions. The test must take into account social and environmental outcomes, including access to and quality of services, impact on regional areas and on local jobs, privacy provisions, risks and consequences, and the cost and benefits to the public; and
 - Lead on sustainability and ethical procurement practices, including requiring all companies that tender for Government contracts in the TCF industry hold Ethical Clothing Australia accreditation.
33. In its role as a major purchaser of goods and services, government can play a role in fostering Australia's manufacturing, service and information industries, particularly for emerging industries or companies. For goods or services to be ethically sourced, suppliers must be good corporate citizens who comply with the law in all matters, most notably laws regarding taxation, trade practices, corporations, industrial relations, consumer affairs, environment and immigration.
34. Labor will require:
- Commonwealth procurement rules and codes to reflect government policy on ethical procurement;
 - Principal suppliers to the Commonwealth to comply with procurement policies by requiring all sub-contractors involved in the principal's supply chain to the Commonwealth to comply with all materially relevant laws;
 - Agencies not enter into contracts with suppliers who have had a judicial decision against them (not including decisions under appeal) relating to employee entitlements and have not paid the claim; and
 - Agencies seek to confirm a tenderer has no such unsettled judgements through a declaration on the matter from all tenderers.

35. Labor will ensure agencies keep records of, and make available on request, the details of any sub-contractor engaged by a contractor in respect of a Commonwealth contract for procurement.
36. Labor will ensure small and medium enterprises are able to engage in fair competition for government business. Labor will require government officials undertaking procurement to ensure procurement methods do not unfairly discriminate against small and medium enterprises.
37. Labor will better coordinate Commonwealth procurement and where it is sensible to do so, consider options to use model terms and conditions to help business and contractors.

A dynamic, effective and modern public sector

38. The Australian Public Service and the wider public sector have a crucial role to play in nation building. Public services should be properly funded to deliver quality public policy, foster innovation, achieve best practice and create quality jobs.
39. The Australian Public Service should be:
 - Professional and apolitical;
 - Strong, independent and well-resourced;
 - Committed to equality and social cohesion as well as economic efficiency;
 - Allowed and encouraged to provide frank and fearless advice;
 - Accountable for meeting high standards of service delivery
 - Recruited from the brightest and best in the Australian community
 - A model employer including in consultation, internal communication, trade union engagement, and the conditions of employment and opportunities for advancement for its staff, including through continuous education and lifelong learning
 - Subject to democratic oversight through parliament and relevant bodies including the Auditor- General, the Australian National Audit Office, the Commonwealth Ombudsman and the Australian Public Service Commission;
 - Subject to independent administrative review of its actions; and
 - A leader in environmental best practice.
40. Labor has always been a strong advocate and protector of the professionalism and integrity of the public service. We will work with the public service and unions to ensure the public service is efficient, effective and responsive to the changing requirements of the Australian people.

- Australians want a career public service without partisanship;
- Public service employment must be fair and equal;
- There is necessarily a limit on, and need for public scrutiny of, top public service remuneration;
- There must be an ethos of public service; and
- Outcomes are funded by public money.

41. Labor will ensure these special elements are reflected in public service industrial relations. Labor will:

- Support a single, unified Australian Public Service by addressing pay inequities through an agreed mechanism to achieve equal pay for work of equal value across the APS;
- Ensure best practice bargaining arrangements including genuine negotiation over pay and conditions;
- Ensure genuine, good faith consultation on all matters affecting employees in the workplace;
- Facilitate support for the role of trade unions and delegates in the workplace;
- Recognising employees' rights to access union representation at work;
- Taking further active steps to deliver meaningful career development for people with a disability employed in the Australian Public Service ;
- Establish and maintain agency funding levels commensurate with service delivery and policy development requirements;
- Ensure service-wide productivities are recognised as efficiency gains by Australian Public Service agencies and that these gains are shared between government, employees and the community;
- Ensure secure, comprehensive, service-wide standards and classifications;
- Ensure secure superannuation arrangements in industrial instruments. Labor will maintain at least 15.4 per cent employer contribution to the superannuation of federal government employees, regardless of choice of fund;
- Emphasise training and career development;
- Enable public servants to balance work and family responsibilities;
- Ensure appeal and review rights;
- Encourage direct employment and limiting hiring on a contract basis;
- Enable employment mobility across the whole of the public service;
- Provide adequate agency funding across the whole of the APS;

- Centrally and fully fund measures to address pay inequities in low-paying public sector agencies with a high proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff;
- Taking further active steps to increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people employed in the APS and ensuring they have access to meaningful career development and regularly reviewing the effectiveness of those measures in achieving that goal;
- Increase the proportion of people with a disability employed in the APS, ensuring they have access to meaningful career development and regularly reviewing the effectiveness of those measures in achieving that goal; and
- Ensure contracting-out is not used as a vehicle to cut wages and working conditions for public sector employees.

42. Labor will work with trade unions and employees to investigate alternatives for measuring agency efficiency and identify alternative measures to the efficiency dividend to allow Australian Public Service agencies to most efficiently and effectively deliver government services and develop public policy.

Progressing constitutional reform

43. Australia needs constitutional reform to modernise our democratic structures and make our public administration more effective, efficient and prepared to deal with the challenges of the future. First and foremost, our Constitution should reflect Australia's status as a parliamentary democracy and an independent nation.

44. Labor supports the recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Australian Constitution. The recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Australian Constitution is an important step towards a more reconciled nation based on strong relationships and mutual respect. Labor supports changes to reflect the unique and special place of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in our nation. Labor will work to build public support for Constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

45. Modernising our Constitution also entails a transition to an Australian Republic, with an Australian Head of State, who can fully represent our traditions, values and aspirations as a nation. Labor is committed to consulting with the Australian people, other political parties and the states and territories as to the form the Republic should take. Labor will promote community debate about the advantages and disadvantages of the various republican models. Labor will 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.

46. Constitutional reform should be underpinned by popular ownership of the reform agenda, broad political support and effective community education. Constitutional reform should:

- Entrench the principle of one vote, one value for all elections, to ensure equal participation for all regardless of place of residence;
- Allow simultaneous, fixed four-year terms for the House of Representatives and the Senate;
- Prevent the Senate rejecting, deferring or blocking appropriation bills;
- Remove the barrier on election to parliament of a person holding an office of profit under the Crown, provided that office is relinquished on election not nomination;
- Allow all Australian citizens to contest Commonwealth elections;
- Remove racially discriminatory provisions from the Constitution, in particular by amending or removing section 25 and section 51(xxvi) to ensure they cannot be used to discriminate against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people Australians;
- Make clear the capacity of the Commonwealth and the states and territories to work together using the full range of cooperative schemes to achieve harmonised laws and national enforcement regimes; and
- Recognise the role of local government.

47. Labor will use the Council of Australian Governments process to modernise our Federation and improve the delivery of important services in areas like health, education, transport, water, emergency services and equality for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Reforming electoral law

48. Labor is committed to the fair, open and transparent operation of our electoral system and to the essential democratic principle that every person should have the right to full participation in it.

49. Labor will ensure all Australians, and particularly first-time voters, people from non-English speaking backgrounds, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people in remote locations and young people are not excluded from the electoral system.

