Australian Labor Party Platform, Constitution and Rules as approved by the 36th National Conference, Canberra 1984

Published by R.F. McMullan, National Secretary
Australian Labor Party, National Secretariat
22 Brisbane Avenue, Barton, A.C.T., 2600
Conference Resolution pertaining to the Platform

Conference recognised that the platform of the Party represents short and long term aspirations of the ALP.

The programme for each 3 years of a Labor government will continue to be drawn from the platform.

Therefore, Conference request that the FPLP will in preparing the programme for the next three years —

a continue to give priority to economic recovery, a fair distribution of the benefits of economic growth and improvements in the welfare and standard of living of the Australian people; and

b implement other platforms and policies according to a time scale to be determined having regard to the above overall priorities of the party.

It is to be noted that Resolutions contained herein are those adopted by the 1984 National Conference. Resolutions are entered immediately following each section of the relevant Platform.
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Abbreviations

The following are common abbreviations used in the Platform.

ABC  AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION
ABS  AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS
ACT  AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
ACTU AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS
AFCO AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF CONSUMER ORGANISATIONS
ALO  AUSTRALIAN LABOUR OFFICE
ALP  AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY
ANZUS AUSTRALIAN NEW ZEALAND UNITED STATES (TREATY)
APSO ASIAN PACIFIC SOCIALIST ORGANISATION
ASEAN ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH EAST ASIAN NATIONS
ASIO AUSTRALIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE ORGANISATION
ASTEC AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL
CEP COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME
CES COMMONWEALTH EMPLOYMENT SERVICE
CPI  CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
CSIRO COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION
EEC EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY
EPAC ECONOMIC PLANNING ADVISORY COUNCIL
ESCAP ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
FPLP FEDERAL PARLIAMENTARY LABOR PARTY
GNP  GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT
IAEA INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY
ICFTU INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF FREE TRADE UNIONS
ILO  INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANISATION
IMF  INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND
NAC NATIONAL ABORIGINAL CONFERENCE
NPT  NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY
OECD ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT
PAYE PAYE-AS-YOU-EARN (INCOME TAX)
SALT STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TALKS
SI  SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL
TAA TRANS AUSTRALIAN AIRLINES
TAFE TECHNICAL AND FURTHER EDUCATION
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Basic Principles

A Origins
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.

B Objectives
The Australian Labor Party is a democratic socialist party and has the objective of the democratic socialisation of industry, production, distribution and exchange, to the extent necessary to eliminate exploitation and other anti-social features in these fields.

To achieve the political and social values of equality, democracy, liberty and social co-operation inherent in this objective, the Australian Labor Party stands for —

1 Redistribution of political and economic power so that all members of society have the opportunity to participate in the shaping and control of the institutions and relationships which determine their lives.
2 Establishment and development of public enterprises, based upon federal, state and other forms of social ownership, in appropriate sectors of the economy.

3 Democratic control and strategic social ownership of Australian natural resources for the benefit of all Australians.

4 Maintenance of and support for a competitive non-monopolistic private sector, including small business and farming, controlled and owned by Australians, operating within clear social guidelines and objectives.

5 The right to own private property.

6 Recognition and encouragement of the right of labour to organise for the protection and advancement of its interests.

7 The application of democracy in industry to increase the opportunities for people to work in satisfying, healthy and humane conditions, and to participate in and to increase their control over the decision-making processes affecting them.

8 The promotion of socially appropriate technology and the monitoring of its introduction to ensure that the needs and interests of labour, as well as the requirements of competitive industry and consumer demand, are taken into consideration.

9 The restoration and maintenance of full employment.

10 The abolition of poverty, and the achievement of greater equality in the distribution of income, wealth and opportunity.

11 Social injustice and equality for individuals, the family and all social units, and the elimination of exploitation in the home.

12 Equal access and rights to employment, education, information, technology, housing, health and welfare services, cultural and leisure activities and the law.

13 Reform of the Australian Constitution and other political institutions to ensure that they reflect the will of the majority of Australian citizens and the existence of Australia as an independent republic.

14 Recognition and protection of fundamental political and civil rights, including freedom of expression, the press, assembly, association, conscience and religion; the right to privacy; the protection of the individual from oppression by the state; and democratic reform of the Australian legal system.
The development of a democratic communications system, as an integral part of a free society, to which all citizens have opportunities for free access.

Elimination of discrimination and exploitation on the grounds of class, race, sex, sexuality, religion, political affiliation, national origin, citizenship, age, disability, regional location, or economic or household status.

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.

Recognition and encouragement of diversity of cultural expression and lifestyle within the Australian community.

The proper management of Australian resources and protection of the environment, whether created by people or nature, to safeguard the rights of present and future generations.

Maintenance of world peace; an independent Australian position in world affairs; the recognition of the right of all nations to self-determination and independence; regional and international agreement for arms control and disarmament; the provision of economic and social aid to developing nations; a commitment to resolve international conflicts through the United Nations; and a recognition of the inalienable right of all people to liberty, equality, democracy and social justice.

Commitment to and participation in the international democratic socialist movement as represented by the Socialist International.

Recognition of the right of citizens to work for progressive changes consistent with the broad principles of democratic socialism.

Principles of Action
The Australian Labor Party believes that the task of building democratic socialism is a co-operative process which requires —

Constitutional action through the Australian and State Parliaments, municipal and other statutory authorities.

Union action.

Ongoing action by organised community groups.
D Membership and Organisation

Membership of the Australian Labor Party is open to all residents of Australia who are prepared to accept its objectives and who have associations with no other political party.

Australian Labor Party policy is made by National Conferences comprising the national and state parliamentary leadership of the Party, together with elected delegates from all states, the Australian Capital Territory, the Northern Territory and Australian Young Labor.

Party policy within the 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.
1 ABORIGINES AND ISLANDERS

A INTRODUCTION
For many thousands of years prior to the coming of white people to Australia, Aborigines and Islanders were the sole inhabitants of this continent. Discipline was embodied in the tribal structure. Each member had expectations and limitations within this discipline; there was total awareness of being in harmony with the land and 'dreaming'.

With the coming of white people, traditional land was stolen, spiritual links shattered, the tribal economy broken, ritual life was disrupted and, in places, ceased. In many cases Aborigines and Islanders were murdered and tribes separated. Leadership and kinship structures and culture were often devastated and many Aborigines and Islanders became dependent on white people. Strong remaining ties of family and clan were no match for collective feelings of defeat and dispossession. Aboriginality no longer meant pride, substance and belonging; it no longer meant a life-long exploration of the joys of the spirit. It came to mean constant denigration and contempt, grinding poverty, fear, helplessness and apathy. Aboriginal values were slowly undermined so that Aborigines and Islanders could only relate to white commercial society with shame and embarrassment.

A Labor Government will —

B LAND RIGHTS
1 Grant land rights and compensation to Aboriginal and Islander communities, using the principles and recommendations of the Aboriginal Land Rights Commission (Woodward Report) as a basis for legislation, subject to a continuing review. Such review to include, but not necessarily be limited to, accelerated government
programmes in education, Aboriginal health services, housing and employment.

2 Ensure that Aboriginal and Islander people in each state or territory have access to land grants held under secure title in accordance with The Woodward principles by seeking complementary state or territory legislation and where this is not introduced use Commonwealth constitutional powers and legislation to achieve these objectives.

3 Allocate funds to allow the acquisition of land for Aboriginal and Islander communities throughout Australia.

4 Incorporate in its land rights legislation the following principles —
   a Aboriginal and Islander people shall have the right to refuse permission for mining on their land or to impose conditions under which mining may proceed. To set aside a refusal, or conditions imposed, shall require an Act of Parliament; and
   b royalties from mining on Aboriginal’s or Islander’s land shall be paid to Trusts administered by Aboriginal and Islander people to be for the use and benefit of the Aboriginal and Islander people in the particular state or territory after meeting the needs of the Aboriginal people created by that mining.

5 Give financial support to the outstation (homelands centre) movement, for those groups which have established, or wish to establish, decentralised communities on their traditional lands.

6 Fully investigate the principle of a Treaty of Commitment as negotiated on other continents to set out the legal and cultural relationships between the Aboriginal and Islander peoples and the wider Australian community.

C SACRED SITES

7 Take responsibility, where necessary —
   a for the establishment of appropriate structures of Aborigines and Islanders, for securing identification and protection of sacred sites including women’s sacred sites and other sites of significance; and
   b for preserving sacred objects and other valued articles belonging to Aboriginal and Islander people, including those objects in museums and storage.

8 Assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders’ guardians and custodians to regain and preserve objects of cultural and spiritual significance.
9 Develop, in co-operation with the states and territories, effective Aboriginal heritage legislation.

**D NATIONAL ABORIGINAL CONFERENCE**

10 Develop and make effective the NAC as advising body to the Government and extend its powers as a policy making and organising authority amongst Aboriginal and Islander communities.

11 Ensure that the NAC has a structure and procedures acceptable to Aboriginal and Islander communities.

12 Support the policy of self-determination and make an annual allowance to the NAC to enable it to operate its own activities.

**E DISCRIMINATION AND RIGHTS**

13 Legislate against all forms of discrimination as part of a programme to provide equal rights and opportunities for all persons and in particular to ensure the provision of equal rights and opportunities for all Aborigines and Islanders.


15 Ensure the continuation of existing Aboriginal legal services where required, and, where necessary, establish further Aboriginal legal services.

16 Finance Aboriginal legal services to provide advice, and to initiate court action, when this is considered to be to the advantage of Aboriginal and Islander communities.

17 If supported by Aboriginal men and women throughout Australia, legislate to recognise aspects of traditional law in the light of the recommendations of the Law Reform Commission.

18 Remove all discriminatory laws and implement appropriate electoral educational programmes.

**F HOUSING**

19 Make funds available to Aborigines and Islanders to purchase their own homes and to local communities and housing associations to build, purchase and maintain houses both for rental and for sale and to provide assistance, if required, for new and disadvantaged
occupants, for the purpose of establishing and maintaining all Aborigines, Islanders and families in homes.

20 Initiate in co-operation with appropriate Aboriginal organisations and state, territory and local governments, a programme to house all Aboriginal and Islander people over a period of 6 (six) years, to a standard acceptable to them and devised in consultation with them.

21 Provide alternative accommodation and services for those Aborigines and Islanders not desiring permanent residences.

22 Take such action as is necessary to enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to obtain skills and employment in the housing and construction and maintenance industry, as a matter of priority.

G HEALTH

23 Support and develop Aboriginal and Islander controlled health services as the main agents for the delivery of health services to Aboriginal and Islander people.

24 Transfer funds where appropriate, from state health administrations to Aboriginal-controlled health services.

25 Establish a comprehensive Australia-wide collection of statistics on all aspects of Aboriginal health.

26 Encourage the incorporation of traditional Aboriginal health practices in Aboriginal health services.

27 Support programmes to train Aboriginal health workers at all levels including university training as doctors.

28 Set a timetable for the provision of shelter and essential services, such as water, electricity, sewage and rubbish disposal to all Aboriginal and Islander communities. The provision of these services should be carried out in consultation with Aboriginal and Islander people and should recognise the needs of communities who wish to retain their traditional lifestyle.

H CHILD CARE

29 Initiate full and complete consultation with the Aboriginal and Islander communities, with the commitment to implement the principles of those communities regarding the care, custody and control of children and the provision of necessary resources to facilitate the development of community-controlled Childcare agencies/services within the Aboriginal and Islander community.
I EDUCATION

Recognising that the general education policy of the Party applies to everyone in Australia —

30 Introduce special education programmes for Aborigines and Islanders at all levels. Such programmes will include —
   a bilingual teaching (i.e. in English and in the preferred indigenous languages) where practicable and desirable;
   b pre-school education for every Aboriginal and Islander child;
   c adult education as broadly as possible;
   d training Aborigines and Islanders as teachers and teacher-aides;
   e technical and managerial training and seeking the co-operation of the trade union movement in recognising traditional skills;
   f funds to expand the general availability of courses of study at post-secondary institutions in race relations and Aboriginal and Islander society; and
   g encouragement of Aboriginal and Islander communities to participate in their own education and planning services.

31 Conduct a national inquiry into Aboriginal and Islander education to form the basis for future policy.

32 Revise education allowances available to adult Aboriginal students to take account of the financial needs of adult students with family responsibilities.

J EMPLOYMENT

33 Implement a policy of affirmative action and if necessary legislate to ensure that each Commonwealth department and statutory authority increases career opportunities for Aboriginal and Islander employees to a level not less than the ratio of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population to the non-Aboriginal population. Labor will continue to encourage state, territory, and local governments and the private sector to do likewise.

34 Expand the National Aboriginal Employment and Training Programmes to work with the public and private sectors, state, territory and local governments, to implement this policy.

35 Ensure that Aborigines and Islanders receive at least the standard rate of pay for the job and receive the same industrial protection as others living in Australia.

K HISTORY AND CULTURE

36 Ensure that every child in Australia is taught and that all Australian
people are encouraged to understand the history and culture of Aboriginal and Islander Australians as an integral part of the history of Australia as approved by Aboriginal and Islander people.

37 Support the Museum of Aboriginal Australia.

Recognising that aspects of traditional culture are secret to particular members of Aboriginal and Islander communities —

38 Legislate to preserve such secrecy in accordance with the wishes of those persons.

39 Legislate to ensure the return, where appropriate, of significant or sacred objects to their traditional owners.

40 Negotiate with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation and other sections of the media to broadcast regularly sessions presenting a programme in various Aboriginal and Islander language spoken in the relevant area.

41 Encourage and assist the publication and distribution of material in indigenous languages.

42 Negotiate with the states and territories to have a day observed as National Aboriginal and Islanders Day.

L CONSULTATION

In pursuing its commitment to self-determination, consult with the Aboriginal and Islander people and communities and have regard to their views and implement only those programmes approved of and accepted by them and in particular ensure that —

43 Such consultation is to take account of the way in which such people and communities choose to reach decisions.

44 In all relevant government departments adequate staff levels and procedures are developed to comply with this policy.

45 Where funds are paid to, or administered by, state and territory governments, those governments comply with this policy.
2 THE ARTS

A INTRODUCTION
Labor believes that the arts are vital to individual and social development and to the maintenance of an independent national culture which encompasses the full diversity of all the cultures which co-exist in contemporary Australia. The development of the arts and recreation facilities and the widespread accessibility of these facilities is a fundamental need in our society, requiring the participation of all levels of government and of all components of the Australian society. The arts should develop within an educational framework including continuing education and there should be recognition of the value of the arts as an industry contributing to the Australian economy.

B THE NATIONAL ARTS POLICY
In accordance with the above principles a Labor Government will —

1 Support organisations which sustain satisfactory levels of achievement in the arts and those which service the arts.

2 Support the right of all members of the Australian community to have access to the nation’s cultural resources.

3 Note the particular disadvantages of distance and work to overcome these to ensure access to and participation in the arts.

4 Encourage freedom of expression in the arts and facilitate innovation in ideas, community self-development activities, and the development of new talents.
5 Develop strong teaching programmes at all levels to encourage, through participation and involvement, an appreciation of the performing and creative arts and the richness of the heritage of the ethnic communities.

6 Provide access to cultural and creative facilities by —
   a maximising the use of existing buildings and facilities;
   b encouraging the purchase and/or commissioning of works of art as part of public building programmes; and
   c providing new and existing venues, suitably located for easy access by audiences.

7 Encourage recipients of funds to perform Australian works.

8 Acknowledge the value of libraries as community arts centres, and ensure there is a national library programme to provide, update and co-ordinate, freely accessible library facilities throughout Australia including works in community languages.

9 Co-operate with state, territory and local governments to facilitate the showing of works of art and craft throughout Australia.

10 Support a national programme for museums and collections by means of a national museums authority charged with the conservation, preservation and presentation of this part of the nation's heritage.

11 Construct the Museum of Australia.

12 Foster the production and distribution of recorded Australian material, including music and video cassettes.

C IMPLEMENTATION

A Labor Government will —

13 Maintain the Australia Council as an independent authority with strong autonomous boards for various art forms. The Australia Council and its boards will include membership from practitioners, community groups, trade unions, and consumer representatives. The Australia Council will take into account the Labor Party's guidelines on the arts as contained in this document.

14 Ensure that statutory authorities predicate their operations and budget expenditure on the guidelines set by the Government, with particular emphasis on ensuring access and participation.
D FILM AND TELEVISION INDUSTRY

Objectives of the ALP’s Film and Television Industry policy are —

to stabilise Australian film industry and thereby increase its output;

to popularise Australian film as an accessible medium for reflecting Australian society;

to strengthen the international reputation of quality Australian films;

to promote the employment of Australians in the industry; and

to support the Australian Film Commission, Film Australia and their activities.

A Labor Government will —

15 Act to remove existing restrictive trade practices between film distributors and exhibitors.

16 Continue to encourage independent film producers by the provision of investment through the Australian Film Commission including production primarily designed for release by public television.

17 Require foreign distributors to reinvest locally a portion of their earnings in film production and to distribute a minimum number of Australian films per year.

18 Ensure that the Australian Film Commission continues to collate and publish statistics pertaining to film.

19 Make the technologies of film and television more available for use by the Australian people through community workshops, video access centres, and the encouragement of public television.

20 Promote the making and showing of short films.

21 Encourage distributors of foreign films to manufacture exhibition prints in Australia.

22 Recognise television as part of the mainstream of the film industry.

23 Request the film industry to introduce self-regulation that would prohibit the distribution of first release movies on video for a period of six months from completion of its first city run. If there is no evidence of a change in industry trends then the Federal Government is to investigate regulations to achieve this effect.
E ARTISTS

Labor acknowledges the fundamental importance of guaranteeing the economic well-being and personal growth of Australia's artists and recognize their substantial contribution to the Australian economy. It will encourage individual artists to experiment and to engage in the pursuit of excellence. As measures designed to benefit artists specifically are necessary a Labor Government will do the following —

24 Adopt the 1980 UNESCO Recommendation on the Status of Artists and give effect to its provisions.

25 Review personal taxation rules to resolve the special problems arising from fluctuation in incomes of performing and creative arts workers.

26 Acknowledge past discrimination against women as artists and art-workers, assist special projects to overcome this discrimination.

27 Continue to assist the development of new talent and ideas through the Creative Development Branch of the Australian Film Commission.

28 Investigate whether droite-de-suite (resale payments to artists) regulations are an appropriate form of protection for Australian artists.

29 Ensure adequate remuneration for Australian artists affected by the prevalence of home audio and video taping and other forms of exploitation of their work.

30 Ensure that imported arts activities do not reduce opportunities for Australian arts workers.

31 Ensure that the Government's support programmes, such as C.E.P., unemployment benefits etc. will recognise the worth and lifestyles of artists.

32 Ratify and implement international conventions relating to the protection of the rights of performers in the production of their work.
3 COMMUNICATIONS

A INTRODUCTION

Communications is having an increasing significance and impact on modern life and communications and information policy is therefore a major area of endeavour.

Technological developments, and proposals which challenge long-standing arrangements in broadcasting, telecommunications and print media are under active discussion in Australia.

These new developments should be used democratically in the public interest, rather than anti-socially by increased concentration in private hands.

B PRINCIPLES OF COMMUNICATIONS POLICY

In communications the principle of public interest must be put before any other consideration such as private gain, whilst recognising that profitability may be necessary to enable the serving of the public interest. In the telecommunications and postal communications areas, in particular, the Government’s statutory authorities should not be regarded as sources of revenue, but as providers of services.

Consequently a Labor Government will —

C BROADCASTING: COMMERCIAL AND PUBLIC

1 Continue development of the administrative structures of broadcasting, based on a Department of Communications, the Broadcasting Tribunal and the Broadcasting Council. A Labor Government will work with these bodies to develop proper and responsive planning mechanisms, to provide fair hearing procedures and systems and to
establish adequate research and information facilities providing scope and support for the expression of public interests.

2 Strengthen the judicial standing of the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal and its powers in order to develop proper criteria for the licensing of stations and appropriate penalties for breaches of conditions.

3 Streamline and simplify the broadcasting planning process to remove delays in providing television and radio services.

D NATIONAL BROADCASTING

4 Ensure full ABC participation in all new technology in broadcasting.

5 Fund the ABC by parliamentary appropriations to a level necessary to establish the ABC as a great national broadcasting institution, thereby making unnecessary advertising or corporate underwriting.

6 Maintain an independent adequately funded ABC National news gathering operation and separately organised Public Affairs service without reliance on any commercial domestic news service.

7 Ensure that reasonable levels of regional programming are produced.

8 Ensure that the ABC meets the minimum Australian content requirements as prescribed for commercial broadcasters by the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal.

E COMMERCIAL BROADCASTING

9 Require the commercial broadcasting sector to be diverse in programming and control, with high levels of Australian content and good programme quality.

10 Protect the commercial sector against foreign penetration of ownership and control.

11 Limit the ownership of radio and television services by media monopoly interests.

F PUBLIC BROADCASTING (RADIO AND TELEVISION)

12 Encourage the development of all forms of public broadcasting systems which are diverse in programming and control, including the introduction of public television.
13 Require public broadcasting to be —
   a adequately funded to realise its full potential. Therefore a Labor
   Government will work with public broadcasters to develop funding
   methods which are stable, diverse and contribute to an adequate
   income for each station; and
   b ensure parity with commercial and national broadcasting in
   having sufficient transmission power to cover the area of service
   of stations.

14 Support the Public Broadcasting Foundation and commit itself to
   adequate funding for the purposes of —
   a maintenance and growth of the public radio broadcasting sector;
   and
   b development of a public television sector.

15 Recognise, and support for purposes of administration, research
   and development, the Public Broadcasting Association of Australia
   as the recognised representative council of public broadcasters, and
   entities seeking public television outlets.

G ETHNIC AND MULTICULTURAL BROADCASTING
16 Develop ethnic and multicultural broadcasting facilities involving the
   full participation of ethnic communities themselves. The Labor
   Government is committed to the development and expansion of
   ethnic radio through the public radio system under community
   control. Multicultural television will continue to be developed into an
   independent channel available in all states and territories with public
   access for ethnic communities. In order to achieve this, existing ABC
   technical services will be made available. In addition all sectors of
   broadcasting will be encouraged to reflect the multicultural diversity
   of Australia’s population.

17 Support and, as the Federal government, participate in, the
   development of Aboriginal community-controlled radio and televi-
   sion broadcasting stations.

H BROADCASTING IN GENERAL
18 Support and, as the Federal government, participate in, the
   Australian Children’s Television foundation.

19 Enact all-channels receiver legislation to ensure that all domestic TV
   and radio reception equipment sold in Australia is equipped with all
   channels planned for use in Australia during the life of the equipment.
20 In line with the principles of public funding of political parties, ensure the provision, on an equitable basis, of broadcasting time on all radio and television stations for electoral purposes, including fair provision of free broadcasting time. The ALP will extend the prohibition of paid political advertising.

21 Initiate a study into the most appropriate ways of eliminating sexism in the content of the media.

22 Investigate the introduction of radiated subscription television.

23 Investigate ways of ensuring ratings for television and radio are conducted 52 weeks per year with no unrated periods.

24 Ensure availability of a range of ratings data for the purpose of research and development aimed at improving programme production and quality as well as quantifying audience for the guidance of licensees and advertisers.

25 Ensure that events of national significance are broadcast in such a way that they are available to all Australians regardless of where they live.

I TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Ensure that the maintenance and development of the national telecommunications system occurs in a co-ordinated manner, designed to achieve the optimum availability of a wide range of communications services to meet the needs of both domestic and commercial users. Subject to the above principles, Labor will —

26 Preserve and develop a single system which is a publicly owned integrated national system, including both terrestrial and satellite components and all cable systems. Such a system will include transmission, switching and full participation in the provision of all terminal services.

27 Ensure adequate funding for the national system, and the capacity to participate in all new technology, including call charge recording equipment and promotion of communications as a major area of new employment.

28 Ensure that the social and industrial costs of technological change in telecommunications are borne nationally and do not disadvantage those working in telecommunications in terms of employment and working conditions.
29 Ensure no part of Australia is disadvantaged in telecommunications. In particular, a specific allocation of funds to upgrade remote area communication services will be provided.

30 Promote the development of an Australian owned telecommunications manufacturing industry which, through research and development of equipment, services the local market and actively pursues overseas markets. Ensure that the research and manufacturing capacities of Telecom Australia are fully utilised as a significant part of Australia's telecommunications manufacturing effort.

J POSTAL COMMUNICATIONS

31 Continue the development of Australia Post as an efficient publicly-owned national postal system, available to all Australians who reasonably require the service, which has the exclusive right to carry letters for reward.

32 Develop the service further by meeting the changing social and industrial needs of the Australian population, with particular regard to Australia Post's involvement in electronic mail and speedy door-to-door delivery services.

K PRINT MEDIA

33 Promote interest in studying the possible establishment of a newspaper, independent of both government and existing private interests, and owned by those who run it.

34 Foster the publication, printing and distribution of newspapers, books, magazines and other printed material in Australia.

35 Provide assistance to those publishers who provide a unique contribution to Australian literature.

Resolution

Trade Union Media

Conference welcomes the accelerating development of direct trade union media participation, especially in programming in the public broadcasting sector.

We believe that this process, which is being assisted by federal and state Labor governments in the framework of various community, employment and training initiatives, should be actively encouraged.
A INTRODUCTION

Labor is committed to constitutional legislative and administrative reforms for the purpose of achieving efficient and democratic government, a responsive national Parliament and an adequate and flexible division of powers between Commonwealth, state, territory and local governments. A Labor Government will seek to implement the following reforms -

3 CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

Constitutional change
The support of the Australian people will be sought for amendments to the Australian Constitution.

1 To guarantee the right to vote and ensure the principle of one-vote one-value in all Australian and state and territory elections.

2 To provide for four year terms for the House of Representatives.

3 To provide for simultaneous elections of the Senate and House of Representatives.

4 To ensure that the Senate has no power to reject, defer or otherwise block money bills.

5 To provide that the Senate may delay for up to six months, but not reject, any other proposed law.

6 To provide that a government enjoying the confidence of the House of Representatives shall be permitted to hold office for the prescribed term.
7 To define and limit the powers of the Governor-General so as to ensure that he or she acts in accordance with the advice of the government enjoying the confidence of the House of Representatives.

8 To bring about the complete legal separation of Australia from the United Kingdom Crown and Parliament.

9 To provide the Commonwealth Parliament with such powers as are necessary for national planning and the achievement of the Party’s economic and social objectives.

10 To ensure that the High Court has final appellate jurisdiction in all questions.

11 To create a single uniform system of courts throughout Australia.

12 To invest the High Court with jurisdiction to give advisory opinions.

13 To provide for the protection of fundamental human rights and freedoms.

Machinery of Constitutional change

14 To support and fund a people’s popularly elected convention and involve to the maximum extent the Australian people in the process of constitutional change.

15 To seek to amend the Constitution to provide for its alteration by a simple majority of the electorate.

National Symbols

16 In the context of the preparations for Bicentennial celebrations, to initiate and support moves to establish with popular acceptance an Australian flag, national day and national anthem which will more distinctly reflect our national independence and identity.

Federalism

17 Adjustment of the relationships among national, state, territory, regional and local authorities to enable rational economic decision-making and resource allocation, effective provision of public services, recognition of local needs and aspirations and maximum opportunity for participation in the decision-making process.

18 The interchange of legislative powers between the Australian, state and territory parliaments, where appropriate.
19 Joint planning and co-operative development with the states of programmes of national significance, where the national government has insufficient constitutional power.

20 Provision to the states and territories of sufficient funds to enable them to maintain effective services without resorting to inappropriate or inequitable methods of taxation.

21 Continued development of regional programmes and structures, utilising regional boundaries employed by the states wherever appropriate. The amalgamation and regional organisation of local government to be specifically encouraged.

22 Self-government for the ACT with devolution of powers on terms and conditions suitable to and agreed by both the Federal government and the ACT House of Assembly.

**Australian Parliament**

23 The reform of the Parliament to provide for the expansion and development of the committee system of the Senate as a mechanism for continuous review of government activity.

24 In conjunction with other proposed changes to the role of the Senate, the location of all Ministers in the House of Representatives.

25 The rostering of Ministers in both houses at question times.

26 The provision of adequate machinery for the initiation and consideration of non-government legislation in both Houses.

27 The reform of state Upper Houses and, ultimately, their abolition.

28 The definition and limitation of the powers of state governors.

29 In bicameral parliaments, elections of both Houses to be held simultaneously.

30 The public declaration of financial interests by Members of Parliament, territorial and local governments and their immediate families, the staff of Ministers and Shadow Ministers, and journalists accredited to parliaments.

31 The up-dating of the rules relating to conflict of interest of public officials.

32 To grant no imperial honours or titles but appropriate recognition to be given for exceptional national or community service.
33 Colonial impediments on the power of the Australian, state and territory governments to be removed.

**Electoral reform**

34 The general reform of electoral laws to guarantee the right to vote, to ensure that it can in practice be exercised and to ensure the principle of one-vote one-value.

35 The establishment of independent, public and permanent Electoral Commissions to review electoral boundaries, to administer and monitor public funding and to ensure fairness in the conduct of elections.

36 Fairer and more efficient procedures for the maintenance of accurate electoral rolls to ensure that no one is arbitrarily deprived of the right to vote.

37 The establishment of joint Commonwealth/State electoral rolls for all states and territories.

38 Adoption of a system of optional preferential voting for all elections with all votes remaining valid while the voter’s intention is clear.

39 Electoral laws to provide for —
   a full identification of candidates and drawings of positions by lot on ballot papers in all elections;
   b accessibility of polling booths, including the use of mobile booths; and
   c fairness in polling procedures.

40 Laws governing election campaigns to provide for —
   a payment of proportionate subsidies by governments to political parties and candidates;
   b disclosure of donations or other assistance to political parties and candidates;
   c proportionate access and time for political parties in the electronic media;
   d prohibition of political advertisements in the media from 48 hours prior to the commencement of polling day; and
   e remedies against blatantly deceptive electoral advertising.

41 All prisoners to have the right to enrol and vote.

**Freedom of Information**

42 The enactment of effective Freedom of Information legislation granting the public full entitlement to the disclosure of government and administrative decision-making, subject only to the requirements of essential security and individual privacy.
43 Regular tabling in Parliament of full information on the operation of government and semi-government agencies. Records, resolutions and recommendations of conferences of Australian, state and territory ministers and officials to be tabled in their respective parliaments.

C CIVIL LIBERTIES AND LAW REFORM

Constitutional Powers and Protections

44 The Constitution to be amended to enable the Australian parliament to make laws with respect to the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and to provide for the introduction of an Australian Bill of Rights.

45 The Australian Parliament and state and territory parliaments to take such legislative and administrative steps as are necessary to fully protect and enforce fundamental human rights and freedoms against both government and private interference.

46 Australia, in accordance with its obligations under the United Nations Charter, to pass laws and to press for world-wide and regional implementation and enforcement of international covenants on human rights and fundamental freedoms. The states and territories also to pass laws necessary for such implementation and enforcement.

47 The censorship law to conform with the principle that adults be entitled to read, hear and see what they wish in private and in public, subject to adequate provisions preventing persons being exposed to unsolicited material offensive to them and preventing conduct exploiting, or detrimental to, the interests of children.

48 Restrictions on freedom of expression of public servants and former public servants to be reduced to the minimum necessary for the conduct of the affairs of state.

49 Specific measures to be taken to ensure the full enjoyment throughout Australia of the right of peaceful assembly and protest.

Equality and Non-discrimination

50 Institution of legislative and administrative action by the Australian, state and territory governments to eliminate discrimination on the grounds of sex, race, marital status, colour, disability, language, sexuality, age, pregnancy, status, creed or politics wherever it is practised.
Privacy and Reputation
51 The right to privacy to be protected by the laws of the Australian, state and territory parliaments, and vigilant administration of those laws.

52 Evidence obtained by illegal invasion of privacy to be prima facie inadmissible in court proceedings.

53 The law on defamation to be made uniform throughout Australia and to be simplified and expressed so as to ensure a proper balance between the right to freedom of expression and the right of a person not to be exposed to unjustifiable attacks on honour and reputation.

Security
54 Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) legislation to be amended to precisely define and limit the jurisdiction of the organisation, in particular to remove the concept of subversion so as to exclude any possible infringement of basic rights to engage in non-violent political activity, protest, dissent and industrial action.

55 ASIO legislation to be amended to ensure maximum public accountability to the Government and the Parliament, and to ensure that it complies with its charter, operates within the law and does not unjustifiably infringe civil liberties.

56 Public accountability to be ensured by legislation requiring —
   a complete accountability for ASIO to its Minister, including the right of the Minister, subject to appropriate safeguards, to request access to the content of individual files, transcripts and other raw materials;
   b complete information and access for appropriate senior members of the Opposition;
   c regular judicial audits by a Security Commissioner with access to and scrutiny of individual files as well as general operations;
   d complete financial accounting to the Auditor-General; and
   e appropriate mechanisms for Parliamentary scrutiny of the nature and extent of ASIO's activities, including the establishment of a Joint Parliamentary Committee on Intelligence Matters having access to reports on those activities.

57 The Attorney-General to be required to make an annual report to Parliament —
   a on the working of ASIO, any infringements of its governing regulations and action taken in regard to such infringements; and
   b on the use, for national security purposes or otherwise, of electronic surveillance devices and the operation of legislation in relation thereto.
58 ASIO to be forbidden to make personal records except where necessary for national security, and from retaining them any longer than necessary for such security, and the keeping and culling of such records to be subject to scrutiny by the Security Commissioner.

59 An effective grievance review mechanism, including a Security Appeals Tribunal broadly representative of the community and with extended jurisdiction, to be established to provide redress for persons or organisations unjustifiably disadvantaged by security and intelligence activities.

60 Relationships between ASIO and state police forces to be governed by uniform Commonwealth-state agreements, prescribing the purposes for which and the conditions on which information may be provided by ASIO to each police force and vice versa. The text of the agreements to be made public.

61 Security intelligence information gathering activities by State police forces be terminated.

**General Law Reform**

62 Law reform legislation to be the result of maximum public discussion and participation both prior to, and following, the introduction of legislation into Parliament.

63 Expansion of the powers and facilities of the Australian Law Reform Commission to enable it to adequately advise on all aspects of law reform.

64 A National Law Reform Advisory Council to be established, with representatives from Government, Opposition and law reform agencies from the Commonwealth and each state and territory, to more effectively co-ordinate and advance the work of law reform on major issues of common or national interest.

65 Uniformity in the content of law and administration of justice to be encouraged wherever possible.

**Access to Law**

66 Procedures to be established whereby individuals can initiate review of legislation which produces unfair, unjust or unintended results.

67 Implementation of class action procedures or other appropriate means of ensuring legal redress for multiple small claimants in consumer, civil rights, discrimination, welfare, environment and similar matters.
68 Reform of the law of standing to ensure effective access to the courts, especially in environment protection and other major public interest matters.

69 Reform of the law of costs in all jurisdictions to ensure greater fairness in the administration of justice.

70 Simplification of the laws and reduction of costs of litigation especially by elimination of unnecessary procedures.

71 Publication of all legislation in consolidated form at frequent intervals.

72 Imprisonment not to be imposed in default of payment of costs in any proceedings.

**Administrative Law**

73 All delegated legislation to be publicised and subject to disallowance by parliament. Such legislation not to unduly trespass on civil rights and liberties; not to make the rights and liberties of individuals unduly dependent upon administrative rather than judicial decisions; and to be concerned with administrative detail and not matters of substance.

74 Powers of national Ombudsman to be maintained to enable him/her to investigate fully any complaint made against any Government agency and to take necessary remedial action.

75 The expansion of the jurisdiction of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal to review all ministerial, administrative and tribunal decisions, at the instigation of any adversely affected individual.

**Criminal Law**

76 The criminal law to be reformed in all jurisdictions by placing emphasis on prevention of crime, the protection of society, the compensation of victims and the rehabilitation of offenders rather than on punishment.

77 The law governing sentencing and parole to be reformed in all jurisdictions so as to ensure —
   a consistency of penalties and sentencing practices;
   b exclusion of capital and corporal punishment, and maximum use of non-custodial sentencing options; and
   c standardisation of non-parole periods and remissions, and introduction of fairer parole procedures.
78 Laws on sexual offences to extend to rape in marriage and sexual harassment and to be redefined as grades of sexual assault.

79 Laws on sexual offences to be applied so as to minimise the trauma of the necessary investigations and trial procedures and fully protect the rights of the victim while maintaining the right of the accused to a fair trial.

80 Uniform minimum standards relating to the control and use of firearms to be developed and applied.

**Criminal Process**

81 Procedural criminal law to be amended in all jurisdictions so as to require —
   a reform of police investigation and interrogation procedures to ensure that there is no maltreatment or unfairness and that no one is compelled to incriminate himself or herself;
   b evidence obtained in contravention of the above to be prima facie inadmissible;
   c powers to arrest without warrant to be reduced to the minimum and procedures by way of summons to be encouraged;
   d the criteria applied by courts, Justices and the police in making bail decisions to be clarified and reformed;
   e everyone charged with a criminal offence to be brought to trial without delay;
   f trial by jury in all serious criminal cases; and
   g evidence obtained by entrapment shall be prima facie inadmissible.

82 Training of police officers and those involved in the administration of the law to encourage the development of non-sexist and non-racist attitudes in the administration of the law.

**Family Law**

83 The Constitution to be amended or power referred by the states to the Australian Parliament to enable the jurisdiction of the Family Court to be extended to cover all family law matters.

84 The provision of sufficient judges, magistrates, court and counselling facilities to enable the proper administration of the Family Law Act in the spirit of that Act particularly to enable delays in proceedings to be abolished and to eliminate overcrowding of court and counselling facilities.

85 Laws and administrative procedures to be reformed to adopt a consistent approach to the liabilities of and benefits for people involved in de facto relationships.
86 Laws covering marriage and other domestic relationships to be further reformed to conform to a policy of equal legal rights for women and men living in such relationships.

87 The establishment of readily accessible Family Courts in suburban and regional areas.

88 The expansion of legal aid to ensure that no person is deprived of access to the Family Court.

89 Abolition of all fees imposed by the Australian Government in the Family Court.

90 Laws in contraception to be reformed so that all persons have the right to information, advice and techniques for controlling their reproductive function.

91 To ensure the availability of accessible counselling and educational services for couples and families in connection with marriage and other domestic relationships, and the provision of facilities for the training and supervision of the providers of such services.

**Business Law**

92 Enactment of national companies and securities legislation to regulate companies, company takeovers and the securities industry and to ensure a rational framework for business, its public accountability and the protection of consumers, shareholders and workers.

93 The National Companies and Securities Commission to be responsible for the administration and enforcement of the national companies and securities legislation.

94 The strengthening of the provisions of the Trade Practices Act and the expansion of the administrative resources for the enforcement of these provisions.

95 The regulation of all forms of insurance within the limits of constitutional power to be effected by the Australian Parliament.

**Legal Profession**

96 Inquiries to be undertaken into the composition, education, conduct and remuneration of the legal profession to make recommendations for reform in the public interest.
Legal Aid
97 The system of legal aid to be expanded so as to ensure that everyone has ready and equal access to the courts and to legal assistance.

98 Support for the establishment directly by the Australian, state and territory governments of a national Legal Aid Commission to operate and administer a unified public sector legal aid scheme and to co-ordinate legal aid throughout Australia, including the provisions of financial assistance to community based legal aid services.

99 Legal aid services to be provided predominantly by salaried lawyers in easily accessible legal aid offices established throughout Australia on a regional basis.

100 Legal aid offices to be engaged in community legal education and advice programmes and involved in class actions and matters of law reform where appropriate.

