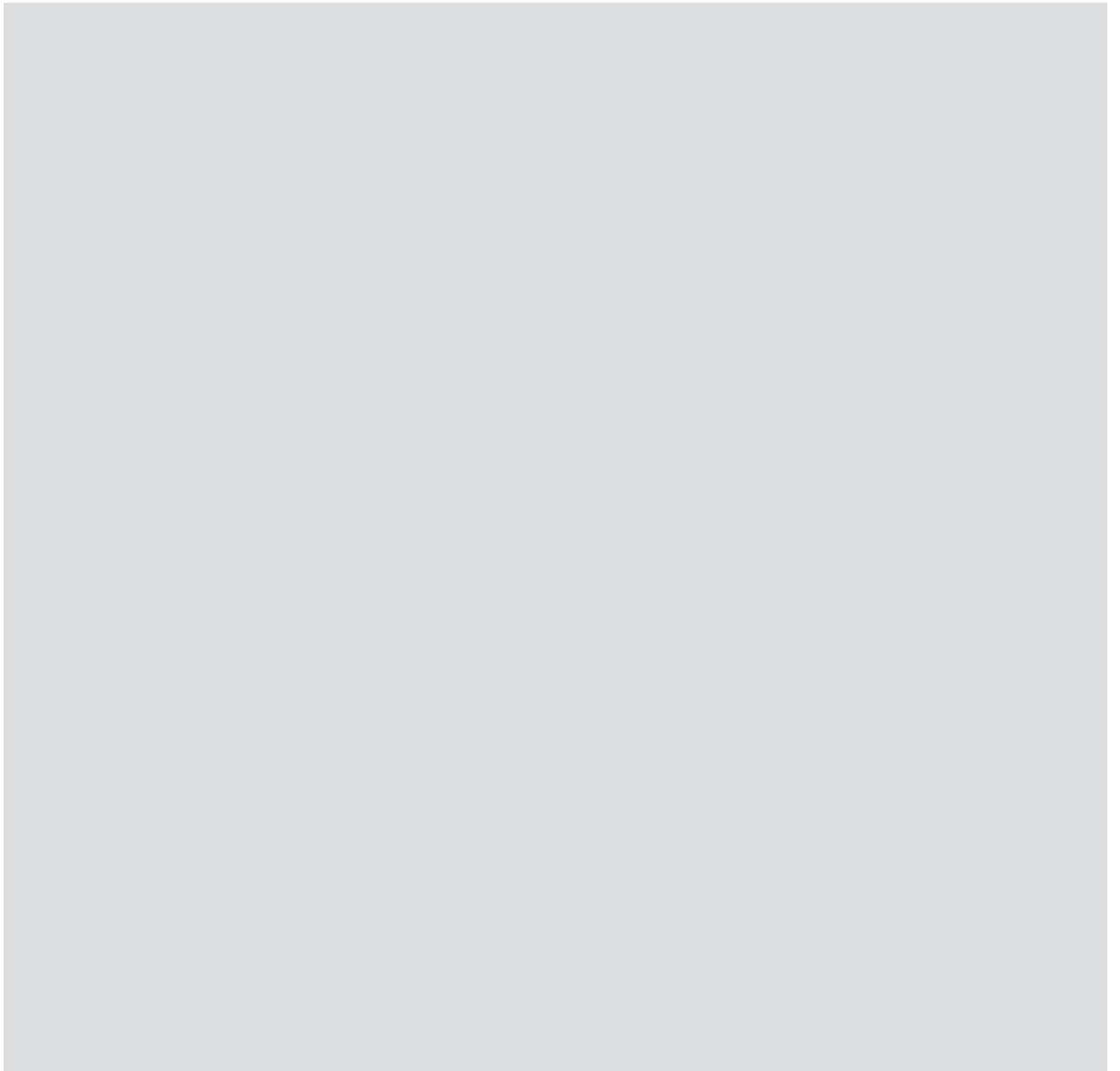




National Platform



Chapter 12 National Constitution of the ALP

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Chapter 12 National Constitution of the ALP

Part A—Objectives and Principles

Origins

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

Objectives

- 2 The Australian Labor Party is a democratic socialist party and has the objective of the democratic socialisation of industry, production, distribution and exchange, to the extent necessary to eliminate exploitation and other anti-social features in these fields.
- 3 To achieve the political and social values of equality, democracy, liberty and social cooperation inherent in this objective, the Australian Labor Party stands for:
 - (a) redistribution of political and economic power so that all members of society have the opportunity to participate in the shaping and control of the institutions and relationships which determine their lives
 - (b) establishment and development of public enterprises, based upon federal, state and other forms of social ownership, in appropriate sectors of the economy
 - (c) democratic control and strategic social ownership of Australian natural resources for the benefit of all Australians
 - (d) maintenance of and support for a competitive non-monopolistic private sector, including small business and farming, controlled and owned by Australians, operating within clear social guidelines and objectives
 - (e) the right to own private property
 - (f) recognition and encouragement of the right of labour to organise for the protection and advancement of its interests
 - (g) the application of democracy in industry to increase the opportunities for people to work in satisfying, healthy and humane conditions; and to participate in and to increase their control over the decision making processes affecting them
 - (h) the promotion of socially appropriate technology and the monitoring of its introduction to ensure that the needs and interests of labour, as well as the requirements of competitive industry and consumer demand, are taken into consideration

- (i) the restoration and maintenance of full employment
- (j) the abolition of poverty, and the achievement of greater equality in the distribution of income, wealth and opportunity
- (k) social justice and equality for individuals, the family and all social units, and the elimination of exploitation in the home
- (l) equal access and rights to employment, education, information, technology, housing, health and welfare services, cultural and leisure activities and the law
- (m) reform of the Australian Constitution and other political institutions to ensure that they reflect the will of the majority of Australian citizens and the existence of Australia as an independent republic
- (n) recognition and protection of fundamental political and civil rights, including freedom of expression, the press, assembly, association, conscience and religion; the right to privacy; the protection of the individual from oppression by the state; and democratic reform of the Australian legal system
- (o) the development of a democratic communications system, as an integral part of a free society, to which all citizens have opportunities for free access
- (p) elimination of discrimination and exploitation on the grounds of class, race, sex, sexuality, religion, political affiliation, national origin, citizenship, age, disability, regional location, economic or household status
- (q) recognition of the prior ownership of Australian land by Aborigines and Islanders; recognition of their special and essential relationship with the land as the basis of their culture; and a commitment to the return of established traditional lands to the ownership of Aboriginal and Islander communities
- (r) recognition and encouragement of diversity of cultural expression and lifestyle within the Australian community
- (s) the use, conservation and enhancement of Australia's natural resources and environment so that the community's total quality of life, both now and into the future, is maintained and improved
- (t) recognition of the need to work towards achieving ecologically sustainable development
- (u) maintenance of world peace; an independent Australian position in world affairs; the recognition of the right of all nations to self determination and independence; regional and international agreement for arms control and disarmament; the provision of economic and social aid to developing nations; a commitment to resolve international conflicts through the UN; and a recognition of the inalienable right of all people to liberty, equality, democracy and social justice
- (v) commitment to and participation in the international democratic socialist movement as represented by the Socialist International
- (w) recognition of the right of citizens to work for progressive changes consistent with the broad principles of democratic socialism.

Principles of action

- 4 The Australian Labor Party believes that the task of building democratic socialism is a cooperative process that requires:
 - constitutional action through the federal and state parliaments, municipal and other statutory authorities
 - union action
 - ongoing action by organised community groups.

Membership and organisation

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

Part B—Rules

Name

- 1 The name of the Party shall be 'The Australian Labor Party'.

Objectives

- 2 The objectives of the Party are set out in the Basic Principles as determined by the National Conference. To achieve these objectives the ALP will act in accordance with the Principles of Action and Progressive Reforms set out in the Party Platform from time to time.

Head Office

- 3 The Head Office of the Party shall be known as the National Secretariat and shall be established in Centenary House, Barton, ACT or any other place determined by the National Executive from time to time.

Composition

- 4 The Party shall consist of branches in each state, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory (hereinafter referred to as state branches).

Structure of Party Organisation

- 5
 - (a) The Party shall function upon the following basis:
 - (i) National Conference
 - (ii) National Executive
 - (iii) Federal Parliamentary Labor Party (FPLP)
 - (iv) Australian Young Labor.
 - (b) The National Conference shall be the supreme governing authority of the Party and its decisions shall be binding upon every member and every section of the Party.
 - (c) The National Executive shall be the chief administrative authority of the Party, subject only to the National Conference.
 - (d) The Federal Parliamentary Labor Party shall have authority in properly constituted Caucus meetings to make decisions directed towards establishing the collective attitude of the Parliamentary Party to any question or matter in the Federal Parliament, subject to:
 - (i) at all times taking such action which may be possible to implement the Party's Platform and Conference decisions;

- (ii) on questions or matters which are not subject to National Platform or Conference or Executive decisions, the majority decision of Caucus being binding upon all members in the parliament
- (iii) no attitude being expressed which is contrary to the provisions of the Party Platform or any other decision of National Conference or National Executive.
- (e) Australian Young Labor shall function in accordance with the rules that may be approved from time to time by the National Executive and subject to its control and jurisdiction.
- (f) The National Labor Women's Network shall function in accordance with the rules that may be approved from time to time by the National Executive and subject to its control and jurisdiction.
- (g) That a National Indigenous Labor Network be formed from the state networks with appropriate support from the national office. The network's goals will be to:
 - (i) attract and support Indigenous ALP members
 - (ii) increase the involvement of Indigenous people at all levels of the ALP
 - (iii) provide a focus for the identification, training and support of Indigenous candidates
 - (iv) increase awareness of Indigenous issues throughout the ALP
 - (v) increase commitment of Party members to greater representation of Indigenous people throughout the Party
 - (vi) encourage the employment of Indigenous people in staff and Party positions.

