

Australian Labor Party Victorian Branch

State Conference
19th May 2012



Venue

*Moonee Valley Racecourse
McPherson Street, Moonee Ponds*

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1 Urgency Motion – Victorian Service Sector Strategy

Conference notes that much of the work performed by private sector clerical and administrative and financial services workers, including the almost 300,000 employees working in call centres, is of an insecure nature.

In Australia we are seeing an increase in the offshoring of administration work like payroll, data entry, customer service, accounting and financial services, IT, call centre and legal services work.

This “back office” skilled work is vital to our economy and to the efficiency of the businesses that rely upon it.

Offshoring frequently diminishes the quality of the work performed by underestimating the necessary synergies provided by internal providers, and the resultant deskilling of the workforce is a major blow to the competitiveness and sustainability of our services sector.

Labor recognises that our services industries provide a very large proportion of Australia’s employment and a very large proportion of national income. Since many services are also direct inputs into other business activities, effective and efficient services are fundamental to maintaining and enhancing business competitiveness.

Ensuring that employment in the services sector continues to provide career development, job security, access to collective bargaining and fair remuneration for employees continues to be a priority.

Labor recognises that a strong and efficient service economy is crucial to Victoria’s long-term economic prosperity and ability to take part in the global services economy.

Labor recognises the importance of maintaining and creating high skill, quality jobs in the domestic services sector. The prosperity of the years ahead will increasingly come from businesses that provide the many services that are essential to consumers in a modern industrial society—such as financial, retail and personal services, transport, communications, information technology, data management, legal, medical, scientific, engineering, construction, education, tourism, hospitality and leisure services - due to their increasing capacity to:

- improve our ability to compete on the international stage by making export initiatives in other sectors more competitive;
- penetrate services export markets in their own right;
- and compete with imported services on cost and quality.

There is great opportunity to grow Victoria’s services exports, however consumers are increasingly receiving services from off-shore locations with no knowledge that this is occurring.

Where services are provided from off-shore locations this should be disclosed to allow consumers to make informed purchasing decisions. Victorian Labor will implement a service economy strategy that will, where feasible, introduce country of origin disclosure legislation for services and Labor will continue to work with the industry and unions to ensure disclosure is appropriate in the area.

Off-shoring of service sector jobs has been emerging as an important issue impacting employees and communities for a number of years. Service sector employees e.g. banks, communications and IT in particular, have been interested in off-shoring as a way of reducing costs.

Labor believes that all service sector businesses have a responsibility to support and promote new and better Victorian jobs, creating opportunities for local employment as they grow their operations.

Victorian Labor is committed to ensuring that services industry organisations who derive their business and profits from the Victorian community contribute economically and socially into the future.

Victoria urgently needs a service industry jobs strategy. The strategy needs to focus on innovation and identifying capabilities that exist in the Victorian economy that can provide the basis for a globally competitive services sector.

Implementation of the strategy will need to focus on:

- Facilitating a cooperative dialogue of key stakeholder in the industry through an appropriate 'roundtable';
- Promotion of the positives for business in having decent employment standards for staff, a well trained workforce with appropriate career paths and recognition of skills;
- Improving skills through training and other targeted skills development initiatives;
- Development of stronger linkages between universities, industry bodies and training institutions;
- Development of appropriate economic and policy incentives to promote Victoria as a centre of excellence for call centre and 'back office' operations;
- Introduce country of origin disclosure requirements for services;
- Promotion of and investment attraction for businesses that can build an international presence for Victoria;
- Ensure government procurement arrangements promote onshore Victorian services and jobs;

- Leveraging the rollout of the National Broadband Network to build competitiveness and productivity and strengthen the regional job market, and
- Marketing and branding Victoria's key capabilities in the services sector.

Moved: Ingrid Stitt

Seconded: Mark Gepp

2 Urgency Resolution - CPSU - Australian Public Service Job and Funding Cuts

Federal Budget 2012/13

To meet the challenges of a changing economy and growing population, Australia deserves and needs a strong, effective and well-resourced public sector. Every day Australian communities rely on quality essential services delivered by the public sector – whether it is the provision of family benefits payments or pensions, protection of our borders, regulating health standards, running courts or developing solutions to the highly complex policy challenges our nation faces.

To do all of this, the public sector needs to be properly funded and maintained.

Labor must avoid the trap of Conservative rhetoric that small government is good government and that public sector funding is a soft target for achieving spending reductions.

Conference notes with concern that 2012/13 Federal Budget Decisions have resulted in reducing the funding of the Australian Public Service. This means cutting 4,228 positions from the Australian Public Service in 2012/13.

This is already leading to, for example:

- Increased waiting times for access to Centrelink, Courts and Taxation services
- Delays in access to essential safety net payments
- Delays in access to Federal Courts
- Delays in airport passenger processing
- Reduced provision of Meteorological and forecasting services to Victorian farmers and primary producers

The public sector in Australia is not over funded. The APS is about the same size as it was 20 years ago, while Australia's population and our expectations of Government have increased significantly.

The quality of the service the community receives from government relies on agencies having quality staff with enough time and resources to assist citizens properly.

Therefore Victorian State Conference calls on the Federal Labor Government to work with public sector unions to find a more sustainable funding model for the Australian Public Service which will:

- deliver quality, effective and efficient services that are affordable and accessible for all Australians;
- deliver value for money to the community;
- provide certainty for clients, employees and agencies;
- drive real public sector productivity, efficiency and improvements to service and policy capability; and
- ensure the public service provides secure, high quality jobs and help attract and retain talented employees.

Moved: Louise Persse

Seconded: Stacey Harris

3 Report of the National Advisory Council on Dental Health 23rd February 2012

This comprehensive report reveals that despite having some of the best dental services available in the world, many Australians are missing out on proper dental care, and have been shown to have a poor state of dental health as assessed by common standards.

Those missing out include:

- Concession card holders, due to the inadequacies of the public dental system and the cost of the private system
- Rural and regional residents, due to the un-availability of services outside of major centres because of the maldistribution of the dental health workforce
- Indigenous Australians, a combination of the two reasons in addition to some cultural factors
- Frail and older Australians, especially the poor as well as problems of accessibility
- Low income workers, due to the cost of private care
- The homeless, due to lack access, lack of income and lack of a fixed address

The report states:

In broad terms, lower income groups have a high incidence of unfavourable (dentist) visiting patterns and, therefore, follow a different treatment path which increases the chance of poor oral health outcomes. Income plays a significant role in assessing which people are more likely to miss out on treatment, especially regular preventative services. Social disadvantage is an important determinant of oral health access and status with links to income and educational attainment. This pattern is evident in both the adult and child population. For children the socio-economic status of their parents has an impact on whether they access dental services.

The public dental service operates as a welfare system and has many inadequacies compared with the private system. Waiting times for adults are significant, and although children are given priority in the public system waiting times are still very long compared with the public system.

With these matters in mind, the Health, Community Services and Senior Victorians Policy Committee believes that the Federal Government should give urgent and serious consideration to the report and the options put forward within the report. In particular:

- The provision of an individual (means tested for adults but not for children) capped benefit entitlement – to increase the access to basic dental services
- Enhancements to public dental services – the Commonwealth to provide funds and the states to deliver basic dental services to an agreed standard. If necessary services could be purchased from the private sector. Higher end services, if required, to be delivered by teaching institutions and the private sector.
- A uniform school dental service, including oral health education, to be funded by the Commonwealth and delivered by the states.
- A comprehensive Indigenous Dental Service to be established
- An involvement of the Commonwealth in dental workforce management to the impact of geography on access to dental services

The Policy committee also believes that the only way to provide truly equitable access to dental care is through a universal scheme for all Australians, and that this should be the long term aspiration of a Labor Government.

Rob Carter (on behalf of the Victorian ALP HCSSV PC)

March 2012

4 URGENCY MOTION: Report of the National Advisory Council on Dental Health

“That this conference applauds the Gillard Government’s introduction of a Dental Scheme in the Budget, working towards a Universal Dental Scheme. Attached is a background paper on the **Report of the National Advisory Council on Dental Health of 23rd February 2012**.