Resolutions

1 National Conference requests the Federal Government, early in its next term of office, to hold a national referendum to enshrine the principle of one vote/one value in the Australian constitution.

2 Conference requests the Federal Government to consider sponsoring a summit of state, territory and federal Ministers responsible for police, community welfare, womens affairs, the Family Court and Magistrates Court together with womens refuge workers and other appropriate community bodies to examine the area of domestic violence including child molestation and rape within marriage. This summit should make recommendations to the Commonwealth and all states regarding appropriate legislation, police procedures and counselling facilities for assisting both the victims and perpetrators of such crimes.
5 CONSUMER AFFAIRS

A INTRODUCTION

All citizens are consumers, whatever their status in society and wherever they live but differences in social position disadvantage consumers with lower incomes.

Labor recognises that in modern economies many consumers are placed in a relatively weaker bargaining position than producers or suppliers.

A Labor Government will act to provide an environment in which effective protection of consumers is provided without unnecessarily stifling business investment or activity.

Consumers are not merely purchasers of goods and services who are seeking to make an informed choice between a competing range of products and services and to complete that purchase at the lowest possible price. They are also employees who are seeking a stimulating working environment and just remuneration for their services. They are also taxpayers and as such are seeking an equitable tax burden of both direct and indirect taxes and a socially just distribution of these taxes.

In some form or other consumers are also investors in houses, insurance policies, savings banks and superannuation funds. They thus provide a share of the funds to support the investment demands created by their own consumption patterns.

As investors consumers seek the highest rate of return on the funds they invest. Conversely, as borrowers of funds, consumers seek the lower interest rates when they invest in capital goods.
Government action on behalf of consumers is even more important in the case of people on lower incomes, non-English speaking Australians and other groups with little knowledge of consumer rights.

A Labor Government will ensure that consumers have real choices in relation to the goods and services they purchase, are fully informed about these choices and are protected from unfair and restrictive practices. To this end, high priority will be given to consumer education programmes.

A Labor Government would accept the responsibility to legislate and otherwise act on behalf of consumers and to assist them to act effectively in their own interest.

At present there is a variety of state and federal consumer affairs legislation which is costly to business and the community in general. There is a pressing need for a co-ordinated and uniform approach to consumer affairs throughout Australia.

Using its constitutional powers a Federal Labor Government will develop, in consultation with the states, 'model' legislation for consumer protection and will seek its adoption as uniform law throughout the Commonwealth.

A Labor Government will strengthen the protection of consumers by ensuring that consumer protection legislation is vigorously administered by providing these areas with adequate staff.

A Labor Government will —

B ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

1 Strengthen the administration of the consumer affairs functions of the Australian Government, including —
   a enforcement of legislation, including Part IV and V of the Trade Practices Act;
   b upgrading facilities for consumer affairs research and policy development;
   c improving consultation and co-operation with the states on a bilateral and multilateral basis;
   d better communications and co-operation between various government departments in the field of consumer affairs; and
   e reviewing existing legislation and administrative arrangements relating to consumer protection with a view to establishing more effective national consumer affairs machinery.
2 Revitalise the National Consumer Affairs Advisory Council by providing it with adequate funding for its own research and for the preparation of submissions to government, and ensure that the majority of its members represent consumer interests.

3 Maintain a prices justification machinery designed to regulate the market for products and services which have major impact on consumers costs and which are susceptible to domination by one or a few suppliers. Consumers will be encouraged to represent their interests before this body.

C LEGISLATION

4 Adopt as a matter of high priority the development of adequate model legislation for consumer protection. Consultations on this matter to be undertaken with the states, the ACT and Northern Territory, seeking the uniform adoption of this legislation throughout the Commonwealth.

5 In co-operation with the states and territories, establish uniform credit legislation relating to hire-purchase agreements, debt collection, repossessing of goods, terms and conditions of loans and the regulation of credit reporting to ensure —
   a that information on an individual be initially made available to that individual before being communicated to other organisations. Legislate to require that organisations holding credit records be required to notify within a specified period those consumers currently on file. Provide a remedy so that individuals can have incorrect information amended or updated. Provide for damages where an individual has been injured as a result of an unfair credit report; and
   b maintenance of the privacy of the consumer.

6 Legislate for the provision of simplified and understandable information on credit terms, housing purchases and other areas of consumer concern and to provide greater protection for consumers in insurance contracts.

7 Prohibit discrimination in the granting of credit on the basis of sex, marital status, religion or ethnic background.

8 Amend the Trade Practices Act to —
   a broaden the definition of consumer to include farmers and small businesspeople;
   b include provisions governing harsh and unconscionable contracts; and
   c repeal Section 45 D.
D PRODUCT AND INFORMATION STANDARDS

9 In consultation with the states, territories and consumer representatives, as well as the industries and trade unions affected, introduce legislation for the development of uniform codes and standards for production, packaging and labelling and unit price marking, advertising, food and drugs, and other products and services supplied to the consumer.

10 Ensure that all standards and codes are enforced through the product safety and information provisions of the Trade Practices Act or other appropriate legislation.

Food Standards

11 Enact, in consultation with the states and territories, a National Food Act to obtain uniform food standards including -
   a quality and performance standards;
   b date marking and unit pricing;
   c adequate labelling standards, particularly in relation to ingredients, nutritional value, storage and weight; and
   d frozen and refrigerated products to indicate deterioration by temperature and age.

12 Include in food and drug standards requirements in relation to quality and nutrition, date marking, batch stamping and unit pricing. Labelling should give adequate information in common language on ingredients, weight and other relevant features.

13 In co-operation with the states and territories, work for the establishment of a preventive National Nutrition Policy.

Product Standards

14 Provide for regular testing of products in analytical laboratories, particularly where the health or safety of consumers is at risk. Where goods fail to meet standards or are faulty, effective provisions will apply for the prohibition of import or supply, or notification and recall of such goods.

15 Ensure that consumers are provided with all information about products or services which is essential for informed decision-making, including the existence of potentially harmful substances, fuel or energy efficiency, restrictions on use, capacity, standards rating, and installation and component replacement costs. The information should be provided also in languages other than English.

16 Legislate to prevent deceptive, wasteful or environmentally destructive packaging.
17 Deny entry or exit of goods if they violate Australian standards.

18 Co-ordinate existing government agencies to —
   a formulate motor vehicle standards and a motor vehicle recall
code; and
   b monitor the design and construction of motor vehicles in
   accordance with these.

19 Establish a Consumer Protection Authority to take comprehensive
   and co-ordinated action in conjunction with the states and territories
to prohibit the supply and provide for the recall of hazardous
products.

E CONSUMER EDUCATION

20 In consultation with the states and territories, seek the inclusion of
   consumer education in the curriculum at all levels of formal
education.

21 Devise programmes for general community education on consumer
   issues, including legal rights. Such programmes will be promoted
through a variety of channels including adult education and the
   popular media. Special programmes will be devised for non-English
speaking groups, low income earners and others who experience
difficulties in their role as consumers.

22 Require government departments and instrumentalities to prepare
   and provide full information to consumers regarding their activities
and the services they provide.

23 Establish a flexible programme in co-ordination with the states and
territories to establish shop-front consumer information centres by -
   a providing financial and material assistance to local councils or
   community action groups or committees;
   b encouraging the inclusion of such shop-front centres in major
      shopping centres;
   c taking special steps to safeguard the interests of rural consumers,
      both in respect of prices and range and quality of goods and
      services available; and
   d investigate the establishment of a national product information
      bank.

24 Provide financial and other assistance to consumer groups to
   facilitate their efforts to increase awareness of consumer rights and
   responsibilities, to encourage research and the dissemination of
   information which assists consumers to exercise choices effectively,
   and to enable consumer viewpoints to be represented to govern-
   ment tribunals, courts and industry.
F CONSUMER PARTICIPATION
25 Give consumer representatives direct and effective representation in government decision-making.

26 Increase funding for AFCO to enable it to co-ordinate effectively the activities of various consumer organisations in Australia.

G HOUSING
27 Encourage state and territory governments to simplify and standardise lease documents; co-ordinate efforts to update and improve landlord and tenant legislation and ensure that home owners are protected from unscrupulous building contractors.

H RESEARCH
28 Establish an Information and Data Centre to collect and analyse data on deaths and injuries associated with consumer products.

29 Disseminate information about packaging, unsatisfactory labelling and practicable means of overcoming these practices.

30 Prepare papers, organise seminars, prepare films and other materials including television programmes which can help with consumer education. Particular attention will be paid to people from non-English speaking backgrounds and their information needs.
6 DEFENCE

A INTRODUCTION

A prerequisite for the national security, independence and peaceful development of any nation is the capacity for self-defence. For this purpose it is necessary for Australia to have the capability to defend its maritime approaches and the security of its overseas trade.

Australia's national security policy must be to ensure its territorial security, the security of overseas trade, and peaceful development as an independent nation. The primary objective is the defence of its territories and maritime approaches.

 Whilst defence and foreign policies must be based on the conviction that war can and must be prevented, and that Australia has a part to play in its prevention, nevertheless, a strong and relevant defence must be maintained and be so effective as to demonstrate beyond all doubt Australia's intention to defend itself and its vital interests.

Labor believes that all treaties and agreements on defence matters to which Australia is party must be consistent with the requirements of the UN Charter.

In all treaties and agreements to which Australia is party, Australia's right to determine its own position on questions of war and peace must be maintained.

All Australians within Australian territory are entitled to the protection of the Australian Defence Force. No concentration of defence effort in particular areas shall leave the situation of those in other parts of Australia's national territory neglected.
The defence capability of the nation depends primarily upon national development and the resulting capacity to manufacture, procure and maintain supplies and materials.

Labor is opposed to the private traffic of arms, to private military training and to the use of armed forces in industrial disputes.

B SELF-RELIANCE AND NATIONAL DEFENCE

Australians must have confidence in the measures taken by government to maintain national security on their behalf. Labor believes that such confidence will emerge from the widest possible national awareness of Australia's strategic circumstances and defence policy objectives.

To encourage the development of this national awareness on defence objectives and the methods of implementing them, a Labor Government will set out in detailed policy statements, the major strategic, political, military, technological, financial, defence industry and other considerations which shape the development of national defence.

Labor's defence policy is in essence to develop a more self-reliant strategic posture based on the principle of developing independent national defence capabilities to deter conventional attack on Australian territory.

Deterring a conventional attack would include the maintenance of forces sufficient to defeat any attack by a neighbouring power. It would also require any greater power to deploy so much of its forces for such a length of time that its losses would be out of proportion to any expected gain.

Such a defence posture will include —

The development of plans for the defence of Australia based on a thorough understanding of the requirements of Australian conditions, strategic needs and resources, with relevance to Australian national security interests being the over-riding factor in assessing the impact of compatibility with allied practices in developing the force structure.

Reliable intelligence on military/political developments in Australia's region and maintenance of comprehensive surveillance of Australia's approaches.

The encouragement of States in the region to realise security through arms control measures.
The maintenance of standing forces competent to deal with more limited threats and minor incursions on Australian sovereignty.

Provision for the mobilisation of reserves in sufficient time to meet a major attack.

The maximisation of the value of limited resources. Labor will ensure that the procurement of new weapon systems is closely related to operational doctrines based on a posture of greater defence self-reliance and independence.

Regular consultations between the Australian Government, the states and territories concerning the siting or extension of defence installations.

**C THE AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE**

Labor believes that all forces must be made up of volunteers. In the national interest, however, the right is to be retained to raise a conscripted force in the event of an attack against Australia.

_A Labor Government will —_

1 Maintain a properly balanced, flexible defence force equipped with weapons, transport and logistic systems appropriate to its task.

2 Develop an Australian Defence Force functional command structure with a decentralised organisation.

3 Maintain the regular force at a viable level whilst maintaining the citizen reserve as an essential force and as a means for training those with wider skills required for general mobilisation.

4 Ensure that all sections of the civilian population accept the Forces’ role through the latter’s non-involvement in any civil unrest including industrial disputes.

5 Maintain the capability of deploying appropriate elements of the force as part of a peacekeeping force.

6 Oppose a nuclear component for the Australian Defence Force.

7 Establish a Coastal Protection Force within the Defence Force, equipped and organized with air and sea capability to police in peacetime Australia’s maritime zone against activities such as drug smuggling and illegal fishing.
8 Encourage military personnel to undertake a broad educational programme, with special emphasis on study and research in the humanities. Funding for this programme should be provided from the defence allocation.

D DEFENCE, MOBILISATION AND PROCUREMENT

Australian Defence Industry

Labor believes that Australia's defence industries will increase Australia's defence independence and self-reliance.

*Within the parameters of economic policy a Labor Government will —*

9 Increase investment in industry's capacity to design, manufacture and maintain items of Defence Force equipment and spares.

10 Provide a more balanced workload for industry dedicated to defence production through —
   a introducing a mix of commercial and defence-related workload in government factories and dockyards;
   b greater co-ordination in the planning of defence material requirements and defence industry capabilities; and
   c increase managerial flexibility in government factories and dockyards as part of a review and restructuring of management.

11 Improve work conditions in government defence factories and dockyards as part of Labor's overall commitment to policies on occupational health and safety, equal employment opportunity, training and re-training, and industrial democracy.

12 Bring forward immediately the order on the construction of the second fleet replenishment vessel at Vickers Cockatoo Dockyard provided that employment is not affected at other dockyards.

13 Strengthen the application of defence research and development programmes to defence industry and make defence technology more relevant to the overall industrial base.

14 Give preference to Australian industry in the purchase of defence equipment and stores.

15 Strengthen the offsets policy on government defence equipment purchases abroad to increase Australian industry participation.

16 Encourage Australian industries capable of conversion to defence production in time of war under an overall industrial mobilisation plan.
17 Consistent with Labor's urban and regional development and transport policies, develop ports, airfields, railways and roads which will contribute to the mobility of the defence forces as well as to the material development of the nation.

18 Ensure exclusive government control over, and the strictest regulation of the manufacture and export of, arms and munitions and maximise public ownership in industries manufacturing arms and munitions.

19 Ensure that the Australian government has the powers to adequately control major strategic materials and resources.

E CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

20 Recognising that service in the regular Defence Force constitutes one of the nation's essential occupations and insisting upon the highest of professional standards, Labor asserts that full and continuing attention must be paid to all aspects of conditions of service in order to attract and to retain all volunteer defence services.

21 Conditions of service of members must maintain parity with conditions of civilians of the same age and qualifications and must allow for the inherent disadvantages and special requirements of the profession of arms. Labor will provide Defence homes, repatriation health benefits, civilian rehabilitation training, scholarships for their children and retirement and resettlement allowances for members of the forces.

22 Comprehensive and self-contained Australian military law must apply to Australian forces serving both inside and outside Australia, without precluding liability to local civil law.

23 Defence Force pay and conditions to be fixed by an independent tribunal.

24 Serving personnel should have the right to form and be members of associations in respect to their pay and conditions.

F CIVIL DEFENCE AND NATURAL DISASTERS ORGANISATIONS

25 Labor recognises that Civil Defence is an integral element of a national defence posture. Under Labor the Australian government will, through the Natural Disasters Organisation, aid and supplement the states' Civil Defence and Emergency Services. The Civil
Defence should be able to buy specialist equipment for its own use if the availability of defence equipment during disasters cannot be guaranteed.
7 ECONOMIC

A INTRODUCTION

Labor believes the ultimate aim of economic policy is to promote the well-being of the people. In this regard reference must be made not only to national income and production, but also to the composition of production, the social and physical environment in which it is produced, the division of income between the people and the distribution of economic power.

Labor recognises that the pursuit of its objectives requires —

The achievement and maintenance of an economic environment conducive to high levels of economic growth.

A system of income redistribution which could eliminate poverty and ensure a living income for all, and the maintenance and improvement of living standards.

The restoration and maintenance of socially useful and adequately renumerated long term employment for all Australians through an expansionist economic strategy to stimulate domestic demand and mobilise unemployed human and material resources.

Accordingly, Labor’s key objectives are —

a the restoration and maintenance of full employment. Unemployment represents a denial of the right to share equitably in the nation’s resources;

b the achievement of a rate of economic growth which is as strong and sustained as is consistent with the attainment of its other social, economic and environmental objectives and with the protection of Australia’s national sovereignty through increased Australian ownership and control of our industries. Labor is aware
that only by means of faster growth can real incomes be increased more rapidly and employment opportunities created in sufficient numbers to restore full employment;
c the minimisation of inflation. Labor is aware that high inflation damages the economic and social fabric of the nation and must be prevented; and
d the redistribution of income, wealth and economic power which is necessary to ensure both a greater degree of social and economic equality.

Labor recognises that achievement of these social and economic objectives will be a difficult task. Australia's economic problems are deep-seated and will not be resolved quickly.

Australia's economic performance clearly deteriorated under the conservative government and the economy was in deep recession when Labor came to office. The burden of this deterioration was borne largely by those least able to bear it, through increased unemployment, reduced living standards for low and middle income earners, and continued cut-backs in community services.

Clearly the economic policies of coalition governments have failed. The policy of 'fighting inflation first' had not only failed to restrain the inflation rate but had laid to waste large areas of our industries, relegating hundreds of thousands to the misery of unemployment.

Experience of recent years had shown that reliance on conventional monetary and fiscal policies alone could not achieve our objectives. A dramatic change was required in the direction of economic policy which recognised an enhanced role of government in achieving economic prosperity.

On coming to office Labor embarked on a policy to put the country back on the path to economic prosperity and to deal with inflation and unemployment simultaneously - within a spirit of consensus and fairness that would give its economic and social strategy the greatest opportunity for success.

As part of that process, Labor in consultation with the trade union movement, employers, the states, consumers and other community groups sought and achieved agreement on the general thrust of economic policy and on priorities for the economy which promote economically, socially and environmentally appropriate forms of development.

Labor also sought and achieved with the trade union movement a Prices and Incomes Accord, which among other things, recognised
that major claims on the community's resources should be subject to considerations of the public interest and that such a policy provides the best chance of a sustained non-inflationary economic recovery.

Labor recognises that the key task of policy is to facilitate sustained economic recovery in order to reduce unemployment, significantly increase living standards, reduce inflation and redistribute income and wealth.

Labor's economic approach is based on policies aimed at budgetary and monetary reforms to stimulate economic growth, maximising Australian ownership and control of the economy, carefully planned public sector investment, maintenance of a diversified industrial base and national economy, and on consultative processes in the public and private sector.

While encouraging individual enterprise the pursuit of Labor's objectives will involve the use of policies particularly directed to ensuring greater equity for all.

Labor's commitment to increasing Australian ownership and control of our economy requires active encouragement of investment by Australians and rigorous appraisal of investment proposals from overseas.

Australian research and development must be expanded so that we cease to be mainly residual users of overseas technological developments within a pattern determined by interests based outside this country.

With the international economic system under severe strain Australia is making a constructive contribution to the evolution of a more equitable and efficient international economic order. Labor is committed to co-operating with like-minded countries in reform of international economic institutions and arrangements, so as to remove barriers to effective economic co-operation between nations and support self-reliant development in less developed countries.

B WOMEN AND THE ECONOMY

Labor recognises that, over many decades, women in Australian society and in the economy have not had, and generally were not thought entitled to, equality. Consequently, fundamental changes are needed, particularly to the patterns of wages, sex segregation of jobs, and the structure of the social wage as delivered by the public sector.
Labor is committed to framing its economic policies in ways which recognises and support genuine equality for women, as producers and consumers.

Accordingly, Labor's major objectives include —

a genuine equal pay for work of equal value;

b elimination of sex segregation in the workforce;

c the provision of childcare to all who need it; and

d the improvement of the human services area of the public sector and its development in a universal, not residual, direction.

In the short term a Labor Government will —

1 Conduct, through the Office of the Status of Women, a comprehensive study of the implications for women of policies and practices in employment, wages and conditions, taxation, industry policy, the human services sector and the public sector as a whole - participation in the study will be offered to trade unions, women's groups and other groups representing women as consumers and recipients of the social wage in the development of this analysis and of policy proposals.

2 Actively support appropriate strategies for the achievement of genuine equal pay through the application of the concept of 'comparable value' in wage fixing, through affirmative action and through other means.

3 Significantly expand funding and provision of childcare on the model of universal provision but with priority being given to the areas of greatest need.

C SHORT TERM POLICY

On attaining government, Labor implemented economic policies designed to restore economic growth.

In pursuit of its objectives a Labor Government will —

4 Pursue budgetary policies which provide the maximum fiscal stimulus to the economy consistent with its anti-inflation objectives to promote growth of output and employment and increased living standards.

5 Ensure that these policies also enhance equity in the community by concentrating their benefits on low and middle income earners.

6 In co-operation with the trade union movement support the
principles of the Prices and Incomes Accord, covering prices, wages and non-wage income, taxation reform and the social wage.

7 Pursue monetary policies designed to allow sufficient monetary growth to accommodate growth in nominal output which is considered desirable and feasible without contributing to inflation.

8 Ensure adequate regulatory power is available to the government for control of interest rates and lending policies of financial institutions.

9 Strengthen the role of the public sector by ensuring adequate resources are made available to it to perform its important tasks and by restructuring priorities.

10 Reinforce the importance of public enterprises by —
   a ensuring adequate accountability to government;
   b ensuring effective control by government so as to determine and reorder priorities;
   c ensuring improved efficiency; and
   d allowing for the expansion of public enterprises.

D LONGER TERM PLANNING

An economic and social strategy involving co-ordinated planning is required for the achievement of national objectives. Therefore, Labor will provide a clearly defined framework within which the various economic interests in Australia will be able to operate more effectively.

National objectives will not be achieved by market forces alone as these are severely flawed by the concentration of economic power, inequity in the distribution of wealth and income, and the failure of prices to reflect adequately the full social and economic consequences of productive activity.

The Federal Labor Government will therefore develop and regularly review a national economic strategy.

The national strategy will provide the basis for more detailed public sector planning. All departmental and statutory authority activity will be evaluated in terms of its effectiveness in contributing to high priority goals, providing a sound basis for financial decision-making and introducing greater consistency and predictability into public sector managements.
Deficiencies in the availability of information essential for responsible decision-making will be corrected, and the Australian Bureau of Statistics will be strengthened to ensure that all relevant statistical information for planning is collected and published promptly. A Labor Government will ensure the planning machinery within the public service has the capacity to undertake the tasks of providing forecasts, co-ordinating strategy development under the direction of Cabinet, and of monitoring implementation.

To ensure effective implementation of the national strategy Labor will, where necessary, intervene on both the demand and supply sides of the economy using all means available to Government.

Encouragement will be given to producer and consumer co-operatives, including worker co-operatives.

11 An inquiry will be instituted into the means of introducing into Australia appropriate forms of industrial democracy for example, more extensive employee participation in ownership and decision-making.

Recognising that economic decision making should not be the prerogative of any single group alone, Labor will also encourage initiatives in the development of consultative mechanisms and democratic decision making processes within both the private and public sectors.

It will regularly review its national economic and social strategy to identify its priorities in the various areas of public and private sector activity.

12 In pursuit of its objectives, Labor will undertake more detailed public sector planning and evaluation of priorities. It will establish a framework for assessing the potential value of any proposal or programme and evaluate, integrate and co-ordinate the activities of departments and statutory authorities according to its priorities.

Labor also recognises that the pursuit of the primary objectives of private sector activity will not necessarily lead to the achievement of other equally important national objectives. Therefore, Labor will adopt a positive approach to its investment planning, to labour force and regional policies and specific industry policies to establish the framework for revitalised private sector activity and for the achievement of its social and economic objectives.

In pursuit of its longer term goals Labor will also undertake an inquiry into the distribution of income and wealth in Australia which may
undertake and commission research, publish discussion papers and hold public hearings.

Labor has already implemented bureaucratic changes necessary for greater democratic and longer term economic decision making and planning through the establishment of the Economic Planning Advisory Council (EPAC).

Its major functions are to act as a forum for discussions on prospective economic conditions and appropriate economic policies, to advise the government on feasible and desirable goals and targets for the Australian economy and on policies that would help to achieve optimum and sustained economic growth, as well as to develop assessments on the medium and longer term economic outlook.

E TAXATION

Labor recognises that the tax system became increasingly inequitable under the former coalition government. There was a deliberate reduction in the progressivity of the tax schedule, rampant tax avoidance and evasion and provision of tax concessions to wealthy groups and increasing reliance on regressive forms of indirect taxation.

The Labor Government will continue its programme of tax reform, basing the tax system firmly on the principle of ability to pay, on the need for an adequate minimum standard of living and on the desirability of reducing inequality in the Australian community.

Labor will continue to pursue a fairer and more equitable taxation system and will seek to eliminate loopholes and inefficiencies in the tax system.

The Labor Government will not introduce any major changes to the taxation system without full public consideration of those changes and maximum consultation with interested groups.

13 To achieve these objectives Labor will undertake a major review of the taxation system. The review will be undertaken in conjunction with EPAC and will follow the provisions of the Accord.

The review is to be based on the requirement to —

a maintain the individual as the tax unit for personal income tax purposes, and place emphasis on the social security system rather than the tax system for further family assistance, and for the reduction of poverty; and

b increase the overall progressivity of the taxation system.
The review will report on means of —

Restructuring of the personal income tax scales.

Taking account of the effects of inflation on tax scales and zone allowances.

Rationalising the system of deductions, concessions and rebates.

Improving the effectiveness and equity of existing taxes on capital.

Broadening the tax base on a fair and equitable basis.

Restructuring the system of indirect taxation in a manner which contributes to the progressivity of the tax system and reduces the relative incidence of regressive forms of indirect taxes unless there are overriding social reasons for their application.

Ensuring that corporations bear their fair share of tax on income earned in Australia and overseas, including applying an effective resource rent tax on highly profitable resource-based projects.

14 Smash the tax avoidance industry and minimise tax evasion by —
   a providing sufficient staff and resources to the Taxation office;
   b taking all necessary administrative actions;
   c using all available legislative powers, including the retrospective application of legislation against blatant tax avoidance schemes; and
   d application by an effective tax on realised capital gains and profits by taking all necessary legislative and administrative action to ensure the strict enforcement of the existing tax on speculative capital gains and profit making schemes contained in section 26(a) of the Income Tax Assessment Act, thereby requiring speculators and tax avoiders to pay tax being avoided.

F INTERGOVERNMENTAL FINANCIAL RELATIONS

Effective provision of community services requires concerted action by all three levels of government. Yet there is a severe imbalance between their resources and their responsibilities. The federal financial arrangements introduced by the conservative government intensified the conflict caused by these disparities.

Therefore a Labor Government will —

15 Provide untied revenue assistance to the states, territories and local government through a system of general revenue sharing which
guarantees to the states, territories and to local government a pre-determined percentage of Commonwealth taxation revenue, such a percentage to be determined at regular intervals, after consultation between the parties involved.

16 Provide specific purpose grants to the states and territories to fund priority programmes in the areas of health, education, public housing, roads, transport and social welfare.

17 Maintain the existing role of the Commonwealth Grants Commission in advising on equalisation procedures, thereby ensuring that financially disadvantaged governments are able to provide a satisfactory level of public services without undue taxation effort.

18 Ensure that state, territory and local governments and their authorities are able to maintain and steadily improve community infrastructure through adequate capital grants and borrowing approvals.

19 Encourage the establishment of state central borrowing authorities to borrow on behalf of state, territory and local government authorities subject to Loan Council approval.

20 Co-operate with the other levels of government in setting guidelines for joint programmes for which the Australian government provides finance.

G FOREIGN OWNERSHIP AND INVESTMENT

While recognising the contribution of the supply of capital, technology and know-how by foreign corporations to the postwar development of the Australian economy, Labor is concerned at the extent to which our industry is foreign-controlled, and the likelihood that this foreign control of our economy will increase further unless preventative action is taken.

Labor believes that increasing foreign domination of the Australian economy by foreign-based transnational corporations endangers our national sovereignty and places our resources, technology and the leading role in determining the future pattern of development, at the control of corporations whose interests are not necessarily in accord with the best interests of the nation. Furthermore, their international scale and enormous economic power impinge upon the effectiveness of the traditional tools of government economic management.

Accordingly, a Labor Government will —

21 Control foreign entry into strategic sectors of the economy and seek
increased Australian ownership and control of resources and enterprises by carefully regulating foreign investment.

Conference noted the Government’s reforms of the financial sector to improve competition between banks and the need for additional licences in order to stimulate better services and greater competition in the banking sector. Such improvement is necessary to facilitate economic, balance of payments and social performance in Australia.

Conference believed that a part of the need for additional licences should be satisfied from domestic sources.

New licences should be granted only to applicants having the capacity to provide new or expanded services. Such services must stimulate, consistent with the Prices and Incomes Accord, the expansion of industry, especially manufacturing industry, commerce and exports and the housing sector, and in particular, provide adequate housing finance to lower income groups in the community.

The Government will call for expressions of interest in banking licences from domestic groups and foreign banks. Sufficient time, resources and encouragement should be given to stimulating domestic applicants in order to ensure the highest level of competition for licences.

An effective procedure should be established to evaluate licence applications in order to ensure that licences are only offered to those who can make a significant, positive contribution to the Australian community.

Accordingly, a Labor Government will not grant trading bank licences to new groups except under the following circumstances and conditions —

a applications are to be examined on a case-by-case approach involving a full examination of the benefits and costs to Australia;
b licences will only be considered, in the first instance, for a very limited number of banks until sufficient time has elapsed to evaluate the contribution and consequences of new entrants;
c every effort is to be made to achieve a minimum of 50% Australian equity in each new banking venture;
d new entrants must offer significant benefits in the form of innovative instruments, procedures and facilities which are not available, or likely to be available, from Australian banks;
e the granting of licences must enhance the employment opportunities of those in the finance sector and, in particular;
i recognise and facilitate union organisation and award coverage;
ii provide for consultation with unions on technological changes at all levels;
iii ensure adequate health and safety standards;
iv provide for equal opportunities for the sexes; and
v ensure recruitment and training of Australians in areas where foreign banks have special expertise.
f a subsidiary rather than a branch structure is to be adopted for each new entrant, in order to insulate the Australian entity from any potential problem of the parent bank, including exposure to international debt, and from destabilising flows of funds;
g the arrangements for new entrants must ensure that the majority of Australians have access to the new and expanded services;
h all new entrants will be required to comply with domestic banking regulations and prudential standards as well as taxation, company and labour legislation;
i all licences will be subject to periodic review of the performance of the respective banks and compliance with their terms and conditions of entry will be enforced by the central bank. The reviews will include an evaluation of how effectively the banks have honoured the promises made in their licence applications and their contribution to the economic and social performance of the Australian economy;
j in granting licences, the differing demands for banking expertise created by the regional nature of the Australian economy will be given recognition; and
k special consideration will be accorded to the desirability of the maximum possible public participation in the ownership of licences.

22 Provide clear guidelines for foreign investment to ensure that all proposals have net economic benefits for Australia before they are approved; permitting foreign investment only when it introduces beneficial new technology and expertise, increases employment, expands taxable capacity and/or otherwise shows itself to be in Australia's national interest.

23 Operate the foreign investment guidelines to —
a require, where feasible majority Australian participation in new projects in all sectors;
b reserve for Australian ownership and control key sectors necessary to ensure achievement of economic goals and/or preservation of Australian national identity and culture; and
c facilitate maximum Australian participation by providing increased opportunities for public participation in new projects.

24 Take whatever legislative action is within its power to prevent the continuance of activities of transnational corporations that are against the interests of the Australian public.
25 Supply information gathered by the Foreign Investment Review Board and the Bureau of Statistics concerning trends in foreign ownership and control in Australia to relevant trade unions, Australian companies, consumer groups and research organisations such as the United Nations Centre on Trans-National Corporations, the International Labour Organisation, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and appropriate international trade union organisations.

26 Support the establishment within the United Nations of a comprehensive international information system on transnational corporations, and the development and adoption of an effective international code of conduct for transnational corporations that is legally enforceable and endowed with effective complaints and supervisory machinery.

27 Require that the operation of Australian residents and corporations investing and functioning abroad be consistent with —
   a the government’s foreign policy;
   b the national strategy; and
   c the government’s policies on international development and the rights of employees.

28 Seek to maximise the role of Australian investors as equity participants and not solely as lenders of capital.

H TRADE AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Australia’s prosperity depends substantially on international trade. Patterns of production in the various countries of the world offer opportunities for trade which would improve economic well-being both in this country and in those countries with which we trade.

Therefore a Labor Government will —

29 Seek graduated liberalisation of world trade through mutually beneficial reductions in barriers to trade in a context where an appropriate industry development policy is in place in Australia and in circumstances where the advantages of trade are consistent with our national objectives.

30 Recognising that agricultural and mineral exports alone will not sustain Australia’s economy, seek to increase the contribution to overseas earnings of our manufacturing, service and information industries.

31 Encourage active pursuit of new markets and the use of new
approaches to old markets by offering subsidies for market development.

32 Improve government machinery in co-operation with the private sector to facilitate trade with new markets, small markets, and other governments and their instrumentalities.

In view of the global extremes of wealth and poverty and of the entrenched injustice in the present international economic system, and recognising that the well-being and security of all peoples depends on changing that system -

33 Increase overseas development assistance with the aim of achieving community support for the target of 0.7 per cent of GNP within five years of attaining office.

34 Use part of this increased aid to support multilateral and approved non-government aid agencies and to encourage agricultural and energy research on technologies suitable for use in developing countries.

35 Participate sympathetically in global negotiations at the United Nations for restructuring of the international economic system, by for example —
   a pressing for reform of the control and policies of the international financial institutions to improve the effectiveness and equity of their operations; and
   b co-operating with developing countries in plans to increase the equity and efficiency of international commodity markets.
8 EDUCATION

A OBJECTIVES

Labor believes education should —

Promote love of freedom and justice and develop critical perception, ability to choose intelligently, capacity for self-government and a sense of social responsibility.

Be recognised as vital and justified for its contribution to individual development and to human relationships, rather than being regarded solely as an adjunct to the economic system.

Develop respect for the equal rights of all people, their essential humanity, their language and culture, and actively remove discrimination based on ethnic origin, race, sex, age, religion, political belief or economic circumstance.

Ensure free and harmonious development of intellect, physique, emotions and abilities, to the fullness of individual capacity.

Be seen as a life-long process so that, while schooling will continue to be normally the province of the young, opportunities should be available for individuals to undertake their secondary or continuing education at any stage in their adult lives.

Not be seen as the responsibility of the formal education systems alone, so that Government strategies in education should be aimed at developing a co-ordinated network of educational facilities and programmes responsive to community and individual needs, which are, within the framework of more equal educational outcomes across the community, committed to accessibility for all, participation, equality, the maximum devolution of responsibility, diversity,
innovation, public accountability and the enhancement of the quality of life of all people.

In Australia, be designed to enable people to understand and influence the total environment in the broadest possible way, including the recognition of Australia’s place within the world community and the economic and social impact of developing countries on Australian patterns and attitudes in the future.

Ensure that governments provide a public education system which is of the highest standard, universal, free, secular and open to all.

Provide funding to enable a breadth of educational provision in keeping with the principle of equality of educational opportunity and the goal of more equal educational outcomes across the community and the principle of need.

B THE ROLE OF THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

A Federal Labor Government will accept the responsibility to ensure that education systems adequately serve the common natural interest in the following important ways -

That their educational programmes, priorities, standards and levels of participation are appropriate for the changing social, economic and technological environment.

That the structures and practices of education express common national interests and uphold universal human values.

That educational institutions give recognition to the cultural diversity of the nation and acknowledge Australia’s international context.

That education systems contribute to a more equal society.

A Federal Labor Government is committed to the provision of equal educational opportunities for all Australian children and to the achievement of more equal outcomes from education across the Australian community.

Accordingly, a Labor Government will —

1 Accept a primary obligation to assist state and territory governments to provide free education of the highest standard for children of all backgrounds in comprehensive government school systems.
2 Accept, in co-operation with the states and non-government school communities, a responsibility to assist non-government schools on a needs basis to meet their obligation to provide education to a standard comparable to that of government schools.

3 Give priority when assisting both government and non-government schools to those which are disadvantaged.

A Federal Labor Government will ensure that Australia maintains a tertiary education system which makes a vital contribution to our social and economic well being, which contributes to the development of knowledge and intellectual resources and which makes itself widely accessible to the Australian community.

Accordingly, a Labor Government will —

4 Fully fund Universities and Colleges of Advanced Education.

5 In co-operation with the states, develop systems of Technical and Further Education to a high standard.

6 Maintain the provision of free tertiary education.

7 Ensure that opportunities and support are provided for the equitable participation of students from all social groups and backgrounds in tertiary education.

8 Increase the accessibility to tertiary education for rural and isolated groups.

9 Provide schemes of student assistance to support high levels of participation in post-compulsory education on the basis of equity and to overcome disadvantages faced by some students in gaining access to education.

10 Support research in education and will maintain liaison with other countries and international bodies concerned with education.

11 Maintain statutory commissions which in their membership have regard to professional, student and community representation where appropriate, to provide advice on areas of need and which will have an obligation to report publicly.

C UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES OF ADVANCED EDUCATION

12 The Labor Government will ask the Tertiary Education Commission
(TEC) to assess needs in higher education and make recommendations on the distribution of funds available to meet those needs.

In making its recommendations, the TEC will have regard to —

The need to increase the levels of participation in higher education in both undergraduate and post-graduate studies.

The need to safeguard and improve standards of teaching.

The need to increase the capacity of higher education to undertake appropriate research.

The need to overcome backlogs in the provision of equipment and facilities.

The need to support the extension to the community of the expertise, services and facilities of higher education.

The funding of higher education on a triennial basis.

13 In regard to participation in higher education, a Labor Government will require higher education institutions to undertake positive measures with a view to —

a increasing the proportion of school leavers from disadvantaged backgrounds and isolated areas who participate in higher education;

b increasing the participation in higher education of persons from disadvantaged groups such as Aborigines and migrants;

c achieving equal opportunities and expanded roles for women in and through higher education;

d expanding access, recognition and support for members of the workforce seeking to upgrade their skills and qualifications within their fields of work;

e expanding opportunities for later life entry; and

f assist in the provision of childcare as a means of promoting equal opportunities and improving access for those with parenting responsibilities.

14 Labor believes that academic staff should enjoy the same industrial rights and responsibilities as other employees through the determination of terms/conditions of employment by independent arbitral tribunals, including access to the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission. Extensive consultation between the Government, higher education institutions and the academic unions is necessary in pursuing this objective.
15 Increased funds for pure and applied research in Universities and Colleges of Advanced Education will be made available through the Australian Research Grants Committee and other research funding bodies — 
a educational research concerning higher education will be funded through the Tertiary Education Commission; and 
b special research institutes focusing on matters of national significance will be supported.

D VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Labor believes that vocational education must aim to produce flexibly trained, generally knowledgeable and personally competent people who are able to contribute to economic development and be involved in the control and improvement of working life. Labor believes that all people have a right to acquire the skills necessary for satisfying participation in working life. Labor acknowledges the fundamental responsibility of governments to ensure that the necessary training opportunities are provided. A Labor Government will therefore require close co-operation between education and employment authorities in policies for vocational education so that the educational needs of the individual are met through a vocational education system which is both responsive to the needs of the workplace and which contributes to the shaping of future economic developments.

Accordingly a Labor Government will —

16 Establish national goals designed to secure an adequate supply of places so that all young people seeking a training opportunity can be provided with one and so that adult workers can have an opportunity at least once in their working life to participate in further education or training.

17 Within these national goals, establish an entitlement to a period of vocational education for those affected by structural or technological change in their jobs or seeking to return to the workforce after an extended absence.

