

## 2. Australian Labor Party

### 2.1 Direct Elections

#### Preamble

The Australian Labor party has never feared reform. We cannot afford to miss this opportunity to improve on our century old traditions and structures.

Direct elections are an important part of reform and represent a chance for members to participate in ways they have not previously.

The successful National Policy Forum elections show that direct elections can work to promote internal dialogue.

#### Platform

Australian Young Labor supports increasingly using the direct election method in ballots to pursue a greater say for party members and supporters in our internal processes.

These direct elections increase the value of membership and provide a valuable experience.

Australian Young Labor believes that the success of the National Policy Forum can serve to further direct elections.

We support the principal of giving a greater say to rank and file members. Australian Young Labor commends NSW Labor on its review into direct elections of the party leader. We recognise that the election of party leader is the most important decision we have to make and we must examine any change to this system in a thorough manor.

Further use of Direct election systems can only serve to benefit our Party as we examine models of reform.

#### Action

Australian Young Labor calls on the National Executive to support efforts of reform.

Australian Young Labor endorses the principal of direct election and will support any review that proposes models suitable of implementation.

**Moved: New South Wales Young Labor**

**Recommendation: Support**

### 2.2 Candidate Vetting

#### Preamble

The position of President of Australian Young Labor carries with it significant responsibilities and obligations. It is critical that individuals seeking this office are fit for this position.

Delegates often have little knowledge of Presidential candidates prior to the conference.

Delegates should have all information available to them if we are to make an informed decision about who will be representing us on the national stage.

#### Platform

Australian Young Labor supports the implementation of a system of vetting Presidential and Secretary candidates at future Australian Young Labor Conferences.

This system would require all candidates to complete a vetting form outlining their background, and providing a chance to address any concerns.

Such a system could be based on NSW Labor's recently announced vetting process for pre-selection candidates.

This vetting form would be submitted to the Returning Officer to distribute to delegates in order to promote an informed decision.

#### Action

The Australian Young Labor National Executive will elect an individual to develop the vetting form before submitting it to the Young Labor National Executive for approval.

**Moved: New South Wales Young Labor**

**Recommendation: Support**

### 2.3 Rebuilding the Labor brand by reactivating our local branches

#### Preamble

Labor is arguably experiencing one of the toughest times the Party has ever faced. But this Party has been through very tough times before; most notably the great Labor Party splits of the last century, the Whitlam dismissal in 75, the uranium debates of the 80s, the 1993 and 1996 elections.

Internally over recent years we have been having many debates within the Party on a regular basis on how we should reconnect the brand with the voters, how we should go about rebuilding our supporter base and how we can better involve our members. However what tends to be forgotten a great deal

of the time in these discussions is the vitally important role that local everyday branches can play in helping re-grow the party's supporter base as we look to work our way out of these tough political times.

Local branches are the heart and soul of Labor. It is local branches that provide the vast majority, along with our Union movement, of our foot soldiers come election time. However greater attention needs to be paid by senior party leaders to help local branches become more than just local campaigning tools, but also local campaign activists.

Unfortunately, many branches have become defunct through a failure to hold regular meetings, and there is a need for these to be either reinvigorated, or cleaned out, with members moved into active branches in their local area.

Labor needs to build better and stronger relations between the grassroots of our party and our party leadership. Improving access for local branches to their Party leaders is vitally important in generating a sense of value and appreciation for members to get involved and stay involved.

Branches need to be encouraged to become proactively involved in their local communities, not just in a recruitment context, but in an issues context. Local campaigns can help raise the profile of the branch and generate new supporters, volunteers and members that otherwise would not have engaged with the party.

Local branches need to be better resourced and equipped to help sell our proud Labor record on a grassroots level. Our history of economic reforms- introduction of superannuation, Medicare, and record support for pensioners, environmental protection, and much more- are proud achievements that local branches should be encouraged to sell in their communities.

We as a Party should not be afraid to show we have a strong connection with the Union movement. We are a party that was born out of the Unions, we are a party that was established to protect workers and the disadvantaged, and we should be always seeking to strengthen this relationship. Opportunities exist for local branches to work a lot closer with affiliated unions.