With these matters in mind, the Health, Community Services and Senior Victorians Policy Committee believes that the Federal Government should give further urgent and serious consideration to **Report of the National Advisory Council on Dental Health of 23rd February 2012** and the options put forward within the report. In particular:

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The Policy committee also believes that the only way to provide truly equitable access to dental care is through a universal scheme for all Australians, and that this should be the long term aspiration of a Labor Government.

Moved: Felicity Smith
Seconded: Ilia Vurtel

5 URGENCY MOTION - RTBU – AUTHORISED OFFICERS

“That Labor commit to increase the number of Authorised Officers and to re-staff all suburban railway stations with station staff if re-elected.”

Moved: Luba Grigorovitch
Seconded: Grant Wainwright

6 URGENCY MOTION - National Disability Insurance Scheme

Labor believes that fundamental reform of disability care and support in Australia is long overdue.

Labor endorses the critique of the Productivity Commission that the current system for disability care and support in Australia is “underfunded, unfair, [and] fragmented,” and that it “gives people with a disability little choice and no certainty”. This highlights the need for urgent and fundamental change.

Labor supports the creation of a National Disability Insurance Scheme and believes that the scheme will bring transformative change to disability care and support.

Labor believes that building a National Disability Insurance scheme:

- Is a shared responsibility for all governments.
- Must involve people with disability, their families and carers from the ground up.
- Requires the engagement of the disability workforce, and a focus on workforce and sector capacity.

Victorian Labor congratulates the Gillard Government for the 2012-13 Budget’s \$1 billion investment to build the first stage of the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Victorian Labor calls on the Baillieu Government to work constructively with the Federal Government to make an NDIS real for all Victorians with disability.

Moved: Danielle Green
Seconded: Ryan Batchelor

7 URGENCY MOTION - TAFE

This conference condemns the Baillieu Government for the most savage funding cuts to education that Victoria has ever seen in the history of TAFE.

The Baillieu Government has put the Victorian education system into crisis and has removed the opportunity for thousands of Victorians to get a decent education.

The Baillieu Government confirmed to TAFE CEOs that total cuts to TAFE in 2012-13 Budget equate to about \$290 million a year by 2013

An estimated 2000 Victorians will lose their job from TAFE institutes and with many more across the training sector.

The Minister for Skills and Higher Education Peter Hall has refused to rule out that this may lead to campus closures.

Working class students will be hit hardest, as student fees escalate to make up for the shortfall in Government funding. The Government acknowledged this by shamefully removed fee caps in the Budget.

The result will be less students getting an education and less skilled Victorians to drive our economy.

These cuts come on top of TAFEs losing almost \$100 million last year, following last October's funding cuts, and with the combined surplus of the 14 standalone TAFEs halving in 2011.

This conference notes with dismay the equalization of TAFE funding, which increased funding to private institutions at the expense of public education.

The reported dissatisfaction of Minister Peter Hall highlights the terrible policy decision of the Baillieu Government and we note the impact that these cuts will have on jobs and skills in rural and regional Victoria.

These TAFE cuts are compounded by the Baillieu Government's decision to withdraw all funding from the Industry Training Advisory Boards (ITABs).

ITAB's have successfully brought together employers, unions and trainers across 16 specific industry sectors for over 25 years.

Conference notes that the state-based ITABs have provided useful field support to the nationally-funded Industry Skills Councils (ISC), and that the conservative government in Western Australia has recently increased funding for that state's tripartite consultative bodies.

The ALP commits to

- ***supporting ITABs and the principle of tripartite consultation in vocational education, and commits to the re-birth of sector-based forums that are adequately funded to bring together industry partners.***
- ***examine the future role of ITABs or equivalent bodies in the registration or certification of particular occupations or vocational courses, to provide a genuinely independent audit of quality training outcomes.***
- ***returning the public TAFE system to its former standing as the principal source of quality vocational outcomes in Victoria.***

Moved: Brian Boyd

Seconded: Steve Herbert

8 URGENCY RESOLUTION – REGIONAL AND RURAL

This conference calls on the National Party to stand up to their Liberal Party colleagues and defend regional Victoria and notes;

That the 2012/13 Victorian State Budget heralded a return to the dark days of the Kennett/McNamara Government for regional Victorian communities.

In the last six months alone, 14,800 jobs in regional Victoria have been lost.

The 2012/13 budget continued the Victorian Government's assault on regional and rural communities and notes callous cuts that include;

- Scrapping the \$204.6 million Future Farming Strategy
- Cutting funding to the National Centre for Farmers Health
- Ceasing free financial counselling services in rural and regional areas
- Ending the First Home Owners Bonus
- Abandoning the Rural Maternity Support Program
- Reducing spending in regional development
- Axing Transport Connections
- Closing Department of Primary Industries offices
- Savaging TAFE and slashing public sector jobs across regional Victoria; and
- Breaking their promise to continue funding Labor's successful regional development programs.

Moved: John Lenders

Seconded: Jaala Pulford

9 URGENCY MOTION - JOBS v2

This conference condemns the short-sighted and savage cuts to the Victorian Public Service by the Baillieu Liberal Government. Ted Baillieu has sacked more Victorian workers than any other boss and has no plan to create jobs.

Conference notes that:

- Ted Baillieu prior to the election promised not one Public Service job will be cut;
- Despite claims that no front line services will be impacted cutting the Public Service by 4200 will have a significant impact on the delivery of services for Victorian families;
- Regional Victoria will be hit hard with the Nationals Minister for Agriculture already announcing the closure of 7 Department of Primary Industry Offices; and the compulsory relocation of staff from 18 other sites requiring them to travel up to 130km one-way to just keep their jobs,
- The 2.5% pay rise is an inadequate wages offer for Victorian public sector workers

The ALP condemns the cuts to public sector workers and the forced relocation of Victorian public sector workers in regional and rural Victoria and pledges to re-establish these lost jobs once in Government as a means of rebuilding the economy.

Moved: Brian Boyd
Seconded: Luke Hilakari

10 URGENCY MOTION - Public Housing Rent Increases

That this Conference condemns the Baillieu Liberal Government for increasing rents in public housing, and taking money out of the pockets of pensioners.

Victorian Labor understands that residents of public housing are among the most disadvantaged in our community. A place to call home in our public housing provides individuals and their families with much needed security, and secure housing is the foundation for building a pathway out of poverty.

Despite the recent report by the Victorian Auditor General that found “the current operating model and asset management approach places the long-term provision of this vital public service at risk”, the Baillieu Government has no plan to support public housing, other than a significant increase in rents.

The Baillieu Liberal Government is condemned for:

- Walking away from an agreement between Federal and State Labor Governments to exempt Federal Labor's 2009 pension increase from public housing rent calculations.
- Increasing rents paid by more than 45,000 Victorian pensioners in public housing by up to \$10 a week.
- Using this extra rent to prop up their budget bottom line, and not addressing the poor quality of housing stock and slow maintenance response times.

Labor knows that public housing residents simply can't afford Ted Baillieu's rent hike cash grab.

Further, this Conference notes that the Federal Labor Government's Clean Energy Future Household Assistance package is intended for pensioners and not for State Governments, and also notes with concern that Ted Baillieu and the Liberals have given no guarantee that they won't extend the rent hike to include this much needed additional assistance. The new payments of \$338 a year for single pensioners, and \$510 a year for couples combined should remain in the pockets of pensioners, where it belongs.

Labor calls on the Baillieu Government to agree to the repeated requests from the Prime Minister and Minister Macklin to exempt the Federal Government's Household Assistance payments from public housing rents, allowing all Victorian pensioners to receive the full benefit of Federal Labor's Household Assistance Package.

Moved: Ryan Batchelor
Seconded: Vicki Ward

11 URGENCY MOTION : Rights of Appeal to adverse ASIO security decisions for Asylum Seekers.

State Conference calls on the Federal Government to implement Recommendations 27 & 28 of the Joint Select Committee on Australia's Immigration Detention Network, as a matter of utmost urgency.

After an extensive inquiry into Australia's Immigration Detention Network the Joint Select Committee came up with the view that "the Government should take immediate steps to resolve how best to afford refugees an opportunity to appeal the grounds for their indefinite detention without compromising national security"

Recommendation 27

6.151 The Committee recommends that the Australian Government and the ASIO establish and implement periodic, internal reviews of adverse ASIO refugee security assessments commencing as soon as possible.