National Conference

- 6 (a) National Conference shall consist of 400 delegates, comprising:
- (i) three delegates being the National President and National Vice-Presidents elected under rule 9(a)
 - (ii) four delegates being the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party and the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Party in the Senate
 - (iii) six delegates elected from and by the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party
 - (iv) delegations from each state consisting of:
 - the State Parliamentary Leader
 - a base component of 12 persons
 - a supplementary component of a number of persons equal to twice the number of House of Representatives electorates in that state as at the previous 31 December
 - (v) delegations from each territory consisting of:
 - the Territory Parliamentary Leader,
 - a base component of 2 persons,
 - a supplementary component of a number of persons equal to twice the number of House of Representatives electorates in that territory as at the previous 31 December
 - (vi) three delegates from Australian Young Labor.
- (b) State Secretaries and members of the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party who are not delegates to National Conference shall be able to attend National Conference with the rights of delegates except that of voting.
- (c) All members of the state or territory branch shall be eligible to be elected as delegates from that state or territory.

- (d) (i) Each state shall be entitled to a minimum of two proxies up to a maximum equal to half the state's delegation.
- (ii) The credentials for state branch proxies shall be circulated in advance and accepted at the commencement of the Conference and no other proxies may be admitted.
- (iii) It is the responsibility of each state delegation to ensure that the chair is advised of all changes of delegation during the Conference. No proxy shall participate in the debate of a report in which the delegate he/she is replacing has participated.
- (iv) state and federal leaders may each nominate one proxy subject to paragraph (ii) above. Such proxies must be a member of the relevant parliamentary party.
- (e) All delegates must be elected by a system of proportional representation in a single ballot with affirmative action in accordance with rule 10.
- (f) Delegates shall be elected within 12 months prior to the date of National Conference.
- (g) State branches cannot bind delegates with regard to their vote on any issue before the National Conference.
- (h) National Conference shall be held every three years in a location determined by the National Executive which shall have the responsibility for determining the time of the National Conference.
- (i) Special National Conferences may be held for specially stated purposes and shall be called in the manner prescribed by these rules.
- (j) (i) The National President and National Vice-Presidents need not be delegates to National Conference, but have the full rights of a delegate except that of voting.
- (ii) The National Secretary shall not be a delegate to National Conference, but shall have the full rights of a delegate except that of voting.
- (k) The National Secretary, after receiving instructions from the convening authority, shall observe the following procedure for the purpose of establishing the Conference agenda:
 - (i) give the following bodies three months notice to send items to the National Policy Forum: state branches, Australian Young Labor, and federal electorate councils, Labor Action Policy Committees and trade unions whose state branches are affiliated with the Party in a majority of states in which they operate, all of which shall have the right to submit items to the National Policy Forum. Bodies so submitting items to the National Policy Forum shall be notified in writing of the forum's views on such items.
 - (ii) send to state branches and other bodies represented at National Conference, agenda and any other documents related thereto at least one month before Conference meets.
- (l) (i) The National Executive may by unanimous resolution put any motion that could be considered by a meeting of National Conference to a postal ballot of those delegates credentialled to vote at the last meeting of National Conference.
- (ii) A motion put to postal ballot is only carried if a two-thirds majority of delegates eligible to vote vote in favour.
- (iii) A resolution passed by postal ballot has the same effect as a resolution passed at a meeting of National Conference.

National Executive

- 7 (a) The National Executive of the Party, which shall be the chief administrative authority subject only to National Conference, shall be constituted in the following manner:
- (i) the National President and National Vice-Presidents, who are directly elected by Party members in accordance with rule 9(a), have the full rights of a delegate except that of voting, unless elected as a delegate in their own right
 - (ii) 20 executive members elected by the National Conference
 - (iii) the National Secretary, who shall be elected by the National Conference, shall not be a delegate but shall have the full rights of a delegate except that of voting
 - (iv) the Leader of the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party or proxy nominated by the Leader. Such proxy must be a member of the Federal Parliamentary Party
 - (v) State Secretaries who are not delegates to the National Executive shall be able to attend National Executive meetings with the rights of delegates except that of voting
 - (vi) delegates shall be entitled to nominate their proxy for any meeting or part of a meeting that they are unable to attend and for any ballot in which they are unable to vote.
- (b) (i) The terms of all those elected by the National Conference shall commence at the conclusion of the National Conference at which they are elected. They shall be subject to re-election at each Conference except the National Secretary who shall be subject to re-election at every second Conference.
- (ii) Casual vacancies will be filled by the National Executive in accordance with the principles of proportional representation.
 - (iii) Casual vacancies for the positions of National President, National Vice-Presidents and National Secretary shall be filled by a ballot of the National Executive and the National Executive Committee shall institute procedures to hold a ballot.

Powers and duties of the National Executive

- (c) Decisions of the National Executive are binding on all sections and members of the ALP subject only to appeal to National Conference. Pending the hearing of any appeal, the decision of the National Executive continues to operate.
- (d) Subject only to National Conference, the National Executive may exercise all powers of the Party on its behalf without limitation, including in relation to the state branches and other sections of the Party.
- (e) Without limiting the plenary powers of the National Executive under rule 7(d), the National Executive:
 - (i) is the administrative authority of the Party responsible for:
 - carrying out the decisions of National Conference
 - interpreting the National Constitution, the National Platform and decisions of National Conference
 - directing federal members
 - (ii) must convene triennial National Conferences in accordance with these Rules
 - (iii) may convene Special National Conferences for specified purposes

- (iv) must convene a Special National Conference for a specified purpose when requested by a majority of state branches
- (v) must elect a National Executive Committee and appoint twenty trade union representatives to the National Policy Forum
- (vi) may elect such other committees as it may determine from time to time
- (vii) must consider any matter submitted to it by a state branch, Australian Young Labor, the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party or a trade union whose state branches are affiliated with the Party in a majority of states in which it operates (in this rule 'affiliated organisation')
- (viii) may hear and decide appeals from any affiliated organisation or individual member against a decision of a state branch alleged to be inconsistent with any national decision or matter
- (ix) may hear and decide appeals by any person seeking to be a candidate for a federal election against a decision of a state branch affecting that person's preselection.
- (f) Without limiting the plenary powers of the National Executive under rule 7(d), if in the opinion of the National Executive any state branch or section of the Party is acting or has acted in a manner contrary to the National Constitution, the National Platform or a decision of National Conference, as interpreted by the National Executive, the National Executive may:
 - (i) overrule the state branch or section
 - (ii) intervene in the state branch or section, and take over and direct the conduct of its affairs
 - (iii) conduct any preselection that would otherwise have been decided by the state branch or section.
- (g) The National Executive must meet at least three times each year. Subject to the National Executive, the National Executive Committee is responsible for convening meetings of the National Executive.
- (h)
 - (i) The National Executive may meet by telephone and other electronic means provided each member who wishes to participate in the meeting is able to clearly and simultaneously communicate with every other such member.
 - (ii) A resolution agreed to in writing by all voting members of the National Executive has the same effect as a resolution passed at a meeting of the National Executive. In this rule 'writing' includes emails, faxes and other electronic means of representing or reproducing words in a visible form.
 - (iii) The National Executive may conduct elections by postal vote.

National Executive Committee

- 8
- (a) The National Executive Committee (NEC) shall consist of the National Secretary and such other members of the National Executive as may be elected by the National Executive.
 - (b) The National Executive Committee shall be responsible for the administration of the Party between meetings of the National Executive.
 - (c) They shall meet at least once between each two meetings of the National Executive for the purpose of preparing the agenda and making recommendations to expedite the business of the National Executive.
 - (d) Other than in urgent situations which preclude either a special meeting or a resolution without meeting of the National Executive, the NEC shall not have the power to make decisions on behalf of the National Executive.

- (e) Any actions taken by the NEC between Executive meetings shall be reported to the next meeting of the Executive for endorsement.
- (f) The non-parliamentary members of the NEC shall also be members of the companies John Curtin House Limited and ALP Legacies and Gifts.
- (g) Rules 7(d)(i) and (ii) apply to the NEC in the same way as the National Executive.

National President and National Vice-Presidents

- 9
- (a) The National President and 2 National Vice-Presidents must be directly elected from and by Party members in the 12 months before each triennial National Conference in a single ballot by proportional representation with affirmative action in accordance with rule 10.
 - (b) The candidate first elected is National President, the candidate second elected is National Senior Vice President, and the candidate third elected is National Junior Vice President. The term of office for each position starts at the commencement of National Conference, and ends at the commencement of the next triennial National Conference.
 - (c) The National President, when available, will chair National Conference and meetings of the National Executive, and conduct such meetings in accordance with the National Conference Standing Orders. The National President will carry out any other duties referred by the National Executive.
 - (d) The National Vice-Presidents in order of seniority will take the chair in the absence of the National President, and carry out any other duties referred by the National Executive.

Affirmative action

- 10
- The ALP is committed to men and women in the Party working in equal partnership. It is our objective to have equal numbers of men and women at all levels in the Party organisation, and in public office positions the Party holds. To achieve this the Party adopts a comprehensive affirmative action model of 40:40:20, as set out below, whereby a minimum of 40 per cent of relevant positions shall be held by either gender.

