

## Social Justice

### 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Labor Party believes that all government policies should have as their principal aim the achievement of a fair distribution of resources, power, rights and opportunities by promoting the objectives of Social Justice. Social Justice is based upon:

- a) Equity: promoting fairness in the distribution of economic resources and political power and the elimination of exploitation and poverty
- b) Equality of Rights: establishing equal effective and comprehensive rights including political, legal, industrial and educational rights for all people regardless of income, age, disability, social and ethnic background gender or sexual orientation.
- c) Access: ensuring that all people have equal access to good quality service regardless of location in those areas which affect the quality of their lives such as health, housing, employment, education and transport
- d) Participation: providing full opportunity for participation in decisions, which affect people's lives.

1.2 Efficient and effective economic management and general economic growth are vital components of Social Justice. Labor aims to achieve a dynamic economy with full employment and a fairer distribution of wealth and power within the context of sustainable use of resources. Nevertheless, concerted and strategic Government action is needed to eliminate deeply embedded social inequity and injustice.

### 2 PRINCIPLES OF A SOCIAL JUSTICE STRATEGY

2.1 Labor believes that social and economic strategies must be integrated in a manner, which meets social justice objectives and promotes a healthy economy. A healthy economy is best achieved by setting goals conducive to producing a current account surplus for overseas trade, maintained through substantial social investment in housing, education, health and transport; and sustained through improved work organisation, effective planning and development of industrial infrastructure. This requires an interventionist economic and social strategy. To this end the taxation policies of a State Labor Government will provide sufficient revenue growth to maintain and improve services.

2.2 Labor recognises that, although the achievement of social justice will require significant reform of the private sector, it will also demand extensive public sector intervention and planning. Consequently social justice must be a prime consideration in all key decisions in all Government Departments and agencies, and be central to resource allocation processes and structures.

2.3 Labor's social justice strategic principles must be integrated into all policy areas to ensure that overall principles are met.

2.4 Active participation of the Trade Union movement is fundamental to the achievement of social justice. A fair wages system, safe workplaces and an adequate system of compensation for injured workers, equal opportunity, industrial democracy, access to superannuation, training and career paths and provision of child care all constitute components of social justice.

2.5 Labor will encourage the active support and participation of the community in the development of strategic plans and their implementation, together with the allocation of adequate on-going funds.

2.6 Priority must be given to eliminating the structural and institutional forces which create and entrench poverty and disadvantage. In particular Labor recognises the significant issues of child poverty and the rise of the "working poor".

2.7 Labor's social justice strategy will be developed in close cooperation with all levels of Government and in light of overseas experience.

2.8 Continual evaluation is a necessary component of an effective social justice strategy and forms the basis for future policy development.

2.9 Labor's social justice strategy will establish social justice benchmarks and clear targets (including increased resources) for the reduction of major inequalities and for the improvement of living standards and key community services.

2.10 The implementation of the social justice strategy may mean the allocation of extra resources in key areas.

### 3 OBJECTIVES OF THE SOCIAL JUSTICE STRATEGY

3.1 In order to address existing imbalances and to avoid the creation of new impediments to social justice Labor will:

3.2 Ensure that equity and equality of rights are given due consideration in the formation and implementation of all Government policy.

3.3 Build the principles of access and participation into all areas of Government.

3.4 Provide adequate and on-going resources for community participation and consultation in the process of Government taking into account regional and rural communities.

3.5 Build social justice principles into measures for determining the effectiveness of government programs.

3.6 Ensure that the composition of the public service reflects the social make-up of the general community by encouraging entry to the public services by groups of people currently unrepresented.

3.7 Provide secure inalienable title over their lands to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on the basis of traditional ownership, historical association and need.

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**3.8** Recognise the strength and worth of diverse cultures including those of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and those of people from non-English speaking backgrounds.

**3.9** Ensure that the capabilities of people with disabilities are emphasised rather than their disability in order to encourage them to live rewarding and fulfilling lives.

**3.10** Improve the status of women in Queensland by seeking to redress the discrimination, which women continue to face in the Queensland community.

## Social Justice for People with a Disability

### 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Labor's policies for people with a disability are intended to facilitate Queensland's move towards;

1.2 A society that values people with a disability; upholds their rights; and

1.3 supports their equitable participation in everyday life.

### 2 PRINCIPLES

2.1 People with disabilities have the same rights as other members of society.

2.2 To ensure that people with a disability and their families are always afforded respect and dignity.

2.3 The empowerment of people with a disability and their families to participate in their community.

### 3 OBJECTIVES

3.1 Better outcomes for people with a disability.

3.2 The continuous improvement in the provision of more effective and efficient disability services and supports.

3.3 Ensuring that both government and non-government services for people with a disability are accountable, transparent and fair.

3.4 To lead and foster innovation to enhance the quality of life of people with a disability.

3.5 The development of a culture of inclusion, flexibility and continuous improvement.

3.6 Ensure that Queensland's Regions are equitably represented and serviced in regard to persons with a disability.

3.7 Foster the diversity of service delivery to meet the needs of people with a disability.

### 4 STRATEGIES

4.1 Labor will afford itself of every appropriate opportunity to promote positive attitudes towards people with disabilities.

4.2 We will move towards making all government communication being accessible to people with a disability.

4.3 Complete the review of the Corrective Services Act 1992.

4.4 Direct the full implementation of the Queensland Disability Service Standards to ensure:

- a) Each person with a disability seeking service has access to the service on
- b) the service on the basis of relative need and within available resources.
- c) Individual needs and personal goals are met in the least restrictive way possible
- d) and within available resources.

- e) Participation as fully as possible, in the decision-making, choice of activities and events in daily life in relation to the services received.
- f) Recognition of the right to privacy, dignity and confidentiality in all aspects of life.
- g) Support and encouragement to participate and be included in the life of the community.
- h) Providing opportunities to develop skills to participate in and achieve valued roles within the community.
- i) A proactive approach to complaints and disputes management that safeguards service users/supports from retributive action when raising complaints.
- j) Effective corporate governance through sound and visible management systems and practices.
- k) Upholding the legal and human rights of each person with a disability and taking action to prevent and/or respond to allegations of abuse and neglect.
- l) Recruitment, selection and development of paid and unpaid staff that ensures they have relevant values, skills, knowledge and competencies to support service delivery to service users.

### 5 DIVERSIONARY JUSTICE FOR PEOPLE WITH AN INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY OR ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY

#### Preamble

5.1 The Qld ALP will make appropriate legislative reforms, and support legal mechanisms and funded services that divert people with impaired capacity including intellectual or cognitive disability, acquired brain injury, or mental illness away from the mainstream criminal justice system. That the imprisonment of people with intellectual or cognitive disability, acquired brain injury, or mental illness in Queensland is unacceptable and requires a whole of Government response that includes;

- Department of Housing
- Queensland Corrective Services
- Disability Services Queensland
- Department of Communities
- Queensland Health
- Queensland Police Service
- Specialist Prevention services
- Department of Justice and Attorney-General

#### Key Components of this Strategy will include:

5.2 The establishment of a state wide principled, appropriately resourced and skilled specialist service system that includes appropriate infrastructure and service responses that assist in minimising the incidence of people with intellectual or cognitive disability, acquired brain injury, or mental illness coming into contact with the criminal justice system.

**5.3** A clear accountable and criteria-based legislative framework that specifically acknowledges that the Human Rights of citizens including citizens with impaired decision making capacity must be protected. That alternative accommodation to prison that includes detention or other restrictive practices must contain a legislative guarantee of regular and independent review mechanisms, including the establishment of a special independent and fully accountable body to authorise the use of any involuntary detention or other restrictive practices and robust safeguards to prevent re-institutionalisation

**5.4** Appropriate accommodation service options for people with intellectual or cognitive disability who exhibit severely challenging and threatening behaviour and who present a significant risk of harm to themselves or the community as an alternative to imprisonment.

**5.5** Specialist training for Police

**5.6** Introduction of specialist Independent Third Person assistance for people with intellectual or cognitive disability, acquired brain injury, or mental illness during any interview with Police or when making a formal Police statement

**5.7** Fully funded referral or (de-arrest) options for police rather than arrest

**5.8** Specialist training for Judicial officers including Magistrates

**5.9** Specialist training for Legal Aid lawyers and Duty lawyers

**5.10** State wide appointment & training of specialist intellectual or cognitive disability and acquired brain injury, Court Liaison officers

**5.11** Extension of a Special Circumstances Court through-out Queensland including rural and remote areas

**5.12** Specialist diagnosis prior to and during court proceedings

**5.13** Reform of the Corrective Services System including;

- a) Advanced training of Corrective Services personnel in the identification and appropriate treatment of people with intellectual or cognitive disability, acquired brain injury, or mental illness
- b) Specialist identification and diagnosis of people with intellectual or cognitive disability, acquired brain injury, or mental illness when they initially enter the Corrective Services System (Prison)
- c) Specialist alternative Corrective Service programs, pre-release programs and appropriate services should exist for people with intellectual or cognitive disability, acquired brain injury, or mental illness who have not been diverted from the Prison system and who may currently or subsequently be sentenced to Prison and that

access to these programs should be based on the needs of the individual

- d) State wide appropriate alternative accommodation should exist for people with intellectual or cognitive disability, acquired brain injury, or mental illness who have not been diverted from the Prison system and who may currently or subsequently be sentenced to Prison

**5.14** Adequate levels of funding across all relevant Government departments for;

- a) Specialist Prevention Programs
- b) The establishment of a specialist Independent Third Person assistance program
- c) Specialist Police Training & Policing (referral or de-arrest options)
- d) Enhanced Legal services, court processes & specialist training for judiciary
- e) Reform of Corrective services & remand processes
- f) Review and reform of Post release practices

**5.15** A Queensland State Government review and recommendations to parliament regarding the imprisonment of people with intellectual or cognitive disability, acquired brain injury, or mental illness in Queensland.