Recommendation 28

6.152 The Committee recommends that the ASIO Act be amended to allow the Security Appeals Division of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal to review the ASIO security assessments of refugees and asylum seekers."

Moved : **Ilia Vurtel**
Seconded : **Frances Scholtz**

12 URGENCY MOTION - Monash Children's Hospital

Conference notes that during Labors term in office in Victoria more than \$6 billion was allocated specifically to redevelop hospitals and aged care facilities across the state. This level of investment continues today through the redevelopment of major hospitals such as Bendigo, Box Hill and the Comprehensive Cancer Centre.

Conference expresses on behalf of the Victorian community our anger that hospital investment has slowed significantly under the Baillieu Government where major projects have been placed on the slow drip of project development.

Conference condemns the Baillieu Government for imposing a complete go slow on the development of the Monash Children's Hospital; where the government has broken their promises to the families of South East Metropolitan Melbourne and they have deserted the needs of their children by delaying the project, which will not be open by 2014 as Labor had promised.

Moved by: Gavin Jennings
Seconded by: Josh Cullinan

13 URGENCY RESOLUTION : Jobs and Manufacturing

State Conference notes with grave concern the serious deterioration of employment opportunities since the election of the State Coalition Government.

Conference notes that we previously warned that without significant intervention by the State Coalition government, significant job losses would occur and that due to the failure of the State Government to act, many more Victorians have lost their jobs as a consequence than elsewhere.

Conference condemns the Baillieu Ryan government for failing to more promptly intervene to prevent recent mass stand downs in our automotive sector when it was asked to do so.

Conference acknowledges with grave concern that Victoria is the worst performing state in recent employment trends and that manufacturing job losses are a significant part of this trend.

Conference notes that the South Australian Labor Government through significant intervention has successfully won major manufacturing contracts in that state which will support many thousands of workers.

Conference reaffirms Labor's commitment to support the Victorian Manufacturing Industry and recommits our party to work with Industry and Unions to develop a major manufacturing commitment prior to the next state election for endorsement by this conference.

Moved : Steve Dargavel

Seconded: Leigh Diehm

14 URGENCY MOTION - RELEASE OF MEMBERSHIP AND BRANCH STATISTICS

That the State Secretary be directed to provide a report to members that includes the following information:

1. The number of financial members in the Victorian ALP at the end of May in each of the last five years 2007-2011;
2. The names of branches in each FEA;
3. The number of branch members in each branch;
4. Subject to privacy considerations for each branch, the number of branch members in each branch by membership fee level;
5. Subject to privacy considerations for each branch, for membership renewals in 2010 and 2011 the number of renewals by membership fee level in each branch that availed themselves of the \$15 "traceable means" discount; and
6. The numbers of continuing members in each FEA who had their membership renewed in 2009, 2010 and 2011 by an agent on their behalf (i.e by a member of their branch executive or by another person).

That for following years the State Secretary shall provide an annual update of these figures together with :

1. The average attendance by members at regular meetings of each branch held in the preceding year; and
2. The number and identity of branches in each FEA that did not meet the minimum meeting requirement in that year.

Moved: Ian Hundley

Seconded: Katherine Jackson

15 URGENCY MOTION: MP accountability to Conference

That State Conference supports the recommendations of the ALP National Review building a closer partnership between Labor parliamentarians and the Party at large, as adopted at the December National Conference. In particular, Conference affirms Recommendation 15, which proposes a more direct relationship between Labor Ministers and Shadow Ministers and the democratic representative structures of the Party. Presently Conference considers the work of policy committees developing policies for Labor, but does not look at questions of implementation or effectively pull together the work of portfolio spokespeople and those committees. To build a more democratic Party, we must bring more meaningful decisions and debates before State Conference, as its supreme decision-making body.

To give effect to this Recommendation in Victoria, and to ensure that Victorian Labor front-benchers are effectively accountable to members and affiliates in respect of their portfolio responsibilities, State Conference resolves:

- to direct the Agenda Committee to liaise with the SPLP Caucus Secretary with a view to providing a Shadow Cabinet report to the next State Conference, and to enable delegates to appropriately consider this report.

Further, State Conference resolves to refer the implementation of this recommendation to the Rules Revision Committee, to consider whether a Rules amendment is necessary to ensure front-bench accountability to Conference and, if so, how this would be best achieved so that Labor's Platform and policies can be seen to be implemented in the future.

Moved Darren Martin (FSU)
Seconded Leigh Diehm (ASU)

16 URGENCY MOTION – Early Childhood Education

Preamble:

During the Bracks-Brumby Governments, Victoria was regarded as the leader in early childhood education. It introduced many reforms and invested heavily in this area. This reputation is at risk because of the Baillieu Government's under-investment and abolition of programs in early childhood education.

This Conference:

1. Condemns the Baillieu Government for failing to provide a single dollar in this year's state budget towards kindergarten capital infrastructure in Victoria.
2. Condemns the Baillieu government for abolishing Labor's dedicated funding stream for the building of new children's centres.
3. Notes that this is despite Victoria's continuing baby boom of over 70,000 babies being born every year, which will significantly increase the demand for kindergarten places into the future.

4. Notes that the lack of Baillieu Government funding for kindergartens signals its intention to walk away from the National Partnership Agreement on Early Childhood Education to offer 15 hours of kindergarten per week for every four year old in Australia 2013.
5. Notes that the Victorian Children's Minister has admitted that 40% of Victoria's kinders will not be ready to offer 15 hours in 2013. This risks creating a 'two-tier' system of some kinders offering new facilities with 15 hours and others offering only 10.75 hours.
6. Notes the Federal Gillard Government is providing \$210 million over five years to see the implementation of this policy. The Baillieu Government's lack of action on implementing this agreement risks losing the Federal funding.
7. Further notes that the Baillieu Government has been claiming credit for this Federal funding while failing to invest in any kindergarten capital infrastructure of its own.
8. Notes that the Baillieu Government's lack of investment also threatens Victoria's high kindergarten participation rate.
9. Notes that the former Labor Government committed \$100 million in kindergarten capital funding at the last election.

Moved: Jenny Mikakos

Seconded: Lily D'Ambrosio

17 URGENCY MOTION – Foreign Aid

Noting the references in Chapter 11 of the Party's National Platform to -

- (i) The fight against global poverty being one of the greatest challenges of the 21st century, and Australia having a strategic, moral and economic stake in the battle against global poverty;
- (ii) The belief that the 1.4 billion members of the global community who live in grinding poverty are entitled to a fair go and
- (iii) The commitments of the Party to –
 - a. taking a leadership role on the issue of leadership development assistance;
 - b. ensuring, in so far as possible, the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals and internationally agreed aid and development assistance targets and
 - c. increasing overseas development assistance to 0.5% of Gross National Income (GNI) by 2015, with an aspirational goal of achieving 0.7% of GNI beyond 2015/16.

Conference expresses its disappointment at the Federal Government's decision as reflected in the 2012/2013 Federal Budget to defer Australia's commitment to the goal of

0.5% of GNI for overseas aid by 2015 and urges the Federal Government to reconsider this decision.

Moved: Simon Miller

Seconded: Ilia Vurtel

18 URGENCY MOTION: Progressing Party Reform and building a stronger Labor Party

The Australian Labor Party remains the only political party focused on delivering a better life for the working men and women of Australia and their families.

Our achievements in helping shape the modern Australian nation should be celebrated. No other political movement has had such a sustained and positive impact on so many aspects of Australian life. Our enduring Labor values of fairness, opportunity and equality are enduring Australian values.

However our past achievements offer no guarantee of future success. For Labor to be a party of tomorrow, we must act to reform our party today.

Our party must remain dynamic, engaged and relevant to the communities we seek to represent.

Our goal as party, and a movement, must be to not just win government, but to use government to fulfil our core mission – to improve the lives of working Australians.

An active membership is critical to our success as a political party and party of government that seeks to implement progressive social and economic reform.

Our party must become more participatory.

Labor's engagement with the community can create a critical two-way dynamic – informing the party, its members and leaders, about the concerns of the community, and for communicating with the community our vision, our values and our achievements.

As a party we must modernise and adapt to the changing nature of today's political engagement, while remaining true to our democratic origins.

Labor is a democratic party where many voices can be heard and where internal debate is celebrated, not hidden behind closed doors. We should celebrate our internal diversity, and build on the strength it gives us.