18 Systematically facilitate the extension of organised workforce training to encompass all sectors of paid employment.

19 Co-operate with employers, trade unions and state governments in the development and design of new education opportunities either for full-time, part-time or sandwich courses containing combinations of education and employment.
20 Insist upon the portability of comparable workforce qualifications throughout Australia and through the TAFE system, expand the provision of courses offering advanced qualifications.

21 Pursue policies of equal opportunities in vocational education by expanding the training opportunities available to women both in areas of employment where women predominate and in non-traditional areas of employment, and by positive action to provide greater access to training opportunities for rural youth, for disabled people and for Aboriginal youth.

22 Support the extension of industrial democracy in the work place by measures to encourage the development of appropriate curriculum content and decision making structures within vocational education.

23 In order to achieve the above policy goals, a Labor government will require co-ordinated approaches to policy at the national level, and will seek the co-operation of state governments and the commitment and support of employers and the trade union movement.

E TECHNICAL AND FURTHER EDUCATION (TAFE)

The TAFE Colleges are the major providers of formal vocational education and training, other than for the professions. They also play a major role in providing further education opportunities not directly connected with employment. A Labor Government will ensure that policies for TAFE reflect both its further education and vocational education responsibilities.

Accordingly a Labor Government will —

24 Expand the number of full-time and part-time training opportunities provided through TAFE in accordance with its national training goals.

25 Ensure that wherever appropriate and possible, vocational courses in TAFE are brought into the mainstream of vocational education and are directed towards the ultimate achievement of recognised workforce qualifications.

26 Through the TAFE system, establish the portability of comparable TAFE credits and qualifications.

27 Support the development of courses conferring advanced qualifications through vocational education.
28 Undertake all necessary steps to achieve equal female participation in vocational education, and expand the opportunities available to rural, disadvantaged and Aboriginal people.

29 Expand the provision of further education within TAFE with particular emphasis on those disadvantaged by their initial lack of success in education or who are seeking to renew the contact with education after an extended break from learning.

30 Recognise the role of and provide TAFE support for non-institutional community based providers of further education.

31 Provide increased support for the training and retraining of TAFE teachers with a particular emphasis on updating their knowledge of new technologies and processes.

32 Assist in the provision of childcare in TAFE as a means of promoting equal employment opportunities and improving access to education for those with parental responsibilities.

33 Foster the development of student organisations within the TAFE sector.

F PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Whilst recognising the leading role of the states in primary and secondary education the Labor Party, nevertheless, believes that there should be national priorities in education. The Labor Government will therefore, move, in conjunction with the Schools Commission, the states and teacher and parent organisations, to establish National Priorities in education. These national priorities will include —

The need to give priority to action to overcome all forms of educational disadvantage, including those resulting from socio-economic or ethnic background, gender, disability or isolation.

The need for higher levels of achievement in education and training appropriate to the needs of modern society.

The development of programmes which will encourage young people to derive the maximum benefit from their education, and which will increase levels of participation in post-compulsory education.

The development of education in a way which reflects the cultural diversity of modern Australia, and encourages and develops values
of tolerance, compassion, and a recognition of the equal rights of all other people.

The promotion of the devolution of responsibility to the school level within a framework of general principles designed to ensure public accountability to safeguard democratic values and to achieve social equality.

The promotion of increased participation of parents, teachers and students in the control and operation of schools.

The promotion of increased understanding and co-operation between the State systems and between the various sectors of education.

The development of Aboriginal Studies suitable for all levels of education.

To give effect to these priorities the Commonwealth will seek to make grants on the basis of negotiated Commonwealth-state agreements.

*In making its decisions on primary and secondary education a Labor Government will —*

34 Have regard to its stated policy objectives and its view of the role of Australian governments in national education policy and funding.

35 Provide funds to schools in accordance with the principle of needs.

36 Take into account the recommendations of the Commonwealth Schools Commission which will be required to —
   a examine and report on the needs of students in Government and non-Government schools and the measures which should be taken to meet those needs; and
   b make recommendations as to allocations of available funds.

In making its recommendations the Schools Commission will have regard to —

The primary obligation of governments to provide and maintain government school systems of the highest standard open to all children and the need for an adequate Commonwealth contribution towards this objective.

The provision of funds to assist with the achievement of acceptable levels of resources in all schools.
The right of all Australian children to acquire an education necessary for the widest participation in Australian society.

The promotion of equal educational opportunities for all Australian children.

When assessing the needs of students, the circumstances of the community of which the students are a part.

The requirement that Commonwealth funds be available only to those non-government schools whose total private and public resources do not exceed the resources of comparable government schools.

The necessity for adequate consultation between Government and non-government school authorities in the planning and provision of school facilities, so as to assess the impact of new and expanding schools on existing schools so as to ensure the economic use of resources.

The requirement of full public accountability in the use of public funds.

The provision of funds on a triennial basis.

The need to promote increased participation of parents, teachers and students in decision making at all levels of education.

The need to ensure that systems and schools in receipt of Commonwealth funds pursue policies designed to combat bias and discrimination on the grounds of sex, disability, race or ethnic background.

37 Through the Schools Commission and its Curriculum Development Centre, provide support to systems and schools to reflect on their total practice including curriculum, teaching/learning styles and organisation so as to improve the learning experiences of all students. In particular, encouragement will be given to curriculum development and research which would enable schools to play an effective role in our society, and to achieve more equitable outcomes for all students.

**Corporal Punishment**

38 Oppose corporal punishment in government and non-government schools.
G  ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

In Aboriginal Education, a Labor Government will —

39 Recognise the status of the National Aboriginal Education Committee and consult with it on all matters concerning aboriginal education.

40 Provide professional staff and other resources to support Aboriginal community schools.

41 Set specific targets for the training of Aboriginal teachers.

42 Provide support for the use of Aboriginal languages in the education of Aboriginal children.

43 Ensure that all Australian children have the opportunity to receive an understanding of, and respect for, Aboriginal history and culture.

44 Initiate the co-ordinated state and Commonwealth provision and sharing of resources where tribal and state boundaries do not coincide.

H  ETHNIC AND MULTI-CULTURAL EDUCATION

A Labor Government will —

45 Recognise the value of ethnic diversity within a framework of democratic values and of sexual and racial equality.

46 Actively promote the teaching of community languages and bilingual education programmes in schools and give priority to the provision of resources for training language teachers.

47 Provide additional resources for English as a second language programme and intensive language units.

48 Insist upon maximum participation of ethnic communities in the development and implementation of policies and on the maximum participation of migrant parents in school decision making.

49 Promote the incorporation of cultural diverse perspectives in the curriculum, organisation and practices of all schools so as to reflect the reality of Australian society.

50 Recognise and support the special needs of minority groups, refugees and recent arrivals.
51 Take action to ensure that schools provide girls of immigrant background equality of educational outcomes and opportunities.

52 Maintain and improve the quality of the Adult Migrant Education Service.

I STUDENT FINANCE

A Labor Government will adjust the levels of allowances and conditions of eligibility of all education and training assistance schemes with a view to —

Increasing the levels of participation in post compulsory education.

Increasing the equity and effectiveness of the schemes.

In particular, a Labor Government will —

53 Provide post-secondary education without fees.

54 Review the allowances payable to disadvantaged students in upper secondary education in order to provide greater encouragement to disadvantaged students to continue their education.

55 Support special schemes of assistance to increase the participation of Aboriginal students and adults in furthering their education.

56 Support special schemes of assistance for isolated students and disabled people.

57 Improve the level of financial assistance to tertiary students on a basis of need indexed to the CPI with a view to ensuring all qualified students have adequate support to complete their studies and reject any loans scheme as a replacement for TEAS.

J LIBRARY SERVICES AND EDUCATION

58 A Labor Government will recognise the pivotal place of libraries and resource centres to students at all levels of education.

K ADULT LITERACY

59 A Labor government will, in co-operation with the states and Territories, fund and establish a nationwide campaign to combat adult illiteracy.
Resolutions

1 Conference supports Labor's undertaking to restore the Commonwealth share of government school funding to 10 per cent of government school general recurrent costs by 1986 subject to the negotiation of satisfactory federal/state agreements.

2 Conference calls upon the Federal Labor Government to instruct the Schools Commission to ensure that it acts and provides advice which is consistent with the Schools Commission Act (1973) and government policy as expressed in the 1983 guidelines to the Commission requiring the Commission to provide advice which reflects a 'primary obligation to government schools'.

3 Conference calls upon the Federal Government to continue to phase out all funding support for the most wealthy private schools which operate above the resource levels of comparable government schools, and redirect these funds to government and non-government schools on the basis of need.

4 Conference decided that the National Education and Youth Affairs Committee co-ordinate a full scale Party debate on the education system. Such debate to include issues relating to public and private education and especially the issues of equal opportunity, equal outcomes, Labor's primary obligation to public education, the societal effects of the dual public/private systems and the provision of universal free education. That the process of debate include close liaison with State branches.

5 The ALP remains committed to the development of a national policy of languages and the provision of the necessary resources to enable all Australian children of all backgrounds to have access to a second language on entering primary school, thus recognising the need for adequate English for non-English-speaking students, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal while retaining and developing their first languages and will provide equal opportunity for English-speaking students to acquire a second language in their own and the national interest.
9 EMPLOYMENT

A INTRODUCTION

Unemployment is currently the most important problem facing the Australian community. Hundreds of thousands of Australians are being deprived of the right to a livelihood and the dignity, self-respect and opportunity to self-fulfilment through work.

Prolonged unemployment inevitably involves poverty, a loss of personal confidence and job skills, and a tragic waste of human and economic resources.

Labor is committed to the restoration and maintenance of full employment as a major policy goal. Labor believes the highest priority must be given to measures designed to increase the supply of jobs and achieve an immediate reduction in levels of unemployment within a long-term policy strategy aimed at creating employment opportunities for all who want to work.

The achievement of high and sustained economic growth is central to the fight against unemployment.

In government, Labor has already reversed the disastrous rise in unemployment and decline in job opportunities witnessed under the previous government.

The historic prices and incomes accord has been fundamental to this achievement and remains crucial to a continuing improvement in the labour market.

Labor is aware, however, that full employment will be a difficult goal to achieve.
Reduction of the unemployment rate to the level of the early 1970's through economic growth alone would require high and sustained growth rates throughout the next decade.

High rates of employment growth will be necessary just to cope with the substantial increase in the labour force resulting from normal additions as well as the likely influx of 'hidden' unemployed who withdrew from the labour market during the years of declining job opportunities.

The need to control inflationary pressures, the influence of world economic conditions, and the pressures for structural and technological change in the Australian economy ensure that this will be a difficult and complex task.

Labor therefore acknowledges the need for a strategy of economic growth to be accompanied by new employment initiatives. New policies must be pursued to improve employment opportunities for all who want to work, to improve their employability, and to provide attractive alternatives outside the conventional labour market.

B LABOUR MARKET PLANNING

Labour market programmes will be developed and co-ordinated within a national planning framework, on the basis of a comprehensive, independent review of all training and work experience programmes inherited from the previous government.

1 A Labor Government will establish an Australian Labour Office (ALO) as an essential element in developing a comprehensive and integrated work force strategy. The ALO will have responsibility for —
   a gathering detailed labour market data on a continuing basis;
   b undertaking extensive labour market forecasting;
   c advising on the development of labour market programmes, with particular emphasis on employment problems of disadvantaged groups and regions; and
   d co-ordinating the implementation of these programmes.

C POLICIES FOR IMPROVING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

In the context of a national economic and social strategy, a Labor Government will develop a comprehensive set of policies designed to move the Australian economy towards full employment and provide fulfilling opportunities for all those seeking work.
These policies include —

2 Macroeconomic policies designed to provide an immediate and sustained stimulus to the level of economic activity and employment.

3 Industrial development policies aimed at achieving a more diversified and efficient basis for a long-term regeneration of economic growth and secure job opportunities.

4 Specific programmes to generate both short and long term employment in both private and public sectors of the economy on the basis of direct Federal expenditure, grants to the states and territories, assistance to local government bodies and other non-profit organisations, and incentives to private enterprises. These programmes will be primarily directed at the disadvantaged groups and areas in the labour market which will benefit least from a general improvement in employment opportunities.

5 Special incentives to employers in the private sector for the employment of persons with special physical, social and economic disadvantages with appropriate safeguards to ensure that additional employment is being generated.

6 Measures to ensure employment levels and conditions are effectively accounted for by industries and enterprises which receive government assistance.

7 Programmes for improved education, housing, health transport and other public services which give a high priority to employment generation.

8 Labor has never accepted that supply-side measures are substitutes for actual demand — generating policies; however, the development of such measures in consultation with unions and employers, should be encouraged to complement active demand policies in a balanced approach to increasing employment opportunities.

9 Consistent with the Education policy, raising of retention rates in secondary education and increasing the participation rate at tertiary levels, and ensuring more effective links between the education system and vocational training to ensure relevance to the changing work environment.

10 Recognition of the proper role for permanent part-time work as an appropriate method of improving flexibility in work patterns in certain areas of industry, and facilitating the effective workforce participa-
tion of disadvantaged groups, without diminishing the availability and conditions of full-time employment. Part-time work should attract full pro-rata entitlements and in appropriate industries and circumstances carry a loading. Part-time work should not be introduced as a means of eliminating or reducing penalties and loadings established within awards.

11 Facilitating voluntary early retirement through the linking of such an approach with a national superannuation scheme which provides for economic dignity in retirement, and ensuring that new employment opportunities are generated as a result of such early retirement measures.

12 Reducing the fixed costs associated with hiring additional employees compared to increased overtime.

13 Distributing national productivity increases in a manner consistent with increasing employment opportunities.

14 Development of special areas of work activity such as self employment, worker co-operatives, rural self sustaining activities and other small enterprise initiatives.

D LABOUR SUPPLY POLICIES

A major concern in recent years has been the failure of the Australian labour market in relation to the supply of skilled labour.

This has resulted in inadequate levels of training in the Australian economy, and a decline in the standard of our skills relative to other countries.

Australia's ability to grow, and cope with the demands of structural change and new technology, is crucially dependent on the achievement of a more extensively and highly trained work force.

Without appropriate skills or labour market adaptability, many Australians will be unable to find suitable employment.

Labor will place considerable emphasis on the need to ensure that the Australian labour force has the necessary capacity to adjust to the emerging structure of job opportunities. Labor will ensure that substantially increased opportunities are available for training and retraining in the variety of skills required in a diversified economy.

Labor is also committed to increasing training opportunities available to Australians and reducing our reliance on immigration as a source of skilled workers.
Apprenticeship and Skilled Workers

Labor is particularly concerned that apprenticeship training levels have been well below those needed to meet the future skill requirements of a growing Australian economy.

A Labor Government will improve the supply of skilled tradespeople as a matter of urgency and in close consultation with unions, employers, training authorities and state and territory governments, by —

15 Adopting immediate measures to improve the level of apprentice employment, such as —
   a extension of subsidised support for employers who retain or employ out-of-work apprentices;
   b increasing pre-apprenticeship opportunities in the formal training system; and
   c providing financial incentives for employers to increase their apprentice training effort.

16 Examining ways of increasing the effectiveness of the apprenticeship system as the major source of skilled workers, and in particular, to consider —
   a improved methods of financing apprenticeship training, including more effective government subsidisation and the feasibility of a refundable levy scheme as a means of increasing apprenticeship intakes;
   b the reasons and remedies for the high wastage rate amongst apprentices in training;
   c the scope for improving the quality and quantity of training through greater emphasis on off-the-job training in technical institutions or in other approved training centres;
   d the extent to which the period of apprenticeship training can be shortened, and the potential role of pre-apprenticeship courses and other forms of accelerated training;
   e further development of systems of group apprenticeship training, whereby apprentices are indentured to a grouping of employers and receive training in a number of different work places; and
   f with the agreement of relevant trade unions, adopt measures for improving access to apprenticeship training, for disadvantaged groups.

17 Investigating the possibilities for improving the supply of skilled workers through other methods such as the development of trade training schemes complementary to the traditional apprenticeship system and improved procedures for formal upgrading of unqualified workers employed in a trade.
Training and Retraining
Labor believes that training and retraining opportunities available to the labour force need to be substantially increased in order to improve the adaptability of the labour force in the face of continuing structural and technological change.

18 A Labor Government will extend the availability of training and retraining programmes for the unemployed, those already employed and threatened with redundancy, and those wishing to re-enter the labour force.

19 Labor is committed to the development of improved forms of vocational training in secondary schools, in technical colleges and in the community-based area, with a view to providing adequate labour force preparation for all young people who do not enter formal training courses or apprenticeships.

Greater Equity in Training and Employment Opportunities
20 Labor will afford special consideration in the development and implementation of labour market policies, to improving access to training and employment opportunities for disadvantaged groups in the labour market.

21 As part of these policies, a Labor Government will ensure that adequate attention is directed towards members of the labour force whose standards of literacy and/or numeracy are insufficient to enable them to obtain remunerative employment, with particular emphasis placed on appropriate programmes for the young who lack basic skills and the teaching of English to migrant workers.

Employment Assistance Measures
22 A Labor Government will examine the scope for new policies aimed at facilitating the geographical mobility of workers and the unemployed in areas where long-term employment prospects cannot be sustained.

23 A Labor Government will ensure the development of an efficient, highly trained and adequately staffed and resourced national employment service. The Commonwealth Employment Service is being expanded and improved to enable it to play a dynamic and effective role in providing flexible and sympathetic counselling and job placement services, and in implementing, monitoring and developing labour market programmes.
10 ENVIRONMENT

A PRINCIPLES AND GOALS

Labor believes that —

Human ability to alter the environment has reached the stage where whole ecosystems have been destroyed and others threatened and where human lives and wellbeing are endangered by a variety of environmental changes.

Australia does not have to choose between environment and development.

One must be planned in the light of the other. Development is the utilisation of human and natural resources to advance the happiness and welfare of people. Environment is the total stock of natural and social resources available to humans and other species. Labor’s goals are for sustained, environmentally sound, humane development, planned within the constraints of, and in harmony with, the natural environment.

The Australian government should lead in creating environment policies and programmes in co-operation with state, territory and local government, involving communities in decisions affecting their environment. Environment objectives should not be compromised as a consequence of competition between states and regions for development.

The restoration of full employment and environmental protection are compatible, rather than conflicting, objectives.

All Australians have a right to a healthy and diverse environment and accordingly environmental policies should reinforce Labor’s
economic and social reforms and commitment to democratic socialism.

The costs of environmental planning and management and impact assessment should be normal internal costs of production and development.

Information, research and investigation programmes are vital components of environmental planning. Government suppression of information obstructs good environmental management and public control of the development process.

A Labor Government will allow wider community access to information.

An active and informed independent voluntary environmental and conservation movement is essential for the achievement and implementation of effective environmental policies.

Many environmental problems will be minimised or avoided by better assessment and management of relevant technology. The impacts of technology and development proposals on the environment, social welfare, public health and employment, should be assessed together.

The National government, in conjunction with the states and territories, should develop and promote a national approach to the management and use of land. This should include urgent programmes to —

a arrest and reverse desertification;
b conserve diminishing wetlands and rainforests; and
c co-ordinate and control the multiple use of forests, coastlines and water resources.

A significant number of Australian flora and fauna species are now endangered and this requires urgent and more effective measures to maintain and increase their populations including the maximisation of CSIRO (Wildlife Division) research funding by the implementation of a levy on the forest products and mining industries.

The quality of the work environment of Australians has been neglected to the point that many working people are exposed to hazardous environmental contaminants with little or no regulation or monitoring.

The Australian government should correct this situation and strengthen the ability of working people to press for a safer and cleaner work environment.
The Australian environment is being subjected to a rapidly growing number and quantity of environmental contaminants, including a wide range of synthetic substances whose biological effects have not been adequately assessed. This situation threatens the health of present and future generations of Australians and is a cause of the continued decline in the quality of our water resources and the air of our cities. It should be a major priority of the Australian government to reverse this trend.

Many non-renewable resources are wasted through inefficient industrial processes, unnecessary production of throwaway goods and containers, and planned obsolescence in manufacturing. The Australian government should seek the co-operation of the states, territories and industry to reverse these wasteful practices and to achieve the development and adoption of new techniques for waste management, including recycling and re-use of waste materials.

B IMPLEMENTATION

A Labor Government will —

1 Maintain a department responsible for environment and conservation matters which will act directly and in conjunction with state and territory governments to —
   a administer and co-ordinate all legislation relating to environment and conservation;
   b integrate its environment policies and programmes with its economic, social, rural and urban and regional planning policies and programmes;
   c implement a National Conservation Strategy for Australia;
   d fund and co-ordinate research, development and demonstration projects related to the environment;
   e develop and implement policies for the survey, study, management and conservation of renewable resources, namely water, soil, marine, air, flora and fauna;
   f assess the environmental implications of development proposals, technological and other innovations, and government policies;
   g manage and protect the Australian environment from environmental contamination, including contamination due to biocides and hazardous chemicals, motor vehicle emissions, industrial wastes and emissions and oil spills;
   h co-ordinate Australian programmes to co-operate with international organisations to manage and protect the environment and renewable resources; and
   i promote development of environment, education and information programmes.
Environmental Assessment
2 Review and amend the Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act 1974-75 to ensure that —
   a the environmental effects of activities involving the powers of the Australian government are assessed and measures for environmental management are recommended, where possible in terms of government strategies;
   b the Minister for Environment can initiate action under the Act to enable an Environmental Impact Study to be prepared on any development project deemed of national significance;
   c public participation in environmental assessment is facilitated and all reports and recommendations made public; and
   d means are provided to enable individuals and groups to enforce the procedures of the Act.

3 Introduce centralised machinery to integrate and co-ordinate work of individual departments in the assessment of the impacts of development proposals and of relevant technology. This machinery will advise government as a whole and incorporate a process of public involvement including public hearings.

   This machinery will consider possible impacts of proposals on all areas of concern to government including environmental, public health, social welfare and employment aspects. It will therefore remove the need to create separate and overlapping assessment and public inquiry systems by individual Ministers and departments and increase the overall efficiency and co-ordination of government.

4 Produce an annual State of the Environment Report. The Report will be presented to Parliament and will be an objective annual monitoring of all key environmental indicators and draw out the inferences of significant trends.

Environmental Survey
5 Work jointly with the states and territories, CSIRO and other organisations to implement an Environmental Survey of Australia.

National Conservation Strategy
6 Implement, in co-operation with the states and territories, a National Conservation Strategy to protect Australia's renewable natural resources by —
   a providing grants to the states and territories for conservation and management of World Heritage Areas and of areas of national significance and for environmental management programmes;
   b investigating the effects of taxation, excise duties and other incentives to achieve the sustainable use of our renewable resources; and
c complementing the implementation of the National Conservation Strategy for Australia by formulating other appropriate national strategies such as for energy and population.

**Soil and Water Conservation**

7 Establish a National Soil and Water Conservation Programme to assist states and territories to —
   a arrest and take action to prevent desertification, salination and erosion of land;
   b rehabilitate degraded land;
   c facilitate reafforestation;
   d promote proper land use practices;
   e carry out research into land management and rehabilitation and water quality improvements;
   f protect natural surface and ground water resources from contamination;
   g compile an inventory of Australia’s wet lands, categorise them according to their conservation value, and take measures to assist the protection of wet lands of high conservation value; and
   h monitor the impact of irrigation from both ground water and surface water sources upon water quantity and quality and the effects upon lower riparian areas and users.

8 Extend the powers of the River Murray Commission to —
   a ensure the responsible management of the waters of the Murray-Darling River Basin, in terms of water quality and quantity, the protection of the River’s wildlife resources and the satisfactory allocation and transfer of water rights; and
   b manage the Murray-Darling River system.

**Coastal Management**

9 Pursue the Australian Coastline Management Programme within the framework of the Australian Environment Council to —
   a co-ordinate and assist state, territory and local government in the management of the Australian coastal zone;
   b introduce Marine Park legislation and develop a national system of marine and estuarine reserves;
   c formulate policies to protect near coastal regions and estuaries from contamination by land-based or derived effluents and institute water quality criteria for these coastal zones;
   d direct funds to research in priority areas to assist with management goals; and
   e provide funds for the purchase into public ownership and for the restoration of valuable alienated coastline.
Forests

10 Recognising the need to strike a balance between the long term development of Australia's timber industry and the need for proper conservation and management of our native forests, accordingly establish a Committee of Enquiry into the timber industry in Australia. This enquiry which will be representative of all relevant parties, will provide options for the development of Australia's timber and forest products industries having regard to the following policies and consistent with the Government's social, environmental, economic and employment objectives.

11 Establish in co-operation with the states and territories, a national reafforestation programme to promote revegetation and reafforestation of catchment areas, farmlands, abandoned cleared land as well as in productive forestry areas.

12 Stop all programmes designed to replace native hardwood forests with softwood plantations, and direct financial resources towards the development of softwood in areas where sufficient land which is already cleared of native forests is available.

13 Promote the planting of forests of native trees for economic exploitation.

14 Issue no licences for the export of forest products unless it is ensured that —
   a the forests concerned are to be managed in a manner which will ensure a long term sustainable yield;
   b the project concerned is based on forest types which are adequately conserved in national parks or nature reserves as prescribed by clause 15d; and
   c the project is subject to environmental impact analysis and management.

15 Recognise that rainforests are a valuable and diminishing world and national resource for which there are competing land use claims, and promote —
   a conservation and rehabilitation and regeneration of rainforests;
   b in co-operation with the states and territories —
      i ensure adequate reservation of rainforest communities in national parks and nature reserves;
      ii establish an inventory of rainforest communities;
      iii ensure any management of rainforests for wood production only occurs in communities already adequately represented in national parks or nature reserves and is only commenced after a detailed Environmental Impact Statement; and
      iv remove all incentives to clear native vegetation or regrowth
and subject further clearance of native vegetation in Australia to development control so that clearance is reviewed on a case by case basis and so that unauthorised clearance incurs substantial penalties.

c new employment opportunities in areas dependent on rainforest timbers and provide states and territories with matching financial assistance to assist with the inevitable restructuring or regional economies currently involved with rainforest logging;

d expansion of areas of forests in National Parks to ensure protection of all forest types and that key core areas are preserved;

e management of logging to achieve a diminishing yield and to expedite the phasing out of logging in rainforests and their dedication as National Parks or Nature Reserves; and

f research into effective measures to combat diseases affecting native vegetation, in particular die-back disease.

**National Parks and Wildlife**

16 Promote the conservation of fauna, flora, landscapes and genetic diversity by —

a legislating to strictly regulate interstate and international trade in endangered and protected species and their products;

b ensuring the conservation of kangaroos both on a national and regional basis;

c opposing mining or any other activity in National Parks which adversely affects the prime function of the park, i.e. nature conservation;

d instituting a programme in association with the states and territories to attain standards of excellence in the conservation of flora, fauna, landscape and genetic resources within large ecologically viable reserves which meet internationally recognised criteria for security of tenure for national parks and like reserves;

e i in association with the states and territories further develop programmes to conserve fauna, flora, landscape and genetic resources in conjunction with other land use outside reserves; and

ii implementing a programme of financial assistance to the states for the acquisition of critical areas of habitat for endangered species or species covered by international agreements.

f encouraging and promoting the reservation of wilderness areas and providing for special management in keeping with the needs of wilderness areas;

g energetic measures to control feral animals;

h taking action to conserve all species of marine animals and all other marine resources throughout the Australian economic zone.
In particular, seeking to —
   i achieve an international ban on whaling;
   ii develop and promote marine resource management policies which encourage a recovery of whale populations; and
   iii to prohibit the import of whale products and products of other marine mammals or goods containing whale products and products of marine mammals.
   i discouraging the siting of tourist developments inconsistent with conservation objectives in national parks and nature reserves and other areas of high conservation significance.

17 Given Labor's recognition of the environmental significance of Australia's wet tropical rainforests, carry out the appropriate scientific research to evaluate the Greater Daintree Region's eligibility for World Heritage status.

18 Oppose the construction of environmentally damaging roads in the Daintree Cape Tribulation rainforests.

**Pest Management**
19 Establish a research programme into integrated pest management with emphasis on biological control.

**Public Education and Participation**
20 Facilitate public participation and awareness of the need to preserve the environment for sustainable development by —
   a funding and expanding environment education and information programmes;
   b further developing the environment education function in the Curriculum Development Centre; and
   c upgrading financial and legal assistance to environment centres, other voluntary environment groups and trade unions engaged in environmental programmes and issues.

**Antarctica**
21 Oppose any development or exploitation of resources in the Antarctic Treaty Area which may cause damage to the marine or terrestrial environment.

**State Co-operation**
22 Work with state and territory governments and use Federal constitutional powers to achieve environmental legislation in all states and territories compatible with federal legislation and machinery, to allow operation of an integrated federal-state system of assessment and planning, efficiency of administration, and the avoidance of overlap.
South West Tasmania

23 Oppose the construction of hydroelectric power schemes on the Gordon and Franklin rivers.

24 Provide assistance to the Tasmanian Government to enable it to diversify the means of electricity production in a manner that does not adversely affect the National Estate or areas set aside for nature conservation excluding the area affected by the King or Henty Anthony power schemes.

25 Assist the Tasmanian Government to expand Tasmania's tourist industry in order to provide additional employment opportunities.

26 Recognise the national and international significance of Western Tasmania Management area consisting of the existing National Estate areas of the South West and Central Highlands of Tasmania together with the boundary revisions recommended by the Tasmanian Panel of the Australian Heritage Commission.

27 Provide assistance to the Tasmanian Government to —
   a establish a joint Commonwealth/State Management Authority for the Western Tasmania Management Area; and
   b carry out management in the Western Tasmania Management Area.

28 Assist the Tasmanian Government to research and implement economically viable alternatives to continued forestry operations in the Western Tasmania Management Area.

Great Barrier Reef

29 Seek to include the Torres Strait in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park following the ratification of the Torres Strait Treaty.

30 Legislate to produce an integrated plan to manage tourist developments in harmony with the environment on the Reef.

Sand Mining

31 Ensure that both Houses of Parliament must approve any licences issued which permit the export of mineral sands extracted from areas listed on the register of the National Estate (e.g. Fraser and Moreton Islands), and suspend any existing export licences permitting exports from such areas pending decision by Parliament. Continue to oppose sand mining on Moreton Island and support the alternative management strategy for the island because of its environmental, economic and alternative employment appeal.
Environmental Contaminants Authority

32 Establish an Environmental Contaminants Authority responsible to the Minister for the Environment to use current constitutional powers, and in co-operation with the states and territories, industry and trade unions and public interest groups, to manage and protect the Australian environment from environmental contamination, including contamination due to use of agricultural chemicals such as biocides and veterinary drugs; motor vehicle emissions; industrial wastes and emissions; and unintended release of contaminants such as oil spills or transport accidents.

The Environmental Contaminants Authority would —

a monitor the effects of environmental contaminants;
b set basic standards to control environmental contaminants;
c co-ordinate and fund research, monitoring and recording of air and water quality;
d operate a comprehensive compulsory registration scheme for all chemicals used in Australia;
e develop national standards for labelling or ingredients in commercial products to ensure that necessary information on potential hazards and precautions is provided in a form readily understood by users;
f develop a national register of chemicals in use in Australia including information on use, toxicity, environmental effects and emergency procedures open to public scrutiny;
g operate a compulsory and comprehensive registration, licensing and regulatory scheme to control the use of hazardous chemicals in conjunction with the National Occupational Health and Safety Commission, and the National Institute of Environmental and Occupational Health;
h evaluate potential hazards of imported and domestically produced chemicals before their introduction into industry;
i establish standard procedures for transport and disposal of environmental contaminants; and
j provide information and advisory services to trade unions and community groups on environmental contamination and on contamination in the work place.

33 Establish and operate a national chemical waste furnace, capable of complete and safe combustion of any environmental contaminant, including PCB’s.

International Co-operation

34 Work with and assist other countries, particularly those in the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) region to ensure effective and co-ordinated approaches to national and regional problems, to help other countries manage their
environmental problems to them because of the actions of Australians. In particular, support and provide financial assistance for —

a the United Nations Environment Programme;
b the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme;
c the ASEAN Environment Programme; and
d the conservation of tropical rain forests, particularly in the ASEAN and South Pacific regions.
A INTRODUCTION

Australia has been immeasurably enriched by the contribution of immigrants to our national life. One of our nation’s greatest achievements has been its acceptance of people from a wide and diverse range of backgrounds, regardless of race, religion or ethnic background.

Under Labor, racial discrimination in any form will have no place in Australia’s immigration policies.

The Labor Government will continue with an immigration policy which offers permanent settlement to migrants and refugees commensurate with our economic capacity and the ability of the environment to support a growing population.

The Labor Government will continue to combat disadvantages suffered by minorities and individuals by assuring that in the initial years of settlement, migrants have access not only to mainstream Government services, but also to special programmes to overcome problems such as unemployment, language difficulties, ignorance of Government functions and services, and the isolation experienced by many migrant women and aged migrants.

The Labor Government recognises and supports the rights of migrants within our multicultural society to remain free to retain and express their ethnic identity without sacrificing their right of equal access to all community resources and Government programmes.
B IMMIGRATION PROGRAMME

Continue annual immigration programmes which reconcile humanitarian and compassionate responsibilities, shortages of special skills, the capacity of the economy to absorb increases in the workforce, and the ability to address resettlement needs of migrants within Australia. This will be implemented within a total programme which includes family reunion, refugees and skilled labour and business migration categories. Criteria to determine entry will be applied on a global non-discriminatory basis.

Family Reunion
1 Continue to give priority to immediate family and those in genuine defacto relationships. Family reunion of spouses, aged parents and dependent children will not depend on offers of employment.

Refugees
2 Continue to administer a flexible and diversified refugee programme in accordance with United Nations obligations and other international responsibilities, under criteria established by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. In addition, the Special Humanitarian Program will provide entry for persons suffering denial of human rights and discrimination within their own countries.

Skilled Labour
3 Continue to ensure that skilled labour intake is integrated into total workforce planning procedures involving assessment of current occupation levels and future output from educational institutions, in conjunction with the Department of Employment and Industrial Relations.

Business Migration
4 Accept and manage business migration under strict guidelines which will include the provision of new jobs, new technologies or industries.

Review Processes
5 Continue to review departmental decisions, such as refusal to admit sponsored relatives, allow permanent residence, to issue return endorsements for permanent residents, to extend visitors visas, or to grant citizenship.
C ADVISORY BODIES AND CONSULTATION

National Population Council
6 Maintain a National Population Council to consider and make recommendations on the relationship between immigration, the economy and the quality of life. This will involve study of, and advice to the Minister and Government on, such issues as factors affecting population changes and immigration trends, composition of migrant and refugee intake, implications for the labour market and economy, migration and citizenship legislation, refugees, provision of information to and counselling of migrants, and special welfare programmes.

Independent Research Organisation
7 Continue to fund and support a multicultural organisation to engage in research, and to promote harmonious community relations, understanding and acceptance of cultural diversity, to combat prejudice and discrimination against members of cultural or ethnic minority groupings, to provide policy advice especially in regard to the provision of appropriate Government services, to monitor community responses to immigration intakes and settlement issues, in close consultation with migrant organisations and trade unions.

Consultation between Federal and State Ministers
8 Continue meetings of Federal and State Ministers responsible for community relations and ethnic affairs to consult on policies and issues, and to achieve close liaison in programme implementation.

Advisory Committee
9 Establish an advisory committee to develop comprehensive strategies to overcome the problems of a multicultural workforce covering such matters as language problems, safety practices, workers compensation, recognition of overseas qualifications, and the problems associated with unemployment and the exploitation of migrant workers.

D MIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP LAWS

Migration Act
10 Continue to review the Migration Act in order to identify residual injustice, breaches of human rights and civil liberties, and correct such anomalies.

Citizenship Act
11 Encourage permanent residents to apply for and gain citizenship under the proposed Amendments to the Act. This includes the rights of determination appeal to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal if
citizenship is denied or deprived. Australian citizenship will not be linked to any other national status.

E ETHNIC AFFAIRS

Government Services
12 Continue to ensure that mainstream Government services respond to the needs of migrants by improving liaison between government departments and authorities so that in the development and implementation of, as well as information about, policies and programmes, migrant access is guaranteed.

Special Programmes
13 Continue to recognise that special programmes are necessary to overcoming specific problems faced by migrants, especially in the initial post-arrival period.
   a National Policy on Languages remain committed to the development of a national policy on languages to ensure that all Australians have the opportunity to achieve competence in English, and to maintain and develop Australia’s language resources for the benefit of everyone;
   b Grants-in-Aid continue to support, and when possible expand, the Grant-in-Aid Scheme, for the employment of migrant welfare workers by ethnic and community organisations and trade unions; and
   c Adult Migrant Education Services continue to give high priority to funding and improving this service, with especial concern about permanent positions for teachers, development of a national syllabus unit, expansion of industry-based English classes and improved childcare facilities with provision for regular review of the programmes.

Migrant and Refugee Women
14 Continue to ensure that the needs of migrant and refugee women are fully taken into account when formulating policies.

15 Maintain, upgrade and expand staffing levels of the women’s unit within the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs.

16 Continue to make funds available for the provision, in co-operation with the Department of Social Security, of women’s refuge workers with an expertise in migrant languages and cultures to assist women’s refuges in caring for migrant and refugee women in crisis situations.

Interpreters and Translators
17 Continue to ensure adequate interpreting and translating services
are available through cost-sharing arrangements with the States, and by continuing and expanding the Telephone Interpreter Service.

Migrant Resource Centres
18 Continue to support the concept of Migrant Resource Centres, ensure that they are adequately funded, appropriately located to serve migrant communities, and administered by democratically elected management committees.

Multicultural Broadcasting and Television
19 Retain a commitment to improving the administration, programming, community involvement and access to multicultural broadcasting and television. Labor considers multicultural broadcasting and television to be an important service component of a multicultural Australia.

Overseas Qualifications
20 Recognising areas of state jurisdiction, continue to implement improvement in federal and state procedures for the recognition of overseas trade and progressional qualifications.

National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters
21 Continue to fund and support an effective national organisation for the accreditation of translators and interpreters with representation from appropriate State and Commonwealth Government professional and special interest groupings, such as migrants, Aboriginals and educationalists.

Equity and Participation
22 Believing that not only should all residents of Australia be given equal access to all the services and resources of the Government but also there should be provision made for equity of all residents (particularly those of Non-English Speaking origin) in allowing them equal opportunity to participate in decision-making and planning of the provision of such services, work with ethnic communities rather than for ethnic communities in attempts to achieve goals outlined in this platform. Consequently, the Labor Government will support that aim to achieve greater 'access and equity' for immigrant and refugee settlers.
12 FOREIGN AFFAIRS

A PRINCIPLES

Labor is committed to an independent stance on foreign affairs.

Labor's foreign policy is determined by its national, international and democratic socialist goals, a principled concern for peace and security and a realistic appraisal of power politics.

Labor's national goals require high priority for maintenance of Australian sovereignty in its international relations and an independent position on the issues of war and peace.

Labor's democratic socialist goals recognise our obligation to support international action for the advancement of human rights, economic equality and against oppression and racism.

Given the ominous escalation of the nuclear arms race, international conflict now carries with it the threat of a universal catastrophe. Therefore a principled concern for peace and security requires strong support for international arms control arrangements, treaties and actions to minimise the possibilities of international acts of aggression.

A realistic appraisal of power politics underlies an appreciation of the need to maintain relations with countries of diverse economic, social and political backgrounds.

B INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

A Labor Government will —

1 Give continuing support to the United Nations (UN) and its agencies
and to the UN Charters, and make every effort to improve the effectiveness of the UN as an instrument for justice, peace and security, and political, social and economic advancement.

2 Foster the Commonwealth of Nations as an instrument for peace and understanding, for political, social and economic advancement.