Party positions

- (a) All elections, other than public office preselections, conducted by national and state level Party units for three or more positions, shall comply with the affirmative action model. Not less than 40 per cent of such positions shall be held by women, and not less than 40 per cent by men, provided that sufficient candidates of the relevant gender nominate ('the basic entitlement'). If the calculation to determine the basic entitlement results in a fraction of one half or more then the basic entitlement shall be the next higher whole number, and where it results in a fraction of less than one half it shall be the next lower number.

Union delegations

- (b) Union delegations to Party conferences and forums shall comply with the affirmative action model. Not less than 40 per cent of a union's delegation shall be women, and not less than 40 per cent shall be men ('the minimum representation'). Provided that if the level of male or female membership of a union is less than 40 per cent, the minimum representation shall be set at that level.

Public office preselection

- (c) Preselections for public office positions at a state and federal level shall comply with the affirmative action model in this rule 10(c).

PRINCIPLES

- (i) The intention of this rule is to produce an outcome where not less than 40 per cent of seats held by Labor will be filled by women, and not less than 40 per cent by men ('the minimum target').
- (ii) This minimum target shall apply to any preselection round taking place after 1 January 2012.
- (iii) The remaining 20 per cent of the seats held by Labor may be filled by candidates of either gender.

IMPLEMENTATION

- (iv) State and territory branches shall be required to amend their rules so as to achieve the minimum target by applying these principles to the relevant seats.
- (v) For the purposes of paragraph (iv), the relevant seats shall include:
- in relation to lower houses, those seats needed to form government, or those seats held by Labor, whichever is the greater; and
 - in relation to upper houses, at least 50 per cent of seats in the upper house, or those seats held by Labor, whichever is the greater.
- (d) The National Executive shall have the responsibility and the power to enforce rules 10(a)–(c) generally and specifically to determine the outcome in any public office preselection progressively between now and the year 2012 in order to ensure that this rule is complied with.
- (e) Each state and territory branch must no later than 1 November each year provide a report to its Administrative Committee or State Executive and to the National Executive on the implementation of rules 10(a)–(c).
- (f) Each state and territory branch must ensure that its rules are consistent with this rule, and are submitted to the National Executive for approval by 1 November 2003. Transitional Provisions—Former Rule 12 to Continue to Apply.
- (g) Any preselection round held after the date this rule is adopted by National Conference, but prior to 1 January 2012, shall comply with the provisions of rule 12 as it was immediately prior to the adoption of this rule ("the former rule"), except that the references in the former rule to the year 2002 shall be read as references to the year 2011.

National Labor Women's Network

Membership

- 11 (a) (i) There will be a National Labor Women's Network.
- (ii) Every woman member of the Party is automatically a member of the National Labor Women's Network.
- (iii) There will be no membership fee at the national level

Role of the NLWN

- (b) The role of the National Labor Women's Network is:
- (i) to encourage women to join and participate in the Australian Labor Party
 - (ii) to increase the numbers of women in the Party
 - (iii) to maintain and expand e-communication between Labor women
 - (iv) to devise and promote training programs to improve the skills, confidence and participation of Labor women throughout the ALP
 - (v) to sponsor and expand the NLWN political work experience program
 - (vi) to develop and promote women within branches and other structures of the ALP as well as to elected office
 - (vii) to organise, in conjunction with the host state or territory, the National Labor Women's Conferences
 - (viii) to administer travel subsidy to the National Labor Women's Conferences
 - (ix) to promote contact between the ALP and women's organisations in the community
 - (x) to assist in the development of policy and ensure women participate in policy making
 - (xi) to nominate representatives to women's forums, including international women's forums.

National Executive

- (c) (i) The NLWN Executive will consist of 15 women members of the ALP elected by each triennial National Conference in a single ballot by proportional representation, but so that at least one candidate elected is from each state and territory (in so far as there are nominations from each state and territory).
- (ii) At its first meeting after each triennial National Conference, the NLWN Executive will elect from its members a Convenor, Deputy Convenor, Secretary and any other officers it thinks appropriate. The Convenor and Deputy Convenor will be elected in a single ballot. The NLWN Executive may fill vacancies in officer positions from its members.
- (iii) The National Executive may fill vacancies in the membership of the NLWN Executive in accordance with the principles of proportional representation and state and territory representation in rule 11(c)(i).
- (iv) Women members of the ALP National Executive and the Federal Minister or Shadow Minister for the Status of Women shall be ex-officio members of the NLWN Executive.
- (v) Nominees for the NLWN Executive do not have to be delegates to the National Conference at which they are elected.

- (vi) Members of the NLWN Executive shall be able to nominate their proxy for NLWN Executive meetings.
- (vii) The NLWN Executive will provide an annual report of its activities to the National Executive, state and territory branches and state and territory women's organisations.
- (viii) The NLWN Executive will meet monthly by telephone and twice a year, face to face, with travel funded through the National Secretariat.
- (ix) Accounts and financing will be run through the National Secretariat, within an annual budget, allocated by the National Executive.

State women's groups and interaction

- (d) (i) The NLWN will coordinate contact with state and territory branches of the Labor Women's Network, other Labor women's organisations and women's contact officers.
- (ii) The NLWN will regularly meet with state and territory representatives of the LWN by telephone conference.
- (iii) The structure of state and territory Labor Women's Networks will be determined by each state and territory although uniformity is desirable.
- (iv) The NLWN will continue to develop materials, share programs and information to assist and support state LWNs. Transitional Provision(e) That the current term of the LWN Executive be extended to the next National Conference, and the Executive expanded to 10 members to ensure representation by all states and territories.

Finance

- 12
- (a) To meet the general expenses of the Party, each state branch shall pay each year, to the National Executive through the National Secretary, a sum representing a rate per thousand adult members, and a rate per thousand pensioner and student/junior members. The total due shall be paid in four quarterly instalments on 1 January, 1 April, 1 July and 1 October. The National Executive shall have the power to fix sustentation fees.
 - (b) In the event of a state branch being six months in arrears in its contributions to the Party, the National Executive may decide that such branch shall not be entitled to be represented at any meeting of the National Executive or National Conference, or be consulted on any question that may be subject to a ballot of state branches, until such arrears are paid.
 - (c) Upon request, state and territory branches shall report financial information to the National Secretary in a standard format determined by the National Executive.
 - (d) The National Executive shall determine an annual budget for travel costs and administer an equalisation pool for such costs associated with National Conferences and the National Executive.
 - (e) The National Executive shall meet the expenses of the National President attending National Conference and the expenses of any officers associated with any duty being carried out on behalf of the National Executive.
 - (f) Each branch shall pay to the National Executive not later than 31 December of each year the appropriate fee, to be determined by the National Executive, for international affiliations or activities associated therewith.

- (g) The National Executive shall authorise the National Secretary to negotiate banking facilities on behalf of the National Executive of the Party and determine the manner in which the Party's accounts shall be operated including the signatories to the Party's bank accounts.
- (h) Fundraising by the Labor Party at state, territory and national levels and by the Labor Party candidates for public office shall be governed by the ALP Code of Conduct for Fundraising as approved by the National Executive.
- (i) All accounts conducted for candidates whether at Commonwealth, state or municipal elections shall include the Australian Labor Party in their title. Furthermore, they shall be controlled by that level of Party organisation with the identical relevant signatories, be audited at the July meeting of such Party organisations and such annual accounts shall be forwarded to the Party state branch for inclusion in the Party's annual account reporting process to the Australian Electoral Commission.

National Policy Forum

Objectives

- 13 (a) The National Policy Forum has the following objectives:
- (i) to facilitate policy debate and development amongst the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party, Party members and affiliates
 - (ii) to provide a framework for the partnership between the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party and the wider labour movement
 - (iii) to provide guidance on the causes and aspirations of the modern Labor movement
 - (iv) to oversee the National Secretariat's policy initiatives
 - (v) to include Party units, Party members and affiliates in the debate on the direction of the Party
 - (vi) to maintain the relevance of the National Platform by conducting reviews
 - (vii) to take into account all policy resolutions passed by state and territory conferences
 - (viii) to undertake long-term planning for the implementation of Labor policy
 - (ix) to provide leadership on matters of public concern and interest.

Membership

- (b) The National Policy Forum consists of the following voting members:
- (i) the National President and Leader of the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party, who are co-chairs
 - (ii) two Deputy Chairs, elected by National Conference
 - (iii) one Secretary, elected by National Conference
 - (iv) the National Secretary
 - (v) two Assistant National Secretaries, appointed by the National Secretary
 - (vi) the President of Australian Young Labor
 - (vii) twenty federal members of parliament, including representatives from the Cabinet and Ministry, elected at the beginning of each federal parliamentary term by the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party according to the principles of proportional representation ('MPs and Senators')

- (viii) twenty people who are financial members of an affiliated union and financial Party members, elected every three years by the National Executive according to the principles of proportional representation ('trade union representatives'), and
- (ix) twenty financial Party members, each of whom is a member of a local branch, elected every three years
- (x) according to the principles of proportional representation by Party members with one year of continuous financial membership prior to the date of calling for nominations ('rank and file representatives'). The twenty rank and file representatives are to be divided amongst the state and territory branches in the following way:
 - (i) any state or territory that has less than five per cent of House of Representatives electorates is allocated one rank and file representative
 - (ii) any state or territory that has less than ten per cent but greater than or equal to five per cent of House of Representatives electorates is allocated two rank and file representatives
 - (iii) the remaining rank and file representatives are allocated to the remaining states and territories according to the relative proportion of House of Representatives electorates in those states and territories.
- (c) Only Party members who live in the state or territory for which rank and file representatives are being elected may vote in a ballot to select rank and file representatives for that state or territory.
- (d) Each state and territory branch must determine the ballot method for electing rank and file representatives in its jurisdiction.
- (e) The rank and file representatives for each state and territory must be elected separately, in a single ballot for each state and territory branch.
- (f) The National Policy Forum members elected under subsections (b)(vii), (b)(viii), and (b)(ix) must consist of at least 40 per cent women and at least 40 per cent men in accordance with the principles in Rules B.10(a) and (b). If these requirements are not met, the Returning Officer must adjust the selection result under subsection (b)(ix) to give effect to these requirements.
- (g) State and territory branches may require that at least 40 per cent of their rank and file representatives are enrolled in an electorate that is not 'inner metropolitan' as defined by the AEC.
- (h) If there is a tied vote in the National Policy Forum, the Leader of the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party has the casting vote.
- (i) The National Policy Forum may co-opt any person as an ex-officio non-voting member of the forum as a whole or a policy commission.