Reforming Labor means a membership that is more active, representative and meaningfully engaged. It means a party where members can have a direct say on policy, platform and within internal party forums. It means being a party where elections count.

This must see real change within our structures, our rules and our norms. Change to give our members a reason to renew each year. Change beyond gimmickry and platitudes, and change that is real.

Victorian State Conference calls on all members of the Party, at all levels, to recommit to ongoing a party reform agenda that:

- Delivers on the promise of the Bracks/Carr/Faulkner National Review.
- Implements the resolutions of the 2011 National Conference.
- Implements the recommendations of the 2011 Griffin Review in Victoria.
- Gives our members a real democratic voice in how their party is run, and what it stands for.
- Maintains Labor as the driver of progressive change in Australia.

Specifically, State Conference resolves to direct the Administrative Committee to prioritise membership growth this year to ensure that Victoria plays its part in achieving 8,000 new members nationwide.

In seeking to attract new members, the Administrative Committee is to look also at increasing the diversity of Victorian Labor members and activists - to make real our aspiration to equal representation of women and men across our members, to encourage union activists to join and participate in the Party, to examine and address the age demographics of party membership, and to increase density in suburban Melbourne and regional Victoria.

To achieve these aspirations the Administrative Committee is encouraged to look at best practice interstate and overseas, and to obtain input from National Secretariat.

Conference further resolves that the State Secretary, on behalf of the Administrative Committee, will make a report to the May 2013 State Conference on our performance on meeting our membership goals and to update progress on overall party reform, including progress on implementing the recommendations of the national and state party reviews.

Moved: Ryan Batchelor
Seconded: Andrew Giles

19 URGENCY MOTION - COST OF LIVING V1

That this conference

1. Notes the Baillieu government's core election promise to cut the cost of living for Victorian families and its newspaper election campaign advertisements committing to reduce supermarket prices.
2. Condemns the government for failing to deliver on its core election promise to reduce the cost of living for Victorian families noting the continuing escalation of costs including electricity and gas utility prices

3. Condemns the government's hypocritical policies that have in fact increased the cost of living for ordinary Victorians including the capping of state concessions indexation at 2%, well below projected inflation of 2.75%, and the axing of many Labor initiated programs and services designed to ease the cost of living facing Victorians and increase their prospects of better managing cost pressures.
4. Condemns the Victorian Government, and in particular the Treasurer for failing to mention even once the cost of living in his 2012/13 Budget Address let alone offer a plan for reducing the cost of living.

Moved: Lily D'Ambrosio
Seconded: Andrew Giles

URGENCY MOTION - Cost of Living V2

Victorian Labor condemns the Baillieu Government for the increasing cost of living pressure it is imposing on Victorian families.

The Baillieu Government is cutting support for families, like the School Start Bonus and Education Maintenance Allowance, which help families meet the costs of their children's education.

At the same time they are taking more taxes from Victorians' pockets than ever before, with revenue up to a record \$55 billion.

Moved: Lily D'Ambrosio
Seconded: Andrew Giles

20 URGENCY MOTION - Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and Unmanned Aerial Systems (Drones)

That State Conference recommends to the National Executive that the Federal Labor Party:

Develop a comprehensive policy and regulatory framework on the responsible use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) and unmanned aerial systems (UAS) often referred to as drones – in defence, law enforcement and civilian settings.

This framework should be in full accordance with Australia's human rights obligations and privacy principles. It should be developed in a time-limited but transparent manner that ensures public engagement. The framework should aim to articulate worlds best practice regime in relation to the use of drones, underpinned by meaningful accountability mechanisms, respect for human rights and judicial oversight.

Globally, the rapid development of drone technology has seen a massive proliferation of drones and spawned a multi-billion dollar industry. This has proceeded at such a rapid rate adequate controls have not kept pace. Currently there are inadequate mechanisms to regulate and monitor their growing use.

Often decisions in relation to developing, acquiring and using drones have also taken place without debate. The proliferation of drones in a policy vacuum presents alarming implications, particularly in relation to civil liberties.

In a military context, President Obama has presided over a major increase in a multi-agency network of drones carrying out extrajudicial assassinations of suspected militants, particularly, in Pakistan and also Yemen.

Following the United State's lead, many other countries are also steadily increasing their UAV and UAS arsenals for a variety of both military and surveillance applications.

It was also recently reported that Australian law enforcement agencies including Queensland Police, Victoria Police and Australian Federal Police are looking at acquiring drone technology for 'potential operational use'.

The proliferation of drones requires government leadership and an articulation of principles as well as adequate safeguards and review processes.

State Conference recommends to the National Executive that the Federal Labor Party implement a policy framework that:

- Includes a comprehensive regulatory regime
- Promotes responsible UAV and UAS use and sets clear limits
- Ensures transparency, accountability, publically available information and judicial review.
- Is consistent with human rights, privacy and civil liberty norms.

Victorian Labor also calls on the Federal Labor Government, through the National Executive, to ensure:

- That there be is no use of armed drones by any Australian authority
- That the use of drones is confined to Australian territory
- That any drone use for surveillance purpose or for the purposes of criminal investigation require a warrant.

Moved: Andrew Giles

Seconded: Sheena Watt

21 URGENCY MOTION - Supporting families with the cost of education

Labor has always believed in providing our children with a high quality education. A good education can shape and transform lives.

For many children, especially from disadvantaged backgrounds, education is the pathway to a better future.

For many families, there are significant costs associated with supporting their children through school, such as stationery, books, clothing and uniforms, as well extras like excursions and extra-curricular activities. Labor understands that parents, especially on

low and middle incomes, often struggle to meet these costs, and as a result some children are unable to fully participate in their schooling.

Labor understands that parents from low and middle income families need extra support to meet the costs of schooling, in addition to accessing a high quality and well-resourced public education system.

Victorian Labor Conference condemns the Baillieu Liberal Government for hurting families with school age children by axing the Victorian School Start Bonus. The School Start Bonus was introduced by the previous Victorian Labor Government to help with costs of starting primary and secondary school, and provided much needed assistance to Victorian families.

Victorian Labor also condemns the cuts to the school-based Education Maintenance Allowance payments in the 2012-13 State Budget. These cuts will hurt schools, particularly in disadvantaged areas.

By contrast, Victorian Labor congratulates the Gillard Labor Government for understanding the pressures many families face by introducing the new Schoolkids Bonus in the 2012-13 Federal Budget.

The new Schoolkids Bonus will provide low and middle income families eligible for Family Tax Benefit Part A with:

- \$410 a year for each child in primary school, and
- \$820 for each child in secondary school.

There are more than 543,000 families in Victoria who will benefit from the new Schoolkids Bonus.

Victorian Labor believes the new Schoolkids Bonus is a better designed policy than the Education Tax Refund that it has replaced, as evidenced by the one million families across Australia will receive extra assistance, without having to collect receipts and do extra paperwork. In Victoria there are an estimated 248,700 families who are currently missing out on the ETR.

Victorian Labor also condemns Tony Abbott and the Federal Liberals and Nationals for opposing the Schoolkids Bonus and voting against it in the Parliament. The Federal Coalition said they do not trust families to spend this money on their schoolchildren. All this shows is that Victorian families cannot trust Tony Abbott and his relentless negativity.

Moved: Ryan Batchelor
Seconded: Holly Cooper

22 URGENCY MOTION - Policy Committee Principles and Values Statements

“This Conference congratulates those Policy Committees that have included *A statement of underpinning values or core beliefs that inform and are reflected in all policy goals and objectives in their area* in their report to this Conference.

Conference believes that comprehensive, concise and contemporary statements of the principles and values in each policy area are a prerequisite for Victorian Labor developing inspiring, cohesive and relevant policies.

Whilst Conference applauds those Policy Committees who have principles and values statements in their reports it expresses its concern that as yet none are comprehensive enough to adequately inform policy development in those areas.

This Conference therefore directs all Policy Committees to prepare comprehensive statements of principles and values for the entirety of their areas in time for the October State Conference so that these statements can be a central focus for debate and refinement at that Conference”

Moved: Eric Dearthcott

Seconded: Henry Corcoran

23 URGENCY MOTION - Gonski Review

“That Victorian Labor congratulates the Commonwealth Government, and then Minister for Education Julia Gillard, for commissioning the Gonski Review into school education in 2010 and calls on the Government to implement all of its recommendations. In particular conference applauds Minister Garrett for stating at its launch in February 2012 that the schools funding system “is not transparent, it is not efficient and it isn't fair”.