## Rural Affairs

### 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The increasing globalisation of the world economy provides significant challenges and opportunities for regional and rural Queensland communities.

1.2 Recognising the economic and social pressures faced by Queensland communities as a consequence of this, Labor will continue to focus its policies on the well being of regional and rural communities, rather than on the performance of particular industries.

### 2 GROWING REGIONAL AND RURAL POPULATION BASE

2.1 Queensland Labor will, in terms of operations, allocations, and influence assist regional and rural Queensland communities to increase their population base.

### 3 REGIONAL AND RURAL COMMUNITIES REAPING AN EQUITABLE SHARE OF THE REWARDS DERIVED FROM REGIONAL AND RURAL RESOURCES

3.1 Queensland Labor will ensure that the interests of regional and rural communities are met through a fair distribution of the state's wealth.

### 4 GROWING AND DIVERSIFYING REGIONAL AND RURAL ECONOMIC BASE

4.1 Queensland Labor will foster a regional and rural economy that is growing in size and diversity.

### 5 GROWING REGIONAL AND RURAL EMPLOYMENT BASE

5.1 Queensland Labor will continue to support regional and rural employment strategies, programs and projects, to ensure improved employment opportunities in regional and rural areas.

### 6 IMPROVED QUALITY OF REGIONAL AND RURAL LIFE

6.1 Queensland Labor will continue to provide access to quality, affordable childcare; to varied educational, cultural and recreational opportunities; and to better communication structures.

### 7 STRONGER, MORE COHESIVE RURAL COMMUNITIES

7.1 Queensland Labor will support the development of policies, programs and payments that place an emphasis on regional and rural people working together effectively and cooperatively as communities.

### 8 REGIONAL AND RURAL ENGAGEMENT AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

8.1 Labor will extend engagement and consultative activities and forums throughout the state, including to rural communities.

8.2 Labor will support Ministerial Regional Community Forums throughout the state's regional communities.

8.3 Ministerial Regional Community Forums will raise with Cabinet Ministers significant regional issues which impact on the economic, social and environmental sustainability of regional and rural communities; provide constructive feedback on government policies and programs; and act as a point of information exchange between government and regional communities.

8.4 Labor will also support a Division of Regional and Rural Communities, within the Department of Communities. The Division of Regional and Rural Communities will ensure that a whole of government approach continues to be taken to the development of government policies and programs that impact on rural communities, and that such policies and programs:

- a) are developed in a cooperative and collaborative way between and across government departments and agencies; and
- b) incorporate the priorities, needs and concerns of regional and rural communities as those policies and programs are developed and implemented, particularly with regard to the principles and objectives of the Social Justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples (Social Justice, Youth and Community Services Platform Policy Section 8).

8.5 Labor will particularly encourage the expansion of labour-intensive private sector services in regional areas by improving education and training and other public infrastructure, and / or providing tax concessions or other subsidies to encourage employers to relocate to regional areas (whilst maintaining employment conditions).

### 9 RURAL PUBLIC SECTOR STAFFING

9.1 Labor in government will take steps to address the difficulties experienced in the public sector in recruiting and retaining staff to work in rural and remote communities.

## **Social Justice for a Multi-cultural Queensland**

### **1 PREAMBLE**

1.1 Australia is a nation of indigenous peoples and migrants. Australia's philosophy of inclusion and acceptance is reflected in our policy of multi-culturalism, which promotes common values of sharing and respecting each other's culture.

1.2 Multi-culturalism nourishes the expression of diversity and enhances civic participation to strengthen democratic institutions.

### **2 PRINCIPLES**

2.1 Underpinning of a culturally diverse Queensland will be the following principles:

- a) Recognition, respect and celebration of Queensland's cultural and linguistic diversity.
- b) Affirming the value of inclusion through the encouragement and support of regular and ongoing participation in social and economic development.
- c) Flexible responses to community issues based on needs.
- d) Open and honest communications between Government and ethnic communities.
- e) Ensuring government services are delivered in an accessible manner to our diverse society.

### **3 OBJECTIVES**

3.1 To lead and manage a cohesive culturally diverse society.

3.2 To be inclusive in the development of policies and the delivery of services in order to reflect the diversity in our community and improve outcomes for all.

3.3 To reinforce, encourage and support strategic relationships between individuals, government and community.

3.4 To ensure that the attainment of aspirations is promoted by equality of opportunity for all.

## Social Justice for Women

### 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Traditionally, women have experienced individual and systemic discrimination within the Australian community. Government has a responsibility to ensure that this discrimination is eliminated. All Government activities affect women and therefore Government has a responsibility to ensure policies and activities enhance the status of women and do not adversely affect women.

### 2 PRINCIPLES

Labor believes:

2.1 Women have the right to paid work and equal opportunity must prevail in all workplaces. Equality of opportunity should be promoted through:

- a) choice of lifestyle free from sex-role stereotyping;
- b) equal access to education and training;
- c) adequate housing;
- d) quality, affordable child care;
- e) access to relevant health and community support services where required
- f) enhancing access to justice;
- g) equal participation in the paid workforce and pay equity; and
- h) full participation in public life and decision making at all levels.”

2.2 Although discrimination has an economic basis, economic independence for women will not necessarily mean an immediate end of prejudice against women, and that such prejudices are both created and reinforced by sexist forms in the media, advertising and language.

2.3 Continue to ensure equal opportunity in the recruitment, retention and promotion of staff by fully implementing the Equal Opportunity in Public Employment Act.

2.4 Labor will continue to develop policies and programs to combat sexism and promote equal opportunity.

2.5 Labor recognises that the right to control fertility is a prerequisite for women to be able to avail themselves of equal opportunity.

### 3 OBJECTIVES

Labor will:

3.1 Maintain and periodically review anti-discrimination legislation in Queensland to end all discriminatory practices based on sex, marital status, pregnancy, race ethnicity, disability and religious and political affiliation. This legislation will include an affirmative action program.

3.2 Continue to implement the Equal Opportunity in Public Employment Act to ensure equal opportunity in the recruitment, retention and promotion of staff.

3.3 Introduce a policy that restricts the awarding of Government contracts to private sector organisations to those organisations that have complied with the federal Affirmative Action Act.

3.4 As part of the implementation of the I.L.O convention No. 156 (Workers with family responsibilities) and of the Equal Opportunity in Public Employment Act, Labor will maintain, through the process of enterprise bargaining, paid parental leave, accessible by the primary care giver and appropriate flexible forms of emergency family leave for all public sector employees. Labor will implement programs, which ensure that quality, affordable childcare is available to employees of all State public sector agencies.

3.5 With regard to women’s health, Labor:

- a) believes that as women comprise more than 50% of the adult population, and have specific health care needs there is a need to improve the health and well-being of all;
- b) recognises the relative disadvantage women experience in relation to the health system as users and providers of health services, and will implement initiatives designed to increase the influence of women in the health system;
- c) will maintain a Women's Health Policy Unit which is adequately resourced with facilities, staff and data base to meet priority projects;
- d) will also improve the delivery of health services to women by emphasising women’s health in training and continuing education of health professionals, by promoting better recognition and response within the general health system to women's health needs, and by developing special programs;
- e) will provide funding to review access to and delivery of services and programs for migrant women in Queensland health services;
- f) will provide professional interpreter services at major hospitals for local migrant communities, and at women's health centres;
- g) recognises that women constitute the overwhelming majority of carers and will provide appropriate support services, including respite services;
- h) will target funding for research into women's health issues, including the health of young women;
- i) Labor will provide funding for breast screening and assessment services for cervical and breast cancer throughout Queensland;
- j) will provide funding for the establishment of a network of community based Women’s Health Centres which will offer a diverse range of programs throughout the State. Mobile Women’s Health Services will be piloted and

evaluated as one option for delivery of health services to women;

- k) believes that women should be able to give birth to their children as close to the support of their families as possible; and Labor supports the concept of alternative birthing practices;
- l) therefore supports the introduction of such practices at major hospitals, maternity hospitals and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities so mothers can choose to have their children in appropriate sensitive surroundings;
- m) will ensure the establishment of sexual assault centres, for both women and children, providing a 24 hour service to meet crisis and medium term psychological needs of sexual assault victims and that adequate funding be allocated to meet this requirement;
- n) will ensure that women have access to counselling and support services in a variety of health care settings; and
- o) will recognise the necessity for specialist counselling services on the full range of fertility options and undertake to provide adequate funding for these services.