Platform

Australian Young Labor Conference calls on the State Branches of the ALP to consider options outlined in the preamble of this motion, in the context of helping reconnect the Labor brand with local communities.

Australian Young Labor further calls on the State Branches of the ALP to consider holding a 'Local ALP Branch Review Forum', which could provide the opportunity for branches to make submissions on how the branch structure can be reviewed, with a forum that could be chaired by the State Secretary, and involve the Presidents and Secretaries of all Branches. Such a Forum would provide the opportunity for the party to openly investigate and consider ways to reactivate the local branch structure.

Action

Australian Young Labor moves to forward this motion to the National Secretary of the ALP, and the State Secretaries, Administrative Committees, and relevant Party Rules Committees.

**Moved: Victorian Young Labor**

**Seconded: Support**

## **2.4 AYL Conference Reform**

Preamble

Australian Young Labor Conference is the annual conference of the national youth wing of the Australian Labor Party. As such it has the capacity to be a vibrant, engaging and constructive forum for the debate of ideas and development of skills. However in its current format it does not always live up to this capacity.

Youth wings of similar parties around the world have adopted conferences and training camps where they engage in a diverse range of training, plan campaigns and constructively develop policy. These conferences and camps often engage a much larger proportion of their membership than Australian Young Labor Conference does.

The Young Democrats of America hold annual 3 day conferences that include training sessions on media, policy writing, speech writing and delivery and party structure, as well as the elections of Office Bearers and Committees (please see attached).

Young Labour in the UK hold Youth Days as part of their National Conference, which include workshops on policy development as well as skills development (please see attached).

Platform

Australian Young Labor believes that its role should be as an organising and campaigning body, as well as providing an active youth voice within the Australian Labor Party and the broader community and a place for training and skilling young people interested and engaged in politics.

Australian Young Labor believes that our annual National Conference should aim to engage and include as many young members of our party as possible.

Australian Young Labor believes that our annual National Conference provides a great opportunity to plan campaigns and skill-up and train our members, as well as constructively debate and develop policy and actively campaign for progressive policy changes both within the ALP and the wider community.

Action

The National President, Secretary and Vice Presidents shall investigate the National conference, camp and similar structures of other like-minded parties in the world and report their findings to the Young Labor National Executive.

The Young Labor National Executive, led by the AYL Office Bearers, shall develop a proposal for potential changes to how Australian Young Labor Conference operates and engages young members from around the country, with the aim of developing a more interactive format to bring to next AYL Conference. This should be done in conjunction with the ALP National President and National Secretary.

**Moved: Tasmanian Young Labor**

**Recommendation: Support**

## **2.5 Execution of Conference policy action items**

Preamble

At each annual Australian Young Labor Conference, a substantial policy booklet, which forms the platform of our organisation, is collated.

The majority of policy that is submitted, debated and passed at Conference, contains an action component.

These motions are rarely, if ever, acted upon by the leadership of AYL following the conclusion of Conference.

Platform

AYL acknowledges that the platform and policy of our organisation should underpin the actions of our leadership group during their term of office, subject to future AYL Executive meetings and AYL Conferences.

Action

AYL requests that the Presidents and Executive members elected at the 2013 Conference take action on the motions passed at this Conference as an integral part of their duties during their term of office.

**Moved: Victorian Young Labor**

**Recommendation: Support**

## **2.6 Greens**

Preamble

The Greens began as an environmental protest movement almost four decades ago. State branches were constituted; parliamentary representation was attained, and its ecological protestations were heeded by the Hawke Labor Government.

From such noble carriage came a political party dedicated to destroying the Labor Party as an agent of workers and progressives in Australia. Today, Greens operatives seek simply to cleave Labor's base and cripple its character.

Some sections of the labour movement have, for too long, regarded the Greens as a sidekick: new, young and able to harness for the cause of great Labor reform. The Greens' rejection of Labor's ETS annulled this fantasy.

Labor must refine its electoral strategy, before the Greens enjoy permanence. This involves tough scrutiny of the Greens' policies and personalities: constraints that will forever keep them a vocal spectator of politics.