3 Co-operate with the United States and New Zealand within the context of the Australia, New Zealand and the United States (ANZUS) treaty. Recognise the need to ensure that its provisions do not derogate from Australia's right of national decision-making in foreign and defence policy matters or its duty to provide for its own security to the extent which its resources allow. Labor rejects and condemns attempts by successive conservative governments to use the ANZUS treaty to justify their failure to pursue an effective and self-reliant defence policy, and their failure to pursue an active and independent foreign policy with the alliance.

4 Recognise that Australia's future will be substantially affected by developments in the Asia/Pacific region, and accordingly assigns high priority to expanding arrangements for political, cultural and economic co-operation with the countries of East Asia and South East Asia; to furthering equitable arrangements with the island states of the mid- and South Pacific and assisting with their efforts to provide regional co-operation; and to promoting regional solutions as opposed to intervention by external powers.

5 Seek to establish political co-operation and understanding with all countries, regardless of their political and social system, and assign special importance to developing relations with other democratic socialist states and to those nations with democratic traditions similar to our own. In this connection the Labor Party will seek to develop its relationship with other democratic socialist parties in the Socialist International (SI) and the Asian Pacific Socialist Organisa- tion (APSO), with a view to seeking common democratic socialist objectives on major international issues.

6 Make every effort to encourage detente in East/West relations.

7 Recognise that the presence in Australia of communities with strong links overseas provides a bridge of friendship between ourselves and many nations of the world.

8 Acknowledge that the sovereignty of states is advanced by reducing tendencies to polarisation in the international system and will therefore support close relations with nations in the non-aligned movement and efforts for regional zones of peace.
9 Not commit Australian forces overseas except where there is a clear and imminent threat to the security of Australia. This does not preclude the possibility of participation in peace-keeping operations in circumstances where parties to a dispute support the operations and where a Labor Government believes that this would be to the benefit of peace and stability.

C INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS

10 Recognising that existing international arrangements reflect the interests of the major power blocks rather than those of the world community as a whole, and that all States would benefit from economic interdependence, will accordingly co-operate with other progressive developed countries to develop practical international co-operative arrangements to introduce greater equity into the world international system.

11 Considers a set of international guidelines is needed to ensure that developing countries obtain full benefit from the growth of economic opportunities, including expanding technological capacities and of the development of the sea and of the sea bed.

12 Endeavour to ensure that Australian investment in under-developed countries is such as to enhance the living standards of the people of those countries.

13 Establish a Bureau of International Economic Co-operation under the responsibility of the Minister for Foreign Affairs to ensure that Australian participation in all multilateral bodies dealing with international economic issues — including in particular UNCTAD, the IMF and the World Bank — is centrally co-ordinated as part of a common approach to North/South issues.

14 To achieve greater equity in the international system —
   a. support strengthened representation of Third World countries in these bodies;
   b. support policies designed to assist access top official credit for developing countries; and
   c. oppose imposition by these bodies of contractionary fiscal and monetary policies on Third World countries experiencing severe economic difficulties.

15 Support the establishment of a strict code of conduct for transnational corporations and financial institutions, to ensure that their operations, particularly in developing countries, respect the independence of the host country and enhance the prospect of equitable self-reliant development. A Labor Government will introduce a similar code for Australian firms investing in developing countries.
16 Continues to believe that it is in the best interests of Australia and the international community that the Antarctic remain demilitarised, free of nuclear weapons, and that there should be careful conservation of its environment and rational management of its resources. The Antarctic Treaty has been a major success in achieving these objectives. Labor will support the right of all countries to contribute to these objectives.

17 Recognising the importance of recent changes in the Asia/Pacific region, believes that Australia's economic future will be increasingly affected by developments in this region. Labor Governments will accordingly investigate opportunities for Australia to develop economic links with the Asia/Pacific region in ways which will be to the mutual benefit of the people of Australia and the region.

D DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION

Labor believes that a commitment to international development assistance is a humanitarian responsibility. It also serves the self-interests of developed countries.

Labor is convinced that a co-operative approach is a pre-requisite for achieving durable solutions to problems of world poverty and hunger and that it is within the power of the world community to solve these problems by comprehensive strategies. Labor believes that developed nations must renew their commitment to increase aid to, and co-operate with, developing countries so as to stimulate growth in the world community and minimise international tension by creating a just, equitable and humane international society.

Labor's approach to development co-operation will therefore be based upon —

a an unequivocal commitment to achieve the UN target of 0.7 per cent of gross national produce for official development assistance with an immediate target of 0.5 per cent by 1985 and an eventual target of 1.0 per cent;

b renewed diplomatic and other international efforts to focus the attention of nations on practical means of achieving action programmes that offer durable solutions to critical world human problems;

c the progressive concepts of development contained in the Brandt Report of the Independent Commission of International Development Issues, entitled 'North-South: A Programme for Survival';

d the wishes of the people of recipient nations; and

e particular attention should be given to programmes which raise the status of women.
Accordingly, a Labor Government will —

18 Work actively in multilateral agencies and other international organisations to ensure that international development efforts are directed towards strategies designed to achieve growth with equity.

19 Increase the proportion of Australian Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) which is directed towards the education and training of the peoples of developing countries.

20 Pay special attention to the needs of the least developed countries, with particular stress on the need for appropriate technical assistance.

21 Support programmes of development, education and information through government and non-government aid organisations, which are consistent with its principles of development as essential to promote awareness in the community of the grave and growing problems of world poverty and hunger and their threat to the future of humanity.

22 Give high priority to the provision of ODA to the countries of Australia's immediate region.

In particular —

a PNG will continue to receive special attention within the overall aid effort; and

b the islands of the mid and south Pacific will remain a region of especial significance to Australia.

23 Harness the talents and energies of the Australian private sector and non-governmental organisations more effectively into development programmes, especially in assisting developing countries to enhance their trade, industrialisation and investment measures.

24 Support developing countries striving for the stabilisation of trade in primary commodities at remunerative levels and for relief from growing debt burdens which have been exacerbated by the international recession and high world interest rates.

25 Ensure that its official development organisation is effectively staffed, equipped and maintained; has the degree of independence necessary to promote Labor's development co-operation objectives; and is capable of keeping Labor informed on the changing patterns of development needs and on opportunities for new forms of Australian co-operation.
E DISARMAMENT, ARMS CONTROL AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Labor is committed to the elimination of nuclear weapons and the ultimate achievement of general and complete disarmament. It will work towards meaningful detente and take initiatives in bilateral and multilateral negotiations to reduce tension and contribute to disarmament and arms control. To this end a Labor Government will use Australia’s influence with the United States.

Labor believes that the present arms race threatens these objectives and is scandalous in terms of its waste of human and material resources and ingenuity. In particular, Labor believes that the nuclear arms race threatens all human life and the earth’s environment.

Labor is firmly committed to the peaceful solution of political disputes.

*A Labor Government will —*

26 Use all possible influence with nuclear weapons states to bring about an end to the nuclear arms race and the elimination of nuclear weapons.

27 Work in the United Nations, and all disarmament negotiating forums, for the drawing up of a treaty to ban all nuclear testing by all states in all environments for all time.

28 Seek universal agreement on an end to the production of fissionable materials for weapons purposes.

29 Support the maintenance, strengthening and universal acceptance of the treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

30 Work vigorously for the drawing up of a treaty, for universal adherence, which would outlaw an arms race in outer space.

31 Work vigorously for the drawing up of a treaty, for universal adherence, which would outlaw the production, storage and use of chemical and bacteriological weapons.

32 Take initiatives in the United Nations and directly with other States designed to sharply reduce the arms trade whether overt, covert, or illegal. In the supply overseas of military aid and in the sale overseas of arms and other military equipment, the Australian Government will take into account whether the country concerned is engaged in military conflict, whether the potential for such conflict is high, and...
whether there is significant civil disturbance in that country, with an absolute prohibition on such aid and sales where the material would be used for the suppression of human rights.

33 Support moves by the United Nations to bring about an overall reduction in military budgets and to divert such resources from military expenditure to development and other economically productive activities.

34 Promote the development of zones of peace and nuclear free zones in the Indian and Pacific Oceans.

35 Oppose at all times violations of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations which, inter alia, prohibit interference in the internal affairs of states and the use or threat of use of force.

36 Urgently study and consult with other states on measures to strengthen the implementation of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations including especially those relating to the capacity of the Security Council to pre-empt the use of force and to mediate and to bring to an early end such force when it occurs.

37 Allocate as proposed by the UN Secretary General the equivalent of 0.1 per cent of defence spending for work on arms control and disarmament. These funds would be used to establish a Peace Research Centre in Australia, which will examine the ways in which disarmament and arms control can contribute to national security interests, support scholarly research and conduct public education programmes. Actively support the United Nations world disarmament campaign to inform, educate and mobilize public support in Australia for disarmament proposals.

38 Support the dissemination of information materials on the issues of peace and disarmament.

39 Support curriculum development in Australian schools designed to develop awareness of the importance of peace and which reject the notion of the inevitability of war.

40 Maintain with adequate resources a Disarmament and Arms Control section within the Foreign Affairs Department.

F  BASES AND FACILITIES

A Labor Government will —

41 Oppose the development and acquisition of nuclear, chemical,
bacteriological or other weapons of mass destruction for Australia’s Armed Forces; nor permit any foreign government to station such weapons on Australian soil.

42 Ensure that the presence in Australia of jointly owned, controlled or operated bases and facilities does not involve a derogation from Australian sovereignty.

43 Not oppose the use of Australian bases and facilities by allies in war-time, or in periods of international tension involving a threat to Australia, or in so far as they are involved with verification of treaties, agreements, and understandings on disarmament and arms control, such as the various SALT accords; provided Australian authority and sovereignty are unimpaired; and provided that Australia is not involved in hostilities without Australia’s consent.

44 Not allow permanent basing or the establishment of foreign military bases on Australian soil in time of peace, and ensure, in consultation with its allies, that the frequency and pattern of naval visits to Australian ports is not such as to constitute in practice the home porting of such vessels in Australia. In particular, and consistent with Item 33, development work on the naval installations on the Indian Ocean should be related to the requirements of the Royal Australian Navy and not to that of the Navy of any other nation.

45 Will make known to the Australian public the general purpose and functions of the bases and any change to these.

46 Seek to ensure that the tenure of these bases and facilities by other powers not be of such a character as to exclude properly accredited access by authorised Australians charged with the duty of evaluating Australian defence policy such as members of the Australian Parliament, the Opposition Leadership, Defence Department or armed services.

47 Also ensure that Australian personnel are fully involved in all aspects of the bases' operations and have the relevant technical expertise to be so involved.

48 Oppose the storage of nuclear weapons on Australian territory and the staging of operations involving nuclear weapons from Australian territory.

G SPACE CONTROL

Labor —

49 Endorses the freedom of exploration, access and use of outer space
by all states in accordance with international law, including the UN Charter, for the benefit of humanity.

50 Supports the use of space and all celestial bodies for peaceful purposes exclusively. It opposes any military bases, installations, fortifications or weapons in outer space. It also opposes the conduct of military manoeuvres in outer space. It also condemns the researching, testing or deployment of anti-satellite (ASAT) weapons or space-based anti-ballistic missiles (AMB) weapon systems by any nation. Such military developments threaten to destabilise mutual nuclear deterrence between the two super powers, and thereby increase the risk of nuclear war. Accordingly, Labor will make every effort to encourage the negotiation and ratification by the United States and the Soviet Union of treaties prohibiting the testing or deployment of such weapons systems.

51 Declares that outer space is not subject to national appropriation or to claims of sovereignty because of use, occupation or any other grounds.

52 Supports the establishment of an International Satellite Monitoring Agency, for use by the United Nations and by member nations who lack surveillance satellite capability.

**H DISCRIMINATION**

53 Labor opposes any form of segregation or discrimination on the grounds of colour, race, sex, creed or politics and will insist on ending every form of such discrimination within Australia and in Australian administered territories. Labor supports action, including sanctions, through the UN, to end such segregation and discrimination.

A Labor Government will take all appropriate steps to ensure that the external affairs powers of the Federal Government specified in the Australian Constitution are used to secure full adherence to international conventions relating to discrimination on any of the grounds noted above.

**I NATIONAL SECURITY DECISION-MAKING**

* A Labor Government will —

54 Maintain a National and International Security Committee of Cabinet with appropriate administrative support to co-ordinate policy, take collective decisions, and provide inter-departmental linkages. This Committee will comprise the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime
Minister, the Foreign Minister, the Minister for Defence and other Ministers up to a total of six, all of whom will have access to the most sensitive of classified material. The Committee will report its decisions to Cabinet.

55 Ensure that the Australian Government exercises authority over intelligence and security agencies. A Labor Government will give specific authority to the National and International Security Committee of Cabinet to set overall intelligence and security policy and to oversee the work of the agencies.

56 Introduce a system of parliamentary audit on intelligence and security.

57 Ensure, in accordance with international law, that no foreign intelligence organisations are allowed to conduct in Australia covert activities, including operation of electronic and surveillance devices.

58 Ensure that no Australian intelligence organisations are allowed to engage in any activities which are designed to destabilise or are capable of destabilising other governments. Also ensure that no Australian intelligence organisations participate in any activities of foreign intelligence organisations designed to destabilise governments.

J HUMAN RIGHTS

Labor —

59 Recognises that the question of human rights is a legitimate international concern, transcending national boundaries, and rejects attempts to describe a concern for abuses of human rights as interference in the internal affairs of other States.

60 Recognises that a pre-condition for an effective Australian role on international human rights issues is a convincing domestic stance on human rights, and, accordingly is committed to implementation through legislation and by other means of all appropriate instruments on human rights and fundamental freedoms.

61 Recognises that great progress has been made in codifying standards of human rights in international instruments such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Covenant on Civil and Public Rights and the Covenant on Social and Economic Rights.

62 Recognises that the rights to food, shelter, health care, economic security and education are fundamental pre-conditions to human
survival and dignity, and that the ideal of free human beings enjoying freedom from fear and want can only be achieved if conditions are created whereby everyone can enjoy economic, social and cultural rights as well as civil and political rights.

63 Recognises that the freedom of individuals and groups to peacefully dissent is an indispensable condition of civil and political liberty along with the freedom of thought, conscience, religion, assemble, association and the right not to be discriminated against on the basis of race, sex, language or religion.

64 Recognises that individuals everywhere must be free from governmental violations of the integrity of the person, including torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, arbitrary arrest and imprisonment, denial of fair public trial and invasion of personal privacy in the home.

65 Recognises that every government has an absolute duty to actively oppose the international crime of genocide wherever it is committed.

66 Deplores violations of human rights whenever they occur, irrespective of the ideology of the government or society which perpetrates them, and shall not be selective in opposing such violations.

67 Is committed to the preservation and enhancement of human rights in accordance with the general principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

68 Is committed to the implementation through legislation of all appropriate international instruments on human rights and fundamental freedoms.

A Labor Government will also take all appropriate steps to encourage regional and international implementation and enforcement of such instruments.

Resolutions

1 AFGHANISTAN

Labor recognises the right of the Afghan people to work out their own destiny free from outside interference and condemns the continued occupation of Afghanistan by Soviet troops.

Accordingly the ALP calls for an end to all foreign intervention in Afghanistan after the withdrawal of Soviet troops and supports negotiations to this end between the governments of the Democratic
Republic of Afghanistan and those of Pakistan, Iran and the Soviet Union.

Labor recognises the plight of the Afghan refugees in Pakistan and the problems this poses for the host country, but believes the most effective means of solving this problem to be the normalisation of relations between Pakistan and the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

Labour will support initiatives aimed at bringing about direct negotiations between the governments of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and of Pakistan, Iran and the Soviet Union with a view to achieving such normalisation; to ending outside intervention in Afghanistan; and to bringing about the restoration of conditions in Afghanistan conducive to the repatriation of the refugees.

2 ANDREI SAKHAROV

That Conference deplores the action of the Government of the USSR in denying political freedom to Andrei Sakharov and his wife, Yelena Bonner. We note that, along with other Soviet human rights abuses, this latest case underlines the vast gap between a one-party totalitarian state and the standards of western parliamentary democracies. We applaud Foreign Minister Bill Hayden and the Hawke Government on their recent efforts on behalf of the Sakharovs and urge them to continue their pressure on the Soviets to release the Sakharovs.

3 CENTRAL AMERICA

Although beyond our immediate region, Australia is concerned at the bloodshed and instability in Central America. We wish to see an improvement in the human rights situation and the creation of conditions for economic and social reform. Progress in these areas is vital if stable governments, supported by democratic choice are to emerge. We look to the United States to balance its legitimate right to be concerned about security in the area with a real concern for the promotion of these objectives.

The Government has been concerned at the level of military activity in the region which does not create a favourable environment for reform. We believe that the problems of Central America cannot be solved by military means and there is a danger that the fighting could widen, undermining the basis for achieving reform and reconciliation.
Australia supports the development of political solutions by the countries of the region and endorses the initiative of the Contadora group of countries to promote a dialogue to lessen tensions and to develop solutions to regional problems. We affirm the right of all the countries in Central America to live in peace and security free from outside interferences.

The United Nations Security Council recently considered the question of external support for anti-government forces fighting in Nicaragua. Australia supports the position adopted by the Council which reaffirmed the right of Nicaragua and all other countries of the area to live in peace and security, free from outside interference.

Nicaragua is seeking to develop a new society after years of oppressive dictatorship and has the right to choose its form of government without outside interference. The Sandinista revolution stood for important principles which received wide international support. However, it is a matter for concern that there has been an erosion recently of pluralism and civil liberties which were part of the revolution. Australia believes that the Nicaraguan Government and all other groups should give first priority to realising the expectations of the Nicaraguan people to lead better lives.

There are serious tensions between Nicaragua, its neighbours and the United States. Australia welcomes the initiative of the Contadora group in seeking to promote a dialogue to reduce these tensions.

4 CYPRUS

The Conference commends the efforts of the Secretary General of the UN in securing agreement to intercommunal talks in Cyprus. Conference regrets that these talks have not yet made any progress and urges the leaders of both communities to resume the talks to achieve a lasting settlement with full respect for the human rights of both Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots.

Conference condemns the continued presence of foreign armed and foreign military personnel in the territory of the Republic of Cyprus and the fact that part of its territory is still occupied by foreign forces.

Accordingly, Conference —

a Commends the policy pursued by the Australian Labor Government and urges continued involvement until a fair, just and viable solution is secured;

b Calls for the immediate withdrawal of all foreign troops from the Republic of Cyprus, and for the repeal of the Secessionist
declaration of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus which act Conference considers illegal and invalid;
c Calls for respect of the human rights for all Cypriots and the instituting of urgent measures for the voluntary return of refugees to their homes in safety;
d Calls on the Australian Government to use its influence to have the relevant General Assembly and Security Council Resolutions implemented including the Security Council Resolution 550 adopted on 11th May, 1984 and 541 of 1983; and
e Calls on the Australian Government as a Member of the Commonwealth Action Group to use its influence to persuade guarantor powers, particularly Turkey, to face their legal responsibilities in the solution of the Cyprus problem.

5 DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION WITH THE SOUTH PACIFIC

Conference —

Notes the revised section of the Foreign Affairs platform on Development Co-operation and in particular the high priority assigned to the South Pacific in section D, clause (e) of the Platform that ‘particular attention should be given to programmes which raised the status of women’.

Expresses its commitment to aid contributing directly to raising the living standards of rural communities, especially in the provision of basic public services — public health, water, sewerage and drainage, culturally and vocationally relevant education.

Makes a commitment not only to the UN target of 0.7 per cent of GNP for development co-operation, but also to ensure that aid meets more effectively the requirements of the recipient countries and in particular takes into account the special needs of far-flung and isolated island states.

Condemns any past misuse of aid funds to the South Pacific for political purposes. Conference declares that Australia’s aid to the South Pacific must be based on a predictable long-term concern for the peoples of the region.

Undertakes that a Labor government will assess development co-operation with South Pacific countries on the basis of their needs and the development objectives of their governments.
6 DISARMAMENT

The threat of nuclear war is a threat to the existence of humanity. If it should occur, no country will escape the devastating consequences, the full extent of which are incalculable, but are likely to go beyond the immediate effects of nuclear explosions to include a climatic catastrophe of monstrous proportions.

The struggle against this threat should not be left just to the superpowers and the other nuclear weapons states. Since all nations would suffer from their folly, all nations have the right to be involved in seeking to avert the danger.

The upsurge of anger and frustrations among ordinary people throughout the world against the nuclear madness is justified. Only if ordinary people demonstrate consistently their insistence that this madness be stopped will the world's leaders move to take action to bring it to a halt.

For the Australian Labor Government, there can be no higher priority than nuclear arms control and disarmament. If we fail in this, we fail in everything.

General and complete disarmament is the only way to eliminate the threat of nuclear war. This was recognised in the Report of the Palme Commission and is a view supported by the Labor Government.

As the Palme Commission also recognises, total nuclear disarmament will not come either quickly or by unilateral action, but only by negotiation and agreement. It is therefore imperative that while the Government pursues vigorously the goal of total nuclear disarmament, it should also support in the interim the most stable nuclear balance attainable. The Government should oppose all technological developments and strategic nuclear doctrines which destabilise that balance. For this reason, the Government rejects doctrines of nuclear war — fighting and limited nuclear war: nuclear war cannot be limited and cannot be won.

Labor supports a mutual and verifiable freeze on nuclear weapons testing, production and development as a means of breaking the upward spiral of the arms race.

A freeze on nuclear weapons should be only the first step. It must be followed by negotiations which aim for deep cuts in the high stock piles of nuclear weapons. The immediate goal must be the most stable possible balance at the lowest possible level of nuclear weapons; the ultimate goal must remain their complete elimination.
The Australian Labor Government will seek to develop regional initiatives to pursue the cause of nuclear disarmament including regional conferences and other initiatives in support of the creation of nuclear free zones in the Pacific and Indian Oceans and South East Asia.

Finally Labor recognises the importance of the active involvement of all sections of the labour movement in discussions and serious dialogue with the peace movement and action to promote understanding and create a positive climate for nuclear disarmament and support for positive new government initiatives towards this most crucial goal.

7 EAST TIMOR

The ALP expresses its continuing concern at the situation in East Timor, particularly its officially stated objection to the fact that the former Portuguese colony was incorporated without the East Timorese people having been given an adequate opportunity to express their own wishes through an internationally supervised act of self-determination.

The ALP indicates grave concern at reports of renewed fighting in East Timor and about the threats to human life and safety there, and calls on the Indonesian Government to give free access to humanitarian relief teams, to international organisations such as Red Cross, Amnesty and the Commission of Jurists, and to allow an independent international mission to enter the territory to make an independent and impartial report on conditions.

Accordingly, the ALP calls on the Australian Labor Government to give active support to international initiatives, that have the aim of achieving a settlement of the Timor problem. Specifically, the Government should support the efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General to bring about a solution.

The ALP recognizes the vital importance of developing a closer, more understanding, realistic and productive relationship between Australia and Indonesia, based on a more sensitive and better appreciation of the shared aspirations, as well as the historical, political and cultural differences between the two countries.

The ALP expresses its concern at the state of the relationship between Australia and Indonesia, which it acknowledges is not in a condition appropriate to two neighbouring states, with many shared interests and international commitments of fundamental importance to regional security and social and economic progress.
The ALP calls for the broadening of cultural, political and economic ties between the two countries, and for the opening of the widest possible dialogue between appropriate interest groups in the Australian and Indonesian communities on questions on which there are differences, as well as on shared concerns in relation to regional and global issues.

The ALP supports the aim of advancing Indonesia’s overall social economic development as rapidly as possibly, in particular the urgent need to improve the living conditions of the general population.

8 GULF CONFLICT

This Conference, being deeply concerned at the implications for regional and world peace and especially for the welfare of the peoples and States of Iran and Iraq, calls for the most active efforts directed towards settlement of this tragic and dangerous conflict.

This settlement should be on just terms, recognising the sovereign rights of both Governments, and provide a mechanism for the implementation of international agreements between the two states covering territory in dispute.

This Conference, being opposed to foreign military intervention in the Arab Gulf, believes that mutual security guarantees benefiting Gulf States should be sustained by bodies such as the Gulf Co-operation Council and policed by appropriate local security forces.

We also affirm the need for such organisations to maintain and protect open navigation in the Gulf and underline the sensitivity of this strategic area.

9 INDIAN OCEAN

Conference calls on Australia to take the lead in encouraging all Indian Ocean States to convene, at the earliest possible date, an international conference to realise the declaration of the Indian Ocean by the UN as a zone of peace.

At such a conference, Australia should support moves to outlaw use of the peace zone by warships and military aircraft for any threat, or use of force, against any littoral or hinterland state of the Indian Ocean.
Further, as an immediate goal, Australia should urge the USA and the USSR to refrain from establishing new bases, upgrading their existing facilities, or expanding their navies in the Ocean. We should also urge negotiation between these two powers, and other powers with a naval presence, aimed at reduced forces to the lowest possible level.

10 INDO CHINA

Labor believes that there can be no military solution to the problems of the Indo-China peninsula and accordingly declares that a political settlement is necessary based upon the following principles —

a the acceptance by Vietnam of an appropriate accommodation with its neighbours;

b phased withdrawal of Vietnamese forces from Cambodia matched by an effective arrangement to prevent Pol Pot and his Khmer Rouge forces going back into Cambodia;

c a form of self-determination for Cambodia;

d the creation of conditions for the peaceful return of displaced Cambodians to Cambodia;

e the acceptance by all parties that Cambodia is neutral, independent and non-aligned; and

f the restoration of normal relations on the part of Vietnam with China, ASEAN and the West.

Calls upon the Australian Government to pursue all reasonable opportunity to promote these principles within the region and among major powers with a direct involvement in the situation in Indo-China with the aim of facilitating a regional dialogue between the various parties leading to a conference of settlement of this conflict.

11 IRIAN JAYA

The ALP —

a expresses its concern at the difficulties that have occurred on the Papua/New Guinea border, particularly the human problem stemming from the recent flow of refugees into Papua/New Guinea;

b recognises that there are matters which can only be resolved by the sovereign and independent states of Papua/New Guinea and Indonesia; and

c calls on the Government to stand ready to offer assistance to help in resolving any of these problems, if requested by the Papua/New Guinea and Indonesian Governments.
12 LEBANON

Noted with grave concern the collapse of the authority of the central government in Lebanon as a result of outside interference in the affairs of Lebanon leading to confessional separation of the country into warring and ungovernable disorder.

Believes that continued foreign military occupation is a flagrant abuse of the territorial integrity of Lebanon adding greatly to the efforts of the Government of National Unity (GNU) to restore effective national government and to achieve political and economic re-unification.

Accordingly, believing in the inalienable right of the Lebanese people to work constructively for the reunification of their country condemns and calls for an immediate end of all foreign occupation and interference in the domestic affairs of Lebanon, supports the repeated calls of the UN for a ceasefire by all parties involved in internal conflict, and stands ready to offer humanitarian relief, assistance and reconstruction aid for the re-development of Lebanon.

13 MIDDLE EAST

Labor seeks a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East.

The attainment of such peace remains an urgent necessity. Labor thus affirms UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 which seeks such a peace; also UN Security Council Resolutions condemning acts contrary to such objectives, namely 388/73 (violation of Lebanese Sovereignty); 508 and 509/82 (June 82 invasion of Lebanon); 501/82 (annexation of Golan Heights); 476/80 (annexation Arab Section, Jerusalem); 465/80 (Israeli settlement in occupied territories).

Labor supports the right of Israel to exist in peace and security. Labor also supports the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people, including their right if they so choose, to independence and their own independent state. Labor recognises however that whatever arrangement is finally settled upon will evolve from processes involving the people of the immediate region directly involved in this issue.

Australia should maintain its refusal to recognise the People’s Liberation Organisation while it maintains its denial of Israel’s right to exist. Australia should however acknowledge publicly that the PLO which represents the opinion of a significant proportion of the
Palestinian people should be included in the process of seeking a comprehensive settlement, while expressing the view that the PLO's opportunity of engaging productively in such processes is limited, and perhaps non-existant, while it denies Israel's right to exist. Australia's diplomatic representatives, including its Ambassadors, should be authorised to maintain contact with the PLO representatives. Labor calls for a freeze on the Israeli settlement program on the West Bank and reiterates the view that these settlements are contrary to international law and significant obstacle for efforts for peace.

The Government should sympathetically, in the light of overseas practice, consider an application to establish an Arab League representation in Australia, and ensure that no PLO representative or member is appointed to, or employed at any such place while the PLO does not recognise the right of Israel to exist.

Labor would support the search for a just and lasting peace through the convening of an international conference co-chaired by the United States and the Soviet Union and including representatives of the PLO and other concerned parties.

14 NAMIBIA

Conference condemns the continued illegal occupation of the territory of Namibia by South Africa, the application by South Africa of racially discriminatory and repressive laws and practices in Namibia, the South African military build-up in the territory and the utilization of Namibia as a base for attacks on neighbouring countries.

Accordingly the Conference —

a supports the right to independence of the Namibian people and recognizes the South West African Peoples Organization (SWAPO) as a representative of those people;
b urges the implementation of UN Resolution 435 of 1978 which provides for the withdrawal of the South African occupying army from Namibia and the holding of elections under UN supervision;
c rejects attempts by certain governments to link the issue of Namibian independence to the presence of Cuban troops in Angola;
d calls on the contact group (USA, UK, Canada, France and the Federal Republic of Germany) to play a more vigorous and independent role in pursuing the decolonization of Namibia;
e condemns the attempts by the South African Government to by-pass Resolution 435 and particularly condemns the recent arrests of SWAPO leadership;
f urges the Australian government to play an active role in pursuit of these aims as a member of the UN Council for Namibia; 
g welcomes the recent invitation by the Minister for Foreign Affairs for SWAPO to establish an information office in Australia and expresses the hope that Namibian students will soon be given scholarships to study in Australia; and 
h urges those Australian companies operating in Namibia in violation of UN resolutions (Dave Ltd., Leichhardt Exploration and Steller Mining) to withdraw from their Namibian operations.

15 NEW CALEDONIA

Labor reconfirms its belief that the principles of self-determination and independence apply to non-self governing Pacific territories and —
a recognises that a colonial situation exists in New Caledonia; 
b acknowledges that continued efforts of the Kanak people in New Caledonia towards the attainment of self-determination and independence by peaceful means; 
c takes notice of progress which has been made by the French Government in relation to political evolution in New Caledonia; 
d recognises the legitimacy of the Kanak people of New Caledonia having an inherent active right to self-determination and independence; 
e welcomes the recognition by the Kanak representatives at the round table talks in July 1983 of the rights of other groups resident in the territory to participate in an act of self-determination; 
f declares support for independence in New Caledonia determined in accordance with the expressed wishes of its people; 
g welcomes as a concrete step towards independence the French Government’s intention to move to an act of self-determination in which the option of independence is included; 
h urges the French Government to continue to carry out its responsibilities in guaranteeing that New Caledonian independence be achieved in a peaceful manner; 
i further urges all the political and community groups in New Caledonia to work closely together and with the French Government towards the achievement of independence by peaceful means; 
j welcomes the French Government, in drawing up the new statute of autonomy, transferring, at an early date, more political and administrative powers to appropriate authorities in New Caledonia, especially for control of the internal affairs of the colony; 
k declares that the establishment by the French Government of the internal autonomy statute should be transitional and include a precise calendar leading to independence; 
l urges the French Government, in conducting any act of self-
determination, to take account of the desirability of excluding from the franchise those who are short-term or non-permanent residents in New Caledonia; and

recognises that the listing of New Caledonia on the UN list of non self-governing territories could be a non-violent, democratic means of ensuring that progress towards self-determination in New Caledonia is irreversible, regardless of which party is in power in France.

16 OVERSEAS AID

Conference welcomes the publication of the report of the Committee to Review the Australian Overseas Aid Programme, the Jackson Committee. The report is timely and indicates many areas in which Australia's development assistance programme to Third World countries could be improved.

The Government is urged to give careful consideration to the early implementation of its recommendations, in particular —

a Australia should continue to aspire towards the goal of providing 0.7 per cent of national income as aid (this is also specified in the A.L.P. Platform), and some further progress should be made towards this target each year;

b Mechanisms for reporting to the Australian Parliament and to the public on the aid programme should be improved;

c The Australian Development Assistance Bureau, ADAB, should have its capacity to administer the government aid programme improved by developing a better management system, ensuring a professional approach by its officers and being given a more independent status within the bureaucracy with control over its own resources;

d Expenditure on public information and development education should be substantially increased. This is essential to deepen the understanding of Australians of the reasons for giving aid, and to counteract stereotypes and prejudices. Development education should be part of the formal schooling system as well as of voluntary organizations, trade unions, service clubs etc.;

e Australia's aid programme should make a special effort to assist women to play a full and equal role in development and the aid programme should avoid discriminating against women. This means involving women's groups in developing countries in the planning process. It also requires making better use of trained women in the administration of the aid programme and making all aid evaluators sensitive to the needs of women in developing countries;

f Official funding to voluntary overseas aid agencies should be progressively increased to 5 per cent of the aid budget. Such
funding should go to development education activities in addition to overseas projects. These organizations complement the official aid programme and are a demonstration of the Australian public's support for disadvantaged communities in the Third World; and

While trade and aid can and should be complementary in our efforts to achieve economic growth in developing countries measures should be taken to ensure that the short term interests of Australian business do not supplant the longer term development objectives of the aid program.

17 POLAND
Conference supports the right of the Polish people to determine their own future free from external interference and pressure.

Conference welcomes the end of martial law in Poland.

Conference calls for the withdrawal of continuing restrictions on civil, political and trade union rights.

Conference is committed to the right of trade unions to organise and urges the Polish Government to restore this right to solidarity.

Conference urges the Polish Government to release all political persons and restore full civil liberties.

In recognition of the close relationship between a stable economy and political freedom in Poland, conference urges western governments to continue to provide economic assistance.

18 POLYNESIA
Conference supports the right of the Polynesian people for independence.

We call upon the French Government to establish a timetable leading to independence.

As part of the independence programme, Conference calls upon the French Government to cease forthwith its nuclear testing programme and remove from Polynesia all the military and technical facilities and the non-Polynesia people involved in this programme.

19 SOUTH AFRICA
Labor condemns the practice of apartheid in South Africa and the actions of the South African military forces against neighbouring
front line countries. Labor will base its policy on isolation of the apartheid regime and assistance to and consultation with the victims of apartheid. Labor deplores the policies of governments and foreign corporations which help to reinforce the policy of apartheid.

A Labor Government will —

a Direct its unremitting efforts through international organisations including the United Nations, and its own diplomatic influence to bring about through peaceful means the elimination of all racial discrimination in South Africa;

b Argue in international forums that recent constitutional changes in South Africa setting up a tricameral parliament with a chamber for representation of the coloured electorate constitute an entrenchment of apartheid and as such should be condemned;

c Support proposals for trade boycotts of South Africa within international forums and be prepared to implement such boycotts should they be widely supported;

d In the course of vigorously pursuing the Gleneagles Agreement decline entry or transit to South African sporting teams and individual amateur and professional sportsmen and women officially representing South Africa;

e Strongly discourage any Australian citizen or resident from playing sport or engaging in any form of entertainment in South Africa;

f Continue to allow liberation movements related to South Africa and Namibia, such as ANC, SWAPO, to operate information offices in Australia;

g Provide scholarships for South African non-whites in South Africa and other countries including Australia; and

h Provide economic support to the front-line states to assist them to become economically and politically independent from South Africa, for instance through the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADC).

20 SOUTH AMERICA

Labor recognises with concern the special problems that South American countries face in attempting to establish their own independent democratic governments. Labor will therefore —

a Encourage and support through international forums and other means the holding of free elections and the return of democratic civilian government in those countries which are at present ruled by dictatorships;

b Seek to prevent through international forums and other countries or external groups to 'destabilise' or in other ways undermine the legitimate functioning of a democratic government;

c Support the restoration of human rights for all people in South
America and in particular the activities of those organisations and
groups who are attempting to gather information about violations
of human rights;
d Support initiatives to reduce the widespread poverty in South
America in particular through support for the activities of the UN
Economic and Social Council; and
e Oppose programmes by the IMF and other financial institutions
which have the effect of imposing harsh conditions on these
countries and which particularly affect the poorest classes.

21 SOUTH PACIFIC NUCLEAR FREE ZONE
Conference, noting Labor's platform commitment to 'support a
nuclear free zone proposal in the Southern Pacific area' (Section E
clause 33) —
a Condemns the dumping of nuclear waste material in the South
Pacific as a threat to the living environment of the region;
b Supports South Pacific states, trade unions and other organisa-
tions in opposing the testing of nuclear weapons, nuclear devices
and also nuclear weapon systems in the region; and
c Calls on the Australian Government to request the United Nations
to convene an international conference aimed at banning all
nuclear activities in the South Pacific, to be attended by all the
states of the region and all the nuclear weapons states plus those
other states with an involvement in the nuclear fuel cycle.

22 THE PHILIPPINES

  Labor —
a Expresses its concern about the human rights situation in the
Philippines;
b Believes that political stability in the Philippines will not be
assured until the human and political rights of the Filipino people
are fully respected;
c Should ensure that Australian aid is not misused to support
abuses of human rights;
d Condemns the brutal murder of Benigno Aquino and calls upon
the Filipino authorities to identify and punish those responsible for
this outrage;
e Applauds the courage and integrity of Father Brian Gore in
standing up for the cause of social justice; and
f Welcomes the efforts of the Australian Government in helping
Father Gore and his colleagues to secure their rights under
Filipino law, establish their innocence and regain their freedom.
13 HEALTH

A PRINCIPLES

Labor sees health, and ill health, in terms of the individual, living and growing within his or her total environment. Labor's policies therefore emphasise public and environmental health as well as medical and hospital services.

A Labor Government will —

promote a physical and social environment free of hazards to physical and mental health;

encourage the community to participate in restoration and maintenance of the health of its members;

ensure access to basic health services for all; and

assist those with disability to adapt as well as possible to their circumstances and, as far as practicable, take their place in society.

B PUBLIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Labor recognises that much ill health in modern society results from unhealthy life styles which are a consequence of the socio-economic, occupational and physical environment. Many common diseases arise directly from pollution of air and water sources and from work place conditions.

A Labor Government will —

Research

1 Establish a research programme which will stimulate and fund
research directed at understanding and reducing social causes of disease. The programme will have a capacity to assist health workers in the field to review the literature and develop proposals as well as funding the actual research. It will also have a capacity to provide methodological guidance where necessary.

Through the research programme —

2 Determine the nature and incidence of disease and improve its prevention and treatment in the community.

3 Identify health hazards in the diet and in the domestic, occupational and community environment.

4 Evaluate the effectiveness, accessibility and cost of health care.

5 Develop a uniform national code of practice in industry and agriculture to protect the air, soil, water and food from contamination and deterioration.

6 Develop and implement programmes for sports and physical fitness.

7 Identify health factors in and access to, fertility control, in particular contraception and reproduction.

8 Identify factors in the ageing process.

9 Determine risk factors in vehicle and road design and physiological and disease states predisposing to road accidents.

10 Find effective methods of preventing and reducing abuse of legal and illegal drugs.

11 Determine appropriate size and composition of the health workforce.

12 Encourage the use of non-drug interventions as an alternative to pharmaceutical treatment of psycho-somatic and psychological disorders by providing appropriate facilities and qualified personnel.

Promotion
In co-operation with state, territory and local governments —

13 Promote the adoption by all states and the Commonwealth of a uniform environmental code to apply to the conditions of any industries being established to ensure no state or territory can become a 'pollution haven'.
14 Promote the fluoridation of Australian drinking water supplies.