In particular Victorian Labor calls on the Government to prioritise increases in resources to Government schools with high levels of disadvantage and to students who have a disability”

Moved: David Imber

Seconded: John Lannan

24 URGENCY MOTION - Jobs CFMEU

Delegates to this conference call on the Gillard Labor Government to form a Victorian Jobs Taskforce.

Conference notes with concern that unemployment in Victoria has increased from 4.9% in November 2010 to 5.3% today.

Unemployment in Victoria is now the highest in mainland Australia.

This Conference condemns the Baillieu Government for their inaction and their incompetence in presiding over severe job losses in the manufacturing sector, impacting particularly on Regional Victorians.

The Gillard Government should urgently seek to bring together Victorian Unions, Employers, representatives from Regional Victoria and the State Government to confer and to develop plans to grow employment in this State.

Moved: Michael O'Connor
Seconded: Dave Noonan

25 URGENCY MOTION - SUPPORT FOR THE LATROBE VALLEY

Background

The transition to low carbon electricity generation is inevitable and will have a long-term impact on the Latrobe valley economy and community. The former Brumby Government established the Latrobe Valley Advantage Fund in 2010 to facilitate industrial and economic transition in the region.

The Baillieu Government recently became a signatory to the Latrobe Valley Transition Committee - an agreement between all levels of government. The Committee's April 2012 Directions Paper mapped out key actions to prepare the community for the transition - including developing plans for investment, skills and jobs.

In stark contrast to these strategic agendas, the Baillieu Government's recent budget has cut millions from the TAFE sector and delivered no new investment incentives for the Latrobe Valley.

The construction industry has ground to a halt in the region as the Coalition continues to delay election promise projects including work on the Warragul and Latrobe Regional Hospitals. These projects are vital for securing work for young people – there are currently at least 50 apprentices under-employed at Apprenticeships Group Australia's Gippsland centres. The Baillieu Government is now trying to blame the Federal government for their inaction

The Victorian Labor Party calls on the Baillieu Government to take its commitment to Latrobe Valley workers and families seriously, by:

- 1) Maintaining investment in the TAFE system to ensure that there is continued access to high quality vocational training for current and future Latrobe Valley workers
- 2) ensuring that construction projects including Warragul Hospital & Latrobe Regional Hospital are brought forward to ensure the continuity of the construction industry in the region
- 3) Providing targeted support to new technology and investment in the Latrobe Valley.

Moved: Tim Delany – Gippsland
Seconded: Steve Dodd - AMWU

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26 URGENCY MOTION - Progress for the LGBTI Community under Federal Labor

Victorian Labor congratulates the Federal Labor Government on the enormous progress it

has made since coming to office in systematically removing discrimination against GLBTI communities.

In particular the conference recognizes:

- The 2008 reforms to 85 different laws to remove discrimination against same-sex couples.
- Removal of the restrictions on providing a certificate of non impediment (CNI) to marriage for same-sex couples
- Demonstrated commitment to and recognition of specific needs of LGBTI communities within aged care, health and mental health policy, and commitment to working with LGBTI stakeholder organisations in these policy areas.
- Ongoing commitment to strengthening laws and expanding programs against discrimination and harassment on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.
- In foreign policy, commitment to work towards the repeal of anti-gay laws internationally, especially criminal laws against homosexual sexual conduct, and most urgently against such laws where they impose the death penalty, and generally to encourage steps to implement the actions required by the Yogyakarta Principles.

Labor's national platform contains a multitude of reforms for the LGBTI community. It's up to us to ensure that the community are aware of the tremendous progress made since the dark days of the Howard Government, and that we re-elect the Gillard Government to ensure these Platform initiatives are achieved.

Moved: Efstratios Staikos

Seconded: Angela Bell

27 URGENCY MOTION - Planning

That this Conference notes with concern the intention of the Baillieu Government to introduce by 1 July - Code Assess legislation.

Code Assess will give developers a free rein. It will allow multi storey developments to be fast tracked.

If a development proposal meets the Code Assess standard then affected local residents, including those in neighboring houses will not need to be notified. There will be no consultation and no right of appeal. Local Councils will not have any right to oppose the development and only the developer can access VCAT.

Code Assess means local communities will lose their say about what is built in their suburb, street or even on the block next door.

This conference believes that with Code Assess the livability, the look and feel of Victoria's cities and towns is under threat from inappropriate high rise development. Code Assess could destroy the built environment – Victoria's history, open spaces and heritage.

This Conference opposes unrestrained development that will put more pressure on already strained infrastructure like roads, schools, health services and public transport.

Conference calls on all delegates, members of the ALP and affiliates to oppose the Government policy and to engage the community so that the Baillieu government gets a clear message that Victorians will not tolerate the loss of rights, the failure to consult and the destruction of our neighborhoods.

Moved: Andrew Giles
Seconded: Gavin Jennings

28 URGENCY MOTION - Dental Health

Labor believes that all Australians should have access to dental care.

Poor dental health can impact on quality of life, social participation and general health.

Victorian Labor congratulates the Gillard Labor Government for its \$515.3 million investment in the 2012-13 Budget, in oral health for Australians who are least able to afford dental care.

The new spending will see a blitz on public dental waiting lists that will provide hope to the 400 000 people who are currently waiting too long for vital dental care.

It will also fund an oral health promotion campaign, a boost to the public dental workforce, and improved dental facilities in rural and remote areas.

This new funding builds on Labor's first term commitment of \$510m for a teen dental programme and \$290m over three years to the Commonwealth Dental Scheme.

Victorian Labor commends the Gillard Labor Government for investing in measures that will increase the public dental workforce so that more people can get care in more places across Australia

Victorian Labor recognises that this is a true Labor reform and that these measures will lay the foundation for a new way of providing dental services that will ensure that those most in need will get care when and where they need it.

Moved: Cath Bowtell
Seconded: Casey Nunn

29 URGENCY MOTION - State Budget

Labor condemns the Baillieu Government Budget which moves Victoria backwards.

Baillieu's Budget fails to create jobs, grow the economy and slashes support for families:

- It puts our economic future at risk with massive cuts to the TAFE system which remove the opportunity for thousands of Victorians to get a good education and the skills we need to turn around the economy.
- It cuts essential support for families like the School Start Bonus and Education Maintenance Allowance, which help families meet the costs of their children's education.
- It slashed spending on the health building program and will fail to keep a key election promise to open a new Monash Children's Hospital by the end of its first term
- It brings the number of public sector jobs to be cut to 4200 from a Premier who promised he wouldn't cut a single job.

Victorian Labor condemns the 2012-13 Baillieu Budget.

Moved: Andrew Giles

Seconded: Gavin Jennings

31 URGENCY MOTION - The Baillieu-Ryan Coalition Government's attack on vocational education and training

This conference condemns the Baillieu Government for the most savage funding cuts to education that Victoria has ever seen in the history of TAFE.

The Baillieu Government has put the Victorian education system into crisis and has removed the opportunity for thousands of Victorians to get a decent education.

The Baillieu Government confirmed to TAFE CEOs that total cuts to TAFE in 2012-13 Budget equate to about \$290 million a year by 2013

An estimated 2000 Victorians will lose their job from TAFE institutes and with many more across the training sector.

The Minister for Skills and Higher Education Peter Hall has refused to rule out that this may lead to campus closures.

Working class students will be hit hardest, as student fees escalate to make up for the shortfall in Government funding. The Government acknowledged this by shamefully removed fee caps in the Budget.

The result will be less students getting an education and less skilled Victorians to drive our economy.

These cuts come on top of TAFEs losing almost \$100 million last year, following last October's funding cuts, and with the combined surplus of the 14 standalone TAFEs halving in 2011.

This conference notes with dismay the equalization of TAFE funding, which increased funding to private institutions at the expense of public education.

The reported dissatisfaction of Minister Peter Hall highlights the terrible policy decision of the Baillieu Government and we note the impact that these cuts will have on jobs and skills in rural and regional Victoria.

These TAFE cuts are compounded by the Baillieu Government's decision to withdraw all funding from the Industry Training Advisory Boards (ITABs).