Motion

Australian Young Labor recognises that the Greens have conspired to reduce Labor's representation in every parliament in the country.

Australian Young Labor recognises that these are the actions not of a fraternal organisation friendly to the movement, but a group that seeks to contaminate Labor majorities.

Australian Young Labor recognises the need to expose the Greens' duplicity, and to never ignore their threat or plead their mercy.

Action

Australian Young Labor recommends that a proportion of any campaign training program run by the National Secretariat or State Branches instructs upon the defeat of Greens' candidates.

Australian Young Labor must play a leading role in campaigns that will specifically persuade younger voters toward the cause of Australia's oldest and proudest political party.

**Moved: Victorian Young Labor**

**Recommendation: Reject**

## 2.7 Leadership Primaries

Preamble

One of the greatest privileges extended to a member of the state or federal parliamentary party is to elect a leader from within their unit.

Rarely have State or Federal Parliamentary Labor parties had leaders willed upon them from separate or subsidiary branches.

Premier Jack Lang was one of few Labor leaders elected not by his caucus colleagues in the parliament, but by the NSW Labor Party's annual conference.

Lang, thus invincible within his caucus, brought down a Federal Labor Government and split the national party.

Motion

Australian Young Labor believes leadership primaries in Australian politics may hinder the movement. Australian Young Labor recognises that Gough Whitlam and Paul Keating would never have been elected party leader in a ballot of Labor rank-and-file members.

Australian Young Labor respects the right of Labor members of the state or federal parliament to determine the party leadership.

Australian Young Labor advises those within Labor who seek a direct election-style primary regime to consider first the representative faculties native to our movement.

Action

Australian Young Labor writes to the General Secretary of the NSW Labor Party and the President of NSW Young Labor, informing them of this policy.

**Moved: Victorian Young Labor**

**Recommendation: Reject**

## 2.8 Community/Labor Party

Platform

In recent years there has been a decline of interaction with minority communities from the Labor Party. Many 2nd generation communities from migrant backgrounds, who don't have the same attachment to the Labor Party as their parents, have disengaged themselves from Labor and the political process in general.

In recent years the Coalition have doubled their efforts to engage with minority groups in particular the Muslim community, which has seen Labor voters vote Liberal. The change of policy/attitude towards Muslims became more positive and engaging, after many complaints from community leaders to Liberal MPs.

Muslims have become more accommodating towards the Coalition, which has seen a large increase of Muslims joining the Liberal Party and who are actively recruiting community leaders who have a large following.

Action

The AYL executive is to write to the ALP National Executive to review its policy on reengagement with minority groups and how it can appeal to them more.

The AYL executive is to write to local minority organisations inviting them to an event to build relationships and network.

**Moved: Victorian Young Labor**

**Recommendation: Support**

## 2.9 Good Society or Third Way?

Preamble:

European Social Democracy is facing a tipping point. As a long period of social democratic rule under Third Way politics championed by British Prime Minister Tony Blair and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder has come to an end, the debate has shifted to a new type of politics for the Centre Left: the 'Good Society'. The concept promotes:

- Strengthening our institutions of democracy at all levels of society, including the economy.
- Placing the needs of people, the environment, and the next generation before financial profit.
- Striving for harmonious communities based on respect for religion, race and culture.
- Accepting both the benefits of globalisation, but also the devastating effect the process can have on

the sense of identity in local communities.

In Australia, while we do not face the same economic climate as the debt-ridden Eurozone, this Labor government has lived through the Global Financial Crisis and has seen the extent to which unbridled markets can cause untold damage to the global economy. Likewise, public faith in our political institutions is undoubtedly at an all-time low, and this trend could be reversed if a focus was placed on strengthening democratic participation and accountability at all levels.

Platform:

Australian Young Labor supports an internal political debate within the Party about the ideological positioning of our movement post-Global Financial Crisis.

Action:

Australian Young Labor will instruct State branches of Young Labor to debate the ideological positioning of the Labor Party at their annual State Conferences, and particularly whether the Australian Labor Party is best-placed electorally and philosophically to adopt a 'Third Way' or 'Good Society' approach to governing.