## Welfare and Community Development

### 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Labor is guided by principles of social justice and equity in the allocation of resources and services.

1.2 Labor will work towards building a society where inequality, discrimination, poverty and prejudice, as well as the structures, which promote these features, are eradicated. While these conditions persist, however, a comprehensive and integrated system of welfare services is essential.

1.3 Labor's social policy is designed to provide an environment in which all citizens can develop to their maximum potential.

1.4 Labor recognises the diversity of family structures and life styles in the community and will make provision for meeting these varied needs.

1.5 Labor will encourage full participation in the planning and delivery of all social services and will especially encourage the full and active participation of members of the community.

1.6 Labor believes in a totally integrated and coordinated approach to social policy encompassing areas such as education, health, housing, employment, recreation, law reform and economic policy. Such integration is necessary to achieve overall social objectives of equality through redistribution of wealth and resources.

1.7 Labor recognises that on-going evaluative research of all welfare and community development programs is necessary to ensure that scarce resources are allocated effectively.

### 2 PRINCIPLES

2.1 Labor believes that social policy must not only address societal inequalities and inequities but must also be a vehicle for the empowerment of communities. To this end, Labor will develop social and community services on the basis of the following principles:

- a) that adequate and sustainable Government funding of both Government and non-government programs is a prerequisite to the provision of quality services;
- b) that funded services and prevention activities are needed to complement and strengthen the support provided by families, communities and carers;
- c) that financial resources are allocated in a planned way according to identified high needs areas across the State;
- d) that the distribution of resources maximises equitable access to services for all potential recipients, and takes account of cultural diversity.

- e) that service design and development is guided by the needs and rights of individual recipients, and by the desire to optimise recipients' quality of life and self-sufficiency;
- f) that policy development and implementation is undertaken in collaboration with government and non-government agencies to ensure coordination;
- g) that community education in areas such as ageing, domestic violence, child abuse and youth crime are essential to maintain the social cohesion of our society;
- h) that sufficient financial support for approved organisations is necessary to ensure award wages and conditions apply to all workers. Such financial support must be accompanied by evaluation processes to ensure effective use of public funds; and
- i) that community involvement is an integral part of the practice of community services development.

### 3 OBJECTIVES

#### Administration

3.1 Labor recognises that on-going evaluation research of all welfare and community development programs is necessary to ensure that scarce resources are allocated effectively.

3.2 Labor will ensure adequate funding of this Department to ensure it is able to carry out its work.

3.3 Labor will establish regional consultative committees to:

- a) advise the Minister on regional needs and priorities; and
- b) encourage the integration and coordination of local service delivery.

3.4 Regional consultative committees and program-specific advisory committees will be representative of citizens, workers, management committees, local authorities, State and Federal Governments, trade unions, and relevant coordinating and peak councils.

3.5 Labor will advocate for a COAG audit to determine the adequacy of Commonwealth, State and local government funded community services in local communities.

3.6 That Labor develop policy with the Federal Government and other States and Territories to provide reciprocity between the States and Territories in the use of concession cards and that the Federal Government provide the States and Territories with the funds to apply the concessions.

#### Aged Care

3.7 Labor believes that aged people should be able to live in their communities supported and maintained by a range of services designed to enhance their independence, dignity, health and happiness.

**3.8** Labor recognises that there are different levels of support required for the varying needs of older people that range from healthy active seniors through to total care for our frail aged.

**3.9** Labor will upgrade and extend domiciliary support services to include a comprehensive system of:

- a) delivered meals;
- b) home help;
- c) domiciliary nursing;
- d) personal support (e.g. shopping, visiting);
- e) in home respite care;
- f) day respite centres; and
- g) home aides.

**3.10** These will be planned and integrated at a regional level, funded adequately to provide the level of service required and provided without stigma.

**3.11** Medical support will complement these services, but the medical model of care will not predominate over social and other caring networks.

**3.12** Labor will encourage community support to enable the aged to remain in their own homes including services such as telephone support and monitoring services, day centres and improved public transport.

**3.13** The Office of the Ageing will aim to implement policies and strategies to effectively address the needs of the ageing and to ensure the coordination of existing services for the ageing. The Office of the Ageing will also examine all government programs to ensure that they are sensitive to the needs of aged people, as well as recommend to Government on the needs of aged people including the development of policy options. That the Office of the Aged will be promoted as an office that receives recommendations from aged community representatives.

**3.14** The Seniors Card will be maintained and, where possible, there will be an expansion of concessions and discounts available.

### **Informal Carers**

**3.15** Labor recognises that the majority of informal care given in the community is provided by family members, predominantly women. Labor is alert to the dangers of developing a welfare system based on the exploitation of women's unpaid labour.

**3.16** Labor will therefore at all times recognise the employment, social, emotional, health and financial needs of informal carers and will develop services which provide a range of flexible options for carers and those for whom they care.

**3.17** Labor will accept informal care-givers as service providers and core stakeholders in disability services provision and following from this, will create effective and resourced consultative mechanisms to ensure that carers and their representatives are involved in development of these services which supplement and support informal care.

### **Child Care**

**3.18** Labor is committed to the continued expansion of quality child care at affordable prices, to meet the wide range of needs of children and their carers. This includes:

- a) family day care;
- b) emergency, respite and occasional care;
- c) centre based care;
- d) outside-school hours care;
- e) play groups;
- f) vacation care; and
- g) care for children with special needs.

**3.19** The Office of Child Care will oversee the administration of child care in Queensland and continue to meet the wide range of needs of children and their carers.

**3.20** Labor will continue to ensure that through legislation and regular consultation with peak bodies including unions and academics, regulations cover both workers and administrators providing child care. Such legislation will set minimum standards, with the focus on the well being and education of children in child care and will assist providers in meeting these requirements.

**3.21** Labor will assist in expanding work-based child care facilities with priority given to industries where women constitute the majority of employees.

**3.22** Labor will establish and maintain public sector work based child care facilities with priority given to areas and Departments where women constitute the majority of employees. Further, the 4th term Beattie Government in office shall investigate sponsoring a not-for-profit childcare facility for public servants within the CBD public service district, in a public service site that is both amenable to being a childcare facility and is deemed vacant or underperforming by the State Government. Conference calls on the Minister for Communities to lead action around this motion in conjunction with the Minister for Public Works and Housing, and report to the 2008 State Conference on progress.

**3.23** Labor will facilitate award coverage for all child care workers.

**3.24** Labor will continue to provide additional support for children with disabilities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children from non-english speaking backgrounds and children living in remote areas.

### **Adoption**

**3.25** Labor supports the principle, enshrined in the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*, the *Hague Convention on the Protection of Children in Respect to Intercountry Adoption* and the *National Minimum Principles of Adoption*, that the purpose of adoption is to provide a permanent legal family for

children who, for various reasons, are unable to live with their family of birth.

**3.26** Labor believes that the fundamental policy principle in adoption must be that the interests of the child are paramount.

**3.27** Labor believes that the Adoption of Children Act 1964 is outdated and no longer appropriate for the modern and contemporary society of today. Further, Labor acknowledges the very closed and secretive adoption system that this legislation embodies and will move towards a more open system of adoption in the future.

**3.28** Labor believes in the right of one party to an adoption to obtain all information about themselves to that adoption held by the government.

**3.29** Labor will administer all intercountry adoptions in accordance with the *Hague Convention on the Protection of Children in Respect to Intercountry Adoption* in order to help in the elimination of international child trafficking and ensure that whenever possible children are placed in their country of birth.

**3.30** Labor will amend the legislation to authorise the Department of Child Safety to proactively advise an adult adopted person of any request for identifying information and seek consent to provide such information.

**3.31** Labor believes that the fundamental policy principle in adoption must be that the interests of the child are paramount.

**3.32** Labor will continue to work with relevant sections of the community to ensure that the administration of the Adoption of Children Act 1964 benefits all members of a family with an adoptee, particularly in the paramount interest of the relinquished child.

**3.33** In order to help in the elimination of international child trafficking, Labor will administer intercountry adoptions in accordance with the Hague Convention on intercountry Adoption as legislatively introduced in the Adoption of Children (Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption) Amendment Bill 1998.

### **Child Protection**

**3.34** Labor believes the fundamental policy principle in child protection must be that the interests of the child are paramount.

**3.35** Labor will implement in full the recommendations of the Crime and Misconduct Commission report, *Protecting Children: An inquiry into abuse of children in foster care*, and the complementary findings of the Final Report on Phase One of the Audit of the Foster Carers subject to Child Protection Notifications, prepared by Gwen Murray.

**3.36** Labor will establish and maintain a separate Department of Child Safety, singularly focussed on the needs of children and young people suffering or at risk of abuse.