Responsibilities

- (j) The National Policy Forum is responsible for:
 - (i) keeping our platform relevant by conducting Platform Reviews
 - (ii) leading Party debates by forming policy commissions
 - (iii) providing advice to the National Conference and National Executive on any matter of policy.
- (k) The National Policy Forum must:
 - (i) maintain a quorum of a majority of members in order to meet
 - (ii) meet at least three times per year
 - (iii) hold at least one meeting outside a capital city each year
 - (iv) decide which of its meetings, or parts of meetings, are open to the wider Party, general public and media.

Platform reviews

- (l) During each Federal Parliamentary term, the National Policy Forum must undertake a complete review of the National Platform, and recommend platform amendments to the National Conference.
- (m) The National Policy Forum must involve Caucus Committees in any review of the sections of the platform that fall within their policy areas.

Policy commissions

- (n) The National Policy Forum may at any time form a Policy Commission to consider matters referred to it by the:
 - (i) Leader of the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party
 - or
 - (ii) National Executive.
- (o) Policy commissions must consist of nine voting members from the National Policy Forum. Three of the members of a policy commission must be MPs or Senators, three must be trade union representatives, and three must be rank and file representatives.
- (p) The members of a policy commission must be elected by a ballot of the whole National Policy Forum.
- (q) A policy commission's membership must satisfy affirmative action requirements. If these requirements are not met, the Returning Officer must adjust the election result to give effect to these requirements.
- (r) Policy commissions must elect two co-chairs from amongst their nine members. One of the co-chairs must be an MP or Senator, and one must be a rank and file representative.
- (s) The National Policy Forum may appoint other Party members as non-voting members of a policy commission.
- (t) The policy commission may issue a majority and minority report to the National Policy Forum.
- (u) Any report or recommendation of a policy commission must be considered and decided upon by the National Policy Forum before being transmitted to the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party and/or the National Conference for approval.

Resources

- (v) The National Secretary may appoint a National Policy Forum Co-ordinator to provide administrative support to the National Policy Forum.
- (w) The National Executive must allocate the National Policy Forum a budget each year that includes funding for editorial support. The Secretary of the National Policy Forum must administer the National Policy Forum's budget.
- (x) To the extent that they are applicable, the National Policy Forum must operate according to the standing orders and procedures of the National Conference.
- (y) The National Policy Forum may adopt procedures to assist in fulfilling its objectives and responsibilities, so long as they are not inconsistent with any express provisions of the National Constitution.

Federal Parliamentary Labor Party

- 14
- (a) No state branch may direct or discipline members of the FPLP in regard to matters affecting the National Platform or policy or upon legislation before the parliament or any matters the subject of consideration by the FPLP.
 - (b) The power of direction, advice and/or guidance is reserved for the National Conference and between conferences, the National Executive.

Membership recruitment

- 15
- (a) It is an abuse of Party rules for an individual or group/s to fund Party membership for other individuals or groups of individuals who would otherwise be unwilling to pay their own subscriptions.
 - (b) It is an abuse of Party rules for an individual or group/s to encourage reduced-rate membership to people that may not be eligible for that category of membership.
 - (c) It is an abuse of Party rules for an individual or group/s to recruit members who do not live at the claimed addresses in an attempt to gain advantage at local Party meetings or the outcome of Party ballots.
 - (d) It is a requirement of Party rules that members either correctly enrol with the Australian Electoral Commission to vote in a federal election at their stated address, or not be eligible to do so because they are under 18 years of age or not an Australian citizen. If members are enrolled to vote, and they join a branch, sub-branch or other party body that has specific geographic coverage under state or territory branch rules, they must do so using the address at which they are enrolled to vote.
 - (e) Applicants must personally apply for membership by:
 - (i) Signing their own membership application and organising to post the form back to the state or territory branch office with the membership fee
 - or
 - (ii) Signing their own membership application and personally attending the state or territory branch office to submit the application and pay the membership fee
 - or
 - (iii) If their state or territory branch rules currently permit, signing their own membership application and arranging a person to attend the state or territory branch office on their behalf to submit the application and their membership fee (identification is necessary)
 - or
 - (iv) Completing an application form online and paying their membership fee by electronic funds transfer from their personal account, or with their personal credit card
 - or
 - (v) If their state or territory branch rules permit, personally attending their local branch meeting and paying their membership fee to the Secretary during the meeting. The money must be receipted to the member and the member's attendance recorded in any attendance book. The Secretary must forward the money to the state or territory branch office along with the signed application form.

- (f) Members must personally renew their membership by:
 - (i) any of the means in subsection (e)
 - or
 - (ii) by phone using their personal credit card
 - or
 - (iii) by signing a standing authority for the renewal of their membership and payment of their membership fees by electronic funds transfer from their personal account, or with their personal credit card.
- (g) Notwithstanding subsection (f), a person's membership may also be renewed by a family member resident in the same household.
- (h) Members who apply for membership by completing an application form online must not receive voting rights in any election unless:
 - (i) they vote in person, with proof of address and photo ID
 - (ii) they comply with the maximum possible relevant state or territory eligibility requirement for 'length of membership', in order to give effect to the principle that no member who applies online may receive voting rights for any election in a shorter period than any member who applies through a local branch
 - (iii) they comply with the relevant state or territory eligibility requirement for 'branch attendance' if the election is for Party Conference delegates or candidates for public office.
- (i) In order to prevent the 'bulk renewal' of other members, the National Executive must prescribe membership application and renewal forms for use by all state and territory branches that:
 - (i) require the signature of the applicant or member authorising the application or renewal
 - (ii) contain a declaration by any applicant or member paying a reduced-rate subscription that they are entitled to that reduced rate. The declaration must also indicate the basis on which the member is claiming this entitlement. state or territory branches may also set standard requirements of evidence to be met by members claiming this entitlement.
- (j) All state and territory branches must implement an appropriate cap or limitation/ review procedure relating to the number of members that may validly apply to join the ALP at a local branch or sub-branch meeting. Members who seek to transfer into a branch or sub-branch shall be included/ counted for the purposes of determining the number of members to which the cap or limitation applies.
- (k) Involvement in such abuses will be considered as behaviour likely to bring the Party into disrepute and will result in disciplinary action which may include expulsion under the rules of the Party.
- (l) All state and territory branch rules must, where necessary, establish a tribunal to effectively resolve disputes concerning membership. All state dispute tribunals will operate according to due process and according to the national membership principles and rules.
- (m) All state and territory branch rules must contain a procedure that permits a decision to admit a person as a Party member to be reviewed, where there is an allegation that the person was ineligible to become a Party member.
- (n) All state and territory branch rules must permit 50 members or 25 per cent of the members in a federal electorate, whichever is the lesser, to petition the Administrative Committee or State Executive to investigate any allegations of breaches of this rule in that electorate.
- (o) In order to ensure that these rules are given effect, the state and territory branches of ALP be required to amend, where necessary, their rules to reflect these national rules. Such amended rules will be presented to the National Executive no later than 1 November 2003.

- (p) The National Executive must continue: (i) to monitor and enforce compliance with this rule; and (ii) to review the operation of this rule to ensure the integrity of the Party's membership processes.
- (q) All states and territory branches must provide to the National Executive a complete current branch membership list by no later than 31 July of each year.

National Life Membership

- 16
- (a) The National Executive can award national life membership of the Australian Labor Party.
 - (b) Nominees for national life membership must be longstanding members of the Party and have provided distinguished service to the Party at a national level.
 - (c) Only the National Executive, state branches, federal electorate bodies and nationally affiliated unions can make nominations for national life membership. Nominations should describe the background and history of service of the nominee particularly their contribution at a national level.
 - (d) Nominations for national life membership must be forwarded to the National Secretary at least one month prior to a meeting of the National Executive.
 - (e) National life membership shall only be awarded with the unanimous support of the National Executive.

Australian Labor Advisory Council

- 17
- (a) There will be an Australian Labor Advisory Council (ALAC), consisting of the Leader and senior members of the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party, the National President and National Secretary or their nominees, and representatives of the Australian Council of Trade Unions.
 - (b) The role of ALAC will be to provide a formal consultative mechanism between the Party and the union movement.
 - (c) The National Policy Forum must consult with ALAC in relation to Party policy relevant to ALAC's role, and resolutions of ALAC relevant to Party policy must be considered by the National Policy Forum.
 - (d) ALAC must meet at least twice each year, the meetings to be resourced by the National Secretariat.
 - (e) ALAC will include a Campaigns and Growth Forum based on the ACTU model, to connect affiliated unions, the Party and the FPLP into a more meaningful dialogue on shared challenges.

National Appeals Tribunal

- 18
- (a) The National Executive must:
 - (i) at its first meeting after each triennial National Conference, and
 - (ii) whenever there is a vacancy in a position; by a three-quarters majority of all voting members appoint three persons to form the panel for the National Appeals Tribunal.
 - (b) A member of the panel may only be removed by a three-quarters majority of all voting members of the National Executive.