15 Inhibit the promotion of cigarettes through direct and indirect advertising and sponsorships.

16 Use tobacco tax policy to fund smoking control programmes.

17 Review the practices, codes and regulations relating to the promotion of alcohol so as to promote in the community an awareness of safe patterns of alcohol consumption.

18 Use of tax policy to favour low alcohol beverages.

19 Support campaigns to increases awareness of, and reduce incidence of, road accidents, particularly when alcohol related.

20 Provide preventive programmes designed to reduce the road toll.

21 Adopt measures to protect the community from the hazards of radioactive substances.

22 Promote and fund family planning programmes to enable people to make rational and informed decisions regarding human fertility.

**Education**

23 Promote and support health education programmes on life style factors affecting physical, social and mental well being.

24 Encourage the development of innovative health education programmes and the implementation of proven programmes to increase awareness of known health risk factors, including drug and alcohol abuse.

25 Support the development and provision of community oriented health education particularly in schools and in the work place.

**Occupational Health**

26 Establish a National Institute of Environmental and Occupational Health. The Institute will —
   a commission and perform research into environmental and occupational health issues, including research as requested by the National Occupational Health and Safety Commission;
   b give priority to research into the relationship between social class factors (powerlessness, poverty, etc.) and work experience (job autonomy, stress, appreciation, etc.) on health and ill health;
   c establish appropriate disease registers for monitoring the inci-
dence of, and the environmental causation of, diseases in Australian society associated with paid and unpaid work;
d act as a repository of health and safety information (including a computerised registry of chemicals and their toxic effects) to be made available free of charge to other government authorities, employers, unions, and the general public;
e prepare criteria documents and research particular topics in the preparation of general environmental and workplace standards; and
f contribute to the training of environmental and occupational health professionals.

27 Develop education programmes designed for —
a personnel engaged in occupational health and safety;
b employers to ensure that industrial plant, processes and conditions are based on the application of ergonomic principles to ensure the comfort, safety and mental health of workers;
c employees to ensure correct safety practices and the prompt recognition of safety hazards; and
d self-employed, homemakers and volunteers.

Community Health
Give priority to the maintenance of good health and prevention of illness and under its community health programme will —

28 Re-introduce the community health programme as a joint Federal/State initiative. Special purpose funding will be provided through the states and through direct service grants. Continuity of funding will be an integral feature of the programme.

29 Develop community health services providing comprehensive medical and dental services, health promotion programmes and contraceptive services and advice, encompassing domiciliary care and integrated where appropriate with other health facilities and ensuring priority to areas of greatest need (including the needs of special groups).

30 Ensure responsiveness at state and local levels.

31 Ensure community participation in programme management.

32 Ensure the community health programme is complimentary to other health and welfare programmes.

33 Ensure that the programme is staffed by multi-disciplinary teams of salaried and sessional health personnel.
34 Provide for elected representatives from the clients, local community and staff in the management structure of the community health service.

C ABORIGINAL HEALTH
Refer to the health section of the Aborigines and Islanders platform.

D ACUTE AND CURATIVE SERVICES
Labor recognises that a mixed system of primary care has developed in Australia through private fee-for-service medicine; salaried doctors in community health centres and salaried medical services from hospitals. Recognising the contribution of private medical practice to the health system, a Labor Government will encourage the participation of private practitioners in the overall planned health service.

Labor also recognises the role of hospitals in the health system as centres of excellence in curative medicine, research and teaching. A Labor Government will ensure that this standard is maintained and will ensure that such services are properly integrated within the health system. This will provide continuity of care, equal access and rational use of hospital and health services. There will be maximum community, client and staff participation in administration at all levels.

A Labor Government will —

Medical
35 Be committed to a primary care system involving the options of salaried doctors in community health centres, salaried medical services delivered through public hospitals as well as private fee-for-service medicine.

Dental
36 Require the Commonwealth Department of Health to develop draft targets, monitor the degree to which adopted targets are achieved, report publicly (through the Annual Report of the Director General) as to their achievement, and develop policy recommendations to facilitate their achievement.

37 Support and encourage state provision of dental services for pensioners, pregnant women, the unemployed and other groups at risk and eventually as an alternative for all who choose to use such services.

Hospitals
Recognising effective planning of hospital services depends upon
government control of the quantity and quality of public and private facilities —

38 Support accreditation, audit and peer review procedures to encourage high quality care and to prevent over-utilisation.

39 Initiate discussion with the States and relevant professional bodies with a view to establishing a Certificate of Need Scheme or other systems for the introduction and distribution of high technology health facilities. Under such schemes new facilities introduced in the private sector would have to be consistent with agreed health service development plans if they are to be eligible for health insurance payments.

40 Expand the proportion of public needs within the hospital system.

41 Revise the provision of health statistics to assist in financing, planning, evaluation and research.

Psychiatric

42 Integrate psychiatric services with health, welfare and other services at the community level.

43 Integrate psychiatric hospitals into the hospital system.

44 Plan for the abolition of separate financial arrangements for psychiatric illness.

Pharmaceuticals and Pharmaceutical Benefits

45 Control the advertising of pharmaceuticals to provide balanced factual information.

46 Improve the monitoring of the prescription and use of pharmaceuticals.

47 Provide information on drug incompatibilities, side-effects, indications and contra-indications and interactions.

48 Promote the manufacture, bulk purchase and wholesale distribution of pharmaceutical products in competition with private manufacturers.

49 Enable essential prescribed pharmaceuticals to be free of direct charge to the patient.

50 Allow only pharmacists to sell compound analgesics.
51 Take steps towards establishing a research-based Australian owned pharmaceutical manufacturing industry.

52 Pursue a generic pricing policy.

E REHABILITATIVE AND LONG TERM CARE SERVICES

Recognising that there are special problems in the rehabilitation and long term health care of the chronically ill or disabled, and those in need of geriatric care, a Labor Government will develop an integrated and community based programme which will —

Rehabilitation
53 Regard health care as one important aspect of rehabilitation.

54 Ensure that a team approach, with appropriate specialists for each person, is used to determine the type and length of rehabilitation and the assessment of recovery, or acceptable adaptation to the disability.

55 Seek the co-operation of industry and training institutions in training or retraining and employment.

56 Support the provision of medical and surgical aids, home modifications and transport assistance for disabled persons.

Long Term Care
57 Integrate all aspects of health and social welfare delivery, including domiciliary care, day care, nursing home care, hospital and hospice care with the aim of maintaining people in their own homes.

58 Provide co-ordinated community support services, based on a team approach.

59 Provide an appropriate distribution of hostel, nursing home and hospice accommodation.

60 Provide assessment to match care and accommodation with medical, social and emotional needs.

F PATIENT ACCESS & RIGHTS

Access
61 Make available health and welfare services to all based on the criterion of need.

62 Develop programmes to ensure that those in need of assistance are
made aware of available services, and of their rights and access to services.

63 Develop interpreter and translator services.

64 Provide special health services for those who face problems of access such as aboriginals, youth, women, migrants, those in isolated areas, the elderly and the disabled who face problems of access to services.

65 Ensure that general existing services are sensitive to the needs of special groups.

Rights
Provide that —

66 Informed consent (as defined by the Helsinki Declaration) be a pre-requisite of medical treatment.

67 Make accessible to patients their health records.

68 Such records should not be disclosed to any other person outside the health care teams except with the consent of the patient or guardian, or at the discretion of a court or with the authority of the responsible minister.

69 Insofar as health records are required for medical auditing, peer review research purposes, the privacy of patients should be respected to the greatest degree possible.

70 Continuously review the rights of persons in relation to psychiatric committal and treatment to protect their civil liberties.

G GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Government Co-operation

71 Recognise the need for national planning and funding in order to develop policies integrating health services and also recognise the important role which is offered at all three levels of government in the provision of health services. Therefore, a Federal Labor Government will co-operate fully with state, territory and local governments in the provision of services.

Planning for Health

72 Strengthen environmental legislation to provide adequate consideration of health aspects.
Encourage the assessment of health consequences of changes to the environment through health forecasting and auditing.

Funding
Maintain Medicare.

Integration and Decentralisation
Recognise that the co-ordination and integration of a broader range of health and welfare services is best effected at the local and regional level, both to avoid the overlapping and duplication of services and to ensure that a full range of services is available, consistent with effective administration.

Community Involvement
Involve all sections of the community, especially providers and users of health services, in the formation of policy, determination of need, administration of services and the maintenance of standards.

Evaluation
Ensure that both government and non-government health programmes have inbuilt monitoring and evaluation to ensure their effectiveness.

Ensure that improved health and health service statistics, including region-based servicing rates, are made publicly available at the aggregate level and are made available in more detail to local and specialist medical groups for the purpose of patient care review.

Fraud and Over-servicing
Strengthen legislation and provide sufficient staff and resources to ensure that fraud and over-servicing by those doctors abusing the system is significantly reduced.

Health Workforce
Determine the appropriate size and composition of the health workforce, and implement publicly accountable mechanisms which are capable of controlling the size of the medical workforce and its distribution between specialities.

Non-Government and Community Sector
Acknowledging independent non-government agencies and community groups are important contributors in the health field, encourage the continuation and expansion of their work particularly in the areas of innovation and experimentation, education, community advocacy and social development activities.
Overseas Consultation
82 Explore the possibility of developing liaison arrangements between Australian health care agencies and universities and corresponding health agencies in poorer countries of the region so that Australian academics, researchers, practitioners and students may be seconded to those agencies for defined terms to learn about their health problems and to make Australian teaching and research and practical expertise available to assist in their solution.

Resolution

Medical Cyclotron
Conference requests the Government to support the construction of a medical cyclotron to be located in a clinical environment.
A INTRODUCTION

Labor believes that good industrial relations are essential to ensure justice for those in the workforce and efficiency in the functioning of the economy. This will only be possible if all parties reject confrontation and support an industrial relations system based on consensus and co-operation.

Labor's industrial relations policies are an integral component of the Prices and Incomes Accord with the trade union movement. The Accord is central to the achievement of the objectives of the Labor Government. Thus the Labor Government will actively promote the terms and benefits of the Accord throughout the community, will implement the policies contained therein and will encourage all groups to co-operate with its aims.

In conjunction with the Government's other policies, Labor's industrial relations policies are designed to ensure the right of Australian working men and women to —

an adequate standard of living;

an equitable share in the growing real output of the community;

a safe and healthy working environment;

full and secure employment;

equal opportunity and freedom from discrimination on grounds of race, sex and marital status, sexual orientation, age, religion, political opinion, physical or mental impairment, criminal or security record, national extraction or social origin; and
organise in democratic trade unions.

To ensure these rights, a Labor government will recognise the rights of workers to —

1 Negotiate collectively on terms and conditions of employment. This right, as recognised by the ILO, entails the right to take industrial action without penalties being directed against unions or their members for the exercise of that right. A Labor Government will encourage the creation of an atmosphere of discussion and conciliation wherein direct action will be perceived as a weapon of last resort:

2 Participate in an effective conciliation and arbitration system with an emphasis on the prevention and settlement of industrial disputes through conciliation.

3 Exercise power in the decision-making processes of enterprises in which they are employed through the promotion and development of industrial democracy schemes.

4 Be represented in the relevant decision-making processes of government through the full participation of their respective trade unions and the ACTU in tripartite consultative machinery.

5 Participate in publicly funded trade union authorised trade courses and to have access to programmes based on the concept of continuing education. A Labor Government will also encourage training programmes for public and private management in the belief that many current industrial relations problems stem from inadequacies in that area.

6 Be represented at the international level through the participation of the trade union movement in bodies such as the ILO and trade committees - such rights to be equally available, where applicable, to representatives of employer organisations.

B TRADE UNIONS

Trade unions have a vital role in the Australian social fabric. Trade unions have been and remain an instrument of social change and progress in Australia and Labor's industrial relations policy aims to maintain and strengthen trade union organisation and the role of unions in society. Recognising the special benefits and obligations of trade unions in the Australian industrial relations system, a Labor
Government will support the following objectives, where appropriate, by legislative action —

7 Further amalgamation of industrial organisations.

8 The recognition of the rights of unions to regulate their own affairs in a democratic way, free from government and judicial interference and at the same time expanding the role of the Industrial Registrar in advising on matters relating to rules so that unions will have access to information and independent advice which will allow them, where necessary, to improve and update their rules.

9 Exempt unions from provisions of the Trade Practices Act.

10 The continued encouragement of participatory democracy in registered organisations.

11 The resolution, in consultation with state governments and unions, of problems created for registered organisations at state and federal levels.

12 The right of access to workers by the unions who represent them including personal access, distribution of information and the convening of meetings of workers.

13 The rights of unionists and their committees and representatives to have adequate time and opportunity during working hours to meet, discuss, analyse, prepare and promote their ideas and initiatives.

14 The recognition of the special role of job representatives and the provision of security in their employment and their freedom from victimisation and the granting of the rights necessary for them to function effectively on behalf of the workers they represent.

15 The encouragement of the membership of registered organisations through the provision of preference to unionists.

16 Secure the greater participation of disadvantaged groups including aborigines, women and migrants in trade unions through, in consultation with the unions, the provision of services such as education to encourage greater involvement, child care amenities and interpretation and translation facilities.

17 Recognise that the legitimate role of the trade unions is not limited to legally defined industrial matters.
18 Support the establishment and operation of effective procedures within the union movement for the resolution of disputes between unions.

C TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT

A fundamental element of a just and practical industrial relations system is the attainment of terms of employment that are in keeping with the reasonable expectations of the Australian people and are of the highest standard consistent with the maintenance of economic progress. A Labor Government will strive to ensure that such terms of employment are established.

Wages and Conditions

Wage and condition standards must be such as to recognise the right of all employees to a reasonable and adequate standard of living and job security. A Labor Government will, in consultation with employers and the union movement, work for the establishment and maintenance of the following standards and principles —

19 An equitable centralised system of wage fixation which protects the purchasing power of wages and salaries, including over-award payments, by a system of full cost of living adjustment as required by the Prices and Incomes Accord.

20 Increases in living standards through the periodic distribution of national productivity increases in the form of better pay and/or working conditions and entitlements.

21 The recognition of the need for wages relativities which reflect true value to the community of work performed by all categories of wage and salary earners.

22 The establishment and maintenance of a viable and effective minimum wage which is adjusted regularly in accordance with movements in the consumer price index.

23 Equal remuneration for work of equal value.

24 Portability of long-service leave.

25 Application to employees of contractors and to sub-contractors, of wages and conditions applying to similar classifications of employees specified in the award, determination, or industrial agreements observed at the site or establishment at which such persons are employed.
26 Prevention of the erosion of the employment rights and conditions through the engagement of independent contractors.

27 The right of employees, through their unions, to be notified and consulted by employers well in advance of proposed changes in work methods or in the way in which work is organised.

28 The right of employees, through their unions, to have access to information on matters of direct interest to union members in an undertaking including personnel matters, remuneration, control, ownership of enterprises, proposed changes in development production and investment plans, and information on costs, pricing and profits.

29 The right of employees as part of a national retirement scheme to have access to superannuation schemes which are not discriminatory and which make reasonable provisions with respect to benefits and the operation of such schemes.

30 The establishment of standards defining the rights and obligations of employers, employees and unions in termination of employment situations. These standards would include powers for the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission to protect employees against unfair dismissal, compensation and reinstatement, and to provide for reasonable periods of notice based on age and length of service to be given by employers on termination of employment.

31 The establishment of provisions relating to redundancy which identify the rights and obligations of employers, employees and unions. These provisions include —

32 An obligation on employers to consult with unions before taking any decision which may have redundancy implications. For the purposes of such consultation, the employer should provide full information about the proposed action which may lead to redundancies.

33 An obligation on employers, in consultation with unions, to take positive measures to avoid or to minimise retrenchments due to redundancy.

34 Employers to notify relevant public authorities (including the Commonwealth Employment Service) of impending redundancies or retrenchments so that appropriate action may be taken by those authorities to assist the workers affected.

35 Reasonable levels of compensation for workers dismissed due to redundancy including a minimum period of six months notice of
termination; severance pay based on age and length of service; payment of pro-rata long-service leave and other accrued rights or provision for portability of such rights; payment of the total accumulation of superannuation or pension fund benefits; and compensation for other losses consequent on retrenchment.

36 Assistance to employees whose jobs have been made redundant to find other work or employment including the provision of training and retraining opportunities.

37 All benefits and status of full-time work to apply to permanent part-time work on a pro-rata basis.

38 The right of workers to maternity, paternity, adoption and/or parental leave and to freedom from discrimination in employment on the ground of pregnancy or childbirth.

**Australian Government Employees**

In recognition of its responsibility as the largest single employer and in addition to actions it may take in the interests of employees generally, a Labor Government will legislate, where practicable, and otherwise give administrative effect to the following policies —

39 Implement affirmative action throughout Australian Government employment, giving due regard to introducing other measures such as children's services to ensure equal employment opportunities for workers with family responsibilities, in accordance with ILO Convention No. 156.

40 In consultation with the industrial organisations concerned aim to achieve comparability of wages and conditions of employment for Australian Government employees with the relevant areas of the private and public sectors.

41 Ensure equitable and flexible staffing policies apply so that disadvantaged groups such as aborigines, women, migrants and the handicapped are given equal opportunity to obtain and retain employment with the Australian Government at all levels.

42 Exercise by Australian government agencies of their powers and discretions in a manner that does not discriminate on grounds of race, sex and marital status, sexual orientation, age, religion, political opinion, physical appearance, physical or mental impairment, national extraction or social origin, criminal or security record or educational qualifications, except where reasonably and justifiably required for the effective performance of work.
43 The standardisation of voluntary early retirement schemes in Australian Government employment.

44 Legislation to provide for the development and implementation of industrial democracy plans by departments and prescribed authorities. Authorities not in statutory relationship with the Public Service Board (PSB) to be prescribed only after consultation with the authority and any relevant unions. The creation of a grievance authority independent of the PSB in order to safeguard the rights of employees and ensure uniformity of treatment throughout the Service. Existing consultative machinery such as Joint Council and similar bodies in statutory authorities will be reviewed in consultation with industrial organisations concerned to ensure a process of genuine consultations and discussion.

45 In Australian Government employment, management shall consult with unions likely to be affected by a proposed technological change from initial planning stages and prior to any decision being taken through to completion, and subsequent monitoring. Such consultation shall include discussion on objectives, forward planning, implementation, impact on employees and means of dealing with the impact to ensure employees are not disadvantaged.

46 Revision of the objectives and roles of the PSB to give emphasis to the need for humane personnel management, for an open, representative, and responsible bureaucracy, and for development of closer relationships between government employees and the community they service.

47 The repeal of s.66 of the Public Service Act.

48 Implement a uniform standard working week in Australian Government employment consistent with reduced working hours in the community generally.

49 Use of contracting by the Australian Government only when activities cannot be provided efficiently from within the government’s own workforce in the context of longer term planning. No contracts will be entered into which would result in either the retrenchment or disability of public employees.

50 Contracts will be awarded by the Australian Government, or its authorities only to firms or persons employing a substantial percentage of day labour where relevant and which observe award rates and conditions including the provision of preference for unionists. Contractors will also be required to employ the required proportion of apprentices, and to adhere to the Labor Government’s
policies against discrimination. Preference will be given to Australian suppliers of goods and services.

D WORK ENVIRONMENT

51 A fundamental requirement of a just system of industrial production is that the work environment be responsive to the needs and aspirations of our workforce. The basic principles which underlie Labor's policy in this area are that —

The work environment needs to be adapted and designed to suit the people who work in it.

Employers have the prime responsibility to provide a healthy, safe and stress-free work environment.

Workers have a basic responsibility to themselves and to each other to see that the work environment provided by the employer meets their standards of health and safety.

In order to exercise this responsibility, workers have a right to know what substances (their chemical composition and structure) or processes they are required to work with and the hazards associated with them.

Peak councils of unions and employers at a national level, and unions and union appointed workers' health and safety representatives and committees and management at the local level, have the right to participate in the evaluation of hazards.

52 Australia has inherited a system of state-based health and safety legislation which has resulted in duplication of regulatory power, over-extension of scarce enforcement and technical resources, and lack of uniformity of standards.

Occupational health and safety should be overseen and coordinated at the federal level. Though, there may be serious constitutional limitations on the power of the Commonwealth Parliament to legislate in this area. Even without constitutional amendment, a Federal Labor Government can do a great deal to promote uniform health and safety standards in the states and territories, and should lead by example through enacting comprehensive health and safety legislation in those areas in which it has constitutional power, such as in the territories and, after consultation with appropriate unions, in the sphere of Australian Government employment.
53 A Labor Government will enact health and safety legislation which will establish —

A National Occupational Health and Safety Commission, responsible to the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, which will provide a tripartite framework within which hazard criteria and standards can be laid down and enforced within the sphere of Federal Government competence.

A National Occupational Health and Safety Office, responsible to the Commission which will draw together existing federal inspectorates and expertise, and will be responsible for implementing the policies developed by the Commission.

Procedures whereby unions and workers may be involved with employers in ensuring that workplaces are safe and healthy.

54 The National Occupational Health and Safety Commission will consist of representatives of government, employers and unions.

Its principal tasks will be to —

Establish specialist committees to formulate standards, regulations and codes of practice which will have mandatory application in the sphere of Federal Government competence.

In co-operation with the Environmental Contaminants Authority, establish a licensing scheme for new chemicals.

Adopt existing Federal Government powers in relation to health and safety.

Draw up model health and safety legislation for implementation by the states and territories.

Act as an agency to distribute funds to unions and local health and safety groups and worker health and safety centres, to assist them in mounting health and safety programmes.

Provide a comprehensive information service for use by employers, unions and government.

In co-operation with the Australian Bureau of Statistics, establish a reliable system of statistical collection on work-related disease and accidents.

Facilitate and fund approved education and training programmes in occupational health and safety.
The Commission's policies will be implemented by a National Occupational Health and Safety Office, which will draw together existing federal inspectorates and expertise, and will have responsibility for enforcing health and safety standards within the federal sphere in co-operation with the Environmental Contaminants Authority. Inspectors from the Office will have the powers needed to exercise this responsibility, including powers of entry, powers to test and take samples, powers to prosecute employers (including the Commonwealth) for breach of statutory standards, powers to issue improvement and prohibition standards.

The Commission will establish a licensing system for new chemicals used in industry which are involved in interstate or overseas trade or commerce, or in Australian Government employment. With the exception of pesticides, pharmaceuticals and food additives, companies are at present free to introduce a new general chemical into the workplace without making any tests to predict its likely effects on the health of the people who will work with it.

The licensing scheme will be based on the following principles —

Licences will be required for all new chemicals or new uses of existing chemicals (to this end a Register of all existing chemicals and their uses will be established).

Licences for new chemicals will be issued only on receipt of a satisfactory technical dossier compiled by the supplier setting out full details of tests performed and their results (including short, medium and long-term laboratory testing for cancer or genetic effects).

The dossiers to be open to public inspection.

Licences to specify restrictions on use as determined by the Office.

Dossiers will be used to compile a computer-based register of toxic effects of chemicals, together with emergency and first aid procedures, to be made available on demand to all legitimate enquirers.

It is essential to involve workers and their trade unions in the monitoring and control of workplace hazards, not just at national level through the proposed tripartite Commission, but also at workplace level. At the workplace level, unions and union appointed workers' health and safety representatives and committees will have rights as may be agreed with the employer individually or provided for in awards and determinations, but which shall include the rights —
To inspect the workplace at any reasonable time.

To receive timely health and safety information from the employer and the Office.

To represent workers in safety disputes or internal inquiries after accidents.

To accompany inspectors on inspection of the workplace and receive a copy of any report that they may make.

To prevent a continuation of work under unsafe or unhealthy conditions pending the arbitration of an inspector.

To be consulted on all changes in the workplace which affect health and safety.

To initiate prosecutions in respect of breaches of regulations where the Office fails to act.

For the workers’ health and safety representatives to be paid time off to carry out their duties, and to participate in relevant training programmes provided by their union and/or TUTA or other appropriate courses approved by the union.

To require that the employer establish a health and safety committee.

E INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACY

Industrial democracy is a natural extension of the democratic right of working people. It now has greater significance because of the importance of consultation to the Accord. The greater participation of workers in decisions affecting their working lives will lead to greater job satisfaction and will provide opportunities for the more efficient operation of enterprises.

It is desirable for employers and employees to be encouraged to be involved in genuine industrial democracy projects which achieve a sharing of power and responsibility between management and employees within an enterprise or industry.

These projects should be designed so as to allow for the special needs and features of the industry or enterprise concerned.

58 A Labor Government will encourage and support industrial democracy schemes based on the following principles and objectives —
The right of workers to have a say and influence in decision-making within the workplace and/or the enterprise without fear of recrimination.

The active involvement and support of the union movement as the principal channel of worker representation in the development and operation of industrial democracy programmes.

Access by employees to information concerning the operation and viability of organisations in which they work. A free flow of information is crucial to the success of industrial democracy schemes and will provide employees with an opportunity to consider matters important to them in a thorough and reasonable way.

Industrial democracy schemes shall be developed having regard to the individual needs of the industry or enterprise concerned and to the social and human needs of the workers in the industry or enterprise. The schemes may be of a representative and/or participative form.

Representative forms of industrial democracy entail worker representatives being elected by workers in an enterprise to committees, councils, decision-making bodies and boards of the enterprise. Participative forms of industrial democracy involve self-managing groups of workers or semi-autonomous work groups at all levels within an enterprise.

*In order to promote industrial democracy, a Labor Government will —*

59 Develop, in consultation with employers and the union movement, a national programme for encouraging democratisation of the work place.

60 Review, in consultation with employers and the union movement, existing legislation so as to ensure that any obstacles to industrial democracy in that legislation are removed.

61 Introduce legislation, where necessary and after consultation with employers and the union movement, to facilitate the introduction of industrial democracy schemes based on the above mentioned principles.

62 Encourage the development of a positive attitude among management, employees and unions about the aims and objectives of industrial democracy.
63 Play a leading role in demonstrating the importance of industrial democracy by instituting and improving industrial democracy schemes in Australian Government employment.

64 Encourage the introduction of industrial democracy in the private sector through allocating increased funds and personnel to advisory services, training, promotional activity, seminars and cost-subsidisation for new schemes so as to encourage increased understanding and use of democratic organisational styles in the work place.

F THE CONSTITUTION
65 A Labor Government will seek to use existing powers in order to implement the aims and objectives of Labor's industrial relations policies. If it is found that these powers do not provide a sufficient basis for the provision of a modern, equitable and flexible industrial relations system in accordance with Labor's policies, a Labor Government will seek appropriate amendments to the Constitution.

G THE CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION ACT
The Conciliation and Arbitration Act has been subject to continuous ad hoc amendment for a number of years.

The public and practitioners alike are bewildered by its complexity and its lack of a coherent industrial philosophy. Labor's objective is the achievement of a certain and readily understandable legal framework based on conciliation and arbitration and which is conducive to the establishment of a better industrial relations environment through the settlement of industrial problems without recourse to penal provisions.

66 To achieve these objectives Labor has, in consultation with the ACTU and employer bodies, established a tripartite Review of Industrial Relations to examine all elements of Australia's industrial relations system. Among the matters to be considered by the Review are the —

Operation of the dispute-settling system and the need to emphasise the processes of conciliation and direct negotiation as the basis for the settlement of industrial disputes.

Repeal of all penal provisions directed at unions and union members.
Continued valid, effective and democratic operation of unions as outlined in Section B, Trade Unions.

Basis and duration of appointments to the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission.

Problems created by a dual Federal/state system of industrial regulation and, in particular, the anomalies arising from differing standards of pay and conditions between federal and state awards for the same or similar work.

Provision of a limited immunity for unions, their officials and members against common law actions in tort brought in respect of industrial action.

H INTERNATIONAL
ILO Conventions
Australia recognises the importance of the establishment and adoption of International Labor Standards through its continued support and membership of the International Labor Organisation.

Accordingly, a Labor Government will —

67 Seek to use the influence and prestige of the Australian Government as a positive force for the improvement of industrial standards throughout the world and for the benefit of workers and people everywhere by initiating and supporting moves to seek the adoption of new and modern conventions and recommendations.

68 Where Australian conditions meet or exceed requirements of ILO Conventions, take all steps possible to secure the early agreement of the states for ratification of such conventions.

69 Where the decisions of the ILO provide for conditions which are more beneficial than those already existing in Australia, implement such decisions in respect of Australian Government employees and employees in the territories of Australia. In addition, take all steps possible to secure the co-operation of the states for ratification of such decisions and their implementation either through legislation or other means, so that their benefits may be enjoyed by all Australian employees.

70 Ensure that Australia is adequately represented at ILO meetings.

71 Support contact between Australian and overseas trade unions and encourage growth and strengthening of trade unions in other countries by providing training and other support.
I TRADE UNION TRAINING

- An efficient, progressive and well-led trade union movement is of crucial importance to all Australians. The education of leaders and potential leaders of trade unions in representative skills and industrial knowledge is a national responsibility.

72 In recognition of this, a Labor Government will ensure that the Trade Union Training Authority (TUTA) has the independence and the resources to conduct extensive and successful training programmes for union officials and members and to attract the confidence and support of the trade union movement —

Guarantee a properly independent TUTA by the provision of sufficient funding and by ensuring that trade union training councils have a majority of trade union representatives.

Encourage the provision of adequate paid education leave covering courses run by TUTA or authorised by the ACTU, its branches or affiliated unions.

Encourage and support the conduct of internal training by trade unions.

Develop programmes of training relating to economic policy in recognition of the trade unions responsibility in economic planning.

J CONSULTATIVE MACHINERY

73 Labor recognises the need to expand and strengthen consultation procedures between trade unions, employers and government. A Labor Government will ensure that full consultation on industrial matters occurs with all parties through the National Labour Consultative Council (NLCC) and other bodies.

74 Labor also believes that unions and employers should be consulted on matters which whilst, not strictly industrial relations matters, are of great interest to the parties concerned. Accordingly, a Labor Government will ensure that employers and unions are represented on the Economic Planning Advisory Council, the Advisory Committee on Prices and Incomes, the Australian Manufacturing Industry Council and other industry councils.

K TRANS NATIONAL CORPORATIONS (TNC)

A Labor Government will continue to police international standards set down for the proper industrial relations behaviour of TNC's in Australia. Recognising that international union organisation is an
essential step for organised labor to deal effectively with TNC's, a Labor Government will, through and in consultation with the ACTU —

75 Assist the trade union movement to monitor the global activities of TNC's.

76 Support international trade union secretariats.

77 Consider the provision of financial support for reciprocal international contact between trade unions.

L RESEARCH

78 A Labor Government will establish an Industrial Information Office within the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission to provide award, industrial relations and related information and analyses to all parties including members of the Commission.

Resolution

1 Occupational Health and Safety

Conference notes that —

A tripartite Interim National Occupational Health and Safety Commission was established by the Government to advise on the most appropriate means of implementing a national occupational health and safety strategy as outlined in the Industrial Relations, Health and Environment Platforms.

The Interim Commission reported to the Government on May 16, 1984 and its recommendations were unanimous.

While the Interim Commission's Report identifies key areas of need and strongly supports the activities for the Federal Government as proposed in the Platform, the Report recommends administrative arrangements which are at variance to those contained in the three areas of the Platform.

Conference accordingly —

Re-affirms its commitment to the content of the platform which describes the occupational health and safety activities to be undertaken by the Federal Government;

Calls on the Government to establish, as a matter of urgency, an administrative structure to give effect to the content of occupational health and safety policy outlined in the Platform.
2 Queensland 38 hour week campaign

Conference condemns the discriminatory attitude of the Queensland Bjelke-Petersen Government in relation to the 38 hour week claim by Queensland local government workers as promoted by the AWU and Plumbers & Gasfitters Union. The indication by the Queensland Premier that his cabinet was considering legislation which in effect would override the authority of local government councils to negotiate a 38 hour week under the terms of the Queensland State Industrial Commission Wage fixation principles, is worthy of condemnation of the highest order. Such an action strikes at the very system of arbitration and conciliation which is the keystone of industrial relations disputes-settling procedures in this country.
1984 National Conference.
Prime Minister, Bob Hawke.
W.A. delegates, Michael Beahan, John Dawkins and Senator Peter Cook.
NSW delegate, Frank Walker.
Special speakers, Andrew Theophanus, Marc Robinson and Ros Kelly.
NSW delegate, Paul Keating.
Victorian delegates, Barry Jones and Michael Duffy.
Discussion between sessions.
Steve Loosley and Senator Pat Giles counting votes.
Some of the delegates to National Conference.
S.A. delegates, Barbara Wiese and Mick Young.
National Secretary, Bob McMullan, National President, Neville Wran and Time Keeper, Jeannette McHugh.
15 INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT

A INTRODUCTION

Labor believes that strong manufacturing and service industries are necessary for the achievement of national independence, full employment, income generation and the accumulation of capital resources and human skills. This means that a broad base of manufacturing activities and skills is essential.

Manufacturing industry will need to cater for a substantial proportion of our domestic needs, if it is to develop such a broad base. However, the achievement of our aims also requires that there be a significant increase in the international competitiveness of industry and greater export orientation of sections of the manufacturing and services sector.

The necessary changes in the strength and competitiveness of manufacturing industry will be achieved through a process of restructuring and industry development involving revitalization as well as the consolidation and growth of new and established industries. It requires a concentrated effort by government, businesses and unions for the benefit of the community as a whole.

The development and implementation of detailed policy and plans for industry will require continuing consultation and negotiation involving governments, unions and management. Decisions about changes to the levels of assistance or protection to industry will be made with full consideration of the recommendations expressed by businesses and unions through the appropriate consultative bodies.

Labor recognises that government, unions and businesses have a mutual interest in expanding the opportunities for investment and employment and that each has a great deal to contribute. The basis
for agreement is substantial and such agreement should lead to commitments by all parties in return for the benefits rendered.

In order to stimulate a genuine commitment in those industries requiring modernisation and revitalisation, industry development agreements, involving government, employers and unions will be actively encouraged.

Labor recognises that such full participation will enhance a positive, constructive and responsible approach to the achievement of consensus on industry development strategies and policies.

B INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY AND BUSINESS POLICY

A Labor Government will pursue an industrial development strategy based on a comprehensive planning programme developed in consultation with trade unions, business and community groups. Key elements of this strategy will be —

1 A Prices and Incomes policy augmented by more equitable fiscal and monetary policies which aims to distribute fairly the benefits of, and is essential to, an accelerated rate of development in all sectors whilst avoiding the exacerbation of inflationary pressures.

2 The recognition that industry development is dependent on macro-economic policies which provide a favourable environment for economic growth.

3 Recognition of the importance of trade to manufacturing and service sectors and the need to bring Australia’s trade pattern into line with other industrialised nations and reduce the trade imbalance in these sectors by an appropriate combination of industry modernisation, export promotion and import replacement.

4 A comprehensive plan for the development and restructuring of Australian industry based upon —

Increasing investment, continuing improvement of skills and technology and expansion of output and exports and the Australian market from industries in which Australia has or can create comparative advantage.

Special attention to the development of ‘state of the art’ science, technology and engineering sectors to increase the rate of product and process development throughout the rest of the economy.
Promoting the establishment and strengthening of those sections of industry for which substantial domestic demand exists or is projected to exist, for which there are substantial employment prospects and which have the potential to develop to be relatively domestically and internationally competitive.

Promoting increased domestic and export manufacturing and commercial activity associated with mining and rural production including further processing of minerals and agricultural products and the development of equipment, supply and servicing industries.

Creating the conditions for investment, technological development and training in import competing industries which minimise the dependence of such industries upon protective barriers and their cost to the community while providing continuing stability of employment in these industries, including the formulation of special plans for those industries which can benefit from specific programmes of modernisation and revitalisation.

Formulation of special plans for certain manufacturing industries which are large employers of labour either nationally or regionally.

The plans for industries noted in above will provide for assistance measures, advice, consultation and co-operative action at both industry and enterprise level in the areas of research and development, marketing, technology, production methods, finance and management. Such special plans are to be based on measures to stimulate a genuine commitment to industry modernisation and revitalisation by the active encouragement by governments of industry development agreements involving governments, businesses and unions.

Co-ordination of policies bearing on industry development administered by other departments and consultation with the states with a view to securing co-operation with the states in the application and administration of industry plans.

Awareness of regional needs in industry planning and the joint formulation by federal, state and local governments of regional programmes for areas with low or imbalanced employment opportunities in order to raise the level of employment, improve the structure of employment and to minimise the disruption of local economies caused by growth or contraction of regionally concentrated industries.

Enhancing the environment for industry development through broad education and public awareness initiatives, aimed at increasing
commitments, understanding and support for Industry Development strategies.

5 To provide fair and secure trading arrangements through international agreements, bilateral arrangements and where necessary, through defensive measures such as anti-dumping and countervailing measures. Also, by monitoring transfer pricing practices and taking measures which minimise the exposure of industry to erratic exchange rate movements.

6 The use of appropriate powers including the Foreign Investment Review guidelines and the Trade Practices Act to enhance the capacity of the Australian based firms by reducing the high incidence of franchise and other arrangements which prevent or limit export potential and which artificially increase imports through intra-corporate purchasing preferences and practices.

7 The provision of facilities to maximise the export potential of small and medium size manufacturing companies by the establishment of an Overseas Trading Corporation or other appropriate initiatives.

C AUSTRALIAN OWNERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION

In accordance with this strategy, a Labor Government will seek to maximise Australian ownership and participation in industry by —

8 Promotion of Australian equity, both government and private, in industrial enterprises and the regulation of transnational corporations engaged in trade and production in Australia.

9 Encouraging greater Australian participation in the ownership of industry and commerce by both government instrumentalities, for example the AIDC, and private sources including insurance and superannuation funds, particularly in those sectors in which the potential for growth and technological advancement is greatest.

10 Implementing measures which direct private investment expenditure towards ownership of Australian manufacturing and service industries and away from purely speculative gain.

11 Whilst seeking to maximise return on investment by increasing efficiency and accountability of public enterprises in the service and manufacturing sectors through planned investment programmes and upgrading, a Labor Government will take into account the social and economic benefits derived from public sector operations.
**D  INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH**

A modern industrial structure requires access to up-to-date technology and a high level of applied research.

*In view of this need, Labor Governments will —*

12 Stimulate the level of industrial research and development activity through the provision of suitable incentives.

13 Further develop mechanisms which encourage a higher level of technology transfer both within Australia and from outside Australia, including the use of offset arrangements for government procurement, by technical agreements with international companies operating in Australia and through an expanded role for the existing business support agencies.

14 In awarding contracts for major government purchases abroad, require offset work of the type that will result in the improvement in Australian industrial technology. Safeguards should be provided to ensure that offset commitments are fully discharged.

15 The abolition of state government purchasing preferences and the use of federal and state government procurement policies to provide an incentive to improve the quality and competitiveness of Australian goods and services.

16 Maximize the purchases by the private sector of domestically produced goods by creating appropriate industrial supply structures with the necessary marketing and technical expertise to assist and advise both suppliers and purchasers of product and market availability and requirements.

**E  SMALL BUSINESS, FINANCE AND REGULATION**

Recognising that governments have a responsibility to provide an environment within which business, and especially small business, can operate effectively, a Labor Government will —

17 Upgrade small business counselling, training and advisory services in co-operation with the states.

18 Encourage greater diversity in the financial sector, including the services provided by government financed agencies such as the Commonwealth Development Bank and the AIDC, in order to ensure provision of equity and loan funds at reasonable rates, especially to small businesses and businesses with significant potential for growth and technological advancement.
19 Through a continuous process of review of the Trade Practices Act, especially protect consumers and small businesses from unfair and discriminatory practices while ensuring that the operations of the Act do not inhibit the ability of Australian companies to compete against imports or in export markets.