50. Labor will improve the integrity of the electoral system and, most urgently, restore transparency, openness and accountability to the funding and disclosure regime.

51. Labor will:

- Encourage public debate about reform of our electoral laws including enrolment and electoral participation;
- Ensure disadvantaged groups are not excluded from the democratic process;
- Introduce a new scheme to regulate political financing, including donations, other revenues, expenditures, and record-keeping;

- Legislate to require public disclosure of political donations over \$1000;
- Ensure maximum opportunities for enrolment and involvement in our electoral process;
- Remain committed to constitutional reform to allow simultaneous, fixed four-year terms for the House of Representatives and the Senate;
- Continue to build confidence in the system by effectively investigating and reporting all claims of electoral malpractice; and
- Commit to advance the cause of making electoral enrolment and voting as quick, simple and flexible as possible, seeking to maximise the franchise consistent with maintaining the integrity of the system. Labor will further amend electoral legislation to ensure the capacity of Australians to participate in the electoral system is undiminished and extended where possible and appropriate and remove existing laws to disenfranchise Australians due to incarceration or criminal conviction.

52. Labor recognises the important role of the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) in ensuring the integrity of the electoral system and will provide the Commission with the appropriate funding needed to meet its responsibilities, including the highly desirable goal of a single national electoral roll capable of serving the needs of states and territories but funded and maintained by the AEC.

Ensuring women’s equal place in a stronger democracy

53. Labor will promote the equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes.

54. Labor will promote and support women’s leadership in Australia’s parliaments, governments, senior levels in the private sectors and communities throughout Australia.

55. Labor will work to ensure equality for women by:

- Maintaining an active role in international forums to promote the rights of women including institutions formed under the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;
- Ensuring the Sex Discrimination Act and the powers of the Commissioner are adequately protecting women against discrimination on the basis of gender and family responsibility;
- Supporting women’s representative organisations to participate in policy development;
- Applying sophisticated gender policy advice and analysis to policy development of the government;

- Supporting and promoting women’s leaders in all facets of Australian society through a range of regulatory and educative measures;
- Supporting the greater representation of women in all of Australia’s parliaments;
- Supporting diversity in corporate Australia, including in appointments to boards and at the executive level;
- Adopting a target for government boards so least 40 per cent of members should be women as an immediate priority; and
- Recognising the particular issues faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, women of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, women with disability, rural women, young women, lesbians, bisexual women and women of transgender or intersex background, and ensures government policies and programs are funded, accessible and appropriate to their needs.

56. Labor will require as a condition of all federal grants and other financial support to organisations that they perform their contracts in accordance with state, territory and national anti-discrimination laws.

LGBTI place in a stronger democracy

57. Australia should be a society that embraces diversity. Labor will support lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex Australians and ensure they are safe, valued and respected.

58. The Yogyakarta Principles on the Application of International Human Rights Law in Relation to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity provide a substantial guide to understanding Australia’s human rights obligations in relation to LGBTI Australians and their families.

59. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex Australians and their communities contribute much to Australian society.

60. Labor will work with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex Australians and representative groups to:

- Expand integrated advice and support services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex Australians, and ensure their engagement in the policy development of government;
- Support lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex Australians with particular needs, such as those who are young, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and those living in rural, regional and remote Australia;
- Strengthen laws and expand programs against discrimination and harassment on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status; and

- Support and engage with communities and stakeholders to provide input into government decision-making, including consideration of a lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex ministerial advisory committee.

61. Labor will strengthen support for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex Australians by integrating advice and support services and ensuring they are engaged in the policy development of government.

62. Labor condemns sexual violence, or any derogatory behaviour and harassment towards all people. Labor recognises the harm such actions cause and will pursue policies to prevent discrimination.

63. Labor will:

- Coordinate and promote policy development and implementation, with adequate funding, to ensure government services advance these policy aspirations in practice;
- Strengthen partnerships between the federal government and LGBTI community groups in the delivery of support services for LGBTI Australians and their families;
- Investigate establishing a National Gender Centre for support and advocacy for transgender and intersex Australians, which could have an education and training role to promote awareness about transgender and intersex issues to the wider public; and
- Review documentation requirements, including passports and birth certificates, as they affect transgender and intersex people, to facilitate their equal enjoyment of human rights without discrimination and to promote identification options beyond binary male / female.

64. Labor will build upon previous legal achievements to implement equality in practice, so every area of policy is inclusive of the needs and interests of all Australians-including lesbians and gay men, and bisexual, transgender and intersex people-without discrimination.

65. Labor will:

- Ensure the impact on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people is considered in developing bills or regulations; and
- Ensure lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex Australians enjoy equality before the law, and have access to every state institution without discrimination.

Australian media

66. The media, particularly broadcasting, are experiencing major change, driven by digitisation, convergence of technology and the globalisation of broadcasting, communications and information technologies.
67. Labor will ensure Australia has the regulatory processes and industry structures to support a strong, healthy, responsible and independent media operating in the public interest.
68. Labor supports the National Classification Code to classify content against the standards of morality, decency and propriety accepted by reasonable adults, without discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status.
69. Labor will pursue policies to ensure Australians have a diverse range of information and opinion in Australia's media. Labor is committed to appropriate Australian content quotas in the broadcasting sector. Labor will ensure television and radio advertising are properly regulated and reflect community standards.
70. Labor will ensure Australians will continue to enjoy coverage of premium sporting events on free- to-air television.
71. Labor will adequately resource the Australian Communications and Media Authority and give it sufficient regulatory powers to maintain appropriate community standards in broadcasting material.
72. Labor will ensure local captioning in the broadcasting sector to ensure all Australians are able to enjoy television content.

National and community broadcasting

73. Labor recognises that national and community broadcasting provide free-to-receive broadcasting services in the public interest, promote a vibrant Australian culture, and support social and cultural inclusion objectives.
74. The Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) and the Special Broadcasting Service (SBS), including National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Television (NITV), are among Australia's most important public institutions. The operations of these broadcasting services are unique. Labor will increase funding and support for Australia's public broadcasters, to enable them to provide Australians with high quality broadcasting services, free from political and commercial interference.
75. The ABC should be maintained as an independent and comprehensive national public broadcaster, catering for a diversity of interests in the Australian community.

76. The SBS provides a unique national broadcasting service promoting multicultural Australia, and provides services to Australians from non-English speaking backgrounds which are not delivered by the ABC or the commercial broadcasting sector.
77. Labor will:
- Ensure public broadcasters cater to the needs of urban, regional and rural Australia, providing coverage of local news, current affairs and community activities, including production capacity in regions;
 - Provide programs and services relevant to young Australians;
 - Ensure the ABC produces high levels of quality and distinctive local content;
 - Work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to provide services and programs relevant to them and their communities;
 - Provide comprehensive coverage of a broad range of sporting and artistic activities;
 - Ensure ABC and SBS board members and chairpersons are appointed on merit;
 - Ensure a staff-elected commissioner position on the ABC board; and
 - Support and promote Australia’s external broadcasters in radio, television and digital platforms, which encourage awareness of Australian values around the world and build closer ties in our region.
78. Labor will keep the ban on ABC advertising and sponsorship in place. Labor will not extend the current advertising quotas on SBS and will ensure SBS remains a properly publicly funded broadcaster.
79. Labor will provide adequate triennial funding to the ABC and SBS so they can deliver quality public broadcasting services. Labor will ensure the national broadcasters are able to exploit the potential of new technology to deliver attractive and innovative content.
80. Labor regards community broadcasting, which includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, radio for the print handicapped, LGBTI-focused, and ethnic and multicultural broadcasting, as an essential component of Australian broadcasting meeting the needs of many diverse communities, and will continue to encourage its growth and development.
81. Labor believes community broadcasting’s access to multiple distribution platforms must be provided on a basis of parity with the national and commercial broadcasting sectors wherever it is practical to achieve; available on a free-to-receive basis; and affordable to community broadcasters.
82. Labor is committed to adequate funding being provided to ensure the effective ongoing operation and development of community broadcasting.