- (c) In respect of each appeal, the tribunal is constituted by a member of the panel determined by lot under the supervision of the National Secretary.
- (d) The tribunal is responsible on behalf of the National Executive for hearing all appeals by members, affiliated unions and constituent units of the Party that relate to:
 - (i) compliance with the National Constitution
 - or
 - (ii) enforcement of the rights and obligations of members, affiliated unions and constituent units under the National Constitution; and making recommendations to the National Executive in relation to those appeals.
- (e) No appeal may be heard by the tribunal until all practicable avenues of appeal have been exhausted under the rules of the relevant state or territory branch.
- (f) The tribunal must:
 - (i) comply with the rules of procedural fairness in conducting hearings
 - (ii) (subject to paragraph (i)) conduct its hearings as expeditiously as possible
 - (iii) give the National Executive and all parties to the appeal written reasons for its recommendations.
- (g) The National Executive:
 - (i) must promptly consider all recommendations of the tribunal
 - (ii) may make any decision in relation to the appeal it thinks fit.
- (h) The tribunal:
 - (i) must prescribe guidelines for the conduct of appeals, including the granting of leave by the tribunal to hear appeals; and
 - (ii) may otherwise regulate its own procedure; subject to these rules and any direction of the National Executive.
- (i) In this rule 'National Constitution' has the same meaning as in rule 19.
- (j) The powers of the National Executive under this rule are in addition to, and not in derogation from, those contained in rule 7(c).

National Constitution not enforceable in law

- 19
- (a) In this rule 'National Constitution' means all national constituent instruments of the Party, and includes the national Objectives and Principles, the national Rules, the National Principles of Organisation, and all resolutions of National Conference and the National Executive relating to the structure and organisation of the Party.
 - (b) It is intended that the National Constitution and everything done in connection with it, all arrangements relating to it (whether express or implied) and any agreement or business entered into or payment made or under the National Constitution, will not bring about any legal relationship, rights, duties or outcome of any kind, or be enforceable by law, or be the subject of legal proceedings. Instead all arrangements, agreements and business are only binding in honour.
 - (c) Without limiting rule 19(b), it is further expressly intended that all disputes within the Party, or between one member and another that relate to the Party be resolved in accordance with the National Constitution and the rules of the state and territory branches and not through legal proceedings.
 - (d) By joining the Party and remaining members, all members of the Party consent to be bound by this rule.

Establishment of Implementation Committee

- 20
- (a) The National Executive will establish an Implementation Committee to determine how to implement Recommendation 77 of the National Review 2010 that the structure of the National Conference be changed to enable the increased participation of rank and file members through direct election of a component of the National Conference. The Implementation Committee will have regard to the 2010 National Review, the National Principles of Organisation, and state and territory arrangements.
 - (b) The National Executive will determine the composition and reporting arrangements of the Implementation Committee.
 - (c) The report of the Implementation Committee referred to in subsection (a) must be determined by the National Executive by a three quarters majority of all voting members no later than 3 December 2012.

Part C—National Principles of Organisation

- 1 Policy at the national, state and territory level shall be determined by the national, state and territory conferences respectively. Such decisions shall be binding on every member and every section of the Party, or of the relevant state or territory branch.
- 2 Federal, state and territory ministers must report back to their respective Party Conferences on the implementation of platform and policy commitments.
- 3 On matters that are not subject to National Platform or Conference or Executive decisions, or their state and territory equivalents, the majority decision of the relevant Parliamentary Labor Party shall be binding upon all members of the parliament.
- 4 In all parliaments, the parliamentary leadership, the Ministry and Shadow Ministry shall be elected by the Parliamentary Labor Party.

Election of delegates to National Conference

- 5 State and territory branch delegates to National Conference (including proxy delegates) must be elected in accordance with the rules of that state or territory branch, subject to rule 6.

Composition of state conferences

- 6
 - (a) In all states the state conference shall comprise 50 per cent union representatives and 50 per cent constituency Party representatives. (This shall not bind territory branches until the proportion of unions affiliated is equivalent to that in the states. This principle shall apply to all state level Party units comprised of direct representatives of unions and constituency units.)
 - (b) State branches should increase or maintain the size of state conferences, which should have greater rank and file involvement.

Membership

- 7
 - (a) Membership of the ALP is open to all residents of Australia who are prepared to accept its objectives and who have associations with no other political party or proscribed organisation. This right to join shall not be impaired other than in circumstances in which it can be demonstrated clearly that an individual cannot meet the requirement outlined above.
 - (b) Members of the Party are encouraged to be members of a union or to employ union labour. State and Territory branch rules should require members of the Party to be members of a union or to employ union labour to the maximum extent permitted by law.
 - (c) To further encourage union members to join the Party, state and territory branches should offer discounts in membership subscriptions for members of affiliated unions.

Affiliation of unions

- 8
- (a) All bona fide unions shall have the right to affiliate to the ALP. This right to affiliate shall not be impaired unless it can be demonstrated clearly that the relevant organisation is not a bona fide union or that the organisation has engaged in conduct that renders it unsuitable to be affiliated.
 - (b) For the purposes of calculating union delegation sizes and affiliation fees, the number of members of each affiliated union must be determined each year by an independent audit by a registered auditor of:
 - (i) the number of members eligible to vote in a ballot for an office in that union at 30 June as conducted by the appropriate Electoral Commission/s
 - (ii) the number of members identified in paragraph (i) above for whom the union received an amount of dues in relation to the period between 1 April and 30 June inclusive for that year.
 - (c) Each affiliated union must by 4.00 pm on the last Friday in February each year provide to the State or Territory branch in a sealed envelope:
 - (i) the independent audit report for the previous year
 - (ii) advice on the number of members that union will affiliate on for the current year, and all such sealed envelopes must be opened at the same time in the presence of scrutineers appointed by affiliated unions.
 - (d) Union delegation sizes must be based on the three year rolling average of that union's affiliation for the current and two preceding years (except that affiliation figures before 2002 must not be used to determine a union's rolling average).
 - (e) Each state and territory branch (other than the Queensland Branch) must amend its rules to implement clauses 7(b)–(d) above in accordance with the model adopted by the National Executive for the Queensland Branch on 12 April 2002.
- 9
- Each State and Territory branch should develop an equitable basis of determining union entitlement for representation at relevant state level Party units. This shall not prevent state branches making reasonable special arrangements for the representation of small unions.

Union delegations

- 10
- Subject to rule 10(b), it shall be the right of each union to determine the criteria and procedures for selection of its delegates, subject to those delegates being financial members of that union and of the Party.

State and territory Labor advisory councils

- 11
- (a) Labor Advisory Council (LAC), consisting of the Leader and senior members of the state or territory Parliamentary Labor Party, the state or territory President and Secretary or their nominees, and representatives of the Trades and Labour Council or equivalent body in that state or territory.
 - (b) The role of the LAC will be to provide a formal consultative mechanism between the Party and the union movement in that state or territory.
 - (c) The LAC will include a Campaigns and Growth Forum based on the ACTU model, to connect affiliated unions, the Party and the SPLP into a more meaningful dialogue on shared challenges.

Dialogue with local union activists

- 12 All Labor MPs must establish dialogue with local union activists in their electorates, including frequent meetings with those union activists who work in their area. Senators and MLCs must be invited to attend such meetings.

Members' rights

- 13 The following are to be established as minimum standards:
- (a) The process of joining the Party shall be simplified and all unnecessary impediments to that process shall be removed from state and territory branch rules.
 - (b) Subject to any attendance requirements in the state or territory, full membership rights in all states and territories shall begin to accrue in accordance with the relevant state or territory requirements and those rights shall accumulate, to a maximum, following two years consecutive membership. These rights include: being eligible for preselection; standing and voting for or standing on, the various Party bodies and executives.
 - (c) Each state and territory branch must adopt rules that establish an appeals process in relation to compliance with and enforcement of branch rules by members, affiliated unions and constituent units of the branch, such rules to be submitted to the National Executive for approval by 1 November 2003. The appeals process must include compliance with the rules of procedural fairness, expedited hearings and written reasons for decision.

Organisation and training

- 14
- (a) In addition to geographically based local branches within state and federal electorates, state and territory branches should consider different forms of rank and file organisation, such as:
 - (i) occupation, workplace and employment related branches
 - (ii) university and TAFE campus branches
 - (iii) policy forums (including online forums)
 - (iv) Labor policy action caucuses or equivalent policy structures
 - (b) The number of local branches in metropolitan areas should be consolidated to provide for larger meetings and better branch organisation.
 - (c) MPs and state and territory branches should respond to branch correspondence promptly so that branch members know their contribution has been considered.
 - (d) State and territory branches should ask branches to nominate either a women's officer or contact person to assist the development of equitable participation for women in the Party.
 - (e) MPs and state and territory branches should respond to correspondence from Party members and Party units promptly, so that Party members know their contribution has been considered. Before visiting an electorate, ministers and shadow ministers should notify the relevant Party units in that area.
 - (f) State and territory branches should form supporters clubs, and explore the possibility of the creation of an associate class of membership as a way of broadening involvement in the Party.
 - (g) Labor Connect should be expanded as a membership organising and campaigning tool and as a means for members to contribute to and participate in Party policy development

Central policy branches

- 15
- (a) State and territory branches may establish central policy branches or forums in capital cities and major regional centres.
 - (b) The National Secretariat should assist central policy branches by providing lectures, presentations and seminars online for Party members.