20 Improve co-ordination between business regulatory agencies so as to minimise the administrative complexity and cost for industry and particularly to reduce or remove charges, regulations and procedures which unduly burden small businesses.

21 Establish an enterprise development programme, in co-operation with state governments, designed to assist in evaluation of the potential of small to medium sized firms to provide financial assistance where appropriate for a planned programme of development including product improvement studies, industrial design, modernization and expansion of production systems, arrangement of mergers etc.

F PLANNING MECHANISMS

As indicated in clause 4 above, a Labor Government will seek to establish plans for the development and restructuring of Australian industry. This will require that a Labor Government institute mechanisms for consultation and planning. They include —

22 Continuing the process of monitoring, consulting and negotiating over industry planning, adopting of new technologies, Australian ownership, skill and training requirements and structural changes in industry and commerce through bodies which represent government, trade unions and employers such as EPAC, the Australian Manufacturing Industry Council and specific industry councils. Consultation shall involve full consideration of all principal aspects of any plans for industry and provision of full opportunity for the parties in industry to consider and comment.

23 Promoting through the appropriate consultative bodies Industry Development Agreements which shall include consideration of matters such as investment, pricing policies, government assistance, purchasing policies and practices by governments and corporations, labour requirements, training and retraining programmes, federal and state government standards, provision of infrastructure and seeking commonality of relevant state and federal policies, agreed industrial relations procedures and guidelines concerning disputes and demarcation, maintenance of a stable and predictable incomes regime, and rapid introduction of new technology with minimum disruption.
24 Creating an industry planning decision within the appropriate department to be responsible for the co-ordination of industry planning.

25 In conjunction with the consultative bodies, developing appropriate industry planning mechanisms, establishing an appropriate information base and projecting and planning patterns of industrial development and restructuring for the medium to long term based upon the principles outlined in clause 4.

26 To monitor, consult and negotiate over, and plan alteration in, assistance arrangements, adaption of new technologies, foreign participation, labour requirements and structural changes in the economy.

27 Ensuring that in the planning process, special plans are formulated for certain manufacturing industries which are large employers of labour either nationally or regionally.

28 Co-operation between federal, state, territory and local governments to strengthen regional economies, to achieve balanced regional development and to minimise any local disruption arising from economic change.

G RESTRUCTURING AND LABOUR FORCE POLICY

Labor believes that the restructuring and development of industry should be achieved with a minimum of social, economic and personal disruption to employees and their families. To achieve this, a Labor Government will —

29 Promote and establish the rights of employees to participate in the process of developing and implementing industry policy at the enterprise level, with particular emphasis on decision making in new technology, employment, work organisation and industrial health and safety.

30 Forecast requirements for skilled and other labour, and the needs of employees, for the provision of education and other facilities to support identified requirements.

31 Ensure the provision of adequate and co-ordinated training and retraining programmes, paid study leave and redundancy, provision of child care facilities, relocation and income maintenance schemes, with particular attention paid to specially disadvantaged groups.

32 Provide substantial and effective retraining programmes for em-
ployees and interim assistance for industries which are not economically viable and lack the potential to become reasonably efficient in order to allow controlled scaling down or restructuring of such industries.

33 Seek the co-operation of employers and union organisations to help relocate workers who are displaced through the effects of structural change and government planning.

Resolutions

1 Engineering Metals Industry

Conference recognises the serious and deteriorating situation of the heavy engineering and metals manufacturing sectors in the Australian economy. This has led to substantial and continuing unemployment, the loss of vital skills and poses a serious threat to industry strategy to the economy and requires an immediate government response in the form of positive assistance measures and financial support.

Accordingly Conference calls on the Federal Government —
To provide emergency funds in the forthcoming Budget to be used for the revitalisation and restructuring of heavy engineering and metals industry sectors.

The development through the relevant consultative bodies of medium and long term plans to develop this sector.

2 Ship Building

The capacity to build and repair ships in Australia is a fundamental need, yet recently the Industry’s workload has been at disastrously low levels. This has been due to lack of demand, low levels of investment in technology and facilities and poor work practices etc.

Conference calls on the Labor Government to take urgent measures to —

Provide guidelines prior to the end of 1984 on the extent of Australian Industry Participation in the building of the new submarines.

Ensure that as far as possible Government orders for building and repair work are placed in Australia.

Establish standards for registered shipbuilding and repair yards.
Facilitate an Industry Development Plan with an emphasis on industry specialisation.

In addition to the recent extension of EFIC finance facilities, assist the industry to develop appropriate financial arrangements and incentives to encourage exports.

3 Manufacturing Industry

Conference affirms support for a viable and effective manufacturing industry. The manufacturing sector is an important contributor to employment, economic independence, regional diversification, import replacement, consumer choice and reliability of supply.

Australia urgently needs a viable and effective manufacturing industry which will be an important contributor to employment and be export orientated if Australia is to regain its position as an important trading nation.

Conference advocates the promotion of new areas of industry along with positive import replacement to redress the crippling imbalance of trade in services and manufacturing products which has negative effects on the economy as well as employment and on government funds.

It is recognised that Australian industry is subject to change and that the pace of change may accelerate in the future and that change must occur if growth is to ensue. To facilitate this change industry policy must be applied in a manner to ensure the hardship associated with such change is minimised.

The growing incidence of sophisticated non-viable, non tariff barriers used by our trade competitors and the benefits which flow from such non-visible methods must be taken into consideration by the government to ensure that Australian manufacturers are not placed at a disadvantage.

Conference considers that if the growth of Australian industry is to be maximised in the longer term and the objective of full employment attained policies for facilitating change should be integrated with general economic policies through the planning process.

Conference affirms that interventionist policies which are closely monitored are necessary to bring about the growth which is required on a sustained basis if unemployment is to fall on a continuous path.

Fundamental to the interventionist policies is required a planning
mechanism. One of the key factors in this planning mechanism in bringing about change in industry should be the provision of adequate consultation involving industry, unions including the workplace.

In supporting a viable manufacturing industry Conference requests the Government to take into account the section of the Prices and Incomes Accord on Protection with particular attention to the following three statements from the Accord —

There is no economic sense in reducing protection levels in the midst of high unemployment.

That neither current economic conditions, expected future trends, nor balance of payments constraints justify reduction in protection in the foreseeable future.

That changes to protection in the future will be determined within the planning mechanisms in which unions and business will play key roles.

4 In order to promote an awareness among business and unions of the employment creation effects of exports and the realities of Australia's international trading environment consideration be given by Government to an export marketing education fund established and administered through the Department of Trade.

5 In view of the unacceptable high level of utilised offset export credits in the midst of high unemployment, Conference calls for emergency efforts to be undertaken on a government to government basis and a business to business basis to induce rapid completion of current offset obligations from existing productive capacity.
16 MACHINERY OF GOVERNMENT

A INTRODUCTION

The attainment of Labor's democratic socialist objectives and the implementation of Labor's policies must rely significantly on effective machinery of government.

A commitment to creative government intervention need not, however, lead to ever-growing government bureaucracy. It is crucial that the machinery of government be adaptive, innovative, efficient and democratic. Above all, it must be responsive to public opinion, accountable to the constitutional authority of Parliament and subject to the direction of the elected executive.

B OVERALL POLICY CO-ORDINATION AND CONTROL

A Labor Government will maintain and build upon its public service reforms which have improved policy development, programme implementation and programme evaluation. These major processes require —

A close co-operative working relationship of the Cabinet and Cabinet committees with the Parliamentary Labor Party (Caucus) and its committees.

Strengthened Cabinet power, procedures and resources for determining priorities and strategies and for forming, implementing and evaluating policy.

Arrangements between ministers and the public service to ensure that decisions are practicable and can be promptly implemented. Ministers shall continue to require departments and agencies to prepare work programmes for each functional area, identifying priorities, time-tables and resource implications.
Parliament continuing to have the capacity to oversee the implementation of laws, policies and programmes, including an effective Parliamentary committee system.

A continuing commitment to its policy of thorough explanation to the public of government policies and the provision of channels to enable Party, trade union, employer and public user and community group reactions and views on effectiveness of policies to be conveyed to the government.

Comprehensive and integrated planning in the allocation of expenditure priorities in the public sector (including the use of forward estimates) and the examination from time to time of the institutional arrangements necessary to achieve this.

The maintenance of arrangements which ensure appropriate consultation and co-ordination with the states, territories and local government where necessary for the full implementation of the government’s programmes. The co-ordinating capacity to enable the necessary co-ordination, regulation and distribution of information between Commonwealth government departments, required for the effective and efficient implementation of the government’s policy will be maintained.

A strong co-operative relationship between the national, state and territory parliamentary Labor parties, the Australian Labor Party and its branches, and the ACTU and the trade union movement. As well as meetings of the Australian Labor Advisory Council (ALAC), regular meetings will be held of union representatives, party officers and ministers and shadow ministers from the various parliamentary parties.

The establishment of a system of priorities review to co-ordinate programmes, assess the effectiveness of particular programmes in relation to government policy and initiate regular reviews of overall progress in attaining Labor’s goals. A major contribution to this process will be via the Labor Party’s Federal Platform Committees which in addition to their policy development role, will be required to review the progress made in the implementation of policy and in particular to produce detailed policy implementation reports. These reports will be prepared in consultation with relevant ministers and Federal Caucus committees and circulated to state branches and constituent units.

C THE PUBLIC SERVICE

Because Labor is committed to a public service which is dynamic
and adaptive and fully utilises the capacity of individuals serving in the public sector it has set in train a series of profound reforms to achieve these aims.

In doing so Labor maintains its commitment to the concept of a career service which is responsive to changing community values and needs, and is able to mobilise departmental structures to carry out a Labor Government's policies.

*This Labor Government will* —

Appreciating the essential political, as distinct from partisan, role of senior public servants and the needs for more flexible and democratic staffing structures —

1 Guard against any group or department developing itself into an exclusive elite with excessive powers, administrative dominance and/or unwarranted conditions of employment.

2 Through its public service reforms, ensure a flexible system of government appointment of departmental heads.

3 Continue to encourage mobility between and within departments and especially between central co-ordinating and operating departments and agencies.

4 Further develop the process of appointing officers with special expertise, on secondment or contract, to create a more open and responsive service.

5 Continue to encourage and enable the long and short term exchange of personnel between the public service and the private sector, educational institutions, unions, special interest groups and the state services, with recruitment conditions and superannuation provision which allow for mobility.

6 While maintaining the merit principle in selection, maintain and build upon its special programmes of recruitment, encouragement and training to ensure a rapid increase of representation at senior levels of sections of the workforce currently under-represented, e.g. women, migrants and Aborigines.

7 Introduce an Australian nationality requirement for entry into the public service.

8 Create more open and participatory management structures within departments and agencies.
9 Continue to require a Technological Impact Statement on the introduction of new technology in government departments and agencies.

10 Review existing statutory authorities and make necessary changes to ensure their accountability to the Parliament and minister and their adherence to the principles of public administration as set out in this platform. In addition —
   a ensure that when new functions of government are established, that so far as possible these are carried out within ministerial departments; and
   b introduce where appropriate ‘sunset’ legislation to set fixed terms to the life of government authorities to ensure a regular review of their functions and efficiency.

11 Believing that public servants need both authority and responsibility to do their best work, further extend the practice of accountable management throughout the public service in order to decentralise and delegate a capacity to act effectively, and to encourage individual initiative within departments and agencies.

12 Further introduce improved budgeting systems to define objectives clearly and to increase financial responsibilities of programme managers.

13 Support the conduct of efficiency audits and effectiveness reviews on a continuing basis and monitor programmes rigorously to ensure that the programmes achieve their stated objectives.

14 Build upon developments in the area of personnel budgeting arrangements which better relate the staffing and establishment management process to government policies and priorities.

15 Ensure the greater devolution from the top, and from Canberra, of decision-making so as to ensure the public service is responsive to the needs of the community.

16 Ensure that, in order to improve government accountability and responsibility, the community has access to government information through —
   a freedom of information legislation with narrow exemptions, including the mandatory release of internal working documents when the Administrative Appeals Tribunal considers it in the public interest; and
   b more open operating procedures and that new staff development programmes are introduced to train public servants for this widened role.
17 Believing that the public service should be open to public participation in its decision-making, continue to emphasize consultative processes such as advisory bodies representative of community views.

18 Continue to ensure the effective operation of the Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act and in particular permit exemption from its provisions only in exceptional circumstances.

Resolution

National Conference notes that the Machinery of Government section of the Platform provides that —

'a commitment to creative government intervention need not lead to ever-growing government bureaucracy', and accordingly recommends to the government that all proposals which may involve the establishment or restructuring of public authorities and other non-departmental organisations be considered in the light of the following criteria —

their compatibility with the overall Machinery of Government policy the Party;

the possibility of their functions being performed within the existing departmental structure; and

the cost of their establishment in the context of the government's overall expenditure priorities.
A INTRODUCTION

Labor's mineral and energy policies are based on the principle of government supervision of Australia's mining and petroleum industries through a policy of clear and consistent guidelines. This policy will be administered in consultation with industry and labour to establish a stable climate for long-life investment that will provide growth to the Australian economy and equitably share Australia's resource-based wealth between producers and the community. The aim of the policy is the orderly and balanced development of Australia's natural resources. This is in harmony with Labor's clear and long-standing commitment to the Australian ownership and control of its own industries. Labor's domestic energy policy is premised on the need to improve energy efficiency, to identify new energy reserves in the clear recognition of the finite nature of fossil fuels, the hidden costs associated with the use of such fuels, and the long lead time required for the transition from conventional fuel to renewable sources of energy.

Accordingly, a Labor Government will —

1 Encourage the growth and expansion of the Australian capital market so that Australian companies can mobilise the capital required to participate in new resource ventures consistent with Labor's broader economic and social objectives.

2 Ensure that the rate and scale of resource development is compatible with our commitment to maintaining a nationally diversified productive base including the promotion of secondary processing of minerals in Australia to provide employment, upgrade the nation's basic infrastructure and improve earnings.
3 Ensure that resource-based regional projects are accompanied by the necessary social infrastructure including housing, public transport, community services and cultural and recreational amenities.

B OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL

4 Maximise the Australian ownership and control of Australia’s mineral and energy resources while recognising the continuing role to be played by foreign capital in the exploration and development of Australian resources.

5 Use its export powers under the Constitution to enforce the following equity requirements in resource development projects —
   a require where feasible 51% Australian equity in all new projects, except for companies that are progressively shifting the level of foreign equity downwards in favour of Australian participation at a rate and on terms acceptable to a Labor Government;
   b but in the event that domestic investors are either unable or unwilling to participate in a project considered to be desirable in the national interest, conditional approval may be granted if agreement is reached to lift the level of local equity within an acceptable time frame; and
   c establish a mutual resource development fund whose shares will be offered to small Australian investors. Foreign investors seeking approval for new or expanded investment in the mineral area will be required to offer 10% of the equity in each venture to the fund.

6 Provide the Foreign Investment Review Board with clearer guidelines to facilitate a more rigorous evaluation of the economic and social benefits and costs of resource projects and to minimise the extent to which minority foreign ownership can exercise control.

7 Ensure the AIDC plays a substantial role as a provider of investment capital and promotes government equity in specific areas of the mineral industry where this is considered appropriate in the national interest, particularly in the provision of industry windows to facilitate the development of government policy.

8 Reimpose restrictions on the capital raisings of foreign corporations borrowing in Australia for resources projects.

9 Prohibit customer equity in mineral export projects to ensure the maintenance of arms length relationships in the terms and pricing of mineral exports, except where the benefits of such equity can be shown to override the disbenefits.
C PLANNING OF MINERALS AND ENERGY RESOURCES

10 To ensure the rational and co-ordinated development of the nation’s minerals and energy resources, develop in consultation with state governments, the private sector and trade unions, indicative plans for the orderly exploitation of Australia’s minerals and energy resources for both domestic and export markets. Such planning mechanisms would include —

a appropriate consultation with EPAC; and

b the use of Loan Council decision-making to promote the efficient use of resources and an equitable sharing of the benefits of resources developments.

This will include, where appropriate, the conservation of scarce resources.

Within this indicative planning framework —

11 Develop estimates of the timing and nature of infrastructure requirements and consult with the states with a view to ensuring that these requirements, including social infrastructure such as housing, public transport and community services, are in place when required.

12 Consult with the states to develop rational pricing guidelines for energy and infrastructure services, particularly where exports of energy are projected, so as to ensure that optimal prices are achieved for exported energy.

13 Undertake regular public reviews of the scale, character and likely economic, social and environmental consequences of particular mineral resource industries.

14 Consult with the states to co-ordinate the approval of new mineral projects with the aim of avoiding the occurrence of over-investment in supply capacity.

15 Prepare a national indicative energy plan to assist in achieving the rational and efficient use of current energy resources on a national basis, placing particular emphasis upon maintaining the long term availability of energy for transport and energy intensive manufacturing activities, while pointing the way for a gradual and orderly transition towards greater development and use of renewable energy sources.
D EXPORT CONTROLS

Use the Australian Government's power under the Constitution to —

16 Plan for the orderly development of Australia’s mineral resources to minimise oversupply situations which result in a loss of national income through lower prices and which lead to a misallocation of resources.

17 Supervise and monitor international resource negotiations between mining companies in Australia and overseas buyers to ensure that minerals exported are sold at prices commensurate with the national interest.

18 Facilitate at international negotiations the presentation of a unified selling front by companies mining the major bulk minerals in Australia to minimise price and tonnage discrimination against individual producers which may result in a lower level of export earnings across particular industries.

19 Establish a data base and price monitoring procedures, jointly administered by the Departments of Trade and of Resources and Energy, to ensure that the objectives described above can be achieved.

20 Monitor the financial arrangements and transactions of vertically integrated mineral industries operating in Australia, such as the aluminium industry, to prevent transfer pricing or other practices which may exist to minimise income.

21 Support developing countries in establishing improved international commodity arrangements which provide for fair returns to those countries.

E TAXATION

The development of Australia’s resources requires a government tax regime which ensures the benefits of resources are shared equitably between producers and the Australian community.

Whilst explorers need a predictable regime that provides adequate incentives, it is vital that excess profits and windfall gains are adequately taxed.

22 Replace existing taxes on petroleum production with a resources rent tax, in conjunction with front end payments by tender for the right to explore highly prospective areas.

23 Consult with the various state and territory governments with a view
to rationalising the complex system of state taxes, royalties and charges currently applicable to the resource industries with the objective of replacing them, where economic rents are high, with a resources rent tax.

Amend Federal tax legislation to prevent transfer pricing and other tax avoidance activities practised by vertically integrated mineral industries and provide the Taxation Commissioner with explicit guidelines to determine the actual level of taxable income.

F ENERGY POLICY

By comparison with many industrialised countries, Australia is endowed with a wide range of indigenous energy resources, many of which are available in relatively large quantities.

At present, coal and LPG are produced substantially in excess of local demand for export; natural gas, already in use locally, is under development for export. Australia's present high level of petroleum self-sufficiency will decline unless further hydrocarbon reserves are identified and conservation measures implemented to effect reductions upon demand. The design of Australia's cities, the distances between centres and the paucity of efficient public transport will maintain the motor vehicle as the principal transport vehicle in the intermediate term.

National energy policy should be directed to ensuring that, as far as possible, this favourable situation is continued into the future; in particular, that indigenous hydrocarbon reserves are extended by exploration, substitution and synthesis; that Australia undertakes an adequate research and development effort in energy production, consumption and conservation technologies; and that the development of Australia's energy resources is carried out soundly, with due regard for the interests of producers and consumers, of present and future generations, and of different regions.

Research into energy conservation and renewable energy sources will be given a high priority.

Implement a National Energy Policy which will have as its aim a long-term sustainable indigenous energy economy which —

a ensures that energy resources and technologies are available, and appropriate, to meet the needs of the Australian community;

b treats state and regional energy problems on an integral basis with national energy planning objectives;

c encourages efficiency in energy development and use;
d provides processes for regular consultation and co-operation between the states and territories and the Commonwealth;  
e includes the implementation of sound energy utilization practices by governments; and  
f maintains and co-ordinates a satisfactory overall national effort in energy research development and documentation.

G ADVISORY AND CONSULTATION PROCESSES
26 Continue to consult and confer with state and territory governments through, for instance, the Australian Minerals and Energy Council.

27 Continue to seek advice from the National Energy Research Development and Demonstration Council on the provision and allocation of support for energy research, consistent with the government's other energy policy objectives in particular the maintenance of an adequate national energy research effort.

28 Establish other advisory and consultative machinery as necessary, which would enable the government to draw on the relevant expertise, experience and interest of the public and private sectors, producers and consumers of energy, trade unionists and other specialists, in the development and implementation of its national energy programmes.

H ENERGY CONSUMPTION AND CONSERVATION
29 Integrate the objective of improved energy use efficiency with the objectives of other Government programmes and policies, such as building construction, employment generation, land use and transport planning, increased industrial competitiveness and environmental enhancement.

30 Through appropriate policies and programmes and in co-operation with the states and territories, continue to encourage the more efficient and equitable use of energy in all sectors of the economy.

31 Ensure that the Commonwealth Government, in the design, purchase or operation of its own buildings, facilities and transport, seeks to minimise its energy expenditure and, in this way, provide leadership and example to the rest of the community in the efficient utilisation of energy.

32 Encourage and support industrial sectors of the economy to establish standards of energy efficiency and specific targets for reductions in per unit energy consumption appropriate to each sector.
In co-operation with the state and territories —

33 Establish standards for improvement in the average fuel economy of new road vehicles.

34 Encourage appropriate agencies to set and adopt energy performance standards for new buildings and energy consuming appliances.

35 Encourage thermal improvements in low income housing.

36 Investigate the feasibility of offering selected financial incentives and assistance to encourage the more rapid adoption of energy-efficient technologies and practices, including renewable energy technologies, in cases where such technologies and practices have demonstrable nett social benefits, for example, low energy features in first home purchases of low to middle income earners, and the purchase of solar energy equipment like wind generators and solar photo-voltaic cells on properties not connected to the electricity grid.

37 Encourage and assist educational institutions to develop and offer courses consistent with improving energy utilisation practices.

38 Ensure that the Australian Bureau of Statistics and other Commonwealth agencies where appropriate collect and publish an adequate range and quality of statistics relating to energy consumption to assist both the public and private sectors to plan their energy utilisation effectively.

I PETROLEUM

39 Establish firm investment guidelines, to encourage an intensified national oil and gas exploration effort.

40 Facilitate the efficient production of crude oil from new and existing fields with import parity related crude oil pricing, in conjunction with a resources rent tax.

41 Monitor the performance of the petroleum production industry to ensure that it maximises the benefits accruing to the Australian community with particular reference to rates of depletion and the acquisition of technological capability within Australia.

42 Facilitate the optimum indigenous consumption of LPG by —

a establishing fair and stable pricing arrangements and maintain a substantial price advantage for automotive users of LPG;
b providing useful information to potential customers, in co-operation with the states and the industry; and
c implementing other direct measures which are appropriate.

J AN AUSTRALIAN HYDROCARBON CORPORATION

With the exception of the United States, all of the oil exporting nations and every oil importing country of consequence have established government companies for active involvement in the oil and gas industry.

Public participation in the oil industry provides a means for the nation to share fully in the benefits of its own oil and gas reserves without impeding a healthy level of private oil and gas activity.

Only through participation can government acquire its own direct knowledge of the industry. Government enterprise can enhance the nation's energy independence whilst providing other benefits as an integrated public oil company.

Government participation in the oil industry provides a means for the nation to share fully in the benefits of its own oil and gas reserves without impeding a healthy level of private oil and gas activities. Only through participation can government acquire its own direct knowledge of the industry. Government enterprise can enhance the nation's energy independence whilst providing other benefits as an integrated public oil company.

43 Establish a public corporation, responsible to the Commonwealth Government, to participate in the development of Australia's oil and gas resources, such that the corporation —
a will have strategic as well as commercial objectives;
b may, with the approval of the Government, engage in any of the activities of an integrated oil company;
c may operate independently or in joint venture with private or other public enterprise;
d will act commercially when participating with private companies, but may explore and locate reserves without seeking to develop them immediately, in the national strategic interest, when acting solely;
e will be funded as appropriate by Commonwealth grants and loans, and by public borrowings, provided that in its commercial operations the corporation provides a satisfactory return to its investors.

44 This Corporation will not be responsible for the regulation of oil and gas developments. This will be solely the responsibility of government.
K  NATURAL GAS

45 Retain the National Pipeline Authority and insist that all new on-shore natural gas pipelines are owned and controlled by government — state or federal — to ensure that gas distribution satisfies national energy policy objectives.

46 Keep under review the economic feasibility of an inter-connected trans-continental national pipeline grid to link Australia's industrial cities with gas producing areas.

L  COAL

47 Promote, in co-operation with the states, the sound development of Australia's coal resources, with particular regard to domestic requirements, the balanced development of Australia's coal exports, and the need for a stable and profitable coal industry.

48 Seek to expand the Commonwealth/New South Wales Joint Coal Board so as to include other coal producing states.

49 Review the current form of the Joint Coal Board, with a view to including representation from both unions and companies.

50 Continue to support the Australian Coal Consultative Council, involving representation from Commonwealth and relevant state governments, trade unions and coal companies, as a forum for continued discussion and review of the economic and structural problems of the coal industry and as a tripartite source of advice to the government on export controls.

51 Operate the foreign investment rules to prevent domination of coal reserves and coal marketing arrangements by major foreign interests, particularly oil companies.

52 Recognising the current crisis facing the coal industry arising from —
   a reduced demand;
   b rationalisation of production;
   c pricing policies of sellers and buyers; and
   d changing technology.

Examine and establish procedures to overcome the problems facing the industry including the establishment of a Coal Authority to ensure the best possible return to the Australian people.
M OFFSHORE SOVEREIGNTY

53 Restore effective Commonwealth power over and title in the three mile territorial sea, in recognition of the Commonwealth's constitutional sovereignty over Australia's offshore resources.

54 Amend Commonwealth legislation to ensure that ultimate responsibility for the administration of the offshore Mining Code resides with the Commonwealth Government.

55 Legislate to guarantee that state governments have adequate powers to perform their functions in the territorial sea.

N GEOSCIENCE

56 Promote research in geoscience as a basis for resource assessment, exploration and policy advice by —
   a continuing the implementation of the recommendations of the ASTEC Report;
   b supporting investigations into the geology of Australia's continental margins and the oceans, particularly in the Australian regions; and
   c encouraging an adequate and sustained supply of geoscientists.

O URANIUM

Recognising that —

Associated with the production of uranium and its use in the nuclear fuel cycle are hazards and risks of unique severity and unprecedented scale, including —
   a the threat to human health and the local environment of the mining and processing of uranium, unless strict safety procedures are established and enforced;
   b the use of technologies and the generation and circulation of products within the nuclear industry, which are useable as the raw materials for nuclear weapons manufacture, and which therefore demand the enforcement of effective controls to prevent the diversion of such technologies and products to nuclear weapons proliferation;
   c the generation, as by-products of the nuclear industry, of highly toxic radioactive wastes, which unless safely managed pose a threat to current and future generations of human life, and for which no safe disposal methods are currently in use.

Significant quantities of Australian uranium are already in use in the world nuclear fuel cycle, and that Australia has the potential to continue as a major supplier of uranium with existing contracts
approved by successive governments or with possible further contracts.

Alternative sources of supply of uranium are available to the world's nuclear power industry, including some which are subject to less stringent nuclear safeguard conditions.

Mining communities, investors and aboriginal communities have made commitments as to the location of labour, and spending on investment, and based on expected incomes from established uranium mining and processing operations.

Internationally, nuclear power contributes, and will continue into the immediate future to contribute, a substantial proportion of the supply of electricity in a number of countries.

In most situations in many industrialised countries, of all the possible electricity generation sources — including coal, oil, nuclear, hydro, solar — only solar-derived power is environmentally neutral, and only coal-fired power is cost competitive with nuclear power. However, the potential cost of decommissioning nuclear plants and providing for improving tighter security and environmental controls needs to be allowed for.

Many industrialised countries have adopted nuclear power as a means of avoiding dependence on a single source of energy supply and there is increasing concern about the environmental impact of fossil fuels in increasing CO$_2$ levels and causing acid rain.

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the key international covenant designed to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and to bring about nuclear disarmament, provides (Article III) that non-nuclear weapon States undertake to work within the IAEA's safeguards system to stop the diversion of nuclear materials to weapons manufacture.

**Seeking to** —

Take a positive role in preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons and promote the development and implementation of effective international arrangements covering nuclear non-proliferation treaties, waste disposal, arms control and nuclear disarmament.

Contribute, in particular, to improvements in those technologies and institutional controls which can prevent the misuse of the civilian
nuclear power industry from assisting in the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Contribute, in particular, to the development of satisfactory and effective arrangements for the safe storage and disposal of nuclear wastes, especially of high level wastes generated in nuclear reactors.

Act to promote nuclear safety, safeguards and security both alone and in co-operation with other responsible nations and international organisations as appropriate, especially where the interests of Australia itself and of other countries of this region are affected.

Avoid precipitating the development of fast-breeder reactors.

Regarding as paramount in determining our attitude towards the supply of Australian uranium to the world nuclear fuel cycle —

Whether, and under what conditions, the export of uranium from Australia can contribute towards improved nuclear non-proliferation policies and practices internationally.

Whether, and under what conditions, the export of uranium from Australia can support the more determined resolution of the high level nuclear waste management problem,

*and believing, on balance that —*

The risks and hazards associated with nuclear materials and technologies should be reduced by Australia enlisting greater international co-operation among responsible actual and potential participants in the nuclear fuel cycle.

For the time being at least, Australia's ability to contribute to the reduction of those risks and hazards will be enhanced if Australia continues to participate, as a uranium exporter, in the nuclear fuel cycle, but only on the terms and conditions set out below —

*A Labor Government will, subject to all contracts complying with Australia's floor price —*

57 Allow the export of uranium from only Nabarlek, Ranger and Roxby Downs mines under the most stringent nuclear non-proliferation conditions, to those countries which the Government is satisfied observe the NPT, maintain strict safeguards and security controls over their nuclear power industries, are committed to non-proliferation policies, and have ratified the international and bilateral
nuclear safeguards agreements necessary to support these controls and these policies.

58 Prevent the development of any mines, other than Nabarlek, Ranger and Roxby Downs.

59 Reserve the right in accordance with Recommendation 6 of the first Fox Report, to withhold supplies of uranium ‘permanently, indefinitely or for a specified period’ from any country which ceases to observe the non-proliferation safeguards and security conditions which are applied to Australian uranium exports to that country, or which adopts nuclear practices or policies inimical to further advance in the cause of nuclear non-proliferation;

60 Refuse to allow the supply of Australian uranium to France until France ceases testing nuclear weapons in the South Pacific region;

61 Prohibit the establishment in Australia of nuclear power plants and all other stages of the nuclear fuel cycle.

62 Provide no subsidies, tax incentives or compensation of any kind to the uranium industry either directly or indirectly, particularly in the event that the uranium companies seek government assistance as a result of the weakening uranium market;

63 Promote to the necessary level the research and development of promising technology for the handling and disposal of high level nuclear wastes, in view of the absence of such safe disposal methods;

64 Ensure that the first consideration for workers in the uranium industry is the protection of their health and subject the standards of health protection to constant checking to ensure that they are enforced, researched and where necessary improved, monitored and reported;

65 Ensure that the quality of the environment influenced by the uranium industry is subject to strict standards, monitoring and protection;

66 Vigorously oppose the ocean dumping of radioactive waste;

67 Establish a permanent commission to address on an ongoing basis the full range of issues relating to the nuclear fuel cycle, make recommendations on what action Australia will take to further strengthen Australian safeguards requirements and the operations of the international nuclear safeguards system and to report regularly to the Government and Parliament;
68 Require that the IAEA safeguards regime be strengthened by moving that an IAEA inspector be physically placed on site at each reactor, enrichment and reprocessing plant covered by the IAEA for the purpose of personally supervising the implementation of IAEA full scope safeguards. After this condition has been adopted by the IAEA a Labor Government reserves the right to withhold uranium supplies to any country which refuses to accept it.

69 Mount a specific initiative in order to strengthen the application of Articles III and IV of the NPT and to exercise maximum Australian influence towards the most effective possible implementation of the NPT by —

a pursuing an agreement at the 1985 NPT Review Conference that no NPT member State shall ever supply nuclear materials, equipment and technology to any non-nuclear weapons State which is not a party to the NPT or which does not accept full scope safeguards under the IAEA; and

b when such an agreement is obtained a Labor Government will extend existing Australian bilateral safeguards agreements to incorporate the above undertaking on the part of recipients of Australian uranium.

70 Pursuant to Article VII of the NPT providing for regional treaties to assure the total absence of nuclear weapons, continue to seek the declaration of the South West Pacific as a nuclear free zone. It will promote positively the development of an Indian Ocean zone of peace and seek to negotiate additional non-proliferation arrangements in the South and South East Asian regions.

71 Demand that the IAEA's functions be divided in order to leave it as an exclusively regulatory and verification body.

72 Undertake appropriate research and provide assistance to the energy impoverished nations of the world to find energy solutions which are more suitable to their decentralised populations and which are a real alternative to reliance upon large blocks of expensive centralised nuclear generation with extensive reticulation grids.

73 Encourage the development and application of passive energy technologies more suitable to our fragile global environment which the development of the nuclear cycle has delayed.

74 Consistent with our NPT obligations facilitate the transfer to third world countries the other benefits of nuclear technology such as nuclear medicine and food preservation.
18 PRIMARY INDUSTRY

A INTRODUCTION

Labor recognises that —

Primary industry plays an essential role in the Australian economy, is a major provider of export income, provides the economic base for much of rural and provincial Australia and makes a substantial contribution to the well-being of the whole community.

Primary industries and rural communities are interdependent and, reflecting this interdependence and the regional location of particular industries, primary industry policies can substantially affect rural communities.

Rural policy must be an integral part of overall social and economic policy and directed towards meeting the needs of the entire population.

Farm ownership by owner-operators is the most widespread operating structure in Australia and farm owners should be neither favoured nor disadvantaged relative to other business sectors.

Primary producers and others involved in primary production should be rewarded by returns and income for their production so as to provide a standard of living not below the accepted standards of the rest of the community.

The level of primary production should, as far as possible, be related to the food and fibre needs of Australia, to realistic domestic and overseas market demand and should be in line with the long term economic trends in markets for primary products.
The development of policies for primary industry needs to take into account the legitimate interests of individuals and groups other than primary producers.

B ECONOMIC

Labor believes that economic issues such as interest rates, access to finance, the exchange rate, taxation, the level of inflation and differential levels of protection are of more significance to rural profitability than the implementation of commodity-specific policies.

Consequently, a Labor Government will —

1. In framing the general economic policy, be cognisant of the impact on the rural sector.

2. Give continuing attention to the financial needs of the rural sector particularly where existing financial institutions are shown to be inadequate.

3. Continually review the adequacy of special taxation provisions.

4. Examine the adequacy of tax deductibility and tax rebates in meeting stated policy objectives.

5. Wherever possible, direct rural industry assistance through grants and subsidies in preference to tariffs.

6. Campaign internationally to lower barriers to agricultural trade.

C PRODUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

A Labor Government will —

7. Investigate, in conjunction with the states, prospects for new modes and methods of animal and plant production.

8. Seek to reduce the impact of risks involved in primary production and to provide a more stable and predictable economic environment in which producers can plan for the future.

9. Support demand-supply management legislation for those industries which request such assistance.

10. Ensure that world trends and prices for agricultural commodities be constantly monitored and promptly published in order to provide maximum information for farm decisions.
11 Liaise with the states on farmer education and training policies in keeping with the view that entrants into farming should be encouraged by education and training.

12 Seek to upgrade Australia's public plant breeding programmes in conjunction with the states and will not introduce Plant Variety Rights (PVR) without an enquiry into Australia's plant breeding needs and of all other alternatives to PVR.

13 Monitor the purchase of rural land by overseas interests and take whatever action is necessary to stop undesirable aspects of such acquisition.

14 Promote agricultural production, harvesting, transporting and processing policies consistent with sound human nutritional policies.

15 Examine the need to establish special arrangements to accommodate the specific land needs of the small farmer, including farmers using natural or organic farming methods, and encourage the development of such units to -
   a preserve efficient, self-sustained farming techniques;
   b promote correct soil and water use;
   c supply the increased demand for chemical free food; and
   d reduce unemployment levels.

D MARKETING

Labor supports efficient and properly accountable statutory marketing authorities with adequate powers and levels of staff to manage the collection, sale, promotion and export of Australian primary products, where appropriate.

A Labor Government will —

16 Strengthen and enforce the exclusive dealings provision of the Trade Practices Act to ensure that farmers are protected from the adverse effects of 'tied arrangements' which bind the purchaser to buy other goods and services from the same supplier.

17 Where requested by a primary producer organisation representing an industry, review existing marketing legislation in consultation with the industry, and establish statutory marketing authorities in instances in which definite benefits can be demonstrated. These authorities will be comprised so as to have the expertise required for them to effectively execute their objectives.
18 Develop procedures and guidelines to increase the effectiveness of accountability of primary industry statutory authorities to the industries which fund their activities and to the parliament which, on behalf of the public, provides enabling legislation.

19 Negotiate long-term international agreements to provide greater and more predictable access to overseas markets for Australian agricultural commodities and technical expertise.

20 Encourage the development and growth of overseas markets for Australian primary producers by —
   a establishing an Australian government agency to co-ordinate and facilitate the sale of Australian primary products and assist with service facilities to countries dealing on a government-to-government basis;
   b appointing where appropriate, agricultural attaches and marketing intelligence officers;
   c encouraging the promotion overseas of primary products; and
   d providing infrastructure assistance to importing countries.

E RURAL CO-OPERATIVES

A Labor Government will support —

21 The formation of voluntary marketing groups through which farmers can command a better price for their products.

22 The involvement of farmers in commercially viable co-operative processing of farm produce.

23 Producer co-operatives involving small groups of farmers in the joint ownership of machinery and other means of production to encourage a more efficient utilisation of financial and physical resources at the farm level.

24 The initiation of an interim programme of management training for board members.

25 An investigation of the potential for uniform co-operative legislation similar to the Uniform Companies Act.

26 The commissioning of a comprehensive Australia-wide study of co-operatives including their legislative backing, financial structure and management with a view to having more efficient co-operatives.
F INCOME STABILISATION

Recognising that tax penalties can arise from fluctuating incomes, Labor supports primary producers' tax averaging and income equalisation deposits.

To achieve greater stability in farmer's incomes over the long term, a Labor Government will —

27 Establish in conjunction with co-operating state governments and insurance companies, a pilot regional income insurance scheme.

28 Provide farm household support to relieve cases of temporary financial hardship.

29 Provide for flexible repayment of rural loans by consultation and encouragement within existing lending structures.

30 In co-operation with the states and territories, ensure adequate compensation for victims of natural disasters.

G RURAL ADJUSTMENT

Labor believes rural adjustment assistance is a means of improving the economic efficiency and viability of farm enterprises, and of promoting the mobility and productivity of resources employed in the rural sector and recognises the need for adequate reconstruction, counselling services, retraining and other welfare benefits deemed necessary to assist in the adjustment of farm families unable to remain viable in agriculture.

A Labor Government will —

31 Continue to support the provisions of the present Rural Adjustment Scheme.

32 Initiate greater liaison and consultation with the states to monitor the impact of the scheme with a view to achieving greater uniformity in its administration.