Vibrant community and not-for-profit sectors

83. Over the past generation, civic life in Australia has been under threat. Membership of religious organisations, unions and many other community groups has waned. On many measures, Australia has become more disconnected. Australia needs to build social capital. This requires a strong, vibrant, independent and innovative not-for-profit sector.
84. Not-for-profit organisations contribute to good public policy, enrich our culture, protect our environment and promote health and wellbeing. Australian charities advocate on behalf of Australian communities including marginalised groups. The work of not-for-profit organisations complements the role of the public sector in the provision of essential services to the community; it should not duplicate or compete with them. The relationship between not-for-profits and the government should be one of partnership and respect.
85. The national framework for the regulation of not-for-profits should:
- Stimulate the establishment and growth of a broad range of community or not-for-profit organisations;
 - Foster the public advocacy role of the sector;
 - Encourage donor confidence; and
 - Set a reasonable standard for public disclosure and oversight.
86. Since its creation, the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission (ACNC) has operated efficiently and effectively, helping charities, donors and taxpayers. Labor supports the work of the ACNC to cut the paperwork burden on charities, and engage with states and territories to reduce duplicate reporting.
87. Labor will remove inconsistencies and overlaps in the reporting obligations of charities. Labor will develop a single national Associations Act, Fundraising Act, and other relevant regulatory requirements.

Australia Post

88. Labor will maintain Australia Post in full public ownership.
89. Labor will maintain Australia Post as the sole carrier of the standard-size, letter service and the sole issuer of postage stamps. Cross-subsidy arrangements between metropolitan and regional Australia will remain to ensure an equitable, flat-rate postal charging arrangement for the standard letter.
90. Labor will encourage the growth of Australia Post's services and ensure Australia Post's community service obligations provide equitable access to a full range of postal services for all Australians.

91. Australia Post should maintain appropriate coverage of post office and post box outlets throughout Australia. Labor will maintain the ownership mix between corporate retail outlets, franchisees and licensed post offices.
92. Post offices are often the lifeblood of rural and regional communities. Labor will maintain and strengthen the service offering of Australia Post in rural and regional Australia.
93. Australia Post employs thousands of Australians. Labor will work to protect the jobs of these workers, encourage Australia Post towards direct full time employment rather than contract work, and ensure contractors will not be used to undermine the current entitlements of direct employees.

Free speech

94. All Australians have the right to exercise their freedom of speech in a manner that respects the individual and collective rights enjoyed by other Australians and allows others to live free from violence, the fear of violence or the threat of violence.
95. Australia's anti-vilification laws strike an appropriate balance between the right to free speech and protection from the harm of hate speech. Labor stands with the community to oppose any attack on the Racial Discrimination Act.
96. Homophobic harassment by the written or spoken word causes actual harm, not simple offence, to people who have suffered discrimination and prejudice, and causes particular harm to young same-sex attracted or gender-questioning people who do not yet have support networks in place to support them in coming out. Such harmful harassment is an unacceptable abuse of the responsibilities that come with freedom of speech and must be subject to effective sanctions.
97. Uniform national defamation laws should provide a proper balance between freedom of expression, public debate and the protection of the reputation of others. Whistle-blower protection laws, national shield laws to protect journalists, and harmonisation of shield laws nationally, are important protections for free speech.
98. Adults should be free to read, hear and see what they wish in private and in public, subject to adequate protection against persons being exposed to unsolicited material offensive to them and preventing conduct exploiting, or detrimental to the rights of others, particularly women and children. The portrayal of violence and inappropriate content in all forms of media is a matter of concern. Labor will ensure appropriate controls that reflect community standards are in place to classify and protect all Australians, particularly children and young people.

Freedom of Information

99. Freedom of Information (FOI) laws are essential to transparent and accountable government.
100. Labor will promote transparency and accountability by maintaining and promoting a prodisclosure culture across Australian Government agencies.
101. Labor will:
- Preserve and strengthen the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner;
 - Fulfil Australia's commitment to join and participate in the Open Government Partnership; and
 - Review the operation of Freedom of Information and pursue further reforms if necessary.

Privacy

102. An individual's right to privacy is a fundamental political, civil and human right must be protected. Government should provide a strong regulatory framework to protect people's right to privacy and ensure the security of their personal information, whether held in the public sector or the private sector.

Chapter 11: Australia's place in a changing world

The contemporary challenge

1. Australia's is the 12th largest economy in the world, in the world's fastest growing region, Asia. The Asian Century holds great economic promise for Australia, abolishing our historic isolation from the centres of global prosperity. It also creates new strategic challenges, through a new proximity to the geographical centre of global power relations and a deeper and more complex exposure to global security threats.
2. Australia seeks a good international society. Our national interest is in a peaceful, stable and prosperous world. There are many challenges to this global vision – including the threat of conflict between states, the rise of non-state actors, growing economic inequality and climate change. Australia should work with like-minded countries, and through regional and global institutions, to respond to complex problems beyond the capacity of any one country to solve. Australia is a founding member of the United Nations, a member of the G20 and an enduring ally of the United States.
3. Australia is an independent state, a confident ally, a constructive neighbour and a good international citizen – we acknowledge our leading role in our region and accept our global responsibilities. Australia is a smart, modern and fair nation seeking only the growth of knowledge, progress and equality in the world.
4. Australia has become increasingly isolated on important international issues including climate change and economic inequality. Unprecedented cuts to the aid program have hurt some of the world's poorest and most disadvantaged people and damaged the aspirations of some of our closest neighbours. Labor will promote Australia's goals and protect Australia's interests. Labor will keep Australia safe and prosperous while protecting our values and way of life.

Labor values

5. The Australian Government has an inescapable obligation to protect the security of the Australian people and the integrity of Australia's territory.
6. Australia should work cooperatively to find solutions to international challenges. Put simply, some problems are too big for any one country.
7. Australia has strong bilateral and multilateral relationships, an alliance with the United States, deep engagement with our own region and active leadership in international forums. All these serve Australia's interests.

8. Labor stands for a strong country, independent in the world. We stand for a world governed by rules and institutions underpinned by a policy and philosophy of multilateralism.
9. Australia should be guided by the same values at home and abroad. Australia should be a good international citizen, doing our fair share and leading by example to reduce inequality and shape a stable, prosperous and inclusive world.
10. Labor will protect and promote human rights. This is vital to achieving a peaceful and secure world where all people have a right to live with dignity, freedom, safety and prosperity. Labor will strongly advocate for and observe internationally accepted human rights and civil liberties.
11. Climate change poses serious threats to the security and prosperity of Australia and our neighbours.