ITAB's have successfully brought together employers, unions and trainers across 16 specific industry sectors for over 25 years.

Conference notes that the state-based ITABs have provided useful field support to the nationally-funded Industry Skills Councils (ISC), and that the conservative government in Western Australia has recently increased funding for that state's tripartite consultative bodies.

Conference calls on State Labor to oppose the Baillieu-Ryan Coalition Government's proposal to legislate for the effective disbanding the Victorian Skills Commission (VSC) and State Industry Advisory Bodies (ITABs). Under the proposed legislation the Baillieu-Ryan Coalition Government, the VSC and ITABs will no longer receive government funding or references to support their activities.

Conference notes that the Baillieu-Ryan Coalition Government is abandoning a proper governmental role in vocational education, training and TAFE. Instead, the Baillieu-Ryan Coalition Government will leave it market forces to shape and deliver this important sector of State's training and education activities.

Conference further notes that this decision has had immediate effects with a raft of dodgy marketing and delivery practices emerging as companies are set up to exploit the weaknesses in the Victorian vocational education and training regulatory framework.

Conference determines that well-resourced and effective industry advisory bodies, whose membership comprises the key industry employer organization's and trade unions are a necessary pre-requisite to a properly functioning, publicly funded, vocational education and training system operating in the social and economic interests of all Victorians.

Conference calls on State Labor to establish an independent inquiry, including union representation--from unions generally and education unions in particular--to

examine the impact of the Government's market driven proposals for vocational education, training and TAFE. The inquiry to have particular regard to:

- How the policy will affect enrolments in key vocational qualifications of importance to the Victorian economy;
- How the policy will affect the cost of participation by students in the vocational education and training system;
- How the policy will affect policy on completion rates for vocational qualifications;
- The extent to which the policy may result in improved 'industry leadership' of the vocational education and training system;
- The effect of market forces in shifting the quality, cost and availability of training; and
- The destination of students who complete vocational qualifications.

Apprenticeships for the 21st Century Expert Panel

Conference calls on State Labor to support the recommendations of the Apprenticeships for the 21st Century Expert Panel and to work collaboratively with the Commonwealth to implement the recommendations of the Panel. In particular, Conference calls on the State Government to support the establishment of a National Custodian for the Apprenticeship System and to support moves to national regulation of the trade Apprenticeship system.

Victorian Skills Commission

Conference calls on Victorian ALP to commit to reinstate/reinvent the defunct Victorian Skills Commission (VSC). Labor needs to ensure that the VSC retains its role to advise and oversight the training bureaucracy and apparatus.

Labor must commit itself to re-establishing an effective funding regime for the VSC that allows the VSC to provide sound, coherent and bi-partite industry advice. It is through the VSC that the Government has the means and information required to deliver an effective VET sector.

Commitment to TAFE

Conference calls on Victorian ALP to commit to maintaining a strong public role in the TAFE system. Labor will re-introduce Industry Training Advisory Boards (ITABs) which are bi-partite, independent and are not training providers/assessors or competitors to TAFE providers. ITABs are ideally placed to perform the quality assurance role for Government.

The Victorian ALP commits to returning the public TAFE system to its former self, and urges all concerned Victorians--employees, employers, trainers and consumers--to demand a TAFE system where the strategic direction and priorities are determined through tri-partite arrangements.

Conference calls on State Labor to reject the Baillieu-Ryan Coalition Government's approach of leaving crucial social and economic policy imperatives to the market.

Moved: Steve Dargavel
Seconded: Leigh Diehm

32 URGENCY MOTION - Delivering a Co-Located Youth Centre for Moreland

Preamble

In 2006 a group of young activists involved in the Moreland Youth Action Committee, began a campaign to convince and persuade Moreland City Council to construct a Stand Alone Co-Located Youth Centre for local young people in the municipality.

For over a decade Moreland Council held bi-annual Youth Summits which sought the views from local youth on how Council can improve service and infrastructure provision for local young people. Each Summit recommended to Council that local young people required a Youth Centre which delivered a range of recreational and social services to help address the wide spread issues experienced by local young people, some of which include: youth unemployment, youth physical and mental health services, counselling and outreach support, youth homelessness, anti social behaviour, binge drinking, drug consumption, domestic violence, schoolyard and cyber bullying.

Moreland Council along with the Victorian Labor Government in February 2009 moved to formally support the campaign for a local Youth Centre by allocating funding and resources to the now named oxYgen Youth Project, lead by Wills ALP Members Anthony Cianflone and Khaled Chakli.

The oxYgen Project has undertaken detailed research and community consultation over the last 3 years, and delivered a Final Report to Council which contains a range of recommendations on how local youth services and facilities can be enhanced. oxYgen has already delivered three of the recommendations from its final report which include a Skate Park to young people in Fawkner, a community Wi-Fi Precinct in Harmony Park Coburg, and a temporary youth space in Brunswick. Furthermore oxYgen is in the process of delivering Moreland's key note stand alone co-located youth centre in Gaffney Street Coburg, a Wi-Fi Precinct in Fawkner and increased outdoor youth facilities throughout the municipality. It is vital that oxYgen and local young people are provided with the support through this Conference and Moreland Council to help make the Youth Centre finally a reality.

Platform & Action

1. That it be the policy of the Victorian ALP Branch to support the call by local young people in Moreland to establish a Co-Located Youth facility in Moreland as recommended by the oxYgen Youth Project Committee.
2. That it be the policy of the Victorian ALP Branch to acknowledge and recognise that young people in Moreland are experiencing a wide range of economic and social issues, which require specific local services to help address and resolve.
3. That it be the policy of the Victorian ALP Branch to call on Moreland City Council to formally support the establishment of Moreland's first Co-Located Youth Centre in

Gaffney Street Coburg, and that Moreland Council work with oxYgen to secure and deliver the centre for local young people as soon as possible.

4. That State Conference resolves to forward this motion to the Mayor and Councillors of Moreland City Council, the Victorian Minister for Youth, the Shadow Minister for Youth, and to the Chair of the oxYgen Youth Project Committee.

Moved: Anthony Cianflone

Seconded: Mimi Tamburrino

33 URGENCY MOTION - Supporting Pensioners

Preamble

The Labor Party has a proud history of supporting and delivering for Australian Pensioners. Over their working life, pensioners have worked to help make Australia the great country it is today, and made significant contributions to the nation's economic wellbeing.

Following Ben Chifley's famous call of 'Populate or Perish' following World War II, many of today's pensioners from a variety of local, migrant, ethnic and cultural backgrounds at the time worked in a range of employment areas during their working lives ranging from construction, mining, textile, footwear, manufacturing and many other blue collar and professional occupations to help build a future for their families, and in turn a future for this great nation.

In retirement pensioners have been supported by successive governments from both sides. However Labor has been proudly responsible for successive pension reforms that have helped further support senior citizens who need the pension most, and to make our social security system secure and sustainable in the long term.

In the current volatile economic climate overseas and locally, it is vital the Australian pension system remain supportive of pensioners who need it most, and economically sustainable in the long term. The Australian system compares favourably to pension systems that exist in the United States and the Eurozone, where their sustainability is now in question, due to unfunded liabilities which in the future will be compounded by ageing populations and a rising older age dependency ratio.

Platform & Action

1. That it be the policy of the Victorian ALP Branch to support the historic *Sustainable Pension Reforms* introduced by the Federal Labor Government introduced in September 2009, which included the biggest single increase in the base rate of the pension in over 100 years.
2. That it be the policy of the Victorian ALP Branch to welcome the recent indexation and inflationary increases in the Pension, and welcome the Clean Energy Advance and Clean Energy Supplements which will be deposited into pensioners accounts over coming months, which will see increased income for pensioners.

3. That it be the policy of the Victorian ALP Branch to acknowledge that in addition to the Social Security and Pension system, Australian Pensioners are also supported through a range of other measures including Medicare, Health Care Card System, Utility and Public Transport discounts.
4. That it be the policy of the Victorian ALP Branch to call on the Federal Labor Government to investigate further options to provide increased support to pensioners due to the ever increasing cost of living issues they are experiencing. These measures should be considered in the context of being economically sustainable in the long term, and in the context of the pension systems and their sustainability in the Eurozone and the United States.
5. That State Conference resolves to forward this motion to the Treasurer, The Hon Wayne Swan, and the Minister for Families, Housing and Community Services, The Hon Jenny Macklin, and to the President, Mr Vic Guarino, of Australian Pensioners Voice.