33 Examine in close consultation with the states, the establishment of Regional Redevelopment Authorities in rural communities where prolonged changes in the pattern of demand for a product or products on which the local economy depends, causes severe economic and social dislocation and creates special adjustment needs.
H RESEARCH AND EXTENSION

Recognising that effective extension is necessary to ensure that research results, information and management advice are readily available to primary producers.

A Labor Government will —

34 On request from grower organisations in smaller agricultural industries, provide research staff from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics to assist with marketing, production and structural adjustment planning.

35 In co-operation with the states and territories, extend rural research beyond the technology of production to community based research including the economics of marketing and production and the social consequences of change.

36 Support research into improving the energy efficiency of agriculture and the provision of alternative fuels.

37 Ensure that CSIRO and other institutions are adequately funded and structured to carry out research into bio-technology.

38 In co-operation with the states and territories, develop a co-ordinated approach to the provision of extension services across Australia.

39 Support the establishment of a national journal on agricultural extension.

40 Support the establishment of computer bureaux and computer based information systems to provide production and marketing information at the farm level.

41 Review government-industry arrangements for funding rural research with a view to maintaining Government input, increasing the capacity for industry to contribute to research and increasing the scope for industry to benefit from the output of research.

I COMMUNITY SERVICES

Labor recognises the restricted access of country people to community services in the areas of education, training, transport, health, housing, communications and the delivery of benefits and welfare services.
In keeping with its general attitudes on such issues, Labor believes that provision should be made so that services in rural and provincial Australia are at levels and standards generally accepted throughout the community.

42 A Labor Government will develop and co-ordinate its range of policies in these fields so that no disadvantage occurs and will develop specialist institutions and programmes where these are seen to be necessary.

J RESOURCE USE AND CONSERVATION

A Labor Government will —

43 Give attention to the need to maintain viable agricultural production in the land surrounding our major cities.

44 Encourage the maintenance and restoration of expendable resources of soil, water, air and forests.

45 Encourage the establishment of state Rural Land Use Commissions to review and report on the conservation, reclamation and use of all rural land.

46 Establish in conjunction with the states and territories a Committee of Inquiry into land degradation with a view to recommendations for remedial action and improved management practices.

47 Accept a joint responsibility with the states and territories to examine and, where appropriate, to act on the recommendations of the 1978 joint study into Soil Conservation in Australia.

48 Establish an Institute of Freshwater Studies to investigate water quality and, as a matter of priority, to specifically advise on the equitable and effective management of the River Murray system as a national resource.

K FORESTS

A Labor Government will —

49 Determine the environmental, social and economic costs and benefits of harvesting our existing forest resources and developing new forests.

50 Encourage the development of forestry as a farm undertaking for production of timber for processing.
51 Develop policies which will provide a balance between economic, ecological and recreational needs for our forest resources.

L FISHERIES

Recognising that Australian fisheries are a common property resource to be managed for the maximum benefit of the people of Australia;

A Labor Government will —

52 Take steps to ensure that the maximum sustainable annual harvest is linked to the number of economically viable fishing units, consistent with the needs of recreational fishing and the marine environment.

53 Where fishery resources have been over-exploited, increase industry returns by schemes such as the buying back of boats in over-fished areas.

54 Establish management policies for fisheries resources with the states and territories.

In co-operation with state and territory authorities, investigate ways of —

55 Simplifying the licensing procedures for those in the fishing industry.

56 Providing extension services and training for industry personnel.

57 Investigating the economies of fishing operations and the sociological effects of measures taken to regulate fisheries exploitation.

58 Developing marketing and fish processing techniques.

59 Collecting research data on the biology, population dynamics and ecology of the various commercially important fish species.

60 Without prejudice to the existing fishing industry, establish Australian and joint international projects to exploit the 200-mile economic zone for control over fisheries.

61 Treat the fishing industry as a primary industry in terms of all existing and future legislation generally applying to primary industry where relevant.

62 Develop formal and informal consultation on the fishing industry between the industry and the Commonwealth.
ORGANISATIONAL

A Labor Government will —

63 Transfer all elements of animal and plant quarantine to the Department of Primary Industry.

64 Adequately staff the DPI and BAE to service the fishing industry.

65 Provide adequate funds for rural research to the CSIRO.

66 Establish procedures to review and co-ordinate agricultural research and extension.

67 Support the Industries Assistance Commission, the Trade Practices Commission and the Prices Surveillance Authority.

68 Set up a National Meat Inspection Authority.

69 Encourage the development and adherence to soundly based codes of animal welfare.

70 Establish a Bureau of Rural Resources in the Department of Primary Industry.

Resolution

The Labor Government will examine the current application of the social security system to primary producers where their income and family position places them in a category of need, with a view to the development of a more appropriate mechanism for directing assistance to the areas of greatest need in the rural sector.
A PRINCIPLES

The Australian Labor Party —

Asserts that the Australian people have the right to make democratic choices about technologies to be adopted, their ownership, rates of adoption and appropriate social responses.

Rejects the prevailing philosophy of ‘technological determinism’; that is, the concept that nations have no alternative but to adopt particular forms of technological change, and will monitor the impact of new technology, and develop means to cushion adverse social effects.

Adopts a pluralist approach to technology, and will pursue that mix of technologies most appropriate to satisfying individual needs in a healthy economy, for example recognising that selectivity in the introduction of labour-displacing technology may involve distinguishing between ‘new’ and ‘old’ industries, or with policies to be adopted towards labour-intensive industries in specific areas.

Rejects the colonial model of technology transfer which has been adopted in Australia in which high technology is overwhelmingly under foreign ownership.

Declares that Australia must assert its own technological sovereignty and reverse the declining capacity of individual nations to determine their own economic goals in a global economy. Foreign investment guidelines must be amended to ensure transfer of technology into Australian control and arrangements to expand Australia’s capability to produce technologies at the leading edge of development.
Expresses its support for technologies which complement and enhance human capacity, dignity and diversity.

Declares that the introduction, ownership and control of high technology should not be left to market forces alone and emphasises the need to establish long term goals and investment planning.

Recognises that decisions made in science and technology policy areas will have significant impact on education, social security, communications, manufacturing industry, urban and regional development, and industrial relations both in Australia and abroad. Major decisions should be made after considerable public debate and not left to expert, professional elites operating in isolation.

Recognises ‘Information’ as a resource, a critical factor in production and economic growth and that ‘Information workers’ now comprise the largest single employment sector in advanced economies.

Acknowledges that —

a legislating for free access to and exchange of relevant information based on technology assessment as a result of a requirement for full disclosures; and

b public scrutiny of planned changes are more likely to be successful than setting up regulatory authorities.

Adopts the concept of setting ‘limits to throughput’ rather than ‘limits to growth’ to reduce waste and avoid excessive use of material resources.

Recognises that rising levels of investment in higher education and R & D have a decisive impact on increasing both the quality of life and economic standards.

Will promote excellence in science even where there is a low probability of an immediate or short term economic return.

A Labor Government will —

B RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

1 Collaborate with industry to provide appropriate incentives to raise total investment in selected areas of socially constructive research and development, to the equivalent of other technologically advanced countries such as Canada and Sweden.
2 Require foreign owned corporations in Australia to invest appropriate sums in R & D and to give Australian enterprises access to foreign owned technology.

3 Extend eligibility for Special Research Grants (now limited to universities) to projects in all branches of tertiary education.

4 Encourage excellence in a diverse range of pure research projects through the Australian Research Grants Committee and raise the number and effective value of grants.

5 Establish a national research, development and innovation division within the Department of Science and Technology to advise the government on -
   a developing the Australian venture capital market;
   b providing support for the Australian Industrial Research and Development Incentives Board (AIRDIB) and working closely with the Australian Industries Development Corporation (AIDC);
   c ways to improve industry through technological innovation;
   d directing support to programmes which increase the ability of Australian owned firms to capitalise on technologies which increase employment in new fields, particularly those which will provide 'high value-added' for our natural resources and those requiring a high skill base;
   e co-ordinating government impact on high technology industry through its roles as customer, supporter of R & D and financier;
   f working with existing industries, and through industry based communities, to encourage them to make an adequate contribution to R & D — either within their own enterprise or by contributing to a common fund (with the benefit of tax incentives and priority access to innovations); and
   g assisting industries with the development of research discoveries and the preparation of patents where appropriate.

C TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

6 Seek the transfer of technology to Australian control in areas of foreign exploitation of our natural resources, while encouraging the intensive development of indigenous technology, as illustrated by Norway's rapid advance in offshore oil-rig technology.

7 Develop arrangements with foreign suppliers for the transfer of technology development capability to Australia in order to promote appropriate new industries and services. Included in such arrangements will be measures to enable Australian management and labour to gain necessary skills, to provide for the storage and
processing of information in Australia and means for the production in Australia of capital goods.

8 Examine existing technology agreements with a view to reducing costs and limitations on local use, and encouraging the development of intermediate or labour intensive technologies where appropriate.

9 Liaise with other countries and with Australian-owned companies to develop a pool of information on prices, technology agreements and related issues.

10 Examine the long-term implications of highly sophisticated and integrated technology on Australia's capacity for local control and national autonomy.

11 Ensure that overseas controlled 'high technology' industries operating in Australia pay levels of taxation not less than those paid by Australian-owned enterprises.

12 Promote domestic technology transfer by encouraging collaborative efforts between tertiary education institutions, government research organisations, (Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation and Defence Science and Technology Organisation) and industry, including appropriate use of IR & D funding mechanisms, facilitate the transfer process, and compile inventories of human and physical resources.

D VENTURE CAPITAL FOR NEW INDUSTRIES

13 Continue and increase mechanisms and incentive schemes to encourage private enterprise investment in venture capital for developing new High Technology Industries.

14 Assist the establishment of new enterprises in high technology through jointly funded and managed projects, involving private enterprises and the public sector, especially through the use of the AIDC.

15 Support whole technologies rather than the manufacture of isolated components so that Australia is encouraged to develop integrated and comprehensive technological skills.

E MONITORING TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION AND SHARING THE BENEFITS

16 Require the provision of broad industry-by-industry technology assessments so that parliaments, trade unions, employer groups
and concerned citizens are made aware of the nature and extent of proposed technological changes, especially the effect of jobs and can take part in appropriate consultative processes, including public enquiries as directed by a Minister.

17 Provide that prior information about proposed technological changes shall be given by its proponents to appropriate unions to allow informed negotiations on the proposed changes.

18 Provide that when technological change increases productivity consequent benefits are shared equitably throughout the community.

F RAISING LEVELS OF PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING, COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND POLITICAL RESPONSE

19 Initiate a continuous public information campaign in an attempt to demystify scientific processes, to raise levels of community understanding about science and technology so that the Australian people and their political representatives can be directly involved in choosing between options and determining priorities.

20 Provide adequate support for parliamentary committees with specialised interests in Science and Technology in both the Senate and the House of Representatives, with the provision for joint operations as appropriate, to enable the parliament to take an active and informed role by debating specific subjects and in helping to determine relevant national policy in this area.

21 Establish machinery to assist and inform the public and decision makers by way of adversarial reports on specific matters, as has been undertaken in the United States by the Office of Technology Assessment, and by stimulating public discussion of the long term implications of technologically based social change as has been achieved by the Commission for the Future in New Zealand.

22 Expand and rotate membership of the Australian Science and Technology Council (ASTEC) to enable it to act as a planning council to examine medium-term implications of technological based social change, act as a focal point for a process of consultative planning and to submit advice to governments on general or specific priorities.

23 Recognise the need for greater scientific knowledge and data availability in areas pursued by significant community movements,
such as consumer, environmentalist and women's affairs groups and ensure that government science bodies respond to these needs.

G CSIRO

24 Legislate to recognise the distinctive nature of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) separate from the Australian Public Service and free from extraneous controls (e.g. on staffing levels or overseas travel) by the Public Service Board.

25 Create a Division of Information Technology to help ensure that Australia can make significant developments in this area.

26 Encourage CSIRO to diversify its research activities in new fields such as safety, transport and the environment.

27 Encourage CSIRO to disseminate public information reference services directly to the community, where appropriate.

28 While recognising the priority of the National Health and Medical Research Council, lift any arbitrary exclusion of CSIRO from pursuing areas of biological research which have human health implications.

29 Ensure that new technologies developed by CSIRO are used to promote export potential and high technology employment in Australia.

H PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE

30 Strengthen Australia's participation in international scientific activities, provide and maintain scientific representation in Tokyo, Washington, London, Paris, Moscow, Ottawa and United Nations scientific agencies, promoting scientific exchange agreements and encouraging interchange of scientific personnel.

31 Seek opportunities for co-operation in, and co-ordination of, industry directed research in problems of mutual interest with nations of the Asian/Pacific region.

I ANTARCTICA

The Antarctic Treaty expires in 1991. At present the Antarctic continent is the last remaining land mass on earth free from political
influence, pollution, military activities, exploitation and all other excesses of the human species. Australia must take the initiative and play a leading role in ensuring that the new Treaty maintains and enhances the wilderness character of Antarctica. The Antarctic Treaty must be used to ensure a permanent prohibition on all activities which could damage the continent.

32 Encourage investigation of scientific, marine, freshwater, meteorological and other resources in Antarctica.

33 Upgrade the existing facilities and provide financial support for new research projects especially in the fields of hydrology, glaciology and climatology.

34 Organise an international scientific conference with the participation of all countries claiming rights or already having bases on Antarctica in order to co-ordinate and reassert our leading role on the continent.

35 Encourage more flexible deployment of activity in the Antarctic rather than concentrating on the development of the existing bases.

J MARINE SCIENCE

36 Pursue comprehensive knowledge of the oceans in the 200 nautical mile (370.4 km) 'exclusive economic zone' (EEZ) surrounding Australia.

37 Replace the Australian Marine Sciences and Technologies Advisory Committee (AMSTAC) with an Australian Marine Sciences Council and expand its terms of reference to recommending national policies.

38 Expand the functions of CSIRO's Division of Oceanography and the Australian Institute of Marine Sciences.

K PRIORITIES

39 Support and encourage industry participation in constructing the 'Australia Telescope', CSIRO's radio synthesis telescope at Culgoora, and for Australian participation with the US in the 'Starlab' orbiting optical telescope, with a view to using IR & DI grants to encourage development of a sophisticated instrumentation industry.

40 Review the law and procedures relating to patent rights in biotechnology.
41 Legislate to provide where possible for computers to be rated to measure their labour displacement capacity.

42 Establish an annual award for scientific achievement promoting the welfare of the peoples of the world, to be known as 'The Australia Prize' to be worth not less than $100,000 (tax free) when first awarded and indexed thereafter and to be administered by the Australian Academy of Science.

43 Promote professional mobility between the academic, industrial, government and defence sectors of science by lowering administrative barriers and introducing superannuation portability for scientists, engineers and technologists and by encouraging personal contacts between the academic world and industry.

44 Build all-weather aircraft landing facilities in Antarctica to allow year-round access to Australia's bases and build an ice-breaker supply ship.

45 Ensure that government purchasing is used to encourage the selective and rapid development of appropriate Australian high technology industries.

L NATIONAL INFORMATION POLICY

Recognising that in an era of rapid technological change access to information is a precondition to national or personal autonomy, the Australian Labor Party adopts the following National Information Policy —

46 All Australians are entitled to free access to information and library services of acceptable standard, regardless of where they live, of their social and economic position, language, sex, age, mobility or physical disabilities.

47 The effective working of democracy depends on the availability of adequate information and the capacity for its independent evaluation. The right to know, to be informed, is basic to every person. In our society access to information is a vital resource of government and of the public, and should not be concentrated in the hands of the rich.

48 The Australian community is divided between the 'information rich' and the 'information poor'. Information facilities are remote from those who need them most. They do not know what is available and do not know how to remedy their lack of information.
49 Growing inequity in ‘information transfer’ treatens the position of individuals relative to governments and corporations. An increasing volume of available information due to new methods of gathering, storing and disseminating may lead to —

a. an increasing tendency towards specialisation and the fragmentation of knowledge;

b. a growing sense of ‘alienation’ and ‘anomie’ in many people who feel unable to understand what is going on around them;

c. a risk that power will move towards technocrats and away from representative institutions; and

d. a major threat to privacy from personal data files in private hands.

50 Information problems should not continue to be treated in the narrow perspective of science and technology, and left to scientists and experts alone, but should be considered in the broader context of knowledge and social welfare in which information is a fundamental resource.

51 Governments must plan for the new technologies and ensure that information systems are not developed in chaotic fashion for exclusively commercial reasons.

52 Legislation should define and codify —

The right to access, where this is in the public interest, of individuals or public or private bodies to relevant non-government information resources.

The political and social guarantees which individuals and institutions can legitimately expect, including protection of privacy and professional secrecy.

The basic rules of reciprocity which should govern relationships between public and private systems and networks.

A code of ethics for professions and industries concerned in this field.

53 The provision of public library and information services should remain the collective responsibility of the Commonwealth, state, territory and local levels of government, funded in part by each.

54 Public libraries must become information resource centres, including local data banks, information about access to government services, with greater emphasis on non-book material such as gramophone records, tapes, cassettes, microforms and audio-visual material generally.
The expansion and extension of all library and information services should be achieved through co-operation and/or contract and the formation of library systems and networks with each service retaining its autonomy within the overall state plan for the development of these services. Already existing information services should be co-ordinated and integrated to avoid duplication and waste of resources.

**Resolutions**

1 **Antarctica**

This Conference expresses its concern that no effective action has been taken to implement the recommendations made in successive reports since 1979 by the Antarctic Research Policy Advisory Committee (ARPAC).

This Conference believes Australia should support a high quality research programme in Antarctica directed towards —

- the living and mineral resources of the Antarctic and the environmental effects of their exploitation;
- the effect of Antarctic climate, weather and ocean circulation in the Southern Ocean area, particularly as these relate to Australia; and
- taking advantage of the special opportunities afforded by the uniqueness of the Antarctic.

In particular we call on the Government to provide funds to upgrade the existing transport system by provision of a dual purpose ice breaking cargo/research vessel together with intercontinental air capability.

**Technological Change and Employment**

2 Conference requests the Ministers of Science and Technology, Employment and Industrial Relations, and the Minister assisting the Prime Minister on Women's Affairs to establish a National Task Force on Technological Change to advise the Federal Government on the impact of technological change on the workforce and in particular women, with regard to the following matters —

Education and training related to ensuring that workers can and do participate in the control of the relationship between technology and employment.

Protection of jobs and creation of equivalent full-time jobs for workers.
Changes in work and living patterns, rewards and conditions which improve living standards for all workers.

Increased control of the introduction and implementation of technology by workers at the national, state, regional, local, industry and work-place levels.

That permanent part-time jobs are not created at the expense of full-time jobs.
20 SOCIAL SECURITY

A INTRODUCTION

The aim of Labor's social security policy is the prevention and elimination of poverty and social disadvantage through a system of benefits and services based primarily on need.

To redress present inequalities social security initiatives will be co-ordinated with other government policies to redistribute income, wealth and general community resources.

Particular regard will be paid to the following principles —

The importance of positive employment policies and the recognition that social services should complement, not substitute, for paid work.

The preservation of dignity, self-respect and independence of those assisted.

The definition of rights to benefits including the right of review and appeal on all decisions.

The guarantee of individual privacy, confidentiality of personal information and access by individuals to information held on their files.

The participation by the users and providers of financial support and services in the development and delivery of programmes.

The consideration, where appropriate, of traditional or chosen lifestyles.
The promotion of research and the regular evaluation of all policies and programmes.

The co-ordination of planning information and service delivery among government departments to reduce the fragmentation of services and overlap of responsibilities at all levels of government.

The acknowledgement that the needs of claimants are paramount to the administration of a social security system. Information and counter services should be readily accessible to the public, where appropriate in multi-purpose offices, and with adequate translator and interpreter support for people not fluent in English.

B INCOME SUPPORT

Labor's eventual aim is the establishment of a universal minimum income scheme to provide an adequate standard of living. Employment policies and a fair taxation system will be supplemented by the provision of social security payments.

A Labor Government will —

1 Provide social security payments according to need for disadvantaged persons, such as the aged, invalid, disabled, sick, unemployed and lone parents, sufficient to maintain an acceptable standard of living.

2 Preserve the real value of pensions and benefits by automatically updating payments whenever award wages are indexed or at least twice-yearly to compensate for inflation and ensure social security recipients benefit from national productivity gains.

3 Pay regard to the impact which the additional costs faced by certain sections of the community may have in reducing their capacity to enjoy an acceptable standard of living without further assistance from an appropriate level of government.

4 Maintain the present system of family allowance payments, with increased benefits to low income families.

5 Co-ordinate income tests and fringe benefits at all levels of government so that as their other incomes rise, social security recipients do not suffer financial disadvantage.

6 Consider a special allowance for the recipients of social security payments living in isolated areas similar to taxation zone allowances.
7 Establish, in consultation with the states, local government and voluntary agencies, a flexible system of emergency aid for people in need.

8 Establish by law the right of individuals to payments, with departmental guidelines to be made public.

9 Give independence to social security appeals tribunals with power of decision on all determinations of appeals.

**Reciprocal Agreements**

10 Accelerate and finalise negotiations started by the previous Labor Government to achieve reciprocal social security agreements with countries from which our migrants originated.

**C NATIONAL COMPENSATION AND NATIONAL SUPERANNUATION**

11 Develop, in co-operation with the states, a national compensation scheme on a no-fault basis, with universal coverage for all injury and for work-related injury and disease.

12 Introduce a self-supporting portable national superannuation scheme providing entitlements to cover all persons and which could be integrated equitably with existing superannuation schemes.

**D PERSONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

13 Aim to work co-operatively with states, territories, local government and voluntary agencies to develop personal and community services which will —

- Assist people to maintain and develop their independence.

- Provide information, advocacy and skill-sharing programmes to develop the capacity of individuals and self-help groups to meet their own needs and assist others.

- Encourage, where appropriate, the integration of community services in neighbourhood multi-purpose centres, small enough to allow users to develop a sense of participation and community, such centres to serve both local neighbourhood and community or interest groups.

- Private organisations providing community services run for commercial profit will not, as a general rule, receive government subsidies.
Federally funded non-government community services will be given sufficient funding to ensure that paid workers can receive at least the appropriate award wages. These wages should be comparable to similar occupations in other areas of employment and such funding should be indexed to maintain the level of wages paid.

**People with Disabilities**
Labor recognises that people with disabilities are people with special difficulties in getting their ordinary needs fulfilled, and that the aim of such services should be to enable them to participate in society to their capacity.

*A Labor Government will provide* —

15 Domiciliary care services to people in their own homes to maintain their independence and autonomy.

16 Aids to independent living, including the availability of services which would enable many of those now institutionalised, or likely to be, to maintain themselves in the community.

17 Rehabilitation and training services to maximise skills and capacity for personal care, social activities and paid work.

18 Services and resources which would allow those able to find paid work the necessary supports to make this feasible.

19 The maximum participation of those with disabilities in the planning, management and staffing of services.

20 Support for carers of the disabled, e.g. parents, including specialist services and respite care.

**Aged People**
Labor believes people past retirement age should have security of income and services which would allow them to enjoy their lives and leisure.

*A Labor Government will provide* —

21 Services for the ageing which will enable them, if they wish, to retain independence within their own neighbourhoods and including support for people caring for the aged.
22 Community care facilities, including activity and therapy centres, respite and day care, to relieve the burden on carers, and in conjunction with health services, enable people to remain at home as long as possible.

23 Alternative accommodation for those who need on-going support or medical care, allowing them to maintain their dignity and autonomy.

24 Involvement of the ageing in the planning and administration of services provided.

**Homeless People**
Labor recognises that domestic violence, family crisis and breakdown, transient living and housing problems have created an increased need for accommodation for the homeless. The following programmes should not be seen as alternatives to an adequate income maintenance or housing policy.

*A Labor Government will —*

25 Provide an appropriate mix of crisis and short-term accommodation with support services and encouragement to self-help.

26 Provide for an expansion of present services for women, youth and the more chronically homeless.

27 Ensure the funding of women’s emergency services as a responsibility primarily of the Federal Government.

28 Ensure, in co-operation with housing authorities, access to appropriate medium and long-term accommodation.

**E CHILDREN**

A Children’s Services Programme under a Federal Labor Government will provide services for children 0 to 15 which complement the care they receive from parents. Access to community child care is a right, and the aim of such care is to provide all children with developmental and social activities in safe surroundings provided by skilled and caring people for the range of hours which meets the children’s needs and those of their parents/carers. Children’s services should be federally funded and community-based and should be financed by subsidies rather than tax deductions or rebates.
This will be achieved by —

29 Allocation of resources to services on a planning model based on needs rather than the submission model which favours the articulate.

30 Negotiating agreements with states and territory administrations on an overall planned distribution of capital and recurrent contributions — including consideration of those contributions made by community groups and local government authorities.

31 Moving towards a programme based on multi-purpose centres at the local level or other appropriate sites such as the workplace. Such centres will provide long day care, sessional services, full day care, occasional care, family day care, shift care and toy libraries, where appropriate. Provision will be made for out of school hours care for those children of school age. Where possible such services will be integrated under one management and share staff resources.

32 The provision of work-related children's services, to provide childcare for the children of workers. Such facilities must have representatives of workers on their management committees and must provide the opportunity for the children of workers to have access to such work-related childcare centres. We recognise work-related childcare as a right of working parents and will ensure that work-related childcare is made available.

33 Providing an overall subsidy to all approved non-profit services, which will guarantee quality care and which will allow services to be provided at a cost that can be met by a majority of users. The subsidy will be linked to approved staff salaries and indexed to cover compulsory wage rises. Additional needs payments will be provided so that all children can have access.

34 Planning and funding the provision of services for minority groups which meet the special needs of such groups in terms of language, culture and special needs.

35 Providing additional funding, where necessary, to integrate disabled and other children with problems into normal programmes, or providing separate services for such children where appropriate.

36 Ensuring that the users of a service take part in the management of the service so that a service reflects the real and varied needs of the users.
37 Providing the incentives for the better use of existing resources so that expansion of services can be made without unnecessary additional capital expenses.

Resolution

Unemployment Beneficiaries
Conference calls upon the Federal Labor Government to take urgent action to —

Increase payments to single unemployment beneficiaries without dependents to bring them in line with the rates paid to similar pensioners.

End the current discrimination against beneficiaries under the age of 18 in regard to payment rates.

Extend supplementary assistance to unemployment beneficiaries who are private renters, at least as soon as tax cuts are given to home owners and purchasers.

Liberalise the income test for beneficiaries to release them from a poverty trap that penalises part time or casual earnings.
INTRODUCTION
With the development of an increasingly complex technological and industrialised society, greater demands have been placed on a meaningful use of leisure-time. People are turning to sport, physical fitness and leisure activities to promote their health, happiness and fulfilment.

Labor acknowledges that, in the past, governments have not recognised the true value of sport and recreation as a community service.

The contributions that sport and recreation, in their many faceted forms, make to our physical, mental and social health are enormous. The savings to our national health and social welfare bills directly attributable to sport and recreation are incalculable.

Sport and recreation assists the physical development of children and young people. For adults, it provides exercise and interests to fruitfully occupy their increased leisure-time.

The success of athletes on the international stage is a unifying influence, in a multicultural society, assisting a sense of an Australian identity.

Over time, different sets of stereotyped sex-roles have been established for men and women.

These have been the main factors in the differing participation rates of the sexes in physical recreation activities.
In virtually every sport, male participation rates are substantially higher than females. This is particularly the case after the age of 30. This is related to the conventional role of women in society. As women have taken a much more active role in recent years, more and more women have become involved in sport, and activities once regarded as male preserves are becoming available to them.

The Labor Government will encourage more women to participate in all sporting and recreational activities and effectively remove discrimination from sports and recreation funding and organisation.

The current ageing of the Australian population is another reason for paying increased attention to leisure and recreation issues. The role of sport and recreation in the lives of older people, especially those who are no longer in the workforce, is of major concern to the Labor Party.

Labor believes that our task lies in meeting the basic leisure and sporting needs of the Australian community, rather than simply catering for the needs of a small elite. Our policy, therefore, aims to increase enjoyable participation in sport and recreation by all Australians.

A Labor Government will —

1 Ensure that the Australian Institute of Sport pay special attention to the needs of talented athletes from disadvantaged groups and those from remote and rural areas.

2 Investigate the provision of tax averaging for sports people with short careers.
INTRODUCTION

Labor recognises that tourism is a major contributor to the Australian economy.

In spite of the fact that tourism generates as much wealth as the mining industry and is this country’s largest employer its capacity and potential to expand have remained largely unrecognised by governments.

Tourism is labour intensive. The growth of tourism offers a wide range of employment opportunities especially for groups affected by economic downturns.

Australia is in a unique position to expand its tourism industry. We believe that technological change which leads to shorter working hours and greater leisure time makes tourism a major growth area. Because of its diverse nature tourism offers a major stimulus to decentralisation and prosperity to small business.

The economic returns of tourism are not the only justification for its promotion. The right to holidays is a natural consequence of the right to work.

Tourism offers alongside its economic, educational and social benefits, a means of assisting Australians to appreciate their national heritage and of fostering relations between Australia and other nations.

Recognising all of these factors and in order to stimulate growth of tourism, a Labor Government will —
Fares
1 Negotiate with international airlines and Qantas the introduction of South-East Asian regional holiday packages for international travellers with Australia as a port of call.

2 Encourage innovative fares on both domestic and international scheduled flights.

3 Explore the opportunities for increased international air charters where it can be shown that they would promote a genuinely 'new' market.

4 Negotiate with airlines, state and territory governments, Australian National Railways and coach operators, to promote the concept of an all inclusive 'air-rail-coach' ticket which will enable all Australians, for a set fee, to travel anywhere for a period of three weeks.

Low Cost Accommodation
5 Provide funding to create more facilities and to adapt existing under-utilised facilities, for example, migrant hostels, for people who otherwise would be unable to afford their holidays.

6 In co-operation with the state, territory and local governments, private non-profit organisations and the Commonwealth Accommodation and Catering Services Limited, finance on a dollar for dollar basis, the building of low cost accommodation facilities.

7 Ensure that facilities subsidised with Government grants will be made available to the poor and disadvantaged on the basis of a means test.

Tax Concessions
8 Retain the existing tax concessions available to the industry and review the depreciation allowances.

Overseas Airlines
9 Encourage overseas airlines to promote Australia as a tourist destination.

Attractions and Convention Centres
10 Encourage and, wherever possible, provide finance or generous loans for the development of attractions including interpretive facilities and review the depreciation allowances.

11 Encourage the building of new and the improvement of existing convention centres.
12 Promote vigorously both overseas and at home Australia as a convention destination.

Roads
13 Co-operate with state governments and departments of transport to improve the quality of roads and highways that service Australia's major tourist destinations.

14 Promote train travel as a tourist experience.

The Role of Federal and State Governments
15 Formulate a long-term national policy on tourism, in co-operation with the states and territories and the tourist industry.

16 Assume the sole responsibility of promoting Australia overseas after consultation with the states and territories.

17 Encourage state governments to assume major responsibility for the promotion of tourism within Australia.

Australian Tourist Commission
18 Restructure and broaden the role of the Commission in line with the promotion of tourism as a major industry.

19 Provide increased funding and more realistic staff levels to establish representation in a greater range of overseas countries.

20 In conjunction with the states, establish information offices at Australia's international airports, major railways and bus terminals including foreign language information and signs.

Ownership of Tourist Facilities
21 Promote the development of publicly owned holiday resorts and tourism facilities through the agency of organisations such as TAA and Qantas and examine the possibility of shared ownership arrangements between Government and private enterprise in various hotels and holiday resorts.

Tourism in the A.C.T.
22 In consultation with the state government of NSW, upgrade the railway services leading into the A.C.T. in order to make Canberra a more accessible tourist venue.

23 Introduce a dynamic marketing programme to establish Canberra as a major tourist venue.
Other Initiatives

24 Develop special schemes aimed specifically at the aged, the young and the disadvantaged in our community to enable them to travel and visit their country.

25 Introduce in-bound duty-free shopping at Australian ports of entry.

26 Develop closer ties with world bodies and international tourist organisations.

27 Extend the exemption from diesel fuel excise, as applied to the Barrier Reef Island resorts, to similar remote areas.

28 Extend the existing tax concessions available to the tourism industry and review the depreciation allowance.

29 Pay greater attention to attracting senior secondary school students into the tourism industry.

30 Encourage manufacturers to make better quality products for both overseas and Australian tourists.

31 Introduce a National Tourism Award in recognition of excellence in the tourism industry.

32 Introduce a series of seminars dealing with —
   a interaction between tourism and other industries; and
   b the impact of tourism on the rural sector.

33 Encourage excellence in the Australian tourism and catering industries through regular exchange programmes with overseas experts and specialists.
A INTRODUCTION

_Labor believes that _—

The provision of adequate, efficient transport services at minimum cost is essential —

a for a community, in that it facilitates progress, competitiveness and the financial viability of domestic and international trade; and

b for the individual in that it offers access to employment, educational, health, retail and recreational facilities.

Public passenger transport provides an important supplement for households which run a car and is the sole means of transport for many groups in the community — those engaged in full time homemaking, children, students, unemployed and the disadvantaged.

Transport systems and services should be designed to maximise social benefit to the community. As market forces often operate imperfectly and are restricted in their scope, they should not be the sole determiners of the type, location and quality of transport services provided.

Accordingly, Labor's transport policy utilises a social audit approach to the evaluation of transport projects and services, in which costs and benefits are based on full consideration of economic, environmental, social, defence and resource allocation criteria and the following major objectives.

**Economic objective**

To provide access to raw materials, goods and services; to provide
passenger transport adequate for desirable national development and individual mobility at least cost to the community.

**Environmental objective**
To minimise environmental and health damage by full inclusions of such costs in evaluation of projects and the introduction of adequate emission control and safety standards for motor vehicles.

**Social objective**
To provide freight and passenger transport services that are adequate to enhance co-ordinated national development and balanced in terms of industrial diversity, urban, regional and rural development, employment generation, personal mobility and integration of forms of transport.

**Resource objective**
To encourage the most efficient use of national resources, including energy, time and space.

**Defence objective**
To provide a co-ordinated transport network capable of servicing current and anticipated strategic and defence needs, particularly in remote areas of the country.

A social audit approach would therefore foster development of an efficient transport system based on a full analysis of costs and benefits of transport services.

In all of its transport initiatives a Labor Government will seek to co-operate in the pursuit of state, urban and regional development plans and strategies.

* A Labor Government will —

**B ORGANISATION, FUNDING AND CHARGES**
1. Maintain the Interstate Commission within the terms of Sections 101 to 104 of the Constitution —
   - To investigate discriminatory practices, inequalities, inefficiencies and anomalies in interstate transport.
   - To publish findings.
   - To make recommendations to the government.
   - To promote by consultation the development of national transport policy.
2 Make grants to the states to enable them to operate, co-ordinate, expand and upgrade public passenger transport systems and to assist them to provide rail and port facilities for export commodities.

3 Continue the funding and construction of new railways to unserviced regions where required and where justified.

4 Upgrade and maintain to a national standard, designated railway routes of national importance, including the completion of the programme of standardisation of inter-capital links.

5 Establish or maintain publicly owned business undertakings to provide surface transport services in Australia and internationally.

   Encourage these undertakings to participate in all facets of the transport and travel industries.

6 Develop a comprehensive national policy covering the carriage of inter-system railway freight.

C PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

7 Promote consumer and employee discussion and participation in the provision, development and improvement of transport services.

8 Increase public availability of essential transport information.

D RESEARCH AND PLANNING

9 Encourage alternative forms of transport designed to improve safety, efficiency and mobility and to reduce space requirements, pollution and energy wastage.

10 Assist the states and territories by providing grants for transport planning and research.

11 Encourage the introduction of combined air-rail-road passenger fares.

E SHIPPING

12 Expand the operations of the Australian Shipping Commission.

13 Ensure that an equitable share of our overseas trade is carried in vessels that are Australian owned or controlled and Australian staffed.
14 Provide financial incentives for the expansion of Australia's international shipping fleet.

15 Ensure that all coastal trade is carried in Australian owned and manned vessels.

16 In consultation with the states, promote and extend the efficient utilisation of ports and related land activities.

F HIGHWAYS, ROADS AND FACILITIES

17 Build and/or operate any facilities and services relating to railways, shipping and pipelines as provided by the Constitution or transferred to the Australian Government by a state.

18 Maintain full financial responsibility for the construction and maintenance of the national highway system.

19 Make grants to the states for the construction and maintenance of other roads, including bicycle paths.

20 Initiate procedures in association with state and local governments —
   a to ensure that Federal road grants for local government are passed on in full to their intended recipients; and
   b to periodically review appropriateness of road classifications.

G TRANSPORT STANDARDS AND SAFETY

21 Establish a National Transport Safety Board to investigate all accidents involving Australian Government surface transport enterprises or occurring under federal jurisdiction.

22 Encourage the states through the Australian Transport Advisory Council to —
   a enact uniform road laws, driver licensing procedures and traffic practices throughout Australia; and
   b implement the Australian Code for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road and Rail.

23 Establish a Roads Safety and Standards Authority to promote —
   a effective road safety campaigns; and
   b research into safe operation of cars, trucks, motor cycles and bicycles.

24 In consultation with state and territory governments and volunteer marine search and rescue associations, encourage the coordination of marine search and rescue services.
H INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS

25 Promote the conclusion, ratification and application of transport conventions under the auspices of the UN and its specialised agencies.

I AVIATION

26 Ensure that Qantas and TAA remain in full public ownership and operate on a fully commercial basis under the terms of their charters.

27 Review the flexibility of regulation governing domestic passenger services in the interests of consumers and to open potential growth areas for regional airlines.

28 Establish a National Airports Authority to minimise the overall cost of the aviation system to the industry and the taxpayer. The National Airports Authority will plan and carry out commercial development in consultation with relevant state and local government authorities, having regard to prevailing state, regional and local development strategies and planning schemes.

29 Continue to improve the environmental protection procedures at airports taking account of the views of affected residents through national and local consultative committees.

30 Assist where possible the development of the general aviation sector, particularly as it relates to agriculture, outback services, recreation and as a training ground for commercial pilots.

31 Review and update aviation regulations to ensure their relevance and to maximise the opportunities for growth of the Australian industry, particularly in rapidly developing sectors such as ultralight aircraft.

32 Promote self regulation of aviation sports through their central organisations, recognising that this provides the most effective and cost-efficient means of control.

33 Ensure continuation of Australia's excellent safety record by instituting an independent aviation safety board to oversee the investigation of aircraft accidents and incidents and the promotion of air safety in Australia.

34 Through participation in the International Civil Aviation Organisation, promote the development and application of international aviation conventions in order to secure the fullest international agreement on
safety, environmental protection and other aviation matters of concern to Australia.

35 Accept a special responsibility for assisting South Pacific nations with aviation developments.

36 Promote the development of professional aviation training courses, utilising the existing air training schools and tertiary education infrastructure.
A INTRODUCTION

The main objectives of Labor's urban and regional affairs policies is to improve the quality of life of people, wherever they work and wherever they live, by the co-ordination of resource allocation decisions and the promotion of balanced and sustainable growth in appropriate locations.

Labor's policies are designed to ensure that capital investment by both the public and the private sectors conforms with the Government's overall strategy for national, economic, social and community development. They seek to ensure acceptable standards in the provision of community amenities, housing and employment opportunities; improve the adaptability and flexibility of regions so that they are better able to cope with economic and structural change and build on their natural and human resources; promote equality of access to social facilities and services; conserve socially-valued environments made by people and nature and reduce wasteful uses of resources.

Labor's approach is predicated on a belief that, for purposes of equity and efficiency, people should be decently housed in areas which have a good standard and range of community facilities and essential services and are provided with adequate access to employment, social and cultural opportunities as an integral part of their living environment.