Labor priorities

Protecting Australia's economic interests abroad

12. Economic and foreign policies are inextricably linked. Diplomacy, trade, development and economic reform are closely interrelated.
13. Australian foreign policy should be deeply engaged with the Australian business community and address a global economy increasingly characterised by global value chains that cross national borders.
14. Labor will drive growth in the Australian economy by capturing new markets and strengthening existing partnerships.
15. Labor will work within multilateral institutions like APEC and the G20 to promote inclusive and sustainable growth. Complex economic challenges like Base Erosion and Profit Shifting require an internationally coordinated response.
16. Labor will support measures to promote transparency in the extractives industry both in Australia and overseas so countries rich in natural resources benefit from greater economic and political stability.
17. Labor will support international trade and economic initiatives which promote inclusive growth, create sustainable and clean energy economies and protect cultural and environmental assets. Labor will oppose policies which erode the potential for individuals and communities to support themselves, including by limiting small-holder income generation.

18. The Indo–Pacific region should be open to trade and investment and home to transparent, inclusive regional institutions. Labor will ensure bilateral and regional free trade agreements support the rules-based trade system of the World Trade Organisation.
19. Labor will work through international economic forums to create a more stable global financial system and international trading regime.

Democracy and human rights

20. Labor supports democracy everywhere. The aspiration of people to have the government of their choice is universal. People have the right to self-determination and a freely expressed and legitimate voice in their government. Labor will support democratic transitions including through electoral assistance and other programs to assist countries seeking to build their democratic capacity.
21. A free press is essential to a democratic society. Labor will promote and defend media freedoms and the protection of the rights of journalists.
22. Promoting universal human rights is an essential foreign policy objective. Labor’s diplomatic, economic and international development assistance goals recognise this. Labor will pursue effective human rights diplomacy that supports international and regional security in Australia’s national interest.
23. Human rights do not exist in a hierarchy. Labor is strongly committed to promoting universal adherence to and implementation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other key human rights instruments. Labor will ensure all human rights instruments ratified by Australia are observed in domestic law.
24. Labor is concerned about human rights violations wherever they occur. Australia should be forthright about human rights violations overseas. Labor will raise these with the governments concerned including through bilateral representations and formal bilateral human rights dialogues as well as appropriate multilateral avenues. Labor supports stronger international mechanisms and processes for monitoring human rights violations and will encourage the development of regional dialogue on human rights issues in our region.
25. Governments that repress free trade unionism are guilty of violating human rights. Core labour standards derive from fundamental human rights and Australia should pursue guaranteed respect for those standards and rights through international treaties. Labor will support programs to address abuse of labour rights in the Indo–Pacific region.
26. Labor will support the development of national labour legislation in our neighbours, help partner countries to ratify ILO conventions, and encourage regional trade union cooperation. Labor will restore and strengthen Australia’s participation and support for

these vital activities. Labor will support international efforts to eradicate the exploitation of child labour.

27. Labor will encourage Australian companies operating overseas to observe international human rights standards, including core labour standards, and ensure their operations do not directly or indirectly violate human rights or inflict unacceptable impacts on local communities and the environment. Labor will work with Australian trade unions to build the capacity of trade unions in developing countries through development assistance and training, to complement Australia's interests and official development assistance goals.
28. Labor will support the Yogyakarta Principles on the Application of International Human Rights Law in Relation to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, and should sponsor and promote resolutions to support human rights protections for lesbians and gay men and bisexual and transgender and intersex people at the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations. Labor will actively encourage the repeal of discriminatory laws, especially criminal laws against homosexual sexual conduct and most urgently against such laws where they impose the death penalty, and will encourage steps to implement the actions required by the Yogyakarta Principles. Labor will work strategically to support international civil society organisations promoting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex human rights.
29. It may be necessary and appropriate to impose targeted sanctions against governments that violate human rights. Labor will strive to formulate and implement these sanctions in a way which will not be to the detriment of the population of the country in question.
30. Australia should support international initiatives to advance the rights of Indigenous peoples and address Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disadvantage. Labor supports the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
31. Australia should share our experiences of reconciliation, including the National Apology. Labor supports efforts to increase Indigenous participation in UN forums, including through contributions to the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations.
32. Australia should promote gender equality and the economic, social and political empowerment of women, and reduce the increasing levels of repression against women in some countries. Labor will support extending measures which reduce violence against women to Australia's Pacific neighbours. Labor will support international campaigns to end:
 - Sexual exploitation of women and children, including sex tourism and trafficking;
 - Prohibitions on education and paid employment and restriction to access to medical services for women;
 - The denial of equal property rights for women;
 - The unequal standing of women in judicial and political systems;

- The persecution of rape victims; and
 - The systematic use of rape and sexual torture in war.
33. Australia should oppose forced labour. Labor will campaign against forced labour and for the rights of people in situations of forced labour through international forums, multilateral and bilateral frameworks and relationships. Labor will provide every possible support and assistance for people in situations of forced labour.
34. Australia should promote and protect the rights of people with disability, including through the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Labor will improve Australia's world-leading disability-inclusive aid program to strengthen opportunities for people with disability in the Indo-Pacific region and globally.
35. Australia should be universally opposed to capital punishment. Labor will strongly and clearly state its opposition to the death penalty, whenever and wherever it arises, and advocate its universal abolition, including through strong regional and global representations.

International law

36. Labor strongly supports multilateralism and the United Nations. Reform of the United Nations and the United Nations Security Council is essential for the UN to respond effectively to international challenges.
37. Labor supports strengthening the United Nations' capacity in preventive diplomacy and peace building, peacemaking, peace keeping and peace enforcement. This is necessary to respond to significant threats to international security that arise both from longstanding and new conflicts between and within states. Labor supports the UN Security Council's adoption of the doctrine of international humanitarian intervention known as 'The Responsibility to Protect'.
38. Labor supports the work and role of the International Criminal Court as a key part of Australia's ongoing commitment to international criminal justice.

Strengthening our engagement with the countries of the world

39. Labor will strengthen Australia's ties with the countries of the world. Australia has a large immigrant population, global interests, and cultural ties to every corner of the globe, and we have much to gain from improving our cultural and country-to-country relationships.
40. The United States remains our closest security ally, formalized through the ANZUS Treaty, and a vital global partner. Labor will maintain and strengthen Australia's close relationship with the US, a relationship founded on our people's common democratic values and our mutual commitment to international peace and security.