**3.37** Labor will establish and maintain an integrated whole of government strategy that provides prevention, early intervention and tertiary approaches to child protection underpinned by research and evaluation.

**3.38** Labor will provide sufficient resources to ensure Queensland's Child Protection system is funded to at least the national average.

**3.39** Labor will provide additional service delivery and support staff to ensure an effective child protection regime.

**3.40** Labor will provide increased powers to the Commissioner for Children and Young People and create a new position of Child Guardian within the Commission empowered to seek reviews of the Department of Child Safety's decisions and monitor the overall effectiveness of the child protection system.

**3.41** Labor will expand the Community Visitor Program to cover children in the alternative care system, including foster care.

**3.42** Labor will ensure the Child Death Review Committee is supported by an appropriate legislative framework to ensure it remains effective and independent.

**3.43** Labor recognises the integral role foster carers play in Queensland's child protection system. Labor will therefore develop effective foster carer recruitment and community awareness programs, and will also aim to attract a broader cross section of the community to foster care roles.

**3.44** Labor will ensure payments made to foster carers appropriately reflect the cost of caring.

**3.45** Labor will implement a network of Child Safety Directors in government departments that have a responsibility for child protection. Child Safety Directors will have a responsibility to drive child protection reform in their relevant department and for ensuring that their Department implements best practice procedures in relation to their role within the child protection system.

**3.46** Labor will seek to address the significant overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the child protection system through a partnership between government and a network of strong Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family support agencies.

**3.47** Specifically, Labor will support community based Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child protection agencies with appropriate staffing levels and resources, including training and professional development.

**3.48** Labor will establish within the Department of Child Safety an Indigenous Support and Development Unit to provide strategic advice in relation to issues affecting Indigenous peoples.

**3.49** Labor will develop targeted recruitment strategies to attract new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander foster carers into the child protection system.

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**3.50** Labor will ensure all Child Safety service delivery staff undertake compulsory cross-cultural awareness training.

**3.51** Labor will ensure that all workers and volunteers in connection with child-related services will be required to obtain a "Blue Card" which will include a photograph of the holder.

**3.52** Labor encourages the use of existing legislation such as the Whistleblowers Protection Act as an additional line of defence in the protection of children.

### Youth Justice

**3.53** Labor recognises that offending behaviour by young people is often linked to a range of social and economic factors, such as social disadvantage, economic status and educational background. As such, whilst policies must address the individual causes of offending behaviour, they must also address wider social and economic circumstances that contribute to offending behaviour. Therefore, strategies, which relate to youth justice are also related to the fulfillment of other sections in Labor's policy platform, such as health, housing and education.

**3.54** Labor is committed to reducing the gross-over representation of indigenous young people in the youth justice system.

**3.55** Labor is committed to fulfilling Australia's international obligations under international conventions.

**3.56** Labor will balance the objectives of community safety, rehabilitation and personal accountability.

**3.57** Labor recognises that only an extremely small proportion of young people ever come into contact with the justice system, and of this, only a very small proportion re-offend.

**3.58** Labor will continue to maintain full time appointments of Judges to the children's court.

**3.59** Young offenders should only be sentenced to detention when all other options have been considered. Thus detention will be a last resort. A young offender will only be sentenced to detention after the court also considers a pre-sentence report.

**3.60** Labor will ensure that a wide range of alternatives to institutionalised detention is available, particularly community based options.

**3.61** Labor will ensure that when an offence has allegedly been committed by a juvenile, police will consider all options before proceeding by arrest, e.g., summons, attendance notice.

**3.62** Labor will ensure that pre-court diversion mechanisms such as police cautioning are used whenever possible.

**3.63** Labor will ensure that parents/guardians and the Department of Family Services are informed of any questioning and/or arrest by police.

**3.64** Labor will expand and resource comprehensive youth advocacy services, based on the youth advocacy

centre model, which will be able to ensure that proper protection is given to all children across the State.

**3.65** Labor will develop resources and a comprehensive whole of government juvenile crime prevention program, which involves local communities families and young people.

**3.66** Labor recognises the importance of community enrichment and development as one of the main factors in development support for juvenile crime prevention strategies.

**3.67** Labor believes that community conferencing is a very effective strategy in addressing offending by young people and will ensure that adequately-resourced, community conferencing facilities are available in Queensland.

**3.68** Labor will ensure that an adequately funded network of Youth Justice Services exist which will ensure that young people on community-based orders receive a comprehensive case management program which aims to prevent future re-offending and links the young person into future opportunities.

**3.69** Labor will ensure that secure detention centres which meet National and International best practice standards of design, rehabilitation, care and security are constructed to replace inappropriate and poorly designed current stock. Further, such a construction program will recognise the needs of Regional Queensland.

**3.70** Labor will ensure that all areas of youth justice are adequately staffed, with appropriately trained employees that have the security of permanency of employment.

**3.71** Labor will not privatise, either in part or whole, youth justice detention centres.

**3.72** Labor will ensure that the youth justice system will have as one of its main considerations the maintenance of civil liberties.

**3.73** Labor recognises that there is a fundamental difference between adult detention, and the detention of children and young people and will ensure that they continue to remain separate in both management and operational technique.

**3.74** The Children's Court will be reformed by:

- a) the proper and adequate training of judges and magistrates who undertake juvenile justice work.
- b) the proper and adequate training of those who represent young people in Children's Courts, particularly duty lawyers.

**3.75** Labor believes that an integral part of the rehabilitation process for young offenders is the maintenance of the confidentiality of children and young people dealt with through the youth justice system.

**3.76** Labor will ensure that the involvement of young people in diversionary mechanisms cannot be incorporated as part of a criminal record and legislation allowing such use will be revoked.

**3.77** Labor recognises that the youth justice system will only work effectively and fairly if it is adequately resourced at all its stages.

**3.78** Labor will restore coherence to the administration of youth justice by bringing responsibility under one authority, responsible to the Minister responsible for children and families.

**3.79** Labor will ensure that youth justice is administered in a coherent manner by maintaining responsibility for youth justice issues in one authority, accountable to the Minister responsible for children and families.

### **Domestic and Family Violence Prevention**

Labor will:

**3.80** Recognise the vital role of the family in healthy communities and the damaging effects of domestic and family violence on individuals, families and communities.

**3.81** That there are diverse forms of family and domestic violence, which includes: physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, verbal, spiritual or cultural, social and economic.

**3.82** Acknowledge that the high levels of “community” or “family” violence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities is a product of the impact of colonisation.

**3.83** Work in partnership with local communities and elders to deal with the range of contributing factors, including alcohol and substance abuse, poor health and social conditions and high unemployment, to address the violence.

**3.84** Ensure that people abused in intimate domestic relationships have access to legislative protection and appropriate support services.

**3.85** Monitor responses to domestic violence and family violence to ensure resources are well targeted and responsive to the needs of individuals, families and communities affected by domestic and family violence.

**3.86** Implement whole-of-government policy and strategies that support inter-agency collaboration and holistic local responses to domestic violence and family violence, while recognising the individuals need to a right to privacy.

**3.87** Recognise the important role played by generic services, particularly health related services, and industry in supporting individuals and families affected by domestic and family violence in rural and remote areas of Queensland.

**3.88** Work in partnership with other levels of government, industry and the community sector to promote training and support innovative prevention and support initiatives to address domestic and family violence in local communities across the state.

**3.89** Enhance its focus on the prevention of domestic and family violence with increased attention to work with children and young people to promote healthy

relationships and to prevent relationship violence in future generations.

**3.90** Continue to support and promote the central policy role of the Queensland Domestic Violence Council in relation to a broad range of issues associated with domestic and family violence including the prevention of and responses to:

- a) spouse abuse;
- b) family violence;
- c) elder abuse;
- d) abuse by carers; and
- e) abuse in dating relationships.

**3.91** Provide appropriate domestic and family violence counselling services with access to accommodate for individual victims of domestic and family violence.

### **Ethnic Affairs**

**3.92** Labor will encourage strong and cohesive community development through the support of people of all ethnicities and their full participation in the social, economic and cultural fabric of our community.

**3.93** Labor will promote liaison and cooperation between groups concerned with Ethnic Affairs.

**3.94** Labor values the right of individuals to retain their ethnic identity whilst living within the wider community.

**3.95** Labor will ensure that all government services are accessible to people from non-english speaking backgrounds and that no government activities discriminate against such people.

**3.96** Labor will continue to ensure that State Anti-Discrimination Legislation will provide protection to members of ethnic communities from discrimination on the basis of race, religion, culture or language.

**3.97** Funds will be made available to ethnic communities to pursue multicultural strategies.

**3.98** Labor will ensure, through cooperation with the Federal Government, that the best possible language services are available.

**3.99** Labor is committed to the principle of appointing people from non-english speaking backgrounds to statutory boards and authorities.

**3.100** Labor will ensure as far as possible that occupational and professional registration standards do not unfairly discriminate against migrants particularly those from non-European backgrounds.