**Moved: NSW Young Labor**

**Recommendation: Reject**

## 2.10 Conscience Vote

The conscience vote has been a pillar of the party, allowing members of parliament the right to exercise votes on certain matters in Parliament, as determined by the caucus, according to their conscience.

Platform

AYL recognises that the use of conscience votes has not historically been confined to 'life or death issues'. They were previously been triggered on legislation relating to issues diverse as to fluoridated water, gambling, the construction of new Parliament House, and indeed, altering the Marriage Act to allow no-fault divorce and decriminalising homosexuality in state parliaments.

Action

That the AYL President writes to the Prime Minister thanking her for the leadership she has shown in supporting the rights of MPs to a conscience vote on certain questions.

**Moved: Victorian Young Labor**

**Recommendation: Support**

## 2.11 Membership reform

The Australian Labor Party is in desperate need of revitalisation. Unfortunately the process to become a voting member of the party is onerous and restrictive, and often politicised by internal party structures.

Removing these bureaucratic hurdles will allow the party to become more inclusive, democratic and representative.

Action

AYL calls on the ALP State Branches to allow members to join online directly to their local branch, with voting rights bestowed upon members once they have attended in person one meeting of this branch.

AYL calls for all branches of the ALP to follow the lead of other states in creating \$5 central branch memberships for members of Young Labor age, and commends the NSW branch for first implementing this rule.

**Moved: Victorian Young Labor**

**Recommendation: support in principal**

## 2.12 Community Groups and Projects

Preamble

Members of the Australian Labor Party join for various reasons, however one unifying theme is a commitment to fairness and social justice.

Since 2009, members of Australian Young Labor as an informal group have provided assistance to other groups in the community, through activities such as fundraising, beautifying the local environment or providing manual labour to ensure aid packages can be prepared to assist our most vulnerable.

Such assistance has the main benefits of assisting the community, however it also provides participants experience and an insight as to what policies need to be implemented to prevent such aid being required in the first place.

Action

Conference calls upon AYL to establish links with community groups so that Young Labor members can provide regular volunteer assistance to benefit the community.

**Moved: Victorian Young Labor**

**Recommendation: Support**

## **2.13 Primary Based Pre-Selections**

Preamble

The devastating electoral routs across Australia have given us cause to consider necessary reforms to our party. This should include the methods by which candidates are pre-selected. All too often candidates are jettisoned into safe seats - not because they are talented, not because they have strong community appeal, but because of factional deals. This is inherently open to abuse. Candidates become beholden to the party machine, rather than the constituents they are intended to represent. In order to overcome these problems, and to ensure that strong, consensus based candidates are chosen to represent our great party, it is proposed that the Labor party introduce a system of public primaries whereby candidates are chosen by a vote of the local communities that they represent.

Action

That this AYL conference call on the Australian Labor Party to investigate and implement a much broader system of public primaries whereby a number of potential candidates are endorsed by branches, with the ultimate candidate chosen by a vote of the local communities that they represent.

**Moved: Queensland Young Labor**

**Recommendation: Support**

## **2.14 A Greater Voice for Grassroots Members**

Preamble

As Paul Keating noted "Progress is a race without a finish line". Party reform should be seen as a race too, where there is no finish, only progress. If the ALP is not reformed and made as democratic and responsive to the values, principles and interests of its members as possible, then it risks no longer being a party of great inclusion, openness and meaningful debate, but a party of limited interests characterised by great power disparities. In order for ALP members to become genuine stakeholders in the party, its future and its success (or failure), then it is necessary that they are given a greater say – and that more value is attributed to the votes of rank and file members in party preselections, party policy, and other party ballots.

Motion

That AYL congratulate the ALP state and national conferences for steps they have already taken in seeking to reform the ALP in order to make it more democratic and responsive to the concerns and interests of members. AYL notes that progress in some states has, to date, been more rapid than in others. However, AYL strongly encourages all state and national ALP bodies to increasingly move the party in a direction where branch members have a greater say over the future direction of this great party.