41. The US alliance is essential to Australia's national security requirements in critical areas such as intelligence on terrorism, defence equipment and broader stability in the region.
42. Labor seeks to strengthen economic, social, cultural and educational ties with countries including Japan, Korea, India and Indonesia based on mutual respect and a sense of genuine partnership in our own Indo-Pacific region. Labor supports enhanced cooperation through rules-based institutions and opportunities for regional engagement including the PIF, ASEAN, the EAS and APEC.
43. The re-emergence of China is one of the most significant developments of the 21st century. Labor will work to deepen and extend Australia's engagement with China and is optimistic about our two countries' relationship. Labor welcomes China's economic growth and will work to encourage China's emergence as a major, constructive influence on regional and global affairs. Labor will ensure that as China grows, Australia is positioned to benefit from this growth while preserving our core national interests.
44. Labor recognises that Indonesia, as one of our nearest neighbours and the world's third largest democracy provides scope for increased trade and economic activity as well as deepening social and cultural ties. Labor will look to strengthen relations with the Indonesian government and provide support to Australian businesses looking to trade with Indonesia.
45. Labor will ensure the languages of the region are taught more widely in our schools as part of the Indo-Pacific focus of our foreign policy.
46. Labor will promote Australia's interests in Europe, Africa, the Middle East and the Americas. Labor will build strong partnerships with individual countries, including where there is a unique and long-lasting relationship as with the United Kingdom and New Zealand, as well as engaging with important regional institutions like the African Union and the Arab League.
47. Labor will expand Australia's overseas representation to build on the benefits of our existing networks.
48. The Muslim world is important to Australia – in its connection with Australians of Islamic faith; in Australia's key neighbours and partners who are Muslim nations; and because global challenges require shared solutions. Labor will strengthen Australia's links with the Muslim world, including through the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation.
49. Labor supports an enduring and just two-state solution to the Israeli–Palestinian conflict, based on the right of Israel to live in peace within secure borders internationally recognised and agreed by the parties, and reflecting the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people to also live in peace and security within their own state.

Australian aid and international development

50. Labor supports an aid program of which all Australians can be proud.
51. The purpose of Australian aid should be to promote inclusive and sustainable growth that reduces inequality and helps people and nations lift themselves out of poverty. This serves Australia's national interests by promoting stability and prosperity in our region and beyond. Labor will address the intractable problems facing developing countries that require global leadership and action, in areas where Australian resources can most effectively and efficiently make a difference. We will focus our efforts where there is greatest need and in our greater region, as well as in fragile and conflict-affected states.
52. Labor supports the Sustainable Development Goal process as a global blueprint to end extreme poverty. Like the Millennium Development Goals they replace, the SDGs will guide Labor's plan for Australia's international development assistance.
53. Australia should lead in international development assistance, actively campaigning through international forums, multilateral and bilateral frameworks and our relationships with other countries. Labor will measure our efforts and be accountable against internationally agreed aid and development assistance targets.
54. Labor will grow the Australian aid program and increase Official Development Assistance to internationally accepted levels. Australia should do its fair share internationally, and work with the international community to achieve the longstanding funding targets reiterated by the SDGs. Labor will, over time, achieve a funding target for the aid program of at least 0.5 per cent of Gross National Income.
55. Labor will treat humanitarian and emergency response as a priority in Australia's aid program, and ensure we play a leadership role in securing global contributions to UN and other international appeals for funding, expertise and logistical support to deal with humanitarian emergencies.
56. Labor will rebuild the skills, expertise and credibility in the public service necessary to a high-quality aid program. In addition, Labor will
 - Enable evaluation of Australia's aid program, including the achievement of its purpose, its overall effectiveness, and growth trends;
 - Increase transparency in the Australian Parliament around the aid program's budget; and
 - Invest in development research and ensure an evidence-based aid program.
57. Labor's overseas aid efforts will promote human rights while addressing development challenges. All people should be able to lead healthy and prosperous lives with shelter,

education, food and clean water, health and sanitation, and emergency services support – regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion or cultural beliefs.

58. Inclusive economic growth is the most powerful tool to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development. Investment in education and health are necessary to this. Economic growth helps to create jobs, lifts household incomes and generates the government revenues needed to provide key public services such as hospitals and schools.
59. Empowering women should be a fundamental principle of Australia’s aid program. It is one of the most effective tools to improve education for all young women and girls, reduce infant and maternal mortality, improve health – including preventing HIV/AIDS – and promote prosperity.
60. Enabling more children, particularly girls, to attend school for a longer and better education, gives them the skills to build their own futures and, in time, escape poverty. Better development and delivery of education services is necessary. Labor will support reducing the barriers to children, particularly girls, attending school – such as child labour, child trafficking, child marriage, safety to and from school, community attitudes and teaching practices, and the need to care for adults living with disability.
61. Labor will take action to catalyse girls' empowerment internationally by supporting vocational training, increasing access to sexual and reproductive rights, and challenging sexist gender stereotypes.
62. Labor will commit to focusing on water, sanitation and hygiene because of its critical importance underpinning outcomes in health, agriculture, food security and even education.
63. Labor is committed to making disability inclusive development a fundamental principle of Australia's aid program, recognising the impact of poverty on people living with disability and Australia's existing expertise.
64. Labor is also committed to addressing issues around climate change and sustainable agriculture, forest and fisheries management through Australia's aid program, acknowledging the significant impact of climate change and environmental sustainability on exacerbating poverty and inequality.
65. Labor will support good governance, accountability and anti-corruption measures through the development assistance program, particularly in fragile states.
66. Labor will deliver Australia’s overseas development assistance in partnership with nongovernment organisations and find new ways of working with non-government organisations and civil society so the assistance is efficient and effective.

67. Australia should take a leading role in promoting development, security and stability in the Pacific. Labor’s partnerships for Development have eleven Pacific Island Government partners, working together to achieve improved living standards for people in the Pacific.
68. Labor will work with our Pacific partners to:
- Promote sustainable and just development;
 - Increase the participation of women in society and the economy;
 - Strengthen regional cooperation through the Pacific Islands Forum, in areas including climate change and natural disaster planning, response and relief, defence and security, sustainable agriculture and fisheries management and protection;
 - Promote the interests of Pacific Islanders in international fora; and
 - Prepare for the impacts of climate change.
69. Labor will work with Pacific development partner nations, in particular those in the Indo-Pacific region, to improve the transparency and coordination of aid delivery.

Assisting Australians abroad

70. Australia should protect the safety of Australians overseas. Labor will deliver a high standard of travel advice and consular assistance to all Australians overseas so our millions of ‘unofficial ambassadors’ can travel the world in safety.
71. Labor will ensure consular representatives promptly visit Australians who have been arrested and maintain effective communication between legal representatives and loved ones.
72. Australian passports should be at the forefront of passport technology, ensuring people applying for and using passports are doing so legitimately. Labor will ensure Australian passports comply with international standards and are accepted in all countries assisting smooth transit across international borders.

Maintaining our national security

73. Changing power realities are challenging traditional security settings. Unresolved territorial disputes give rise to potential flashpoints in our region and growing military capability in Asia is increasing the potential for regional disputes. The rise of extremists in the Middle East and Africa threatens Australia’s national interest and security.
74. The escalation of cybersecurity threats to national security, businesses, utilities, and individuals is another challenge. Labor will ensure our responses to cyber-attacks remain up to date, and our institutional and legal arrangements are flexible in dealing with fast evolving threats, including those driven by rapid technological change.