State and territory policy forums

- 16
- (a) State and territory branches should model their policy committees on the National Policy Forum to the extent that they should incorporate:
 - (i) a formal parliamentary component
 - (ii) a trade union affiliate component
 - (iii) a link to grass-roots members and grass-roots policy structures.
 - (b) All Party members should be eligible to attend state and territory policy committee meetings to contribute specialised knowledge and expertise on policy issues. Policy committees should, where feasible, conduct forums and consultations in regional centres.
 - (c) Resolutions passed by Party units should be circulated to the relevant ministers and shadow ministers, state and territory policy committees and the National Policy Forum for consideration and response.

Policy development

Online branches

- 17
- (a) The National Secretariat should establish a National Online Policy Branch.
 - (b) Attendance at the National Online Policy Branch does not satisfy attendance requirements for voting in Party elections, unless a state or territory branch's rules expressly provide that it does.

Grass roots policy structures

- (c) State and territory branches must investigate new grass-roots policy structures.
- (d) State and territory branches are encouraged to provide for the establishment of a 'Labor Policy Action Caucus' or 'Labor PAC' where a group has:
 - (i) thirty financial Party members (or some other number as determined by the relevant state and territory branch)
 - (ii) a patron from both the state and federal parliamentary caucuses, unless otherwise determined by its Administrative Committee
 - (iii) a statement of its name, objectives and rules, approved by its Administrative Committee.
- (e) Labor PACs should enjoy the same level of support from state and territory branch offices that constituent units enjoy in that state or territory. In particular, they should be permitted to:
 - (i) promote policy forums in Party publications and bulletins
 - (ii) put motions directly to Party conferences, the National Policy Forum, and state and territory branch policy committees
 - (iii) convene meetings and functions.

- (f) Labor PACs should in no way supplant local branches, many of which continue to provide Labor with a vital link to their communities. Rather, Labor PACs should be a complementary initiative. No powers or resources should be given to Labor PACs that are not also given to local branches.
- (g) Party officials should support these new arrangements. As PACs mature and become part of the party's structures, party officials should:
 - (i) list Labor PACs on application forms for membership (so new members can sign up to them immediately)
 - (ii) provide administrative support for elections and the maintenance of membership lists, as they do for local branches.
- (h) The administrative, financial and fundraising regimes that govern Labor PACs should be determined by each state and territory branch.

Engagement between MPs and members

- (i) Except in an election year, ministers and shadow ministers should participate in at least three of any of the official policy engagements each year that are attended by 30 or more Party members or affiliated union members. Of these:
 - (i) at least one should be in a non-metropolitan area,
 - (ii) at least one should be online
 - (iii) for federal ministers or shadow ministers, at least one should be outside their home state or territory.

Preselections

- 18
- (a) Any member who meets the membership eligibility requirements shall be entitled to participate in voting for a candidate in any preselection covered by the applicable boundaries within which they reside, subject to clause 15(c).
 - (b) The only residential boundaries that can affect that right are those devised by either federal, state or municipal electoral commissions. That is, the entitlement is guaranteed by the publicly known and independently drawn boundaries of respective electoral commissions. Therefore, if you live within the respective electorate and meet other criteria within the rules you are eligible to vote in the preselection.
 - (c) To ensure the integrity of preselection ballots, no member shall receive a vote in any preselection unless that member is correctly enrolled with the Australian Electoral Commission to vote in a federal election. The member's address for the purposes of preselection will be their enrolled address.
 - (d) In order to ensure that candidates and MPs fulfil local responsibilities, state and territory branches should:
 - (i) develop a system for reporting the activities of MPs to their federal electorate bodies
 - (ii) introduce Public Office Selection Forums for all lower house candidates.
All eligible voters and financial Party members who live in the electorate for which a lower house candidate is being selected should be eligible to attend and participate in a Public Office Selection Forum.
Public Office Selection Forums should be held on the day of voting. They should consist of formal speeches by the candidates and small group question and answer sessions.

Community preselections

- 19
- (a) State and territory branches may trial community selection ballots when selecting lower house candidates.
 - (b) Australian Labor:
 - (i) recognises that each state and territory branch will approach preselections differently
 - (ii) supports state and territory branches that undertake a trial of community selection ballots when selecting candidates
 - (iii) asks state and territory branches that undertake community selection ballots to report to the National Executive on the outcome of the trial.
 - (c) To vote in a community selection ballot, any person who is not a financial Party member, must be correctly enrolled in that electorate, and must first sign a declaration stating that they:
 - (i) are a Labor supporter
 - (ii) are not a member of another political party or one of its affiliated organisations.
 - (d) State and territory branches should determine the model and procedures to be used in any community selection ballot in their jurisdiction.

Australian Young Labor

- 20 Every state and territory Administrative Committee or State Executive should consider co-opting a non-voting member or members of Young Labor.

Indigenous Labor Network

- 21 That each state and territory branch form an Indigenous Labor Network. Membership should be open to all Indigenous people who are members of the ALP. Non-Indigenous ALP members can nominate to be associate members.

Implementation of National Principles of Organisation

- 22 The National Executive will monitor the implementation of these National Principles of Organisation in consultation with the state and territory branches. These principles will apply equally to all state and territory branches unless otherwise stated.

State and territory branch rule changes

- 23 All state and territory branch rules must be revised in accordance with these National Principles of Organisation as amended at the National Conference held in December 2011, and be submitted to the National Executive for endorsement no later than 31 December 2013.
- 24 That, pursuant to rule 7(c)(i), the National Executive be empowered to amend the rules of any state branch as required to implement the National Principles of Organisation.

Part D—Resolutions to Implement National Principles of Organisation

General membership system

- 1
 - (a) Each state should adopt a system to allow applications to be processed and accepted by the head office thus allowing potential expansion of a general membership system.
 - (b) A general member initially has only the right to take up at their initiative the process of becoming a full member through the branch membership system. The general members are to be encouraged to contribute to the Party in whatever way they can and they are bound to assume the responsibilities of supporting the Party both privately and publicly.
 - (c) Any general member of five years or more standing could be considered for preselection provided the majority request of all Party members in their respective electorate was made and/or the majority request of that State Branch Administrative Committee or Executive was made. (for guidance to the state branches)

National organisation—ongoing review

- 2
 - (a) That the National Executive take responsibility for an ongoing process of organisational review. The National Executive should establish a Standing Committee to initiate proposals, or receive submissions from members and affiliates, on the Party's rules, structures and political effectiveness.
 - (b) That an ongoing National Organisational Review Committee (ORC) be established with appropriate delegated powers under the guidance of the National Executive to continue the process of improving the effectiveness, participation and accountability of the Party's organisation.
 - (c) That the ORC undergo a consultative process with state branches, union affiliates, Party units and members on strategies to achieve the following objectives:
 - (i) strategies to increase the level of ALP branch membership;
 - (ii) strategies to encourage more trade unions to affiliate to the ALP and to involve unions more effectively in the Party's decision-making processes;
 - (iii) strategies the ALP should consider in order to defeat coalition party proposals to undermine the existing arrangements for trade union affiliation; and
 - (iv) strategies to increase the participation of women at all levels within the ALP.
 - (d) That the National Secretariat provide adequate resources for the committee to meet its objectives.

Preselections

- 3 State and territory campaign directors should consult the Leader and the National Campaign Director before the selection of candidates in both target and safe Labor seats to discuss quality potential candidates. This process should begin at least 18 months prior to the next election. It is the responsibility and obligation of Party officers and other influential figures within the Party to ensure that quality candidates are preselected in all seats. The Party must also actively identify and encourage candidates from a wide range of occupations and life experiences.

Member engagement

- 4 That, as a first step towards re-engaging with Party members, the National Secretariat conduct the first national survey of Party members to seek their views, expectations and attitudes to the Party. Suggestions about improving Party organisation should also be sought. That the results of the survey be published in summary form to members.
- 5 That the National Executive discuss and determine a membership growth target for increasing membership over the next five years, with progress targets set for each year. That membership numbers achieved be reported on an annual basis to the membership.
- 6 That the Party establish a cost-effective national campaigning organising and training academy to boost the skills, awareness and knowledge of members to allow them to better participate in Party-building and recruitment activities.
- 7 That a system of small, annual grants be established at a national level to assist with Party-building activities. That local branches be encouraged to apply for grants and the scheme be overseen by a panel of senior Party members, removed from the day-to-day affairs of the Party.
- 8 That the Party at a national level institute a Labor Community Dialogue program as has occurred at state levels of the Party, to facilitate access and discussion between the Party, community organisations and community leaders, and that this be supported by an active series of online engagement opportunities that would connect progressive community organisations with the Party at both a membership and parliamentary level.

Affiliated unions

- 9 That, in order to encourage the participation of more union members in the Party, affiliated unions be requested to ask members on joining or renewing their membership to become involved in the Party, through such means as voting in primaries (if applicable), representing the union at Party conferences and joining the Party.

Part E—Register of Conference decisions

Members initiating legal proceedings (decision of the 1955 Conference)

- 1 This Conference resolves that as a general principle it cannot concede the right of any member of the Party to initiate legal proceedings for the purpose of establishing the constitutional behaviour of the Labor Movement. We emphasise that, with a few isolated exceptions, the history of our Party discloses we have functioned on a basis of complete determination in accordance with our own rules and our own interpretation of them. We insist we must continue to create our own procedures, taking care of our own business without the introduction of lawyers and law courts.

Union elections (decision of the 1963 Conference)

- 2 Conference believes that industrial legislation should provide for trade unions to properly determine their own internal policies in accordance with their rules and constitutions and deplors interference in trade unions activities by any government, outside individuals or organisations. Conference accordingly calls upon all trade unionists to refrain from interference in the internal affairs of another trade union.