**Moved: Queensland Young Labor**

**Recommendation: Support**

## **2.15 ACTU Youth Committee**

Preamble

The ACTU Youth Committee is the youth interface of the Australian Council of Trade Unions. The ACTU Youth Committee is currently devising strategies and campaigns to engage with young people on the role of trade unionism and its influence within the Australian workplace. Currently, the ACTU Youth Committee members look to be selected exclusively from a pool of talent within unions across Australia and don't engage with young leaders in the broader Australian Young Labor movement in any visible capacity.

The current model therefore excludes the capacity for the development of ongoing dialogue between the Australian Young Labor movement and the ACTU Committee into the future.

Former ACTU Assistant Secretary, Richard Marles, stated that "the union movement will die unless we attract young people". He couldn't be more accurate. The engagement of casual and part-time young people across this nation on the importance of trade unionism is absolutely paramount to the survival of trade unions in Australia. This engagement begins with the advocates that believe strongest in the importance of trade unions in Australia, Australian Young Labor members.

It is therefore important that the ACTU Youth Committee considers the role that Australian Young

Labor members can play in acting as advocates in their local communities and towns, schools, universities, TAFEs and most importantly in their local workplaces.

Action

Australian Young Labor calls on the ACTU Youth Committee to look at engaging with the Australian Young Labor movement including the provision for a committee member based within the Australian Young Labor movement.

Australian Young Labor calls on the ACTU Youth Committee to develop strategies to engage and provide campaign material for young leaders within the Australian Young Labor movement to advocate for the importance of trade union membership in Australia.

**Moved: Victorian Young Labor**

**Recommendation: Reject**

## **2.16 Young Labor – Faulkner, Carr, Bracks Review**

Preamble

In 2010, three state elders were called upon to commission a national review into the structure and future of the Australian Labor Party. The report handed down in 2011 to the National Executive provided over 30 recommendations on ways to enhance the advocacy, communication and structuring of the Australian Labor Party movement. Recommendation 16 handed down in the report states that “state and territory conferences be solely based on the principle of 50 percent representation of members and 50 percent representation for affiliates. It calls for the removal of additional Young Labor delegates from the members component”.

This recommendation effectively calls for the abolition of the voting power of Young Labor delegates at State and Territory Conferences across the country, a recommendation that would see Young Labor’s voice in the party minimised.

Action

Australian Young Labor calls on the National Executive to consider that Recommendation 16 of the National Review 2010 reduces the capacity for Young Labor delegates to have a voice at State and Territory Conferences and calls on the National Executive to maintain the status quo on the composition of Young Labor delegates at National Conference.

**Moved: Victorian Young Labor**

**Recommendation: Reject**

## **2.17 Young Labor Executive Accountability**

Preamble

The Australian Young Labor Executive is the supreme decision-making body for the Australian Young Labor movement. It comprises of fifteen executive members around the country.

The information surrounding the purpose of the committee, its composition and any minutes derived from meetings are only reserved access for a few rather than the many. The creation of the Australian Young Labor website now provides an avenue for individuals to seek further information on these areas online. It is in the interests of Young Labor members to have a committee that is accountable and this can be further achieved through greater transparency through the provision of information mentioned in this paragraph.

Action

Australian Young Labor calls on the 2013-14 executive to commit to incorporating minutes from its meetings, names of its executive members and the primary purpose of the committee on the AYL website.

**Moved: Victorian Young Labor**

**Recommendation: Reject and Note that the Australian Young Labor conference is the supreme decision making body for the Young Labor movement.**

## **2.18 Recommendation 26 – Faulkner, Carr, Bracks Review**

Preamble

The Australian Labor Party’s capacity to engage with the next generation is impingent upon its very survival as a movement in Australia. To empower individuals to join the Australian Labor Party, we must first give them a reason to join. This begins at the heart of ensuring that the movement is inclusive, that it places an emphasis on the value of an individual’s vote and that it is able to remain relevant to the needs of its membership and supporters.

The Faulkner, Carr, Bracks Review seeks to embrace these elements to transform the Labor movement’s capacity to encourage and foster greater participation from supporters and members alike.