Labor believes that comprehensive urban and regional planning is an essential ingredient of effective policy measures. It requires the full co-operation of commonwealth, state, territory and local governments, open negotiation by the public and private sectors and the
participation of community groups and unions. In particular there remains a continuing need to co-ordinate community and physical infrastructure development to ensure adequate and balanced urban and regional development and to underpin economic growth.

In planning, a Labor Government will seek to ensure that the adverse regional impacts of changes in Australia’s economic structure are minimised and that full account is taken of changing demographic and regional development patterns. A Labor Government will seek to redress the imbalances created by past uncoordinated urban development resulting in over centralised business districts and the development of urban fringes with inadequate and costly infrastructure and amenities and limited job opportunities.

Labor believes that regional adjustment and development issues ought to be handled by positive government regional policies in order to enable regions to develop their advantages in terms of both human and natural resources, to broaden their economic base and to provide increased trade, employment and educational opportunities within regions. These policies ought to be complemented by regional assistance measures to ease the problems of adjustment for those directly affected by regional dislocation and structural economic change.

**B HOUSING**

**Principles**
The Labor Party believes that every Australian resident regardless of age, sex, marital status, disability, race, religion or life situation, has a right to adequate and appropriate accommodation at a price within his or her means.

Such accommodation should provide security of tenure, autonomy of action and privacy, it should be energy-efficient and accessible to community facilities and other services.

The public housing sector should be developed as a viable and positive housing sector for the community. It should not be a residual or stigmatised form of housing.

A large proportion of the community will continue to obtain their accommodation through the private sector. It is important that this sector continues to effectively meet the community’s requirements for owner occupied rental accommodation.

Adequate assistance should be provided to families on low and moderate incomes to help achieve home ownership or to help meet
the cost of public, co-operative or private rental accommodation. As much as possible, assistance should be provided on the basis of need and the housing situation of people rather than on the form of their housing tenure.

The national government should ensure an adequate and stable flow of funds for housing, and equitable access to these funds, at affordable interest rates, for low and middle income earners.

Residential building activity should be maintained at an adequate level to meet the community’s long-term housing needs, and to enhance security of employment opportunities within the residential building industry.

Labor believes that the development of an effective national housing policy requires the closest consultation between the federal, state, territory and local governments, unions, tenant organisations, community groups and the housing industry.

Policy Development through Co-operation with State, Territory and Local Governments.

Labor’s National Housing policy will involve the Federal Government in consultation and joint undertakings at the state, regional and local level, with a view to —

1. Encouraging local initiatives in the provision of housing through local government, community and regional groups, cost-rent associations and housing co-operatives.

2. Maintaining acceptable housing and land development standards while removing obsolete and inconsistent standards, requirements and regulations which impose unnecessary costs or hinder innovative forms of housing provision without significantly enhancing amenity.

3. Assisting in the development of experimental and low energy housing projects using alternative planning and engineering methods while maintaining standards of accommodation.

4. Assisting with assessments of local housing stock.

5. Developing a home improvement programme to assist householders who would be otherwise unable to do so to undertake necessary modifications and maintenance.

6. Promoting programmes to provide for the special housing needs of rural dwellers.
A National Housing Policy
The implementation of a national housing policy will be pursued within the framework of national economic and population planning aiming specifically at —

7 Sound research on the forecasting of housing needs and the cost, financing and supply of accommodation.

8 Assessment and monitoring of housing needs and conditions including physical conditions, affordability for lower income groups, adequacy of amenities, costs of provision, occupancy rates, residential density and homelessness throughout Australia.

9 Co-ordination of existing Commonwealth and State funding for housing programmes including continued substantial increases in housing funds to the extent necessary to achieve the platform commitment of doubling the proportion of public housing stock over the next ten years.

10 Encouraging the participation of housing and financial institutions, local government, trade unions, tenant organisations and regional and community groups in the planning and implementation of comprehensive housing policies.

11 Publishing an annual national housing budget indicating government housing outlays and community housing needs in all forms of tenure.

Development of the Commonwealth-state Housing Agreement
Under a Labor Government the Commonwealth-state Housing Agreement (CSHA) will be the major vehicle by which the public housing sector will be developed as a viable alternative tenure choice. It will continue to be developed as the major means of achieving satisfactory housing policies for lower income groups in Australia. It will continue to strengthen the national policy framework, set the principles and provide the bulk of the funding for this purpose.

The primary objective of the CSHA will be to alleviate housing-related poverty. However the CSHA will also be developed to reflect the principle that housing assistance is provided as much as possible on the basis of need and the circumstances of the individual rather than on the form of their housing tenure.
Specifically, the CSHA will continue to be developed so as to ensure that —

12 State housing authorities are provided with additional funding and a continuity of funds on a three year rolling basis, with the objective that the proportion of the total stock held in a variety of public tenures is doubled within ten years.

13 The supply of public rental housing is increased in a variety of locations and house types and indiscriminate sales of the rental stocks are prevented.

14 The public housing stock is well located, of a good standard, innovative in design and management, integrated with private housing and developed to reflect the needs and preferences of those seeking access to public housing including for single persons, youth, the elderly, the disabled, people in crisis situations, Aborigines, immigrants and those living in remote locations.

15 The important role that public housing should play in meeting the demands for accommodation in the community is recognised by the abolition of eligibility requirements for public housing, while ensuring that housing needs remain the major priority in determining allocations.

16 Public rents are based on the costs to the community of providing and maintaining the standard of the housing.

17 A Commonwealth-funded minimum national rental rebate system based on tenants' capacity to pay and consistent with support to private tenants is introduced.

18 The extent to which public tenants participate in the management of their dwellings and estates is maximised, and in developing policies and programmes under this Agreement, consultation with tenants and community housing organisations are encouraged including by the development of tenants' charters.

19 Public housing authorities are funded and managed to provide adequate community amenities and service to tenants.

20 Funds are continued to be made available in a cost-effective and equitable manner for home purchase assistance to low income earners.
21 Programmes are developed under which funds are provided for the use of local government and non-profit housing co-operatives and other community groups.

22 The close interconnections of policies under this Agreement with policies for tenants generally is recognised, including for those in private and non-profit co-operative housing, in emergency and crisis accommodation and in Aboriginal housing.

**Housing Finance Initiatives**
An underlying principle of Labor's housing policy is that the national government should ensure an adequate and stable flow of funds for housing and an equitable distribution of those funds. Innovations in the forms and terms of housing finance should be initiated to ensure better access to loans for lower and moderate income earners and co-operative housing groups and to improve the flow of funds for housing purposes.

Specific assistance measures should continue to be developed for low income groups to enable them to gain or maintain access to home ownership.

Housing finance policy should be developed to broaden access to housing finance — particularly in respect of non-profit housing co-operatives and other community based housing groups.

Consistent with these general principles, a Labor Government will assist and promote access to home ownership and provide an adequate supply of low cost rental accommodation through —

23 The use of federal government regulatory powers, including under the Banking Act, to ensure adequate funds are available for housing and housing remains a priority for housing finance institutions.

24 Developing initiatives to broaden the sources of housing finance, including the development of a secondary mortgage market to buy and sell mortgages on terms laid down by the Australian Government.

25 Encouraging financial institutions to provide finance for innovative housing schemes (particularly non-profit housing co-operatives), as well as supporting the development of appropriate financial mechanisms designed to cater for the needs of co-operatives and other community-based housing organisations.
26 Maintaining adequate powers to control housing interest rates to ensure that housing finance remains affordable in the face of changing economic circumstances.

27 Encouraging the introduction of more flexible mortgage schemes, such as capital-indexed and other low-start loans.

28 Continuing to develop assistance to first home buyers designed to assist them to bridge the deposit gap and assist with interest payments.

29 Supporting and facilitating, where possible, the broadening of sources of finance for housing authorities and the development of more innovative and flexible methods of borrowing.

**Housing Industry Initiatives**
Labor recognises the importance of the home building industry in meeting the community's requirements for accommodation. An important element of Labor's housing policy is to ensure that the private housing sector effectively meets the demand placed upon it at minimum cost to the consumer.

*A Labor Government will ensure this through —*

30 Indicative planning of industry activity, in consultation with industry, financial institutions, state and local government, trade unions, tenant organisations and community groups.

31 Measures to ensure adequate supplies of housing finance, residential land, materials and skilled labour.

32 Public interest research into technical and socio-economic problems of housing provision, together with initiatives to ensure wide dissemination of the results of such research in the industry and the community.

33 Ensuring, in co-operation with state and local government, that regulation of the industry continues to achieve its economic-social objectives while remaining cost effective and flexible.

**Assistance to Tenants**
Labor recognises the particular housing problems faced by tenants and will continue to develop measures to assist home renters to overcome the economic disadvantages they suffer as compared with home owners.
A Labor Government will ensure —

34 Income-related assistance is introduced on a portable basis for tenants in public housing, in the private rental sector and in non-profit co-operative housing (including for pensioners, the unemployed and other social security beneficiaries eligible for the family income supplement) who are experiencing housing related poverty.

35 Rent-relief schemes and advisory services are developed for lower income earners experiencing difficulty in meeting private rental payments.

36 Adequate housing supply in the private rental sector by stimulating and otherwise encouraging, among other means, joint public/private schemes and lease-back arrangements.

37 Encouragement is given to innovatory rental housing such as cost rent associations and non-profit housing co-operatives, joint public and private schemes, joint ventures with state and local government and lease-back arrangements.

38 States and territories are encouraged to reform tenancy laws covering both public and private rental housing to define the rights and duties of landlords and tenants fully, clearly and in simple language; ensure that rental housing is provided in good condition, on fair terms and with secure tenure; reduce disputes between landlords and tenants and provide a mechanism so that any disputes can be resolved quickly, fairly, cheaply and informally.

39 The impact of taxation arrangements on the provision of rental accommodation is monitored and appropriate changes are sought where these are desirable for social as well as economic reasons.

C LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Labor is committed to the recognition of local government as a genuine partner in the Australian Government system. Accordingly a Federal Labor Government will work in co-operation with state, territorial and local governments to enhance the status and strengthen the capacity of local government throughout Australia. Labor believes that the Australian system of representative democracy is strengthened by reinforcing the capacity of people to influence decisions which affect them where they live through equitable, efficient and participatory local government.
Principles
Labor recognises the historical development of local government through functions conferred by state legislatures. Labor also recognises the initiatives of local governments in evolving towards multi-functional community governments. Labor believes that the potential of local government is best realised when —

The roles and responsibilities of local government are recognised and agreed to.

State, territorial and federal governments adequately consult and co-operate with local governments on matters which affect local communities.

Local governments are adequately resourced to fulfil the functions required of them by state, territorial and federal governments and by local residents.

Local governments are effective and equitable in the discharge of their functions.

Local governments encourage open processes of negotiation, decision-making and community participation, and are supported in this by central governments.

Labor accepts a responsibility to adequately assist and resource local governments in working according to these principles.

Undertakings
A Federal Labor Government will, in co-operation with state, territory and local governments —

Recognition
40 Seek representation of local government on significant forums of inter-government consultation and negotiation.

41 Work to have the rights and responsibilities of local government recognised in federal and state constitutions, especially acknowledging —
   a principles of electoral justice based on universal adult franchise and one-vote one-value;
   b a power of general competence for the good order and government of local areas and communities; and
   c rights embodied in due process to be followed in circumstances of conflict with central governments.
42 Initiate, in consultation with state, territory and local governments, appropriate investigations of an agreement on local government functions and requirements.

43 Provide a focus for local government in their approaches to the federal government through a specifically designated local government ministerial responsibility and administrative capacity.

44 Promote co-ordination of federal government assistance for local governments, including regular reporting by ministers on the impact of federal government activities on local governments.

**Administrative Support**

45 Develop local level current information services on public finance, economic activity and employment, and social conditions.

46 Develop planning and management support services and centres for local governments.

47 Expand and improve opportunities for —
   a training of local government elected representatives and staff;
   and
   b community education about local government.

48 Encourage a wider exchange of personnel between federal and local governments.

49 Promote and support the development of voluntary arrangements between local governments in a region to increase their political and administrative capacities.

50 Support state and territorial initiatives to avoid conflicts of interest arising in the duties of elected members and staff of local governments.

**Financial Relations**

51 Provide financial assistance for local governments, including —
   a an annual allocation of at least 2 per cent of Federal personal income tax receipts as a general revenue grant to local government; the allocation in any year to be not less than the real value of the previous year’s allocation;
   b specific purpose grants and loans to local governments; and
   c support of local governments borrowing capacity.

A Federal Labor Government’s financial assistance for local governments will take account of —
The revenue effort of local governments.

The financial assistance provided to local governments by state and territory governments.

Disabilities in the revenue base or capacities of the area.

Expenditure disabilities, such as the council area’s demography, topography, geography and geology.

The relative needs of the area’s population and the level of services available to them.

In providing financial assistance for local governments, a Federal Labor Government will give priority to —

52 Those local governments and areas which have a demonstrated need arising out of structural adjustment pressures, concentrations of unemployed, recent migrants or low income groups; and those local government areas critically deficient in community facilities or services.

53 Local governments making innovative contributions in management practices, service delivery design and construction of buildings, and design and management of plant and equipment.

54 Local governments active in extending opportunities for community participation.

55 Local governments seeking to upgrade and expand housing for low income housing market dynamics, to provide means-tested home improvement loans, to provide housing information services, and to reduce local government additions to housing costs. As part of this assistance, a minimum proportion of Commonwealth/state Housing Agreement funds will be earmarked for potential local government use.

56 Local governments establishing viable economic enterprises at a local or regional level, especially those which contribute to sustainable employment growth.

57 Involve and support local governments in programmes of community development in welfare, health, recreation, environment protection and education, tourism, transport and urban development.
D COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Introduction
Economic inefficiencies and social inequalities in Australian cities have been aggravated by neglect of co-ordinated urban planning, inadequate community amenities, public transport and job opportunities in the context of rapid demographic and structural change, a contrast between the standard of public services and the level of private affluence and anticipated resource constraints. There remains a pressing need to redress the disadvantages of some stagnating and high unemployment cities and towns relative to the more rapid growth region and metropolitan areas. Labor recognises the further challenge of determining how and when to house a changing population, how to provide real income security, employment and equitable access to services.

Structural change in the form of demographic and technological change, international changes including increased import competition, changing consumer demand and government actions, are operating to reduce employment growth and erode the viability of some established regions, while other regions grow rapidly. There is a need to co-ordinate, influence or redirect these changes, so as to strengthen and diversify the economies of regions adversely affected by changes and to encourage the balanced growth of expanding regions.

Successful community development policies entail the full participation of affected groups and the timely provision of adequate social and economic infrastructure through co-operative activity of Australian state, territory and local governments.

Policy Co-ordination
A Labor Government will —

57 Work closely with the states and territories in developing co-operative arrangements for urban and regional policy-making within the context of national economic and regional planning.

58 Use its powers in co-operation with the states, territories, local government and the private sector to co-ordinate the location of jobs and functions with changing population patterns to promote sustainable employment growth, housing security, equitable access to community services, energy conservation and environmental quality.

59 Promote wider community participation in making decisions relating to the development and management of cities, regions and rural communities.
60 Use its power over foreign investment and taxation policy to combat speculative dealing in land and property, in particular to seek to prevent foreign purchase of large tracts of rural land.

61 Develop and monitor an Urban and Regional Budget Programme in co-operation with the states and territories to co-ordinate the resources allocated for investment in urban and regional works and services by the Australian, state, territory and local governments.

62 Establish an appropriate Commonwealth administrative structure concerned with the impact of private and government decisions affecting the urban and regional environment, land use and community development. Its functions would include —

a in participation with other relevant departments, the national co-ordination of resource allocation and investment in social capital, with particular regard to land use, housing, transport, employment location, recreational and cultural amenities, developed in co-operation with the respective departments and authorities, with the states, territories and local governments;

b monitoring the impact of the Commonwealth's decisions upon overall community development objectives and in particular the spatial effects of its decisions, especially infrastructure, trade, investment, industry and technology policies on structural change in general;

c promoting effective liaison between urban planning and community development departments of the Commonwealth, state and local governments, including the creation of a formal mechanism between the governments to provide for consultation and exchange of information on regional and urban policy and planning issues;

d development and dissemination of an information base to assist community development, including urban and regional planning and sponsoring of research of national significance on important urban and regional policy issues;

e providing support for local and, where appropriate, regional groups concerned with social development and local enterprise initiatives, particularly those designed to support employment strategies targeted to suit the needs of regions.

E URBAN IMPROVEMENT AND LAND USE

A Labor Government will —

63 Promote the co-ordination of programmes by both the Commonwealth Government and its instrumentalities and by the private sector in order to ensure a balanced pattern of urban development — balanced in terms of jobs and population and community services
and facilities to meet the needs of the population in different sub-regions.

64 Assist the states to achieve selective urban consolidation in ways which do not disrupt the social cohesion of established areas.

65 Assist state, territory and local governments and, where appropriate, regional organisations of councils selectively, to undertake urban area improvement programmes.

66 Encourage the development of social and economic infrastructure so that it is consistent with prevailing urban and regional development strategies, including specifically to ensure that investment in public transport is given priority and that all investment in land transport is consistent with —
   a a policy of energy conservation and use of renewable energy resources; and
   b a recognition of existing major air and noise pollution problems resulting from over-dependence on road-based private transport.

67 Seek to ensure the provision of community amenities and services in major development projects.

68 Encourage state governments to focus urban development in appropriate locations consistent with public transport strategies in order to improve the equity of access to employment, social and cultural opportunities, and in particular, to focus development away from over-centralised business districts and to stop wasteful expenditure on inner city freeways and inner city carparks in the largest cities.

69 Monitor the supply of serviced land and encourage state, territory and local governments to take action, including intervention in the land market to ensure the supply is adequate to meet demand.

70 Encourage state, territory and local governments to —
   a combat profiteering in land, including by public acquisition, at rural prices, of rural land for urban development and by appropriate restrictions (such as commercial and industrial land to be held on a leasehold basis, subject to an annual land rent with periodic review) when disposing of land;
   b establish strict safeguards in respect of land purchases to ensure no waste of public funds; and
   c ensure the activities of Land Commissions and Urban Land Councils are consistent with Labor's urban and regional strategy.
71 Encourage more cost-effective and uniform land subdivision prac-
tices.

72 Improve, in co-operation with the states, territories and local
government, the inventories of urban and rural land ownership and
use.

73 Assist the states and territories to assess the availability of open
space in major cities.

74 Assist local government authorities to identify the present and
potential users of underdeveloped or disused urban land and
property.

F REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

A Labor Government will act through its various departments and
authorities to make regional development a priority of its social and
economic programmes.

In co-operation with state, territory and local governments, a Labor
Government will —

75 Strengthen urban and regional economies, ensure a viable and
diversified employment base in regional centres, and improve the
access of people especially in rural areas and provincial centres to
employment, social and cultural opportunities.

76 Undertake intensive and co-ordinated monitoring and analysis of
regional industry and employment trends, including analysis of the
potential effect of national economic changes on states, cities and
urban and provincial regions.

77 Ensure that decisions on industrial location are taken in full
recognition of their implications for national, regional and community
development.

78 In selected areas of priority, including regional growth centres,
undertake joint studies to determine appropriate development
strategies; such strategies should be regional-specific, positive,
growth oriented, in accordance with national economic and settle-
ment planning and should include the promotion of —
a the location of government services and employment in
appropriate centres, including major rural cities and regions, such
location decisions being made in full consultation with staff
concerned and with affected employee bodies;
b environmentally sound industries with the potential to provide secure long term employment opportunities, including high value adding processing and low energy using industries; c appropriate infrastructure development, including the upgrading and expanding of community amenities and services necessary to encourage further location in priority areas; and d co-ordinated education and training strategies.

G CONSTRUCTION AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

79 Labor recognises the important contribution of the construction sector to the national economy and to the development of cities and regions. To this end Labor is developing a strategy to achieve greater stability in overall construction activity and infrastructure development and a more balanced approach to regional development.

80 A Labor Government will ensure appropriate consultation between differing levels of government, industry and unions in developing long-term goals. This will result in efficient planning of the Australian Government's own capital works, and enable more effective co-ordination of major public and private investment projects at both the national and regional level.

81 Labor acknowledges the extent to which infrastructure development is dependent upon an effective, flexible and internationally competitive construction industry. Under Labor the industry will be able to plan effectively the future provision of industry resources including labour force requirements. To provide a framework for the continuing development of the construction industry a Labor Government will also promote — a the greater use of Australian contractors and consultants in Australian as well as overseas projects; b improved industrial relations recognising the rights of every Australian in the working environment; and c increased research and dissemination of information throughout the industry.

82 Labor recognises the construction industry requires a strong, viable public sector works capacity. Accordingly, Labor will maintain and strengthen a central works authority to ensure the timely, efficient and cost-effective execution of public works in a manner which provides leadership to the Australian construction industry.
H NATIONAL ESTATE

A Labor Government will —

83 Ensure the annual funding of projects through the Australian Heritage Commission to preserve, protect and enhance the National Estate, using as the guides for financial assistance the register of the National Estate compiled by the Australian Heritage Commission and registers compiled by any equivalent state bodies.

84 Seek to achieve, through the Australian Heritage Commission, the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service and related state and territory organisations, a system of well-managed national parks, reserves and wilderness areas which protect adequate and representative examples of all Australia’s diverse environments and the genetic material they contain.

85 Review a package of measures including tax incentives for owners of a heritage area or item who undertake to preserve it in perpetuity.

I DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN AUSTRALIA

86 Recognising the importance for Australia of the development of its northern regions a Federal Labor Government will establish a task force under the direction of the Prime Minister to —

a plan and co-ordinate in co-operation with the state and Northern Territory governments the development of Northern Australia;

b examine and review the impact of federal and state government policies on the economic and social development of Northern Australia;

c examine and recommend changes to Federal Government taxation policies as they affect the cost of living in Northern Australia; and

d where appropriate recommend the decentralisation and instrumentalities relevant to the administration and development of Northern Australia.
A Labor Government will —

1. Raise the maximum rate of Service Pension to the equivalent of 25 per cent of average weekly earnings for single beneficiaries.

2. Provide for at least half yearly indexation of Repatriation Benefits and of the income limits for Fringe Benefits.

3. Exclude Disability Pensions from Income Tax Assessment and from consideration as income for the payment of Service Pensions.

4. Extend liberal treatment to ex-service personnel disabled as a result of war service.

5. Ensure that dependents of Disability Pensioners, including the wives of TPI Pensioners, receive relief and treatment, including through Medicare.

6. Have regard to the recommendations of the Repatriation Hospital Review Committee in ensuring that Repatriation Hospitals are provided with the necessary human and capital resources to deliver a high quality of care with efficiency and convenience to patients.

7. In recognition of the steadily increasing average age of Repatriation beneficiaries, build on the framework established by the Labor Government through the Geriatric Assessment Units, by extending departmental facilities and services to meet the special needs of the aged and frail among the Veteran community.

9 Develop a Client Liaison Service to improve public relations and publicity programmes and to ensure expeditious handling of client complaints.

10 Review the Defence Service Home Loans Scheme with a view to raising the maximum loan to a more realistic proportion of the cost of purchasing a home, and/or to reduce or remove the waiting period for loans.

11 Widen the eligibility criteria for Defence Service Home Loans to ensure justice for ex-servicewomen.

12 Undertake the necessary reforms, on the basis of the findings of the Report of the Administrative Review Council, in order to reduce the unacceptable delays in the Repatriation entitlements determining system.

13 Introduce a Consolidated Repatriation Act taking account of recommendations of the Legislative Review Committee and of consultations with ex-service organisations.
26 WOMEN

The ALP recognises that Australian women do not yet experience total equality with men nor full participation in all aspects of our society. The special disadvantages of Aboriginal women, rural women, unemployed women, migrant women, disabled women, isolated women are also recognised. In accordance with its belief in the equal rights of all people, the Australian Labor Party is committed to securing these rights for women in all matters, as set out in our platform. Labor supports the particular right of women to choice of fertility control and abortion.

Labor is committed to taking all legislative and administrative steps, including the introduction of affirmative action programmes, to ensure that these problems and disadvantages are overcome; such reforms will recognise the rights of women to participate fully in all aspects of political and economic life, the crucial contribution of women to family life and the special needs of women who are childbearers.

Recognising that Australian society generally has developed within out-moded assumptions of women’s marginality to the economy, and the workforce, a Labor Government will conduct a comprehensive analysis of the impact upon women of current taxation, employment, industry, population and social welfare policies and practices (in conjunction with trade unions and women’s organisations) in order to develop measures to ensure social and economic equity and efficiency.

A Labor Government will achieve these reforms in co-operation with state and territory governments where possible. Where state or territory government action is inadequate, and in all areas of Commonwealth responsibility, the Labor Government will use Commonwealth funding and legislative powers including the ratification of international conventions to guarantee equal rights for women.
27 YOUTH

A INTRODUCTION

Young people are a vitally important section of the community. The ALP is committed to improving the political, social and economic situation of young people in Australia today. Labor believes that a comprehensive approach to the needs of young people is essential. To develop that approach it believes that the development of Youth Policies and Programmes should be based on six principles —

A Labor Government will —

1 Increase the range, improve the quality and make more equal the opportunities provided for young people.

2 Ensure discrimination against young people in employment, housing and other areas is eliminated.

3 Ensure that adequate financial and social support be available to all young people in need. Income support measures for young people should be improved so as to reduce the complexity of existing schemes, improving the adequacy of benefits available and reducing the inequalities between existing systems.

4 Recognise the right of young people to participate in decisions which affect them.

5 Make government programmes for young people accessible to all but give priority to those whose needs are greatest.

6 Ensure that government programmes recognise the need of young people to develop independence and support the growth of self-determination and economic responsibility.
In accordance with these principles, a Labor Government will pursue specific policies in the following areas —

**B EMPLOYMENT**

7 In employment planning, pay particular attention to the needs of young people. Employment creation will be co-ordinated with education and training, to ensure that young people can find themselves secure jobs with lasting futures.

8 Implement job creation programmes for youth to ensure permanent job opportunities with a particular emphasis on disadvantaged youth.

9 In consultation with the ACTU, encourage reforms in apprenticeship programmes. This will allow amongst other things for a broader base for training, diversity in changing economic circumstances and greater participation by under-represented groups, particularly women.

10 Labor believes that wage scales should be determined on the basis of training, qualifications and experience and not purely on age.

**C EDUCATION**

Education should be the means whereby young people gain a critical understanding of society and the knowledge to operate effectively within it. Curriculum should be broadly based, providing vocational and general skills and knowledge, and should encourage young people to study all aspects of society.

11 Specifically, political education, covering democratic systems and processes, should be included in Australia’s school curriculum to enable young people to fully exercise their political rights and responsibilities.

Young people should be able and encouraged to participate as fully as possible in all levels of decision making in their education, including the administration of their educational institutions and determining the structure and content of the curriculum.

12 Reaffirms its long-standing commitment to improving access to secondary and tertiary education particularly for young Australians.
D  INCOME SUPPORT

13 Improve the structure and level of income support for young people provided by a number of departments including Social Security and Education.

E  HOUSING

14 Funds should be provided through the Commonwealth-state Housing Agreement to meet the various housing needs of young people within the public housing system. A condition of this funding should be that young people be given access to public housing, regardless of marital status or age, on the basis of need only.

15 Expand the provision of funds and support for operation of youth refuges.

F  SUPPORT SERVICE

16 Improve and extend the range of locally available support services for young people, including —
   a information and counselling related to employment and training, career guidance, health, interpersonal relationships, housing and tenancy, family planning, consumer affairs and legal matters; and
   b recreational and leisure activities.

17 Acknowledge that support services for young people must be provided with adequate resources and equitably distributed between areas. Young people shall be involved in the management and delivery of these services.

This Youth Policy is supplemented and further developed in many other areas of this Platform.

Resolution

Labor endorses the three themes of International Youth Year —

Participation

Development

Peace

Young people are affected by the same problems as other disadvantaged sections of the community. However their ability to redress those problems is disproportionately limited. Labor believes.
that in areas where young people are involved, they should have the same rights and obligations as other sections of the community, including the rights and obligations to participation in decision making processes.

*Therefore a Labor Government will —*

In general develop structures that will involve young people in decision making areas that affect them; and

In particular assist in the development of youth centres run by young people.

In light of the above, Conference directs that the Policy Committee responsible for the Youth Platform meets with the National Executive of Australian Young Labor to formulate a comprehensive policy for Australian youth.
RULES

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

2 Objective
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.

3 Head Office
The Head Office of the Party shall be known as the National Secretariat and shall be established in John Curtin House, Barton, A.C.T.

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

5 Structure of Party Organisation
a the Party shall function upon the following basis —
   i National Conference;
   ii National Executive;
   iii Federal Parliamentary Labor Party;
   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 provi-
sions of the Party Platform or any other decision of National
Conference or National Executive; and
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.

6 National Conference

a National Conference shall consist of 100 delegates, or a number
as near as practicable thereto, comprised as follows-
i 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;
ii delegations from each State consisting of —
(a) the State Parliamentary Leader;
(b) a base component of six persons; and
(c) a supplementary component determined in accordance
with 6b.
iii a delegation from the Northern Territory consisting of —
(a) the Northern Territory Parliamentary Leader;
(b) a base component of one person; and
(c) a supplementary component determined in accordance
with 6b.
iv a delegation from the ACT consisting of —
(a) a base component of one person; and
(b) a supplementary component determined in accordance
with 6b; and
v One delegate from Australian Young Labor.

b the supplementary component for each State and Territory
delegation shall be determined in accordance with the following
formula —
i a base figure of 50 delegates shall be set and shall constitute
the numerator;
ii the total number of House of Representatives seats, as at 31
December in the year preceding that in which the National
Conference is required to be held, shall constitute the
denominator;
iii the denominator shall be divided into the numerator and the
resulting dividend shall, in the case of each State and
Territory, be multiplied by the number of House of Repre-
sentatives seats existing in that State or Territory as at 31
December in the year preceding that in which the National
Conference is required to be held;
iv the resulting product shall in each case constitute the
supplementary component to which the State or Territory in
question is entitled, provided that a fraction of less than one
half shall not be counted for this purpose and a fraction of one
half or more shall count as the next higher whole number.

c no less than one quarter of the combined base and supplementary components of each State delegation shall consist of women ('the basic entitlement'), provided that where the calculation made to determine this basic entitlement results in a fraction of one half or more then the basic entitlement shall count as the next higher whole number, and where it results in a fraction of less than one half it shall count as the next lower whole number.

d Proxy Delegates

i each State shall be entitled to a minimum of 2 proxies up to a maximum equal to 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 all proxies shall replace credentialled delegates for a specified period and at the conclusion of each report the delegation shall automatically revert to that originally credentialled; and

iv State and Federal leaders may each nominate one proxy subject to (ii) above. Such proxies must be a member of the relevant parliamentary executive.

e delegates shall be elected by a system of proportional representation.

f State Branches cannot bind delegates with regard to their vote on any issue before the National Conference.

g National Conference shall be held in alternate years in Canberra unless otherwise determined by the National Executive which shall have the responsibility for determining the time of the National Conference.

h Special National Conferences may be held for specially stated purposes and shall be called in the manner prescribed by these Rules.

i the National President need not be a delegate to National Conference but where the President is not a delegate he/she shall 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.

j the National Secretary, after receiving instructions from the convening authority, shall observe the following procedure for the purpose of establishing Conference agenda —

i give the following bodies three months notice to send items to Platform Committees: State Branches, Australian Young Labor, and Federal Electorate Councils and Trade Unions whose State Branches are affiliated with the Party in a majority of States in which they operate, all of which bodies shall have the right to submit items to Platform Committees. Bodies so submitting items to Platform Committees shall be
notified in writing of the Committee’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.

7 National Executive
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 two delegates from each State Branch except in the case of
the Northern Territory Branch and the Australian Capital
Territory Branch which shall have one delegate. Delegates
shall be elected by a system of proportional representation;

ii the President, unless he/she is otherwise an elected dele-
gate, with full rights of a delegate except that of voting;

iii the National Secretary shall not be a delegate but shall have
the full rights of a delegate except that of voting;

iv the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Federal Parliamentary
Labor Party and the Leader and Deputy Leader in the Senate
or proxies nominated by the relevant leader. Such proxy must
be a member of the federal parliamentary executive.

v State Secretaries who are not delegates to the National
Executive shall be able to attend National Executive meetings
with all rights of delegates except that of voting.

b i The National Executive shall elect the following officers:
President; Senior Vice-President; two Junior Vice-presidents.
The Vice-Presidents shall be members of the National
Executive in accordance with Rule 7(a)(i).

ii the President and Vice President shall be elected at the first
meeting commencing after May 31st in each year, and shall
hold office until the first meeting commencing after May 31st
in the following year, but if any of them ceases to hold office
before the latter meeting the National Executive shall elect a
successor at the first meeting after he/she ceases to hold
office.

iii the National Secretary shall be the permanent officer of the
National Executive, subject to good conduct, satisfactory
performance of duty and adherence to the policy and objects
of the Party. The Secretary’s services shall be terminable by
one month’s notice by either party.

Powers and duties of the National Executive

c decisions of the National Executive shall be binding upon all
sections and members of the ALP subject only to appeal to
National Conference. The National Executive shall —

i be the administrative authority carrying out the decisions of
National Conference, and in the interpretation of any Confer-
ence decision, the National Platform and the Consitution and Rules of the Party, and the direction of Federal Members;

ii convene National Conferences in accordance with these Rules;

iii convene special National Conferences when requested by a majority of state Branches for special purpose(s) providing that such purpose(s) is/are National in character. The National Executive may also, on its own motion, convene such Conferences;

iv meet at least four times a year, and at such other times as the Executive may determine, for the purpose of considering and determining all matters that are properly before it. Subject to these rules only State Branches, Australian Young Labor, the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party and trade unions whose state branches are affiliated with the Party in a majority of states in which they operate shall be competent to send matters to the National Executive.

v initiate discussions of any question of a national nature if a majority of the Executive so decides.

vi the Executive shall determine the time and place of all meetings. However special meetings of the National Executive or decisions to postpone or cancel executive meetings, may be made with the agreement of a majority of the credentialled delegates;

vii a the National Executive shall be competent to hear and decide appeals from any affiliated organisation or individual member against the decision of any State Conference or State Executive alleged to be inconsistent with any National decision or matter;

b where any member or affiliated organisation desires to appeal to the National Executive on a question which does not involve any National decision or matter, leave to appeal must first be obtained from the State Branch concerned;

c the National Executive shall hear and decide an appeal from any person seeking to be a candidate for Federal Elections against a decision of any State Conference or State Executive affecting his/her preselection or endorsement, providing that leave to appeal is granted by the National Executive. Such leave to appeal is not to be granted except by a decision in which 10 members vote affirmatively;

viii have plenary powers to deal with and decide any matters which, in the opinion of an absolute majority of members of the Executive, affect the general welfare of the Labor Movement, provided that no decision of National Conference shall be abrogated under this rule; and

ix in the case of any State Executive, State Branch or section of
the ALP acting or having acted in a manner deemed by the National Executive to be contrary to the National Constitution, Platform and Policy of the Party as interpreted by the National Executive, the National Executive may over-rule such State Executive, State Branch or section and/or may declare that same no longer exists, and shall set up in place thereof organisation competent to carry out the National Constitution, Platform and Policy of the ALP. Pending the hearing of any appeal, the decision of the National Executive shall operate. In the event of the National Executive taking any action under this sub-clause, the National Executive shall be the body to approve any selection which otherwise would have been made by the body affected by the National Executive decision.

8 The Officers of the Party shall be responsible for the administration of the party between meetings of the National Executive. 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. Other than in urgent situations which preclude either a special meeting of the National Executive or a postal vote of Executive members, the Officers shall not have the power to make decisions on behalf of the National Executive. Any actions taken by the Officers between Executive meetings shall be reported to the next meeting of the Executive for endorsement.

9 Duties of President
The President, when available, shall attend and preside over all meetings of the National Executive and conduct such meetings on the basis of the Standing Orders as applicable to National Conference. The President may carry out any other duties that the Executive may deem fit.

10 Duties of Vice-President
The Vice-Presidents, in order of seniority, shall take the Chair in the absence of the President, and shall perform any other duties that may be referred to them by the Executive.

11 Finance
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 subject to a ballot of State Branches, until such arrears are paid;
c the National Executive shall determine and administer an equalisation pool for travel costs associated with National Conferences and National Executive meetings;
d 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;
e each Branch shall pay to the National Executive not later than December 31st of each year the appropriate fee, to be determined by the National Executive, for international affiliations or activities associated therewith; and
f the National Executive shall, from time to time, determine the manner in which the Party's accounts shall be operated including the signatories to the Party's bank accounts.

12 Platform Review Committee
The Officers of the National Executive, together with the Leaders of the FPLP, shall act as a Platform Review Committee and further act as a consultative body for the purpose of removing misunderstandings provided that no action shall be taken to disturb the constitutional functions of each body.

13 Federal Parliamentary Labor Party
a no State Branch may direct 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.

Resolutions

Conference directs that —

1 The Executive be directed to examine the desirability of a National set of rules and present such recommendations to the 1986 National Conference and that the proposed recommendations be submitted to Branches six months prior to the next National Conference.

2 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.

3 The question of procedures for special and guest speakers be referred to the National Executive who shall submit recommendations to take effect, pending endorsement, at the next National Conference.

4 The National Executive be directed to further examine the restructuring of the National Executive and report back to the 1986 National Conference.

5 The National Executive should consult with the ACT Branch in an effort to reach agreement regarding the content and operation of its rules.

6 The question of the granting the ACT House of Assembly Leader representation to National Conference be deferred and resubmitted to National Conference for consideration when the ACT is granted self-government.

This Conference

7 a recognises the enormous difficulties faced by the Government in dealing with the Ivanov-Combe affair, particularly in the absence, under the present legislation of effective machinery, for the protection of individual rights;

b acknowledges the pain and distress caused to David Combe and his family by the course of events and that Mr Justice Hope found no wrong doing on his part;

c notes the terms of the proposed new Platform provisions on ASIO, the Party Submission to the Hope Royal Commission and the administrative changes already announced by the Government, all of which are designed to ensure maximum protection for individual liberties;

d notes the Government's clearly stated position that there is no present impediment to David Combe being employed by, or dealing with the Commonwealth Government on the same basis as anyone else;

e expresses its view that the most appropriate form of compensation for David Combe would be for him to return to the mainstream of political life, and to be satisfyingly employed with all his skills used to full benefit; and
expresses its confident trust that acceptance of this course by the Government would be accompanied by David Combe's continuing loyalty to the Party and the Government.

8 The following decision of the 1982 National Conference remains in force.

**Abortion**
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.

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE STANDING ORDERS**

**Chairman 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 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.

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 nominations of that delegate.

The grounds of the objection shall be conveyed to the delegate challenged and to the body nominating him 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**
Conference shall meet each day from 9.30 a.m. to 12.45 p.m., and 2.15 p.m. to 5.30 p.m., 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.
4 Order of Business

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 rise and address the Chair. No member shall address the Conference unless called by the Chairman.

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 his 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 Chairman shall call attention to the time of all speakers one minute before such time expires. Motions for extensions may be made when the Chairman 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 Chairman 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 Chairman shall call upon those who support the question to say ‘Aye’ and those who are opposed to say ‘No’;
      ii he shall then declare the question carried or lost.
   h any delegate not satisfied with the Chairman’s decision may, by standing in his place, call for a show of hands. The Chairman 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 Chairman 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 Chairman 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 Chairman shall declare such a question lost; and
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; and

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 Chairman 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 Chairman on any question shall be subject to 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 Chairman shall be permitted not more than five minutes to defend his 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.
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