Grievance procedures (decision of the 1979 Conference)

- 3 That Conference believes that the procedures of the Party at state and national level provide adequate opportunity for people who are dissatisfied to seek redress of grievance and calls upon all members of the Party in respect of matters in dispute to refrain from making comment outside the Party.

Affirmative action (decision of the 1981 Conference)

- 4 (a) That Conference:
 - (i) asserts its support for affirmative action to ensure greater representation of women in the Party structures and amongst its representatives at all levels of government;
 - (ii) endorses the Guidelines for Implementation of an Affirmative Action Programme in the ALP, June 1981, produced by the Working Party on Affirmative Action, drawn from the state women's groups and requests each state and territory branch to implement an affirmative action programme in keeping with these guidelines
 - (iii) requests the National Executive to monitor regularly progress in each state branch and to report to each National Conference.
- (b) That all Party publications and Party ballot papers be given an indication of sex by use of given names.
- (c) That it be the policy of the ALP to investigate, instigate, and fund the provision of childcare facilities at all conferences and large assembly meetings of the Party.

- (d) That it be the policy of the ALP that all Party literature and publications should be free of sexist terms and sexist overtones; similarly all Party conferences, meetings etc. should be free of sexist comments, terms and overtones of any kind and all officers, MPs and members of the Party should be advised accordingly.
- (e) (i) Conference notes the enormous progress that has been made since 2002 towards achieving the targets in rule 10.
- (ii) Conference is of the view that the final attainment of the targets in rule 10 needs to be balanced with the desirability of not interfering in the preselection of sitting MPs.
- (iii) Conference recognises this is a complex issue, which requires detailed consideration by both the National Executive and the National Labor Women's Network.
- (iv) Accordingly, Conference directs the National Executive and the NLWN Executive to establish a joint working group to report back to National Conference on the most appropriate mechanism for implementing the view Conference has expressed in subparagraph (ii).

Abortion (decision of the 1984 Conference)

- 5 Conference resolves that the matter of abortion can be freely debated at any state or federal forum of the Australian Labor Party, but any decision reached is not binding on any member of the Party.

Conduct of ballots (decision of the 1994 Conference)

- 6 Procedures for conduct of ballots if required:
- (a) that ballots for multiple vacancies be conducted in accordance with the rules of the Victorian Branch
 - (b) that ballots for single vacancies be conducted under the optional preferential system; and
 - (c) that ballots for multiple vacancies be conducted in accordance with rule 10(a).

ALP Code of Conduct for Fundraising (decision of the 1994 Conference)

Preamble

- 7 Australia's political and economic stability is dependent on the strength of our democracy. The Labor Party believes that democracy in Australia will be strengthened by moderate and equal financial contributions from corporate Australia to both sides of politics.
- This code of conduct establishes the conditions that govern fundraising by the Labor Party at state, territory and national levels. It is binding on all Labor Party branches, units and candidates for public office.
 - Funds are raised by the organisational wing of the Labor Party to assist candidates for public office to gain and/or maintain office.
 - Funds are needed for policy development, Party administration and, most importantly, campaigning. All these political tasks must be carried out federally and in each state and territory.

- Each State, Territory and National Secretary of the Labor Party has a responsibility to raise funds.
- Campaign responsibilities can overshadow the need for adequate funds to support a strong and effective party organisation. Lack of funding for party maintenance and administration not only drains the Party's ability to develop policy and membership, but also undermines Labor's ability to campaign effectively and therefore undermines the stability of Australia's political system.

Organisation of fundraising

- The Party's National Director of Fundraising is the National Secretary. State and Territory Directors of Fundraising are the relevant State or Territory Secretary.
- Each state and territory branch and the National Secretariat raise funds cooperatively but separately.
- Each state and territory branch and the National Secretariat has a Finance Committee and a Fundraising Director. These individuals and their committees and/or donation collectors have sole responsibility for fundraising for their respective branches. Each branch organises its efforts independently and according to its own methods.
- State and Territory finance committees, all of whose members act in a voluntary capacity, collect funds from individual unions and corporations. Such funds supplement the Party's income from normal membership dues and affiliation fees.
- The National Secretariat collects funds for national campaigning, maintenance of the National Secretariat and the support of various state branches. These funds support the National Secretariat's role of national policy development, assistance to the federal Parliamentary Party and maintenance of the Party's professional and voluntary organisation throughout Australia.
- State, Territory and national offices shall operate systems of "centralised banking".
- All local campaign and other party accounts will be held under the relevant state or territory central banking system with the relevant Tax File Number.

Conditions

- The Labor Party observes a fundraising code of conduct. This code is fundamental to the integrity of the Party and its organisational and Parliamentary members.
- Parliamentarians can, and should, voice the Party's needs for funds or services and on occasions sign appeal letters.
- On reasonable request, Parliamentarians can, and should, speak or appear at Labor Party fundraising events.
- Members of the Parliament or candidates should not accept money or services on the Party's or their own behalf, above the amount of \$3000 from any one source. Donations that are accepted must be held in appropriate Labor Party central banking accounts styled in the form: Australian Labor Party Campaign Account.
- Any funds held in accounts, or otherwise not under a state or territory central banking system with the relevant Tax File Number, will be regarded by the Australian Labor Party and any other interested party as 'personal accounts'.
- Cheques should be made payable to the Australian Labor Party named account, not individuals.
- It is the legitimate responsibility of the relevant Fundraising Director, Finance Committee members and/or collectors to accept money on behalf of the Party.
- On the written authority of the relevant State, Territory or National Secretary, Parliamentarians or Candidates may act as fundraising agents for the Labor Party.

- Members of parliamentary executives may not be asked to act as fundraising agents or collectors.
- The detail of donations shall be publicly disclosed as per the requirements of the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918— the Labor Party does not accept funds that are subject to conditions of any kind.
- Under no circumstances will the Labor Party accept funds which, even if only by inference, are intended to obtain the Party’s support for specific actions, attitudes or public statements.
- Donors have a right to put views to the Party-but a right to no more than that.
- The Labor Party never raises funds on behalf of any other party or organisation.
- Under no circumstances will the Labor Party or any of its endorsed candidates accept donations from the tobacco industry.
- Candidates for public office who act outside these guidelines will be liable to sanctions by the relevant Labor Party Caucus or State or Territory Administrative Committee or other interested parties.

National Conference decisions

- 8 That decisions of National Conference are equally binding on all members of the Party whether determined as Platform or as a decision of Conference. However, decisions of Conference which relate to matters of policy lapse if they are not reaffirmed by the subsequent Conference. Decisions of Conference which relate to organisational, administrative or rules matters continue in force until a subsequent Conference otherwise determines.

Same sex marriage

- 9 Conference resolves that the matter of same sex marriage can be freely debated at any state or federal forum of the Australian Labor Party, but any decision reached is not binding on any member of the Party.

Party reform

- 10 (a) Broaden the Party by recruiting 8000 new members

The Party’s most critical connection to the community is its members.

Yet in recent decades the Party has endured a steady decline in membership. This decline is the great organisational challenge of our generation. Strong member participation is the lifeblood of organisations such as trade unions, community organisations, faith-based groups and sporting clubs. It is members who provide Labor with its most direct, most fundamental connection to the community.

We were the people’s party, and we need to be again.

Prime Minister Julia Gillard set an ambitious target for Australian Labor to broaden its base by recruiting 8000 new members in 2012.

National Conference therefore:

- (i) approves Prime Minister Gillard’s target to recruit 8000 new members in 2012

- (ii) encourages State and Territory branches to implement a community organising model to empower members and supporters to recruit, organise and campaign locally
- (iii) encourages State and Territory branches to report their recruitment figures to the National Executive.

(b) Reduce excessive membership fees

In some State and Territory branches, membership fees are higher than for comparable organisations. This discourages the involvement of young people and low-wage workers.

National Conference therefore encourages state and territory branches to:

- (i) review their membership fees
- (ii) consider offering discounts for Young Labor members and affiliated union members, where they do not already do so.

(c) Launch a National Labor Community Dialogue program

Labor Community Dialogue programs have been launched at a state and territory level. These programs seek to build stronger links between Labor and the community sector with the objective of:

- developing broader consultative capacity to support and inform Labor's policy development
- building lasting networks of mutual support for Labor, Labor members, Labor's elected representatives and the community sector
- enhancing Labor's presence within the community.

These partnerships are mutually beneficial for Labor and progressive community organisations.

National Conference therefore directs the National Secretariat to:

- (i) launch and provide ongoing support for a National Labor Community Dialogue program
- (ii) coordinate the activities of the National Labor Community Dialogue program with those of Labor Connect to develop a streamlined approach to community outreach.

(d) Support branches and Labor PACs in working with the community

While many of our Party members volunteer in community and school organisations, branches and formal Party structures can be detached from these groups.

National Conference therefore encourages each branch and Labor PAC to 'adopt' a community organisation, and actively engage in that group's activities and mission.

The branch or Labor PAC could adopt a new organisation each year, while still maintaining links with previous 'adoptees', or build an enduring relationship with one group over a number of years.

This proposal will:

- connect our members with their community in a tangible and meaningful way
- enhance the community's understanding of Labor and our members' understanding of their community
- realise Labor values at a grass-roots level
- broaden guest speaker opportunities for the branches and Labor PACs
- extend the community dialogue concept to every member of the Party.

(e) Strengthen the party's connections to the union movement

Although trade union members share some of the same values as Labor members, they are often not Party members and often do not vote Labor. To grow our Party, we need to engage, activate and recruit union members.

National Conference therefore directs the National Secretariat to work with affiliated unions to:

- (i) develop a political engagement strategy based on the model already developed by a number of unions
- (ii) engage union members and encourage them to participate in Party activities.