Recommendation 26 is as follows:

- That the Party nationally implement a tiered system of Party primaries for the selection of candidates.
- That this commence in open and non-held lower house seats and be considered for held seats in the future.
- That a system with three weighted components be established comprising a 60 per cent component drawn from local Party members, 20 per cent from members participating from affiliated trade unions, and 20 per cent from registered Labor supporters in the community.
- That safeguards to prevent any corruption of this system be put in place such as:
  - The principle of one vote, one value be enshrined to ensure that double or triple voting not occur.
  - There be minimum participation requirements in the union and community components of a primary to ensure that low participation does not distort results
  - That all participants be enrolled to vote for a minimum of three months and have a verifiable address within the electorate.

The reform handed down in recommendation 26 of the National Review seeks to enact a series of structural changes that allows for greater participation of those in our communities that are Labor minded, in order to create a new era of membership growth and modernisation in the broader Labor movement.

Action

Australian Young Labor President writes on the National Executive to consider the merit of implementing recommendation 26 including calling for a national referendum of Labor Party members on whether Recommendation 26 should be implemented nationally.

**Moved: Victorian Young Labor**

**Recommendation: Reject**

## **2.19 Young Labor Delegates to Australian Labor Party - National Conference**

Preamble

The Australian Labor Party National Conference is the ALP's highest decision-making forum and Australia's largest political gathering. The ALP National Conference has always played an important role in defining the future direction of our Party and our nation. Currently, there are around 404 delegates that attend National Conference with the last official conference held in Sydney in December last year. Three Young Labor delegates were elected by Australian Young Labor to attend as delegates to the National Conference and Victorian Labor is proud to say that two out of the three delegates are Victorian Young Labor members. As a percentage, this represents just 0.007% of the total voting power of the National Conference and highlights that more can be done to give Australian Young Labor the right to advocate on behalf of Young Labor members at the national level. The proportion of total membership of the Australian Labor Party eligible for Young Labor equates to around one in five. This highlights a significant disparity in the amount of delegates given to Australian Young Labor in comparison to the amount of Young Labor members in the ALP.

Motion

That AYL calls on the Federal Executive of the Australian Labor Party to increase the total number of Young Labor Delegates from three to six in order to give Australian Young Labor members a greater opportunity to participate in Labor's highest decision-making forum.

**Moved: Victorian Young Labor**

**Recommendation: Support**

## **2.20 Liquid democracy – Experimenting with new processes to develop policy**

Preamble

One consistent criticism of the modern Labor Party is the inability for grass roots branch members to develop policy that then becomes part of the party platform.

An innovative policy development process that is being successfully used by the Pirate Party's in Europe, where in a very short space of time have overtaken the Greens in countries like Germany where our Socialist International comrades the SPD are also experimenting with liquid democracy as an empowering process innovatively combining social media and networking technology in a sophisticated way that empowers individuals to have as much or as little interaction with the policy development process resulting in policies that are then presented at a political party conference to be voted on by delegates.

The practical aspects of liquid democracy can go into detail and can be found on

<https://liqd.net/en/schwerpunkte/theoretische-grundlagen/>

Platform:

1. The Australian Labor Party has always relied on the energy, ideas and passion of its members as the driving force of the Labour movement, and looking at ways engaging and encouraging those members should be embraced
2. That the liquid democracy project is a new and innovative way of engaging members in a modern way that should be researched about whether or not it is a good fit for the Australian Labor Party

Action:

That Australian Young Labor ask Assistant National Secretary Nick Martin to write to our counter parts

in the SPD in Germany requesting feedback on the experiences that they have had with liquid democracy through the 'Projekt Zukunft'. Specifically the success and failures that have been experienced in relation to –

- Expense of implementing the programming
- The success/failure in activating the existing membership
- The success/failure in engaging new members
- The outcomes in relation to quality and input into the policy process for the SPD

**Moved: Victorian Young Labor**

**Recommendation: Support and note that Australian Young Labor has traditionally liked its democracy solid.**

## 2.21 Australian Young Labor Website

Preamble

The World Wide Web (a.k.a. the Internet, the infobahn, the intertubes) was invented in the late eighties. Some thirty years later, Australian Young Labor (a *youth* organisation) does not have a functioning website. Seriously.