### **Chronic Poverty & Alienation**

Poverty and Alienation

**3.101** Labor will maintain and expand social and health support programs to:

- a) address and alleviate homelessness
- b) assist victims of substance abuse

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- c) provide short term emergency accommodation for those people dislocated from rural areas through court or hospital attendance.
- 3.102** Labor will work with the Commonwealth and other State governments to examine common eligibility criteria for concessions by removing anomalies in the level and scope of concessions between pensioners and allowees.
- 3.103** Labor will ensure priority access for concessions be directed to low income pensioners and allowees.
- 3.104** Labor will widely disseminate information on the nature and extent of concessions available.
- 3.105** Labor will ensure public and private utilities have in place hardship provisions that provide for the reduction or waiver of debt to ensure that customers genuinely unable to pay for the provision of utilities retain access to essential services.
- 3.106** Labor will advocate for a comprehensive anti-poverty strategy to be developed at the national level.

### Community and Voluntary Organisations

- 3.107** Labor believes that community and voluntary organisations make a valuable contribution to public life in Queensland.
- 3.108** Labor believes community organisations can play a creative and active role in strengthening and supporting Queensland's communities.
- 3.109** Labor believes community and voluntary organisations have a vital role to play in overcoming social exclusion and poverty through fostering community development and networks.
- 3.110** Labor believes voluntary organisations should not be used to replace services provided by Government.
- 3.111** Labor will:
- a) encourage participation by community members and organisations in the planning, monitoring and evaluation of Government services, especially Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members and organisations;
  - b) support advocacy as a legitimate role of community and voluntary organisations;
  - c) ensure the provision of appropriate infrastructure for the activities of Queensland's community and voluntary sector through ongoing research and review;
  - d) support strategies to promote and foster participation in community and voluntary organisations;
  - e) focus support on community and voluntary organisations which give disadvantaged groups improved access to services and assistance;
  - f) provide increased support to incorporated associations to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act, including

- training for management committee volunteers, particularly in relation to the responsibilities and duties of the role;
  - assisting incorporated associations to maintain high standards of financial propriety including a capacity to meet appropriate auditing requirements; and
  - appropriately resourcing of the Office of Fair Trading to support incorporated associations at risk of breaching the Associations Incorporations Act; and
- g)** Make particular efforts to sustain a culturally vibrant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and human services sector.

## Young People

### 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Labor seeks to assist and support the young people of our State as they establish themselves as adult members of society and as they participate and contribute to the wider social, economic, educational, cultural and environmental development and prosperity of our State.

1.2 Our philosophy will be that of supporting and assisting all young people irrespective of their ableness or gender, cultural, socioeconomic, linguistic or ethnic background.

1.3 We recognise that young people need the support of caring adults in their transition from dependent to independent living. Therefore, Labor is committed to providing a range of support services to young people, their families, other adults who provide care and those who work towards meeting the diverse needs of the young people of our State.

1.4 This policy views the definition of young people as those within the age range of 12 and 25 years.

1.5 Labor recognises that to meet the needs of young people there needs to be a focus put on setting priorities, defining goals, coordinating efforts across Government departments; and increasing the consultative and cooperation process between Government and the community.

1.6 Labor believes it is essential for the young people of our State to be encouraged so that they can achieve personal and collective goals to they can move successfully towards self management.

### 2 PRINCIPLES

2.1 Labor believes there should be a better understanding in the wider Queensland community of issues concerning young people and of the value of their contribution to society.

2.2 Labor is committed to improved access by young people to Government agencies and programs and to non-Government programs and agencies.

2.3 Labor is committed to consultative links with young people and their representatives in the non-Government community sector to improve policy deliberations by Government.

2.4 Labor is committed to coordinating policies and programs concerning young people between Government departments and the non-Government sector.

2.5 Labor is committed to support strategies to assist with the training and progressional development of workers and management committees involved with community-based services.

2.6 Labor believes in a preventative approach to the problems confronting young people.

2.7 Labor will encourage of young people to attain a sense of dignity, interdependence and resourcefulness and the ability to live and work cooperatively.

2.8 Labor will encourage young people to be involved in decision making in relation to the social, economic, environmental, cultural, educational, recreational and political life of the community.

2.9 Labor will provide education, training and employment opportunities for young people.

2.10 Labor will encourage an awareness and acceptance of difference in our society which might take the form of age, gender, culture, disability, socioeconomic or linguistic differences.

2.11 Labor will promote an environment responsive to the needs, aspirations and cultural heritage of young people.

2.12 Labor will support the young people's families and young people's personal relationships with caring adults.

2.13 Labor will give full recognition and encourage the participation of young people in all relevant aspects of life.

2.14 Labor will make resources available in key areas, in accord with the needs of young people.

2.15 Labor will identify and target disadvantaged young people in the allocation of resources.

2.16 Labor will provide equal opportunities for all young people in education, employment and training.

2.17 Labor will support the use and development of facilities in health, housing, justice and community support.

2.18 Labor will promote personal fulfilment, culture and recreation for young people.

### 3 OBJECTIVES

3.1 To achieve these goals Labor will engage in policy development and review by monitoring young people's issues.

3.2 Labor is committed to providing a range of responsive and quality services for the diversity of young Queenslanders for years to come.

3.3 Labor is committed to fostering an awareness and understanding of the central role of the community in the development of policies and programs which focus on issues affecting young people and their status in society and their relevant cross-cultural needs and concerns.

#### Process For Consultation

3.4 Labor will develop and support effective processes for consultation which will maintain a continuing information flow so as to alert Government to the changing needs of young people.

3.5 Labor will establish two-way communication between young people, community groups and organisations and agencies and Government departments.

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**3.6** Labor will facilitate the development of a coordinated approach between Government departments and the community towards achieving equity in the distribution of resources.

**3.7** Labor will promote sharing ideas, information and services between Government departments and the community-based sector across the State.

**3.8** Labor will promote an integrated and coordinated delivery of services to the young people of our State.

## Human Resources

**3.9** Labor will develop human resources in the community sector by supporting and assisting the provision of education and training for young people, community workers and professional careers.

**3.10** Labor will provide access to professional training and development for workers who work with young people, including those in remote areas of our State.

**3.11** Labor will examine the current career structure and the relevant industrial awards and agreements for young workers to encourage more highly-skilled and qualified workers to work with young people.

**3.12** Labor will open up opportunities for more people to become involved in continuing education and training systems and provide opportunities for workers with young people to gain experience and accreditation as trainers, so as to encourage a more skilled, and adaptable workforce supporting young people.

**3.13** Labor will provide support, information and assistance for the training of volunteers and to the organisations which utilise such volunteers.

**3.14** Labor will provide development and training grants to assist community participation in services for young people.

## Personal Development

**3.15** Labor will promote and encourage personal development by providing the opportunity for young people to participate in personal development programs, forums and social and community meetings.

**3.16** Labor will encourage young people to be more involved, responsible and aware of the valuable contribution they can make to their local community.

**3.17** Labor will assist the inclusion of young men and women of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, non-English speaking backgrounds, those with disabilities and most disadvantaged onto committees of young people's organisations and into general activities of the various young people's networks.

**3.18** Labor will encourage young people to follow healthy lifestyles and to use appropriate services for prevention and treatment.

**3.19** Labor will facilitate access to the arts by providing funding and other support to Government and non-Government arts activities which will enable

young people to develop their skills and achieve their potential.

**3.20** Labor will support specific arts initiatives for young people including innovative activities.

**3.21** Labor will encourage the development of art and culture of people from non-English backgrounds in cities and regional areas of the State.

**3.22** Labor will provide financial assistance to recognised state sporting associations and their affiliates and provide service and assistance to community groups, the corporate sector and local authorities in their efforts to promote, assist and develop sport and recreation opportunities for young people.

## Research

**3.23** Labor will undertake research to gain an awareness and understanding of the needs, problems and issues confronting the full diversity of young people.

**3.24** Labor will develop resources for sharing knowledge and information between the Government and the community.

**3.25** Labor will develop and publicise self-help strategies.

## Life And Lifestyle Risks

**3.26** Labor will attempt to minimise lifestyle risks by developing programs aimed at achieving significant decreases in the abuse of alcohol and drugs and pharmaceutical products, poor nutrition, attempted suicide and suicide, cancer and destructive social behaviour.

**3.27** Labor will develop strategies to prevent and reduce the risk of HIV infection, AIDS and sexually-transmitted diseases.

**3.28** Labor will address social and lifestyle issues such as cigarette smoking, sexual responsibility, alcohol and drug use, diet, exercise and excessive exposure to the sun.

**3.29** Labor will implement strategies to address the unacceptably high rate of deaths and injuries caused by the inexperience of young drivers. These strategies should include education about the risks of drink driving and defensive-driving techniques.

## Legal Issues

**3.30** Labor will provide a support group specialising in young people's issues attached to the Public Defender's office.

**3.31** Labor will raise young people's awareness of their legal rights, obligations and responsibilities.

## Community Participation And Awareness

**3.32** Labor will encourage the development of coordinated integrated services for young people and their families by Government and community-based providers. Labor will give special attention to the

accessibility of services. Labor will establish a young people's hotline.