The 2007 federal election campaign was aided by effective co-ordination between Labor and affiliated unions. It is worthwhile establishing a process to ensure consistency and transparency between Labor and union campaigns.

National Conference therefore directs the National Executive to form a combined Campaign Reference Group with affiliated unions.

(f) Make voter engagement central to Labor campaigns

As a broad labour movement, we will always be able to activate more supporters than our conservative opponents.

We must take advantage of this.

The philosophy is simple: we need to activate more members and connect with more voters more often. By reconnecting with our base through large scale direct voter contact, we can strengthen our membership and our electoral position.

National Conference therefore encourages state and territory branches to:

- (i) implement a community organising model to empower and equip members and supporters to recruit, organise and campaign locally
- (ii) report their budgets and organising activities to the National Executive.

Under this community organising model, Party members will be provided with more resources, training and support, so that they can identify Labor supporters, recruit new members, hold local events, run local campaigns, communicate and engage with voters, and produce and distribute material.

As part of the community organising model, Australian Labor will expand its direct voter contact system, which was trialled during the South Australian, Victorian and NSW State elections. This will enable members from all over Australia to help on campaigns at the click of a button.

National Conference directs the National Executive to establish an Organising Committee to consider developments in community organising and campaigning, and make recommendations about community organising and campaigning initiatives to the National Executive. The Organising Committee will contain representatives from trade unions, rank and file members, the Parliamentary Party and the organisational wing of the Party, appointed according to the principles of proportional representation.

National Conference directs the National Secretariat to continue to prioritise the upgrades of Electrac and LaborConnect, and investigate further integration with party databases and extranets.

(g) Support State and Territory branches considering direct election

To make our Party more active, we need to increase participation amongst rank and file members.

One proposal for strengthening rank and file involvement is to provide the option of directly electing National Conference delegates in a ballot of financial members in an electorate.

Different models for electing delegates to Party conferences are used in different states and territories. Each of these models reflects the unique political environment in that state or territory.

National Conference therefore:

- (i) recognises that each state and territory branch will approach the election of National Conference delegates differently
 - (ii) supports state and territory branches that are considering direct election
 - (iii) recognises that the National Principles of Organisation require that state and territory branch conferences comprise 50 per cent trade union representation, and 50 per cent Party constituency representatives
 - (iv) reaffirms that this principle of 50/50 representation must continue
 - (v) affirms that the local determination of National Conference delegates should not come at the expense of trade union representation
 - (vi) affirms that some of the National Conference delegation should continue to be elected in such a way as to ensure the principle of 50/50 representation is maintained.
- (h) Increase recognition of member contributions

Australian Labor relies on rank and file members volunteering their time to recruit, organise and campaign for the Party.

To encourage active participation by members, we need to demonstrate that their contributions are valued.

Rank and file member awards have been established at the state and territory level to recognise dedicated Party members.

National Conference therefore directs the National Secretariat to establish annual national awards to recognise the commitment and service of outstanding Party members.

- (i) Introduce new mechanisms for member feedback

Any successful membership-based organisation must work hard to listen to its members and engage with their thoughts and ideas.

National Conference therefore:

- (i) supports the recommendation in the National Review that calls for the first national survey of members
 - (ii) encourages state and territory branches to develop entry surveys and exit surveys for all Party members.
- (j) Support more issues-based activism

The success of 'Get Up' and 'Say Yes' shows Australians want to engage in issues-based activism, particularly young Australians.

While Labor PACs will provide a formal mechanism for members to mobilise on specific issues, many of our members may:

- not have the time to be involved in a Labor PAC
- be interested in multiple issues
- prefer an informal, individual response to issues.

National Conference therefore encourages state and territory branches to offer members the opportunity to sign up to become advocates for particular Labor policies.

Members who sign up would be provided with a tool kit of resources, such as talking points and flyers, which they could use to communicate, mobilise third-party advocates and potentially attract new members. Consideration should also be given to providing members with the advice and tools to conduct social media campaigns.

Country Labor

- 11 That National Conference recognises the success of Country Labor in NSW since its establishment in 1999.

National Conference will establish a working group, coordinated by the National Secretariat, to investigate the expansion of Country Labor across Australia.

Part F—National Conference Standing Orders

Chair of Conference

- 1 The National President shall preside over Conference. In the President's absence the senior officer present shall preside. If no officers are present a delegate shall be appointed by Conference to preside.

Credentials

- 2
 - (a) Each body represented at National Conference or National Executive shall lodge with the National Secretary the names and addresses of its delegates as early as practicable before the meeting. These names and addresses shall be sent by the National Secretary to all members of the National Executive and other bodies represented at the National Conference as soon as possible.
 - (b) Any body or delegate may challenge the credentials of any delegate by lodging with the National Secretary the grounds of objection in writing within 14 days of being notified of the nomination of that delegate.
 - (c) The grounds of the objection shall be conveyed to the delegate challenged and to the body nominating the delegate by the quickest possible means. The National Executive shall hear and determine the challenge. An appeal shall lie to the National Conference. Pending the outcome of any such appeal, the decision of the National Executive shall stand.

Session times

- 3 Conference shall meet each day from 9.30 am to 12.45 pm, and 2.15 pm to 5.30 pm, subject to Conference at any time, determining on motion or amendment without debate, and without rescission of any previous decisions as to meeting times, to meet at any other times.

Order of business

- 4 The agenda of the National Conference shall be as distributed by the National Executive pursuant to rule 6(j)(ii). The order of business shall be as determined by Conference from time to time.
- 5 No discussion shall be allowed except on motion or amendment duly proposed and seconded.
- 6 Any member desiring to propose a motion or amendment, or to discuss any matter under consideration, must address the chair. No member shall address the Conference unless called by the Chair of Conference.
- 7 All questions shall be determined in the following manner:
 - (a) the mover of the motion shall have seven minutes to present argument in support of the motion and five minutes to reply
 - (b) the seconder of such motion, and all other speakers, shall be limited to five minutes

- (c) the movers and seconders of motions and amendments must exercise the right to speak at the time of moving and not subsequently, subject to the right of reply by the mover of the motion
- (d) Conference on motion without debate may extend the time of any speaker; such extension of time shall not exceed five minutes. Conference may agree to further extensions on the same basis
- (e) the Chair shall call attention to the time of all speakers one minute before such time expires. Motions for extensions may be made when the Chair so calls, but no later
- (f) after the motion has been moved and seconded, and no speaker rises to oppose or move an amendment, the Chair shall proceed to put such motion to a vote of Conference
- (g) all votes of Conference shall be subject to the following procedure:
 - (i) the Chair shall call upon those who support the question to say 'Aye' and those who are opposed to say 'No'
 - (ii) the Chair shall then declare the question carried or lost;
- (h) any delegate not satisfied with the Chair's decision may, by standing in their place, call for a show of hands. The Chair shall proceed to determine the question by calling upon those who support the motion to raise their hands, and those opposed to act similarly. The Chair shall appoint two tellers to take the count and they shall be representative of the opposing viewpoints. When the tellers are agreed upon their count the Chair shall declare the result by quoting the figures for and against;
- (i) when any question voted upon by Conference results in equal numbers for and against, the Chair shall declare such question lost
- (j) any motion or amendment affecting the Pledge, Platform or Constitution of the Party shall be declared lost if less than a majority of delegates credentialled to the Conference vote for it.

Amendments

- 8
 - (a) At any time during debate on any motion it shall be competent for any delegate to move an amendment. All amendments must be seconded. Motions may be amended by adding words, by deleting words, or by deleting words and inserting others in their place, providing that the effect of any proposed amendment is not to establish a direct negative to the question contained in the motion.
 - (b) Any number of amendments may be proposed and discussed simultaneously with the original motion, notwithstanding standing order 14. At the close of debate amendments shall be put in the order they have been moved.
- 9 No member shall speak more than once to any question before the Chair, unless by way of personal explanation or with the consent of the Conference. Such consent shall not be given unless by a majority of those present.
- 10 At any time during debate on any question it shall be competent for the Chair to accept a motion 'that the question be adjourned,' 'that the question be put', or 'that the next business be proceeded with', provided at least two speakers have spoken for and against. A member having spoken to the question shall not be competent so to move. Such motions shall be immediately put without debate, provided that in the event of Conference agreeing "that the question be now put" the mover of the original motion shall have the right of reply.
- 11 On Conference agreeing 'that the question be now put' it shall mean not only the question contained in the motion, but in any and all amendments.

- 12 No question shall be debated for a longer period than one and a half hours, subject to Conference agreeing on motion or amendment put without debate to extend such time. A two-thirds majority of those present shall be required to approve any such extension.
- 13 Motions directed towards the re-consideration of any decision reached by Conference shall fail unless carried by a three-fourths majority of the delegates credentialled to Conference.
- 14 Not more than two delegates in succession shall speak for or against any question.
- 15 All questions involving an interpretation of policy on any section of the Platform or the direction of members of the parliament in accordance with the principles and methods of the Party, shall be subject to decision by Conference on the basis of these Standing Orders and not by ruling of the President.
- 16 Questions other than those contained on the Agenda shall not be discussed unless agreed to by two-thirds of the delegates credentialled to Conference, and no delegate shall canvass the subject matter of the proposed new business when seeking Conference approval for discussion of same.
- 17 Rulings given by the Chair on any question shall be subject to a motion calling upon Conference to disagree with any ruling. In the event of such motion, the mover shall be permitted not more than five minutes to support the motion and the Chair shall be permitted not more than five minutes to defend the Chair's ruling. There shall be no other speakers. The Vice-President or any other delegate appointed by Conference shall occupy the Chair during the currency of such motion.