75. The rising global influence of non-state actors is a challenge for all nations, including Australia. Some non-state groups which have emerged as key protagonists in serious conflicts are hostile to Australia's national interest and foreign policy goals. Other non-state actors remain important agents for positive change through advocacy, institutional strengthening and citizen engagement.
76. Labor will address the global and domestic security challenges to the safety and freedom Australians enjoy. Labor will wherever possible take a constructive and bipartisan approach to Australia's security arrangements. Labor will uphold the rights and freedoms that define us as a democratic nation, living under the rule of law.
77. Labor will pursue new approaches to prevent crime, protect the safety of all Australians and defend our nation's security. Australians expect transparency and accountability in security and enforcement activities to the greatest extent possible.
78. Strong international institutional arrangements should coordinate international responses to security threats. Labor will respect and uphold these and be actively participate when we are able to influence positive outcomes. Australia should work directly with regional institutions to strengthen their capacity to deal with challenges facing the region.
79. Labor will build effective partnerships with other countries to respond to common security challenges, including continuing engagement with the US and Europe, and further strengthening our ties with our Asian and other regional neighbours.
80. The safety and security of Australians and our economic and social wellbeing requires more than addressing the threat of war, terrorism and the existence of weapons of mass destruction. It also demands climate change action, natural disaster management, action against serious and organised crime including cyber and transnational crime and stronger border control.
81. Labor will ensure our police and national security agencies have the powers they need to keep our nation secure and our people safe. Labor will support Australian diplomatic, development and strategic capability to respond effectively to the influence of non-state actors on domestic, regional and global outcomes.
82. Contemporary security challenges involve multi-agency and organisation responses and coordination and will examine the relationship between the Civil-Military Centre, the ADF Peace Operations Training Centre and the Australian Civilian Corps.
83. Prohibiting and eliminating nuclear weapons is a humanitarian imperative. Civil society and non-government organisations in Australia and internationally who form the global movement to secure a ban on nuclear weapons do important work. Labor will act with urgency and determination to rid the world of nuclear weapons.

84. Given the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, Labor firmly supports the negotiation of a global treaty banning such weapons and welcomes the growing global movement of nations that is supporting this objective.
85. Labor will continue its support for nuclear weapon free zones, both the strengthening of existing nuclear weapon free zones and the creation of new zones.
86. Labor will actively encourage the pursuit of further substantial reductions of nuclear arsenals and the development of processes, including supporting a nuclear weapons convention, for bringing all nuclear armed states into the disarmament process.
87. Labor will encourage Nuclear Weapon States to reduce the number of warheads on high alert and increase transparency on action to reduce the risk of accidental detonation of weapons.
88. Labor is committed to strengthening the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency and compliance with the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (including universalisation of the Additional Protocol), and other nuclear treaties and agreements. Labor's nuclear disarmament agenda also includes implementation of the disarmament obligations under Article 6, support for "no first use" obligations, deep, verifiable, and irreversible cuts in all categories of nuclear weapons and a continuing reduction of their roles in national security policies.
89. Labor will support the development of a time-bound framework to negotiate legally binding agreements to achieve these objectives.

The challenge of terrorism

90. The growing presence of terrorism in the international arena and here within our borders pose serious and complex security challenges.
91. Labor will support an integrated, comprehensive regional strategy including cooperation with and capacity building for local security forces. To be effective, a strategy against terrorism must promote justice, the rule of law, genuine peace and inclusive development, and confront those factors that make it easier for terrorist organisations to recruit within the region. Australia's military and security assistance should promote these objectives. Labor will support greater economic, employment and educational opportunities available to young people across the region.
92. Australia needs a properly integrated national security policy, continually reviewed and adapted as required to meet changing security threats. Labor will enhance our national security by:
 - Appointing a National Security Adviser;

- Creating a strategic policy framework for national security;
- Operating a National Intelligence and Coordination Committee;
- Improving Australia’s national crisis management arrangements; and
- Preparing new Defence White Papers at intervals of no greater than five years.

93. Labor will ensure our defence forces, security agencies, police and emergency services are always appropriately resourced and given the necessary powers to respond to the security challenges we face as a nation. Labor will work closely with our neighbours, international allies and international institutions to meet the security challenges posed by terrorism.
94. Labor will always work responsibly and constructively to improve our national security laws and to ensure our security agencies and police have the powers they need to meet the changing national security threats we face as a nation. Labor will ensure the powers we confer on our security agencies and police to fight terrorism and other threats to our national security are consistent with the long-standing values and hard-won liberties that help to define Australia as a democratic nation that upholds the freedoms and the privacy of its citizens. Recognising the importance of transparency and accountability measures to safeguard freedoms and privacy, Labor will support the oversight role of entities including:
- The Independent National Security Legislation Monitor;
 - The Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security;
 - The Commonwealth Ombudsman; and
 - The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security.
95. Labor refuses to manipulate fear, sectarianism or racism for political gain or to compromise the democratic values we are fighting to defend. Australia needs national unity and cohesion to respond to the threat of terrorism. Australia’s counter-terrorism laws and other measures should not divide the Australian community or marginalise any part of it. Australia needs a national approach including engagement with local communities and partnership between Australian governments to address domestic terrorism.
96. The global nature and reach of various terrorist organisations means Australia will increasingly rely on global intelligence exchange—as well as support—for an expanding range of UN and multilateral measures to combat terrorist financing and outlaw terrorist organisations.
97. Labor will ensure Australia’s cyber security arrangements are able to meet the challenges presented by the electronic environment, which is presenting additional opportunity and vulnerabilities for individuals, business and government, with sophisticated attacks coming from criminal groups and foreign governments.
98. Labor will work with industry to ensure there are sufficient measures in place to reduce the risk of chemicals of security concern.

Emergency management

99. Labor will provide strong federal leadership to promote an all-hazards approach to emergency management and disaster resilience that ensures prevention, mitigation and preparation improve response and recovery.
100. Climate change is causing an increase in the number and severity of natural disasters affecting Australia. Labor will review our emergency response capacity and work with the states to ensure capacity meets increasing demand.
101. Labor will implement the National Disaster Resilience Strategy which identifies priority areas to build disaster resilience in communities across Australia.
102. Disaster resilience is a shared responsibility for individuals, households, businesses and communities, as well as for governments. Labor will work with all levels of government to ensure local communities understand potential risks and are capable of addressing of them. Labor will support sustained behavioural change and enduring partnerships.
103. Labor will work with Australia's regional neighbours and partners to encourage the exchange of information, capabilities and expertise as well as operational assistance and cooperation during emergency situations.
104. Mitigation is vital in preventing loss of life and damage to property caused by natural disasters. Labor will work with states and territories to ensure national, state and local disaster plans, strategies and program funding reflect this.

Strength, sustainability and self-reliance in defence

105. The foundation of Labor's defence policy is the principle of Australian self-reliance. This recognises that Australia is an independent nation and, as such, Australia's armed forces need to be able to defend Australia without relying on the combat forces of other countries.
106. Notwithstanding its commitment to a self-reliant defence policy, Labor recognises the importance of strong bilateral and multilateral defence relationships in providing for Australia's defence. Where appropriate, Labor will strengthen existing defence ties with our key allies and through the UN, as well as building new relationships within the Indo-Pacific region.
107. Labor believes in an Australia Defence Force that possesses the capability to make contributions to international operations led by Australia's key allies and the UN that meet Australia's broader national strategic objectives. Those contributions will be drawn from the forces and capabilities that are developed for the defence of Australia and for operations in our region.