Motion

That AYL call on the incoming executive to establish a website as a matter of urgency. The website can be used to keep current Young Labor members engaged and also to attract new members to the party.

**Moved: Queensland Young Labor**

**Recommendation: Support and note the hard work done by Senior Vice President Anthony Cianflone who has created the AYL website that is not yet live.**

## 2.22 Thanks Campbell

Preamble

Campbell Newman was elected in a record landslide in the 2012 Queensland election. Since then, he has proven to voters all across Australia what Liberal/National governments are all about: public sector job cuts, broken promises, decreased spending on education and heartless spending cuts to a variety of community programs. A Coalition government, if elected federally at this year's election, would undoubtedly follow the same template laid out by Premier Newman. In the words of the Prime Minister herself, "Campbell Newman's budget razor is Tony Abbott's curtain raiser".

Motion

That Australian Young Labor thank Premier Newman for revealing to voters across Australia the true heartless, reckless nature of Liberal/National governments.

**Moved: Queensland Young Labor**

**Recommendation: support**

## 2.23 Abolishing the Socialist Objective

Preamble

The National Constitution of the ALP states:

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.

This so-called Socialist Objective of the ALP is not, and has never been, an accurate depiction of the goals of the party, its policies or its members. In modern times in particular, when the party has so often been decried for lacking objective and values, the socialist objective has been inadequate and blatantly inaccurate.

Labor supporters and members deserve better than a bland and inaccurate description of the objective and goals of our party. By searching for a true objective, the Labor party would have the opportunity of a much-needed reflection on its purpose and ambitions. Labor needs a statement with credibility which will not be a mere footnote on party membership forms, but can serve as a creed and motivation of which we may all be proud.

Motion

That AYL call on the next National conference and the party-at-large to support the removal of the Socialist Objective and to commission a body of Labor party members from diverse backgrounds to develop a new, more accurate, objective for the party.

**Moved: Queensland Young Labor**

**Recommendation: Support in principal**

## **2.24 Resolution on Party reform**

AYL recognises the importance of supporting organisational reform of the ALP to build a more democratic, representative and outwards-looking Party.

AYL believes it is critical we ensure that Australia's oldest political Party remains relevant and responsive to all of its supporters and can attract new members to grow the Party.

AYL reaffirms its support for reform of the ALP in light of the ALP National review to:

- build a more effective national Party
- improve integrity and accountability in public life
- maintain and enhance the equal partnership between affiliates and individual members
- increase direct access to decision-making for rank and file members.

Further, AYL urges the National Executive Committee to ensure it fulfills its obligations under the resolution passed by the 2011 National Conference that requires the NEC to develop a proposal for direct rank and file election of a proportion of National Conference delegates prior to the next National Conference.

**Moved: Tasmanian Young Labor**

**Recommendation: Support**

## **2.25 Senate preselection**

That Australian Young Labor note the events of the past fortnight in relation to intervention of National Executive for the preselection of the Number 1 Senate spot in the Northern Territory.

Furthermore that Australian Young Labor call on the Australian Labor Party to ensure that in circumstances such as this, due process is always followed, so much so that:

- the underlying values of State/Territory branch rules be upheld unless absolutely and critically unavoidable.
- Decisions affecting State/Territory branches should be made by those who reside in that jurisdiction,
- That National Executive should only intervene when requested to do so by the relevant State/Territory branch in such a critical decision.
- That justifications for actions taken should be valid and accurate.

**Moved: Northern Territory Young Labor**

**Recommendation: Reject**

## **2.26 Resolution to consider direct election of PLP Leader**

AYL supports debate taking place at the next ALP National Conference around the merits or otherwise of allowing the direct involvement of Party members in the selection of the Leader of the Parliamentary Labor Party; consistent with the democratic practices of other social democratic, socialist, and labour parties around the world.

Further, AYL believes the next ALP National Conference should amend Part C – 4 of the National Principles of Organisation, to allow State and Territory branches to implement changes to their rules that would enable Party members to have a direct say in the election of the Leader of the State or Territory Parliamentary Labor Party.

**Moved: Tasmanian Young Labor**

**Recommendation: Support**