**3.33** Labor will give recognition and support to the community-based young people's sector. Labor will investigate establishing a young people's secretariat with access to a toll-free number.

**3.34** Labor will provide training opportunities for community workers and volunteers. Labor will continue to support training for young people.

**3.35** Labor will implement strategies to raise awareness throughout the community of young people and issues affecting them. Labor will continue to support consultative forums for young people including a State forum. These forums should act as a consultative mechanism to advise the State Government in services for young people.

**3.36** Labor recognises the multicultural nature of our society. Labor will ensure that community groups representing different cultures are consulted and involved in the provision of services for young people by Government.

**3.37** Labor will ensure that accurate information regarding young people is effectively disseminated to the community to assist in the rational and constructive debate on youth issues. Further to this, election campaigns, Parliamentary representatives and candidates of the Australian Labor Party will not promote misleading or exaggerated information and statistics which portray young people negatively.

**3.38** Labor will ensure that all young people are educated regarding the processes, role and functions of all levels of government.

### Education And Training

**3.39** Labor will encourage young people to complete the full twelve years of education or vocational training that is available to them in order to gain an appreciation for the need of life-long learning to meet the challenges presented by our rapidly-changing society.

**3.40** Labor realises that students have varying levels of maturity, learning styles and needs which require a broad range of learning requirements. Labor recognises that some young people such as young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, young women, young people from non-English-speaking backgrounds, young people with learning difficulties or disabilities and young people from disadvantaged socioeconomic backgrounds can have their particular needs overlooked thus reducing their access to education and training.

**3.41** A Labor government will recognise that young people with mental illness should be provided with opportunities to develop their potential. To that end, a Labor government will ensure that the appropriate government department provide comparable service provision for young people suffering from mental illness as those with special education assistance.

**3.42** To meet the diverse educational and training needs of the young people of Queensland, Labor will

encourage access and ensure that young people have the best opportunity to succeed.

**3.43** Labor will encourage schools and TAFE colleges to become more flexible, to enable all of the young people of this State to have access to a wide range of options.

**3.44** Options should include staying at school and completing secondary education, undertaking full-time broad-based accredited training, a structural combination of the two above; and combining education and training with employment.

**3.45** Labor will develop an appropriate curriculum framework for senior schooling years (years 11-12) and vocational education and training that will complement junior and primary schooling.

**3.46** Labor will publicly recognise the diversity of student achievement through accreditation and certification procedures.

**3.47** Labor will promote the easy transfer of students between various educational institutions within the State so as to allow them to enhance their learning capabilities.

**3.48** Labor will develop strategies to ensure access to education and training by assisting all young people to re-enter or remain in education and training.

**3.49** Labor will ensure equity of access to all education and training resources.

**3.50** Labor will provide an appropriate range of accessible support services for all young people in response to their specific needs.

**3.51** Labor will ensure that young people have access to information about their education and training options.

**3.52** Labor will provide access to adequate and appropriate places in education and training programs for all young people.

### Employment

**3.53** Labor recognises that satisfying productive and appropriately paid work is an important goal in the lives of all young people.

**3.54** Labor is committed to supporting employment and training schemes which assist unemployed young people.

**3.55** Labor will ensure maximum cooperation with other agencies especially the Federal Government job search service.

**3.56** Labor will engage the aid of the ACTU Queensland Branch, unions, interested groups and the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission to ensure that young people are not taken advantage of in their early years of employment by encouraging membership of relevant trade unions.

**3.57** Labor will provide employment placement services and support for college students and young people with special needs who may require on-the-job support as a result of a physical disability, illness,

personal problems, alcohol and drug problems or because of their cultural background.

**3.58** Labor will conduct innovative employment programs for homeless young people in cooperation with community support groups.

**3.59** Labor will review continually our employment policy in view of the ever-changing labour market and society demands.

**3.60** Labor will provide access to employment programs and opportunities for all young people and provide support services and information about available education, training and employment opportunities for young people most at risk.

### **Accommodation**

**3.61** Labor recognises that the young people of the State have a requirement for a wide variety of accommodation options and must have access to safe adequate and appropriate accommodation.

**3.62** Labor will provide suitable accommodation for young people based on their identified needs which would include emergency, crisis, medium and long term as necessary.

**3.63** Labor is committed to ensuring that young people will always have access to accommodation allowing a wide range of options which will reflect individual needs by providing.

**3.64** Labor will provide public rental housing and rental subsidies to families, young people who are thrust into the position as head of the house, unemployed young people and those of non-English-speaking or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background.

**3.65** Labor will provide assistance and guidance to young people over 18 years of age in securing rental bond guarantees or home ownership.

**3.66** Labor will provide vacant land for development or existing buildings to local authorities or community organisations for use as emergency, crisis or halfway housing.

**3.67** Labor will provide boarding-house-type accommodation for single young people.

**3.68** Labor will provide multiple-unit dwelling for rental purposes to organisations for long-term housing for young people.

**3.69** Labor will provide capital grants to local authorities and community groups and organisations to establish rental accommodation for those in need.

**3.70** Labor will provide special accommodation with the necessary degrees of support and supervision for those young people throughout the State with mental disorders, alcohol and drug problems and physical or intellectual disabilities.

**3.71** Labor will encourage cooperation between State Government agencies, local authorities and community groups and organisations to develop strategies to assist those who are homeless, those who are having general

housing problems and to assist young people in the development of effective living skills in their transition to an independent lifestyle.

**3.72** Labor will define the principles of users' rights and user participation in the provision of supported accommodation services.

**3.73** Labor will encourage greater cooperation across various housing programs to allow a variety of attainable housing options for young people.

**3.74** Labor will ensure that young people and landlords at all levels either private or Government are kept informed as to their legal rights and responsibilities in the securing and provision of rental accommodation.

### **Care And Support**

**3.75** All young people in the transition to adulthood need the care and support of families, friends and other caring adults. The families of young people are often for a variety of reasons placed under great pressure and find the demands of parenting very difficult. Sometimes family relationships can break down, leaving young people homeless. This may be because of lack of income, unemployment, rental market discrimination, eviction, personal crises, such as psychiatric disorders, alcohol or drug dependence, physical or intellectual disability; and/or racial discrimination.

**3.76** Labor will provide care and support by the introduction of counselling and information services to support families where appropriate to facilitate the reunification of homeless young people with their families; and by providing assistance to young people and their families who have migrated to Queensland to integrate into the wider society.

**3.77** Labor will support programs which encourage young people to work together and with the community to gain independence where reunification with families is not possible, desired or appropriate.

**3.78** Labor is committed to raising the awareness and the capacity of the community to respond to the needs of young people and their families.

**3.79** Labor will provide help and assist when required, to enable homeless young people to be reunited with their families.

**3.80** Labor will provide young people with access to services including education, personal development and employment programs; and health, legal and accommodation services delivered in a socially, culturally and linguistically appropriate form which recognises the vulnerability of homeless young people.

**3.81** Labor will ensure that young offenders are treated in a caring and compassionate way which aims to contribute to the prevention of them re-offending. Initiatives will include:

- a) ensuring in cases of young people being placed on remand they are not put in custody with hardened or dangerous criminals;

- b) developing a broader range of sentencing options, where for minor offences an affective and more humane alternative to secure custody is arrived at;
- c) altering the definition of “child” in juvenile justice legislation so that young people are not sentenced as adults until they turn eighteen;
- d) provision of services, programs and counselling for those people who must because of their age be accommodated in adult correctional institutions so they can be provided with the opportunity to gain skills to assist them to be successfully rehabilitated and reintegrated into our society; and
- e) assisting young people and their families who have migrated to our State to settle and integrate into the wider society and community by improving and providing accommodation information and services on arrival, language and interpreter services and introduction and support to ethnic communities, groups and families.

# Social Justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People

## 1 PREAMBLE

**1.1** Racial discrimination is incompatible with democratic life. Although European settlement ultimately leads to the establishment of an Australian democracy, it also was the occasion of many injustices against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, some of which continue today. Australia's legitimate claim to be a democracy awaits the guarantee of human rights and social justice for its Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

**1.2** Labor recognises that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have a complex self-governing and sophisticated society that has continued from before colonisation. Labor also recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the original occupants and custodians of this land, Australia since time immemorial.

**1.3** Labor acknowledges that from 1770 to present day many injustices have and are still being inflicted on and against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

**1.4** Labor is strongly committed to empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to determine the social and economic status of their peoples.

**1.5** Labor believes that compensation is a necessity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people for the loss of their land, the trauma of displacement and the atrocities against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Australia.

**1.6** Labor recognises and will protect common law Native Title and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people ownership and custodianship of their cultural heritage.

**1.7** Labor also recognises that in many cases urban Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people may be unable to establish continuous association with land necessary for the survival of common law native Title. Therefore, Labor believes that land acquisition programs should be established because of the displacement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people since early colonisation.

## 2 PRINCIPLES

**2.1** Land and Sea Rights are fundamental to the cultural survival of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

**2.2** Ownership of Indigenous cultural heritage objects and custodial management rights of Indigenous cultural heritage area must be vested in the respective Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through legislation.

