

BUILDING A BETTER LABOR PARTY

**2021 NSW LEFT
POLICY BOOK**



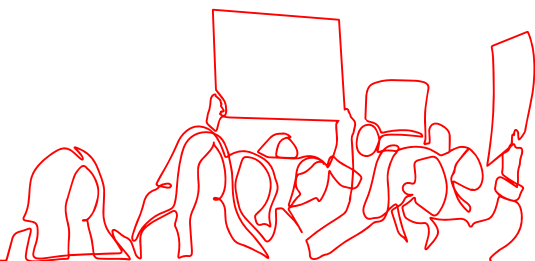
**EQUALITY
SOCIAL JUSTICE
DEMOCRACY**

2021 NSW LEFT POLICY BOOK

In the lead up to the 2021 State Conference NSW Left members have organised around and submitted hundreds of policy motions that represent our values of democracy, social justice and equality.

This booklet is an overview of how key motions fared through the policy committee process - where we won, where a compromise position was reached, and where motions were not supported and there are further fights for the Left to pursue.

This is all critical information for us as activists to inform what issues the Left must pursue in the lead up to the 2022 Conference which will shape the agenda of the NSW Labor Party as it heads towards a State Election.





WINS:

- **Retention of decriminalisation of abortion motions** in the Health chapter and support for decriminalisation and access to terminations
- **Re-commitment to a Drug Summit and pill-testing trial**
- Support for **expansion to mental health services**
- Support for increased funding for **research and support for PCOS and endometriosis**
- **Banning Mandatory Disease Testing**
- **Drug law reform**, including proposals regarding **decriminalisation, discontinuing of the use of sniffer dogs**, and a harm minimisation approach to drug law and use.
- The committee continues to refer issues such as Voluntary Assisted Dying, opposition to mandatory disease testing and even a motion on healthcare in prisons to the Social Justice & Legal Affairs Committee - we have long fought for health issues to be considered as such

FURTHER FIGHTS FOR THE LEFT:

- Now that abortion has been decriminalised in NSW, access to termination services remains a pressing issue



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES & RECONCILIATION

WINS:

- **Re-establish the NSW Indigenous Labor Network with rules change to support the Network**
- Support for Federal Labor's position on the **Uluru Statement from the Heart**
- **Establishment of a Truth and Justice Commission** in NSW
- **Raise the age of criminal responsibility**
- Support for Federal Labor's commitment to **abolish the cashless welfare card**
- Expanding and investing in Justice reinvestment
- Sustained funding to community controlled organisations including public housing, health, legal, family support services, cultural centres and land care initiatives

FURTHER FIGHTS FOR THE LEFT:

- **Full implementation of the recommendations of the Family is Culture Report**



PROSPERITY & FAIRNESS AT WORK

WINS:

- **Paid pandemic leave**
- Repeal the 2012 changes to NSW WHS legislation
- Unions have ability to **prosecute offences under WHS legislation**
- Reverse onus approach to WHS responsibility
- **A stand alone health and safety regulator**
- Support for recommendations of the Boland Review
- Flexible work
- Support for Federal Labor's commitment to implement **all the Respect@Work recommendations**
- Support for Federal Labor's commitment to fund the Commonwealth Public Service, abolish the staffing level cap, increase the number of permanent public sector jobs, reduce outsourcing and restore independence to our public institutions
- **No more wage caps on NSW Public Service**, no further privatisation, and investigation of insourcing options
- **Payment of super on all forms of leave including unpaid parental leave**
- **Better regulation of labour hire companies**
- Equal pay for SACS workers
- Development of a **portable entitlements scheme**
- Job creation through direct public investment
- **Closing the gender gap in super**



PROSPERITY & FAIRNESS AT WORK

- Re-establishing and properly resourcing Safe Work
- A Parliamentary Inquiry into the abuse of JobKeeper by corporations
- **Removal of the ABCC**
- NSW portable long service leave strengthened and extended to insecure workers
- Support for better working conditions and wages for Clubs Workers
- **Job security for school cleaners**

FURTHER FIGHTS FOR THE LEFT

- Further improvements to length and rate of paid parental leave
- A more comprehensive approach to preventing and prosecuting wage theft – the committee is drafting a set of words on this



SOCIAL JUSTICE & LEGAL AFFAIRS

WINS:

- Platform change to **support cultural diversity in representation in the Labor Party**
- Support for a range of **motions on domestic violence, coercive control and specialised domestic violence refuges**
- **Proper funding of anti-corruption watchdogs and a National Integrity Commission**
- Proper funding of social housing and homelessness services
- **Raise the age of criminal responsibility**
- **Abortion accessibility** especially for rural and regional areas (partial win as was support in principle)