Moved: Anthony Cianflone

Seconded: Mimi Tamburrino

34 URGENCY MOTION - Improving Healthcare in Melbourne's Inner North

Preamble

The Labor Party has a proud history when it comes to lifting and improving health services for all Australians. On August 2nd 2011 the Gillard Labor Government signed off on the final details of national health reforms with all States and Territories to secure the future of health in Australia. The historic agreement will deliver the funding public hospitals need, with unprecedented levels of transparency and accountability, less waste and significantly less waiting for patients.

The reforms, agreed to by COAG in February and finalised in August, will see the Australian Government invest an extra \$19.8 billion in public hospitals through to 2019-20, rising to a total extra \$175 billion to 2029-30.

This extra Commonwealth funding will mean our hospitals will be able to take on millions of extra services that would never have been possible under the old arrangements including:

- 2.9 million extra cases in our emergency departments
- 2 million additional in-patient services, such as major surgery or treatment for severe conditions such as kidney failure or a heart attack
- 19 million more outpatient consultations, such as minor surgery or physiotherapy.

Upon being elected in 2007, Federal Labor implemented and rolled out a GP Superclinic Program which has thus far seen the establishment of and upgrading of GP Super Clinics around the country which provide a range of health care services and facilities.

However the local community in Melbourne's inner north, including Moreland, have been calling for greater health care infrastructure and services in light of the growing demographic and population challenges the area is facing, through population ageing, Moreland's baby boom and general health issues.

The President of Australian pensioner Voice, Mr Vic Guarino, and the Secretary, Mr Gino Iannazzo, have been advocating for namely the establishment of a 24 hour Health Care Super Clinic in Coburg, the heart of Moreland, for a great deal of time. Providing a 24 hour Super Clinic with a range of health care services, including an emergency service, would greatly assist the local community with the range of health challenges it is currently experiencing.

Platform & Action

1. That it be the policy of the Victorian ALP Branch to welcome and commend the Federal Labor Government for negotiating and finalising its historic National Health Care Package to secure the future of the Health and Hospital system across the country.
2. That it be the policy of the Victorian ALP Branch to welcome the GP Super Clinic Program that was implemented and rolled out following the 2007 Federal Labor election win, and commends the program for increasing health services and facilities to communities across the country.
3. That it be the policy of the Victorian ALP Branch to commend Federal Labor for its ongoing commitment and increased support to the national healthcare system, following the pathetic record left behind by the former Howard Coalition Government, primarily under the Health Minister Tony Abbott.
4. That State Conference resolves to call on the Federal Labor Government to consider establishing a GP Super Clinic in Moreland.
5. That State Conference resolves to forward this motion to the Health Minister, The Hon Tanya Plibersek, and to the Victorian Shadow Health Minister Gavin Jennings.

Moved: Anthony Cianflone
Seconded: Mimi Tamburrino

35 URGENCY MOTION - The Future of the Coburg 2020 Initiative

Preamble

Melbourne 2030 was introduced by the former Bracks-Brumby Victorian Labor Government as a means to halt urban sprawl, by creating activity centres throughout Melbourne's key activity precincts to generate new residential, commercial and business opportunities.

The suburb of Coburg was identified in Melbourne 2030 as being a key activity centre, and earmarked as Melbourne's new urban gateway to the north. Moreland City Council, in conjunction with private developers, commenced extensive community and stakeholder consultations several years ago to develop a development plan that is reflective of community needs, sustainable and economically viable.

It has since been announced that Moreland Council's partnership with Equiset Grollo, would be terminated due to a range of contractual and partnership disagreements.

While significant community concern was raised regarding the significant high number of private high rise residential dwellings that were being proposed in the initial Structure Plan, congestion and parking issues, there was a great deal of optimism towards the community and business facilities that were being proposed to help 'reactivate' central Coburg.

Moreland City Council placed a great deal of important community projects into the Structure Plan, including public transport, health services, senior citizen and pensioner facilities, youth services, community hubs, business facilities and much more. Given the termination of the Moreland Council-Grollo partnership, these community projects are now largely in doubt.

Platform & Action

1. That it be the policy of the Victorian ALP Branch to acknowledge and note Moreland City Council's decision to terminate its partnership with Equiset Grollo in relation to the Coburg 2020 Initiative.
2. That it be the policy of the Victorian ALP Branch to support increased community projects and facilities that will help re-activate central Coburg economically and socially.
3. That it be the policy of the Victorian ALP Branch to call on Moreland City Council to immediately resume work on delivering the range of community projects and initiatives that were included in the Coburg 2020 Structure Plan, some of which included; increased health care services, public transport facilities, youth spaces, and increased commercial and business hubs.
4. That it be the policy of the Victorian ALP Branch to forward this motion to the Mayor and Councillors of Moreland City Council.
5. That it be the policy of the Victorian ALP Branch to call on the State Government and Federal Government to assist in funding the Coburg 2020 Initiative. The assistance could contribute towards public realm improvements, grade separation of Bell Street and the railway, investment in public housing and community facilities.
6. That it be the policy of the Victorian ALP Branch to call upon future State Labor Government/s to work in partnership with Local Councils generally to deliver better urban regeneration projects.

Moved: Anthony Cianflone

Seconded: Mimi Tamburrino

36 URGENCY MOTION - High School for Coburg

Preamble

A Victorian State Government-Spatial Vision Report released last week identified a shortfall of 301 secondary school places for years 7 to 9 in 2012 in Coburg. This number is expected to grow by 715 in 2021. The Report found the Coburg Senior High School site in Alva Grove, has room for 900 students, and currently only has 230 students enrolled. This report is the 2nd in two years the Government has commissioned to review secondary provision in the Coburg area.

Coburg families have been calling for the establishment of an open entry year 7-12 secondary school in Coburg for many years. In 2004 the Moreland City College, which was situated in Coburg, closed its doors because of changing demographics, competition between schools and the growth of independent schools. The closure of Moreland City College was followed in 2008 with the closure of St Joseph's College in Pascoe Vale

South. The schools administrators, Edmund Rice, cited falling enrolments for their decision to close.

Along with these closures, there were numerous school closures that took place throughout Moreland during the 1990's by the Kennett State Government. Many schools were closed and included Newlands High School, Oak Park High School, Hadfield High School, Coburg Technical School and a number of Primary Schools. Against this background, and the background of the recent closure of St Joseph's, many residents have expressed concern over secondary school options in Moreland.

A local residents group, High School for Coburg, was established to lobby for a new high school for years 7 to 12 to be established in Coburg. The Group worked with Moreland City Council in 2009 to undertake a study to investigate how many families would send their children to a local high school if it were established. Of the 265 respondents to the survey, an overwhelming majority of 96% stated they would send their children to a high school in Coburg. In making their decision to send their children to a local high school, 70.6% of respondents rated distance from home as 'important' or 'vital'. Respondents also identified the need to maintain social networks and friendships that children had developed throughout primary school as a deciding factor.

Demographic data clearly indicates the Moreland municipality is becoming increasingly popular for families with young children. The number of children of preschool age (0-4) has increased twofold, over 2% in 2001 and more than 5% as a proportion of the total Moreland population in 2006, and continues to grow. The increase in the number of young people living in the area is also placing pressure on local pre-school services. Service user and waiting list data from early year's services, including maternal and child health, have increased by 12% since 2001 to over 2,200 birth notifications in 2006.

Local families are demanding a local high school be built in Coburg. The forecast 16% increase in the local population by 2031, the forecast increase in the number of young people living in the area, the successive school closures in Moreland over the years and the message from local parents underscores the need for a stronger focus on the provision of secondary schools in Moreland.

Platform and Action

1. That Victorian ALP State Conference move to support the High School for Coburg Campaign, calling on the Victorian Government to establish an open entry year 7-12 high school in Coburg as soon as possible.
2. That Victorian ALP Conference forward this motion to the Victorian Shadow Minister for Education, the Member for Wills, Kelvin Thomson, the Member for Pascoe Vale, Christine Campbell, and the High School for Coburg Campaign.