**2.3** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have distinct and separate cultures. This must be taken into account when working with communities as there are distinct Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities throughout Queensland. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage and history should be promoted as a complete and integral part of the history of Queensland both before and after European settlement.

**2.4** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have a full range of human rights and this must be protected by effective implementation of anti-discrimination laws.

**2.5** The development of legislation, policy and the implementation of programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people must occur only after close, full and informed negotiations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

**2.6** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people must have a mandated balanced gender representation on all Government-appointed bodies, which make decisions that affect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders.

**2.7** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are entitled to facilities and services comparable to those provided in communities throughout Queensland.

**2.8** Labor is strongly committed to the social and economic development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through processes of self-determination.

**2.9** Extra efforts need to be made to ensure that the health, housing, educational and employment needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are raised beyond the standard of national benchmarks.

**2.10** Labor recognises the inadequate standards in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child health care and education. There must be a substantial allocation of funds made available to raise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child health care and education standards beyond national benchmarks.

**2.11** Culturally appropriate, well designed and affordable housing is fundamental to the well being and cultural sustainability of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

**2.12** The failure of the mainstream legal system to understand and take into account cultural aspects of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people unduly disadvantages them. Labor recognises and is committed to addressing this as a matter of urgency.

**2.13** Labor recognises that high Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander suicide rates are unacceptable.

**2.14** Labor recognises that the resolution of native title with an emphasis on successful consent determinations, as essential to the reconciliation process.

**2.15** Labor also recognises that affordable access to community and personal history records is a fundamental part of developing claims for native title and is committed to addressing this as a matter of urgency.

**2.16** Labor considers equitably resourced negotiations between all stakeholders as the best means of providing equity and certainty in resolving native title issues.

**2.17** Labor opposes any further legislative extinguishment of native title, and continues to support the rights of holders of native title to negotiate over pastoral and mining leases.

**2.18** Labor recognises that the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people must be met through a holistic and integrated whole of government approach that is consistent with the principles of self-determination.

**2.19** Labor recognises that reparations to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people for past injustice can be made in many forms. Labor will ensure that any reparations and compensation will be consistent with the principles and objects of the Party.

**2.20** Labor recognises the need to directly engage with Traditional Owners for negotiation and discussion on any matters relating to their native title or cultural heritage.

### **3 OBJECTIVES**

**3.1** Labor's objectives are to:

- a) implement programs and services that will support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander self-determination through becoming self-managing with economic development supported by appropriate measures to ensure effective financial assistance.
- b) recognise the cultural and environmental issues when addressing the successful and achievable outcomes to best support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples interests.
- c) Labor's objective is to develop an umbrella standard for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their accompanying services, which will apply across all public sector agencies. The purpose of this is to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders are involved at every stage of decision making within policy and program development across all public sector agencies and commissions. Best practice principles will be used in developing the standard for: use in community consultation; facilitation and brokerage roles and processes; cultural protocols; community participation; holistic approaches; ownership; culturally appropriate processes; plain English as a second language; recognition and acknowledgment of traditional owners/historical peoples; stakeholders

including community organizations, Aboriginal Shire Councils and Torres Strait island-based Councils.

For example, government initiatives including:

- Negotiation tables;
- Government champions;
- Establishment of government coordination centres to provide better service delivery across government.

Provide successful models of implementing these goals.

**3.2** Labor will:

- a) Protect common law Native Title and reject further wholesale legislative extinguishment of Native Title co-existing with pastoral leases and other broad acre statutory land tenures. Further, Labor will support the managed co-existence of land title through negotiations between title holders including regional agreements.
- b) Commence a public education program to explain the nature of native title and cultural heritage and its relationship with other statutory land interests such as pastoral leases.
- c) Acknowledge that the negotiation process of native title needs to take into account all groups involved and their economic and cultural issues.
- d) Develop and fund Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family history research in a manner that expedites the Connection Report process recognising that resolution of native title through consent determinations rather than litigated court outcomes provides certainty for all of Queensland.
- e) Recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples connection to land and sea for the purpose of recognizing native title rights and interests where a prima facie case has been established in Connection Reports.

**3.3** Review heritage legislation to further recognise and protect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples ownership of cultural heritage objects and protect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander areas of cultural significance.

**3.4** Acquire land for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people using existing departmental powers of acquisition financed by the State Government out of budget funds allocated to State Agencies for the community development and heritage protection for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

**3.5** Provide financial assistance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups for the purposes of identifying land of significance to them, and representing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the recognition and the resolution of disputes in respect of the uses of land.

**3.6** Enact legislation to decriminalise public drunkenness to enable people to be taken to a place of safety.

**3.7** Provide financial, legislative and other support for the maintenance and strengthening of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural lives.

**3.8** Monitor legislation, which protects human rights, and make discrimination on the basis of race unlawful.

**3.9** Systemically upgrade the physical and social infrastructure in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. In addition, support the provision of physical and social infrastructure, which will enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to return to their traditional land if they so wish.

**3.10** Labor is committed to ensuring that the difference between individual, community or collective consultative processes is understood and practiced in all negotiations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

**3.11** Fund suicide prevention programs.

**3.12** Assist in the development of industry initiatives, social and capital ventures and collaborative partnerships that will sustain economically viable Indigenous enterprises enabling Aboriginal and Islander families and communities to be self-supporting as far as practicable.

**3.13** Ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are provided with culturally appropriate and relevant schooling and ensure that retention rates are at least equivalent to that of the general community.

**3.14** Maintain and upgrade specific Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, housing, educational and training and employment programs.

**3.15** Provide housing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in a form that meets their needs.

**3.16** Consult with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people about recognition and implementation of customary law in appropriate circumstances.

**3.17** Ensure appropriate funding and other resources are provided to support the ongoing monitoring, reporting and review of the effectiveness of continued implementation of the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Deaths In Custody. These efforts will be particularly concentrated on initiatives to reduce the disproportionate incidence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander imprisonment.

**3.18** In relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Labor will:

- a) Work systematically to eliminate differentials in the levels of morbidity and mortality between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Queenslanders;
- b) Provide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with health services that are accessible,

culturally appropriate and effective in terms of reducing mortality and are provided at a level at least equivalent to that provided to the general community.

- c) Provide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with access to living environments that are conducive to good health;
- d) Ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities participate in the policy, planning, development, implementation and assessment of programs.
- e) Restructure health services in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities with a view to progressively devolving management of services to local health committees. State funded services will be required to cooperate with Commonwealth funded Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community health services;
- f) Will develop appropriate services with respect to traditional and cultural birthing and other practices which recognise the importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people links with their land and waters;
- g) Implement culturally appropriate child health care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and mothers with the aim of reducing unacceptable levels of neo-natal mortality and other health disadvantages;
- h) Acknowledge that major advances in the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living on communities will not be achieved without the provision of essential services, water, sewerage, electricity and transport and therefore will continue to give priority to the provision and management of these services;
- i) Ensure that State and Local Government instrumentalities work in a cooperative manner to effectively and efficiently meet the range of basic community infrastructure required to promote health status;
- j) Provide affirmative action to promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers throughout the Queensland health service. Affirmative action principles will be put in place to recruit Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to senior health practitioner and administrative positions, including the creation of senior Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander positions at the regional and central office level.
- k) In conjunction with other State and Commonwealth Education bodies, work to develop a proper career structure for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers;
- l) Increase and expand the provision of support services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children who experience sexual assault, domestic and family violence including early comprehensive intervention;

- m) Strongly support the development and regional implementation of culturally based support programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males to complement sexual assault, domestic and family violence strategies services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children;
  - n) Strongly support the development and regional implementation of culturally based mental health programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males;
  - o) Support the development and accreditation of training programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers in tertiary institutions;
  - p) Recognise importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health services are, for the most part, federally funded, will cooperate closely with the Commonwealth Government to improve the State's health services;
  - q) Cooperate with the Commonwealth and other States for the development of consistent goals for services to meet the special health needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people;
  - r) At State level will support the Federal Labor Government's ongoing process of reconciliation between the wider community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people;
  - s) Implement culturally appropriate child health care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and mothers with the aim of reducing unacceptable levels of neo-natal mortality and other health disadvantages.
- 3.19** In relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youths, Labor will:
- a) Develop policies and programs, which are culturally appropriate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youths, particularly preventative policies and programs for the prevention of youth homelessness and Juvenile Law Offenders through appropriately resourced government and community agencies.
  - b) Ensure that legislation and policies affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young peoples are sensitive to the special needs of young people, particularly in reference to traditional language and cultural requirements.
- 3.20** In relation to Reconciliation, Labor will:
- a) support the Reconciliation process at Local, State and Federal levels;
  - b) acknowledge that a number of issues have to be addressed before reconciliation can begin - recognition, mediation and negotiation;
  - c) support the implementation of comprehensive civic education about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, languages, histories and their continuing role in all facets of society.
- d) support artistic endeavours which promote the language and culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, encourage culture and other activities which foster greater understanding and tolerance of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander lifestyle among the general community.
- 3.21** In relation to advancing whole-of-government co-ordination in a manner consistent with self determination, Labor will:
- a) provide affirmative action to promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers throughout the Queensland public service. Affirmative action principles will be put in place to recruit and retain Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to senior positions, including the creation of senior Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander positions at agency regional, central office and senior executive level;
  - b) in conjunction with other State and Commonwealth bodies, work to develop flexible career structures for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander public servants which addresses the barriers limiting the recruitment and retention of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Labor is committed to developing public sector organisations, which are responsive to the distinct needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as employees and citizens;
  - c) cause amendments to the conditions of employment legislation and policies that govern the administering of the Queensland public service to facilitate the effective sharing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander intellectual capital between State Agencies in order to meet broader community needs.
- 3.22** In relation to reparations for wages and savings, Labor will:
- a) provide for public recognition for the injustices endured by many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders affected by successive government's control over their wages and savings;
  - b) support and make payment of financial reparations, and will view the existing offer as a first step to full reparation;
  - c) establish a formal consultation process to examine the adequacy of the original process and the current reparations package. This process will:
    - consult extensively with indigenous organisations, community groups and relevant individuals to determine the conduct of this consultation process in a culturally appropriate way;
    - involve approaches that are inclusive of as many indigenous organisations, community groups