108. Labor will ensure that ADF capability development is directly related to Australia’s strategic interests and that appropriate regular strategic reviews are undertaken with public reports published.
109. Labor is committed to maintaining a strong, modern, and efficiently managed defence organisation that possesses the personnel, equipment and skills that are needed to meet the demands placed upon it by the Australian Government.
110. Labor recognises the importance of both bilateral and multilateral defence relationships in achieving security for Australia and creating and maintaining stability in Australia’s strategic environment.

Defence cooperation with Australia’s neighbours is important for building regional security

111. Labor is committed to Australia comprehensively engaging with other nations in the Indo-Pacific region, as part of its efforts to foster and preserve peace, stability and security in the region. These efforts are fundamental to Australia’s own national security.
112. Security of the Pacific nations is essential for regional security and Australia’s own defence. Labor supports the ‘Pacific Maritime Security Plan’, the deployment of Navy personnel, surveillance assets and patrol boats in Pacific Island Countries to protect their sovereignty from threats such as smuggling, illegal, unrecorded and unregulated fishing and terrorism.
113. Labor will ensure that defence cooperation does not contribute to any suppression or violation of human rights or democratic freedoms. Labor will closely monitor the human rights performance of foreign military and security forces with which Australia engages in defence cooperation.

Allied use of Australian facilities

114. Labor supports the use of facilities in Australia by the armed forces of friendly countries for combined exercises, training and goodwill visits, provided that in times of peace:
- Use of Australian ports by foreign warships does not extend to the home porting of any of those vessels in Australia;
 - Staging of military aircraft through Australian airfields or airspace shall only be for such purposes as may be agreed beforehand by the Australian Government;
 - No nuclear, biological or chemical weapons may be stored or stationed in Australia;
 - Nuclear powered vessels visit only those ports which have been determined as being suitable for those vessels and provided also that all other safety precautions and

conditions that are deemed necessary by the relevant Australian authorities are complied with by the vessels concerned; and

- Appropriate environmental safeguards are in place.

Defence personnel and training

115. Labor recognises the bravery, courage and dedication of the men and women of the Australian Defence Force. Labor is committed to an ADF which is made up of highly motivated, skilled, well trained, well equipped, and diverse personnel who volunteer for service.
116. Labor recognises the essential role that civilian employees play in providing and contributing to the ADF's operational capacity.
117. Labor will ensure that Australian Defence Force personnel are paid fairly and in a manner that properly reflects the unique nature of military service. Labor will institute a review of the operations of the current system with a view to improving its fairness, efficiency and transparency.
118. Australian Defence Force personnel have the right to form, and be members of, associations in respect of their pay and conditions. Labor will allow associations that can demonstrate a substantial membership to have the right to appear before the independent tribunal to present the views of serving members.
119. Building on Labor's introduction of Project Suakin, Labor will continue to develop a more flexible ADF workforce, with better career planning and more investment in better training programs.

A diverse ADF

120. Labor believes the nation's defence force should reflect the diversity of the community it serves.
121. Labor is therefore committed to ensuring female military personnel have equal opportunities for career progression and development within the ADF.
122. Defence's recruitment policies should also ensure that the ethnic composition of the ADF better reflects the cross section of Australian people, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
123. The Reserves are a critical component of Australia's defence capability that need to be able to contribute to any sort of operation in which Australia might participate. Labor is therefore committed to maintaining recruitment and retention of Reserve members and to

integrating full-time ADF and Reserve elements in a total force structure where the different role of all components is properly understood, valued and utilised effectively.

Occupational health and safety and workers' compensation

124. Labor will continue to support a modern, dedicated Occupational Health and Safety regime for all personnel, supported by a fair and supportive military rehabilitation and compensation scheme. These arrangements should reflect the unique employment circumstances of the ADF, the need to respect the historical approach to injury and illness incurred overseas and the need for firm policies of prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, return to work and income maintenance measures.

Mental health and Post Traumatic Stress Disorders

125. Labor fully recognises the serious and growing risks associated with mental health disorders, including Post Traumatic Stress Disorders (PTSD) that can result from active military service, and can often continue after leaving the Australian Defence Force.
126. Labor is therefore committed to ensuring that Australian Defence Force members and veterans who suffer PTSD are not left behind. Labor is committed to providing such ADF members full support and treatment, including through early intervention and treatment.
127. Labor will work also with non-government organisations that are active in assisting members and veterans.

Defence families

128. Labor recognises the vital role played by the families of ADF members, and the challenges they face, both for serving members and in many cases after separation from service. Labor will be responsive to the changing needs of families, including through continued strengthening of the organisations in the Defence Department that support them.

Defence administration, industry and procurement

129. Labor is committed to fostering a strong and viable, long-term domestic Defence industry and will ensure that government policy reflects that commitment. The Defence industry provides vital national capability. Fostering and drawing on the innovation and entrepreneurship of Australian companies is a crucial element in achieving this aim.
130. Defence acquisition plays a significant role in modernising Australian industry and the development of a skills base. Labor will maximise Australian defence industry involvement in both procurement and sustainment contracts, while maintaining a high level of marketplace competition and value for money for the Australian taxpayer. Consistent with Australia's international obligations, Labor will maximise the participation of Australian

companies, particularly SMEs, in defence procurement contracts, and ensure that Australian supply capabilities are maintained and enhanced through the application of Australian Industry Capability Plans. Labor will ensure that contractual obligations arising from such arrangements are enforced.

131. Labor will ensure that defence procurement decisions will be taken on a ‘whole-of-life’ cost basis, and will take full account of strategic considerations and the need to maintain and develop critical supply capabilities. Given the importance to the security and safety of our armed forces of the best quality and highest technical standard defence uniforms, Labor will, consistent with Australia’s international obligations, maximise the participation of Australian textile garment and footwear suppliers in defence procurement, and ensure that ADF textile garment and footwear suppliers fully comply with the government’s ethical procurement principles set out in this Platform.
132. Given the crucial role of sustainment, especially in cases of ageing capability, Labor will work to provide greater transparency in reporting, consistent with operational security requirements, on sustainment.
133. Labor, in common with Australia’s allies including the United States and the United Kingdom, recognises that greater energy efficiency and increased use of renewable energy sources throughout defence organisations and operations is necessary for sustaining effective and independent defence capability. The reduction of the overall carbon footprint and the development of alternative energy sources contribute to the concurrent aims of addressing the risks of climate change while enhancing energy security and self-sufficiency.

Meeting the needs of Australia’s veterans

134. Labor respects the tradition of special care for Australia’s servicemen and women who serve overseas, within the modern context. Labor will continue to care for and honour veterans for their service to the maintenance of world peace and domestic security through dedicated programs of support, care and commemoration.
135. Labor notes that these traditional policies and programs have evolved slowly over almost a century and, that in some instances, may no longer be consistent with the needs of veterans and their families in a modern society.
136. Labor will not tolerate any further erosion of the traditional distinction accorded to those with warlike service as appropriate in a modern service context.
137. Labor, recognises that inconsistencies have arisen in the approach taken by government to the management of veterans’ and war widows’ entitlements.