Moved: Anthony Cianflone
Seconded: Mimi Tamburrino

37 URGENCY MOTION - Supporting Manufacturing in Melbourne's North

Preamble

Manufacturing is a critical industry sector for Melbourne's northern region. However manufacturing's share of Gross Regional Product in Melbourne's North has fallen from 26.5% in 1998 to 16.3% in 2011.

According to the latest study from NorthLink & the Northern Melbourne Regional Development Committee, manufacturing is still the largest regional employer, employing 53,160 workers across the region, followed by Health/Social Assistance 48,791, retail 42,188 and education 33,707 (total jobs in region 382,967). The most strategically important and largest manufacturing industries in Melbourne's north are automotive (8,696 employees), food (8,514) and chemicals (6,267 employees). The latest Census statistics show 6,263 people who live in Wills are employed in manufacturing, which accounts for 10% of total employment locally.

Current economic circumstances are putting a great deal of pressure on the manufacturing sector in Melbourne's north, some of which including the high Australian dollar, caused by the 2 speed economy, causing record terms of trade leading to a higher exchange rate. Victorian ALP Conference welcomes the support the Australian Labor Government is providing to the local manufacturing sector in the form of the \$5.4 billion New Car Plan for a Greener Future, the \$1.2 billion Clean Energy Technology Program, the \$300 million Steel Transformation Plan, and the support provided to local motor vehicle manufacturers including \$34 million to the Ford Factory in Broadmeadows.

Given the importance manufacturing plays in providing local jobs and economic growth for Melbourne's north, it is vitally important that further work is undertaken to help secure the long term viability, competitiveness and sustainability of the sector.

Action and Platform

1. The Victorian ALP Conference acknowledges the importance of manufacturing which provides an integral part of our local economy in Melbourne's north and provides economic benefits in the region and across the state.
2. The Victorian ALP Conference welcomes the support provided by the Australian Labor Government for the manufacturing sector.
3. The Victorian ALP Conference calls on the Australian Government to explore further opportunities to assist the manufacturing sector in Melbourne's north become more sustainable, secure and competitive for the long term, by working with relevant local Members of Parliament and Manufacturers.
4. That this motion be forwarded to the Minister for Industry and Innovation, The Hon Greg Combet, Minister for Employment, Bill Shorten, Member for Wills Kelvin Thomson, NorthLink and the North Melbourne Regional Development Committee.

Moved: Anthony Cianflone
Seconded: Mimi Tamburrino

38 URGENCY MOTION - Hydraulic Fracturing ('fracking') for unconventional gas

PREAMBLE

The practice of hydraulic fracturing ('fracking') for unconventional gas (coal seam gas, tight gas and shale gas) has potentially serious impacts on water resources, the environment, agriculture, and the health and safety of rural communities.

The Victorian Parliamentary Labor Party has recently recognised this, calling for a one year freeze on issuing new licences for unconventional gas exploration and production, while an inquiry into its potential impacts is conducted.

This is consistent with the position taken by the New South Wales Parliamentary Labor Party, the Senate Rural Affairs and Transport Committee (which unanimously recommended a moratorium on coal seam gas), and the ALP National Conference.

It recognises the need to put the health and safety of regional communities first, to protect the integrity of water resources and agricultural land, and to rapidly transition out of fossil fuels into renewable energy.

The Baillieu Government, to its great discredit, has refused to support this position.

This is despite the considerable concerns held by regional communities, and demonstrated in public meetings held across the State. It is despite the concerns expressed by the Victorian Farmers Federation, and government MPs like Ken Smith.

MOTION

That State Conference resolves that the Victorian branch of the Australian Labor Party:

- Supports a moratorium on unconventional gas exploration and production in Victoria pending further research into its health and environmental impacts.
- Condemns the Baillieu Government for its refusal to investigate those impacts, and its failure to protect the health and safety of regional Victorians.

MOVED: Julia Mason (Melbourne FEA)

SECONDED: Lily D'Ambrosio (Scullin FEA)

39 URGENCY MOTION - Renewable Energy Jobs and Cost of Living **Preamble**

Renewable energy creates jobs. The ACTU and ACF estimate that Australia could create 770,000 clean energy jobs by 2030, in the places we need them most: in manufacturing, in the regions, here.

Renewable energy reduces energy bills for households. This has been the case in countries like the USA and Germany. It has been shown in studies done by the BCA and the National Generators Forum.

The Baillieu Government has no plan to drive renewable energy in Victoria, or to address Victoria's urgent jobs crisis. The state budget contained nothing that would harness these opportunities.

The Clean Energy Future package commences on 1 July. It will drive billions and billions of dollars of clean energy investment. It will provide generous assistance to low-income households who need it.

The Baillieu Government has not positioned Victoria to reap these benefits. Its wind and solar energy policies are preventing billions of dollars of jobs and investment flowing to Victoria, and are driving up energy prices by billions of dollars.

The state budget's only response to the Clean Energy Future package is a cruel cut to energy concessions for low-income households, to 'cancel out' the compensation under the carbon price.

The Baillieu Government criticises the carbon price, but have no policies of their own to drive renewable energy, and seem intent on shielding Victoria and Victorians from its benefits.

Motion

State Conference resolves that the Victorian branch of the ALP:

- Condemn the Baillieu Government's failure to capitalise on the opportunities that renewable energy provides for jobs, investment, and lower energy bills.
- Commit to preparing a plan of its own to drive clean energy investment, to maximise clean energy jobs (especially in manufacturing), and to provide secure and affordable energy for all.

Moved: Lindsay Hesketh (ASU PS)

Seconded: Andrew Giles (Batman FEA)

39 URGENCY MOTION - Economic Reform

That Victorian ALP State Conference:

1. Welcomes the Labor Government's 2012-13 Federal Budget, which has delivered key reforms that will benefit low-income Australians and the disadvantaged.
2. Urges continued progressive reform to build on Labor's record and delivers sustainable growth and a more equitable economy.

Labor's record of reform

The Federal Labor Government has delivered a number of key economic reforms, which are contributing to a fairer society and enabling greater equality of opportunity.

The 2012-13 Federal Budget built on this record by providing tax relief to lower to middle-income targeted people, and key reform initiatives for the disadvantaged:

- Committing to the National Disability Insurance Scheme;
- An historic investment in public dental care for people in low incomes;
- Significant reform of the Aged Care System; and
- Reductions in inefficient and inequitable tax perks for high-income earners.

The need for continued progressive tax reform

The Federal Labor Government must continue to build on the important economic reforms to date to provide the foundation for decades long sustainable and fair economic growth by pursuing:

- Reforms to capital gains tax to make the wealthiest Australians pay their fair share of tax;
- Reduce the distortions in the tax system that reduce the availability of affordable housing;
- The removal of tax breaks for wealthy individuals;
- Increase fines and crack down on tax evasion and avoidance;
- Extend the tax evasion laws to cover the full range of corporate tax avoidance strategies;
- Increase compliance activity and fines for people evading significant amounts of tax; and
- Ensure that sham contractors are not able to obtain a tax advantage over other employees.

Moved: Andrew Giles

Seconded: Paul Erickson

40 URGENCY MOTION - Baillieu Government

Victorian Labor condemns Attorney General Robert Clark and the Baillieu Government for their poor record on addressing discrimination and harassment faced by the GLBTI community.

Robert Clark's appointment of and ongoing defense of Professor Kuruvilla George, Victoria's Deputy Chief Psychiatrist and Board member of the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission (VEOHRC) shows total contempt for the GLBTI community. Professor George signed a submission clearly advocating discrimination against same-sex couples, unquestionably placing him at odds with the mission and functions of the VEOHRC.

This comes on top of winding back protections against discrimination in the Equal Opportunity Act, expanding the license of some organisations to discriminate and weakening the Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission's power to investigate systemic discrimination.

Robert Clark, who once likened homosexuality to Spina bifida or smoking, clearly has no commitment to human rights and equal opportunity and therefore should not be in a position of responsibility for Victoria's anti-discrimination framework.

This conference also notes with dismay the Government's removal of \$16 million for the aids and communicable diseases package from the most recent State Budget

This conference is concerned that for as long as the Baillieu Government is in power in this state, homophobia will continue to flourish and the needs of the GLBTI community will continue to be ignored at the peril of all Victorians.

Moved: Holly Cooper
Seconded: Angela Bell

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