and relevant individuals as possible in order to redress the deficiencies of any previous processes;

- consider the experience of other jurisdictions in resolving the wages and savings issue;
- examine the capacity of government to include the families of deceased workers affected by the wages and savings issue in some form of reparations;
- consider the legal rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers to pursue claims notwithstanding any financial reparations already paid;
- ensure that any further recommendations for reparations are in the form of additional initiatives, and not instead of other necessary spending in the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander portfolio;
- make recommendations for the negotiation of full closure of the wages and savings issue with Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

**3.23** Labor recognises that past injustices have resulted in significant disadvantages for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders. Labor supports the delivery of specific Aboriginal determined services and Torres Strait Islander determined services, particularly in the areas of aged care, disability, mental health, and social and emotional well-being.

**3.24** Labor recognises that evidence-based practice and evidence-based policy will make significant contributions towards overcoming Indigenous disadvantage. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders are key partners in research Labor will ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders have a principal role in information management and decision-making, which is based on research findings particular to people and place.

## 4 HOUSING

**4.1** Labor reaffirms the importance of indigenous housing as a basic human right. Housing is an important means of addressing disadvantage and working towards social and economic equality.

**4.2** Labor recognises that appropriate housing solutions are fundamental to the ability to address many other challenges indigenous Australian's face. The safe and secure environments that appropriate housing affords is the cornerstone of family well being and strengthens the capacity of indigenous Queenslanders to participate in society.

**4.3** Without the ability to access the most basic necessities that housing affords, like kitchens to prepare food, places to wash, and a safe place to sleep, economic and employment status, health and wellbeing and education also suffers.

**4.4** Labor recognises that some housing organisations are successful leaders in increasing

housing stock for Indigenous peoples using a culturally appropriate model. This important work should be recognised.

**4.5** Labor recognises that reduced funding only further seeks to marginalise indigenous Queenslanders.

**4.6** Labor commits to providing housing stability to ensure Indigenous families are able to access secure and safe environments in order to improve their well being. Labor believes that State and Federal Governments have a shared responsibility to resource and support indigenous housing through various funding models and options.

**4.7** Labor rejects Federal Government cost-shifting in regard to indigenous housing, particularly the notion that Indigenous Housing Companies should be transferred across and incorporated within mainstream public housing. Federal Labor in Government will support and fund successful Indigenous Housing Companies to continue with their core business and look to empowering Indigenous communities through ongoing partnerships.

**4.8** Labor will ensure that there is adequate Indigenous representation when reviews are undertaken into Queensland Indigenous Housing Business Units.

**4.9** Labor will also attempt to avoid forced displacement of Indigenous families from their homes as a result of any review.

**4.10** Labor believes that housing needs of indigenous people should always be dealt with dignity and respect.

## **Social Justice for LGBTIQ Queenslanders**

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

**1.1** Traditionally, people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, intergendered or queer have experienced individual and systematic discrimination within the Australian community. Labor believes government has a responsibility to ensure this discrimination is eliminated.

### **2 PRINCIPLES**

**2.1** Labor believes that every LGBTIQ person is entitled to full participation in the community.

**2.2** Labor believes that people who identify as LGBTIQ have the same rights to live, work, learn and enjoy life in our community as any other citizen.

**2.3** Labor believes there is a need for education about the rights of people who identify as LGBTIQ and the community's responsibility to respect and maintain these rights.

**2.4** Labor recognizes that appropriate support mechanisms for LGBTIQ Queenslanders should be provided within regional and rural communities as well as in metropolitan centres.

### **3 OBJECTIVES**

Labor will:

**3.1** Implement and maintain legislative safeguards to protect and enhance the rights of all people who identify as LGBTIQ.

**3.2** Improve and expand services available to LGBTIQ Queenslanders.

**3.3** Enable people who identify as LGBTIQ to have input into legislative reform, policy and program development and implementation.

### **4 STRATEGIES**

Labor will:

**4.1** Ensure that all Queenslanders have access to the same rights, including (but not limited to) access to adoption, reproductive and parenting rights and formal recognition of same-sex couples.

**4.2** Review existing legislation to remove provisions which discriminate against LGBTIQ Queenslanders.

**4.3** Fund community awareness programs which promote a positive image of LGBTIQ Queenslanders.

**4.4** Fund community organizations to provide appropriate assistance to LGBTIQ Queenslanders in areas such as

- a) respite care
- b) lifestyle and family support
- c) accommodation
- d) advocacy, and
- e) information and educational services.

## Resolutions

**1.1** The Social Justice Policy Committee supports and endorses the following motion for the ALP to develop a policy on asylum seekers and refugees.

**1.2** In particular, we call on the Australian Labor Party to develop a policy on asylum seekers and refugees:

- a) That is compassionate and humanitarian, and promotes the cause of social justice
- b) Ensures that we meet our international obligations in a manner that allows us to be proud of our commitment to the global community
- c) Reaffirms our commitment to fundamental human rights, and to the dignity and worth of every human being, and their inherent right to respect
- d) Recognises the vast inequities in the global community and our obligations to further the correction of these inequities.

**1.3** Specifically, this State Conference calls on the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party to adopt and advance a policy that supports:

- a) An end to the current system of mandatory detention
- b) The replacing of mandatory detention with a humanitarian and compassionate system for processing asylum seekers consistent with our international obligations. This system should provide for a short period where asylum seekers are held for health, security and identity checks followed by accommodation in community settings.
- c) An end to Temporary Protection Visas and the granting of permanent residency to asylum seekers awarded refugee status
- d) An end to the privatisation of detention centres
- e) An end to the processing of asylum seekers offshore (the so-called Pacific Solution)
- f) Full appeal rights for asylum seekers, including access to the High Court

**1.4** Further, this State Conference calls on the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party to pursue in the life of this parliament a Royal Commission into the current policy of mandatory detention, and conditions within our detention centres.

**1.5** That this motion be referred to the relevant

- a) Federal Policy Committee
- b) Relevant Federal Shadow Minister
- c) The Federal Policy Review Committee
- d) State Conference as an urgency motion

**1.6** Further that the Social Justice Policy Committee recognises that appropriate Federal funding should be

provided for the necessary and appropriate support services at a State level.

**1.7** That the ALP Queensland Branch State Conference:

- a) Notes and restates our support for Social Justice Policy Platform 10, concerning Labor's policy towards asylum seekers and refugees;
- b) Urges the National Policy Committee to incorporate the principles of Social Justice Policy 10 and other like resolutions from ALP State Branches in the draft National Platform for submission to National Conference;
- c) Requests National Secretariat to provide sufficient time on the National Conference Agenda for a substantive debate on the question of Labor's policy towards refugees and asylum seekers; and
- d) Requests Social Justice Policy Committee to prepare and submit to the National Policy Committee an appropriate National Platform amendment based on the principles of Social Justice Policy 10, in consultation with party units and affiliated unions.

**1.8** This Conference calls on the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party to make strong representations to the Government of the United States of America to either ensure that David Hicks receives a fair and speedy trial or that he is released from incarceration at Guantanamo Bay and brought back to Australia. He has now spent nearly four (4) years in a concentration camp under conditions which are outside the Geneva Convention. He has done so without recourse to trial by jury and should be released or tried immediately.

**1.9** This Conference seeks Labor's Federal Conference to make the same declarations and representations.

**1.10** This Conference notes that the FPLP and its spokespersons have consistently demanded that Mr Hicks to receive a trial that meets international and Australian standards of justice. The US Military Commission process falls far short of these standards.

**1.11** This Conference again recognises that Labor policy constantly aspires for all Australian Governments to protect the welfare of all Australian citizens anywhere in the world.