138. Labor also recognises that many of these inconsistencies result from different judgements and perceptions in the past and cannot be remedied without considerable cost, as well as the risk of creating further inconsistencies.
139. Consistent with the philosophy of benefits being relevant to contemporary needs and with the principles of fairness, equity and transparency, Labor will continue to review policies to ensure that they adapted to and are appropriate for the current needs of our veteran community.
140. In addition to Labor's historic delivery of disability and compensation pension improvements, Labor will continue to explore equitable and affordable mechanisms for the improvement of other military pensions.
141. Labor's policy for veterans will be structured to respond to the differing needs of veterans according to their stage of life, with flexible programs based on meeting contemporary needs:
- Veterans who served in World War II, Korea and subsequent deployments in South East Asia who are now largely retired and whose issues are now predominantly ones of health and aged care;
 - Veterans who served in the Vietnam War, whose immediate needs are those of income security for their future retirement, support for the raising of families and programs of support for families suffering from the effects of substance abuse, gambling and acts of violence; and
 - Those who have served in peace keeping missions, and deployments such as Somalia, Rwanda, the Gulf, Timor-Leste, Afghanistan, Iraq and the Solomon Islands, most of whom are still serving with the Australian Defence Force, but whose needs at present seem likely to emulate those of the Vietnam generation.

Veterans' families

142. Labor is committed to the care and welfare of veterans' partners and families who may have suffered as a result of the veteran's service, particularly from the ill health of a veteran, as part of a policy of lifelong care for those injured or affected by their service.
143. Labor will work to address the health and welfare needs of younger veterans' families.
144. Labor will ensure there are adequate programs to assist these families to meet the pressures and demands of modern society.
145. Labor will also undertake health studies into the health and welfare of children of younger veterans, to better establish whether there are any intergenerational health effects flowing from their service.

Programs of income support

146. Consistent with general policies which have seen the provision of safety nets for those who are disadvantaged in society and unable to take their place in the workforce due to disability or age; special provision has always been made for veterans and their dependants. This uniquely includes the effects of service which impact on veterans' employability within the labour market. 156. Recognising the principle of entitlements based on need, and consistent with the current principles governing the provision of income support, Labor will continue to provide programs of income support for veterans, their partners and widows, when as the result of service in the Australian Defence Force, they have been unable to provide for themselves and their families due to loss of work capacity, death, or age.
147. Injuries and illness resulting from veterans' service overseas have traditionally been compensated in a separate scheme in recognition of the different circumstances and status of that service. This is reflected in some circumstances by a more generous standard of proof, the lack of any onus of proof and a longstanding commitment to the benefit of the doubt operating in the veteran's favour. Labor will honour these commitments and the values on which they are based.
148. Labor is committed to the support of veterans through a range of programs including the Building Excellence in Support and Training and Training & Information Program programs ensuring that ex-service organisations can assist with compensation claims for their members and provide welfare support.

War widows, war orphans and disabled veterans

149. Australians have always cared and provided for those whose partners were lost in action or who died as the result of their war-caused injuries or illness. Traditional programs of support for war widows as provided for in the Veterans' Entitlement Act may no longer be relevant and that there are strong perceptions in the community of unfairness with respect to eligibility.
150. Labor also clearly recognises there are some widows in need of greater support, especially those in private rental accommodation, and younger widows without children whose entitlements have been reduced in the past.
151. Recognising the difficulties faced by a new generation of war spouses, Labor will continue to provide support for war spouses and their children, to enter academic or vocational training.

Health Care

152. From the time of Federation, health care policy for veterans has provided for free treatment of all service-related injury and illness. This is now denoted by provision of a White Card.
153. In more recent times, free private health care for all health conditions has been provided by the Gold Card to a range of veterans and widows. Eligibility is automatic for some classes of veterans and widows but generally requires warlike (qualifying) service and an age of 70 or above.
154. Assistance in the home, aimed at keeping ageing veterans and widows out of costly institutionalised care is also provided under the Homecare Program, consistent with the Home and Community Care program available to the community at large. This forms part of the traditional approach of lifelong care to those who served Australia abroad.
155. Labor will retain the current programs of health care for veterans and honour the historic commitment to free treatment for all service-related injuries and disease. The Gold, White and Orange cards will be retained with existing entitlements.
156. Labor will expedite the current program of mortality and health studies and research into past deployments, as well as ensuring that the current processes for future deployments properly deal with health risks in advance, and after return to Australia—particularly with respect to record-keeping.
157. Labor recognises that mental health issues arising from service, such as post-traumatic stress disorder, have affected veterans from all conflicts. Labor encourages and supports measures designed to ensure that existing programs take account of the mental health needs and requirements of veterans.

Commemoration

158. Commemoration of veterans, their commitment and sacrifice has historically been restricted to the observance of ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day by the public, with little government involvement. Labor introduced the current program of commemoration in 1992 and has continued to support that effort.
159. Labor supports a bipartisan approach to commemorative activity, with a concentration on educative programs under the aegis of the Australian War Memorial. ANZAC Day will continue to be the central focus of commemorative commitments.
160. Labor recognises the significance, importance and sacred nature of battlefields where our troops have lost their lives. Where possible, Labor will actively work with foreign governments and other parties to protect and preserve the integrity of significant battlefields where Australian troops have served. These locations include, but are not limited to, the Gallipoli Peninsula and the Kokoda Track.

161. Labor will implement education and information campaigns to ensure all Australians, especially the young, develop a full appreciation of the sacrifice and service of our veterans and current servicemen and women.

Administration

162. Currently administration of veterans' and ex-service personnel matters are concentrated within the Department of Veterans' Affairs, recognising the need for better continuity of specialised client service around Australia. Recognising that the administration of veterans' policy and ex-service personnel matters will continue to merge in the future as the nature of defence service evolves and the older veteran cohort diminishes in number, Labor will continue with a dedicated and properly funded agency for veterans within the Defence portfolio.

Defence industry sectoral plans

163. Labor supports the development of defence industry sectoral plans for shipbuilding, aerospace, electronics, land and weapons.
164. The sectoral plans represent a more strategic approach to defence industry policy that will enable Australia to sustain key industry capabilities necessary to meet our long-term national security needs.
165. Labor supports a defence shipbuilding and submarine sector plan that maintains a viable defence shipbuilding and repair capability in Australia. Labor will ensure that the shipbuilding and repair industry is based on a competitive private sector model in such a way as to ensure continuity of work through prime and sub-contractors, recognising the need for flexibility in the national heavy engineering sector.
166. A viable and competitive naval shipbuilding industry is strategically vital for Australia's defence, as well as for the continuing health of the heavy engineering and high-tech industries involved in modern weaponry.
167. Labor is committed to the regular publication of a Defence Capability Plan to ensure that the defence industry sector remains informed about future acquisition projects, particularly the proposed timing, cost and level of capability associated with such projects.
168. The Defence Science and Technology Organisation has an impressive record of research and development of defence-related technologies. Labor will further expand and encourage the links between Defence Science and Technology Organisation and the Australian defence industry, including technology transfer to Australian industry. As far as possible, Labor will foster the retention of intellectual property ownership in Australia, including where appropriate ownership of intellectual property by defence.