FURTHER FIGHTS FOR THE LEFT

- **Abolition of private prisons**
- **Abolishing Mandatory Disease Testing**
- **Transgender recognition** at births, deaths and marriages
- Strengthening NSW anti-discrimination laws
- **Refugee rights** (referred to Federal Labor)



AUSTRALIA & THE WORLD

WINS:

- **All policy positions from the National Platform 2021 adopted and endorsed, so wins reflect progressive policies from the National Platform. This includes:**
- A commitment for Labor in Government to **increase aid every year by a percentage of Gross National Income (GNI)**. This reflects the Labor for Aid policy position and will see our international development commitments grow;
- **A strong human rights statement on the treatment of Uyghur people in China;**
- A restatement of support for a **two-state solution in relation to the Israel-Palestine Conflict** and support for recognition of the State

of Palestine as a high priority for Labor in Government; and

- A commitment to **suspending military and associated support** to the military regime in Myanmar.

FURTHER FIGHTS FOR THE LEFT:

- **Ensuring the NSW Australia & the World Committee meets between NSW Conferences and actually considers policy for NSW Labor ahead of the ALP National Conference!**



COUNTRY LABOR

WINS:

- Guaranteed country candidates in **30% of the winnable positions on the NSW Legislative Council ticket.**
- Getting the Country Labor Committee to be able to focus on policy for country people.
- **More support for all country seats including a campaign package for every seat.**

FURTHER FIGHTS FOR THE LEFT:

- Better organising resources including dedicated Country Organisers
- A Country Conference that can make its own decisions



OUR ECONOMIC FUTURE

WINS:

- **Need to address the social and economic impact of COVID19 pandemic on women, including support in principle for a range of measures including but not limited to:**

- Job security
- Equal pay
- Investing in the social infrastructure of the economy – healthcare, education, disability and community services
- Expansion of direct public sector jobs
- Closing the gender gap in retirement incomes
- Paid domestic violence leave legislated in the NES
- A national family and domestic violence strategy

Need to build back better including but not limited to:

- Real action to support pay rises for essential workers
- Nation-building infrastructure to stimulate employment
- Strong local manufacturing industries
- A jobs-led approach to climate change
- Strong public services, no privatisation, exploration of insourcing options
- Investment in aged care
- Early childhood education, disability care and health services and ensuring these are secure, well paid jobs
- Permanently raising job seeker and abolishing mutual obligations,



OUR ECONOMIC FUTURE

- Implementing free universal early childcare delivered by a well-paid professional workforce
- Significantly increasing funding and support for a vibrant arts and music sector that prioritises the telling of Australian stories.
- **Implementation of the Royal Commission into the finance sector**
- Procurement of trains and buses, regional jobs, labour hire and procurement
- Support for Casino workers
- Disaster planning and management
- **Australia as a global energy super-power**

FURTHER FIGHTS FOR THE LEFT:

- **Progressive tax reform**
- Trade policy



EDUCATION & SKILLS

WINS:

- **The Gallop Report**
- Securing more secure jobs for school cleaners
- **Introduction of Consent education in schools**
- **Rebuilding and better resourcing of TAFE**
- More support for the university sector

FURTHER FIGHTS FOR THE LEFT:

- **Committing Labor to reject Latham's 'Parental Rights' Bill.** There are serious concerns about teachers having their jobs put at risk by this Bill. If a teacher breached this legislation, their teaching registration would be cancelled – preventing them from teaching anywhere in NSW. It also targets trans and other LGBTIQ+ students.

A background image showing several wind turbines silhouetted against a vibrant sunset sky with orange and pink hues. The turbines are of varying heights and are positioned across the frame, creating a sense of depth.

BUILDING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

WINS:

- Restoring planning powers to local councils
- **Increasing library funding to local governments**
- Support for a well funded Building Commissioner
- Opposing compulsory postal voting elections
- **Support for increased public transport and electric vehicle infrastructure**
- Opposition of the Liberal Government's toll road expansion
- Support for housing initiatives to combat homelessness and the NSW crisis of housing affordability
- **Need for increased funding for the arts and cultural life**
- Reforms to NSW electoral

laws to eliminate the NSW local government business votes

- **Protect all areas of the Gardens of Stone**

FURTHER FIGHTS FOR THE LEFT:

- The Committee debated a large number of motions on the environment, water, energy and climate change. While there was some positive progress here such as the recommitment to no CSG in the Northern Rivers, many motions in relation to the abolition of fracking and no new public funding of coal mines were not committed to. There is a need for further work and campaigning in these areas in the lead up to the 2022 State Conference to strengthen Labor's position.
- There was support in principle but more work to be done on renters rights including affordable housing and the right to have a pet!

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