QUEENSLAND LABOR STATE POLICY PLATFORM

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Chapter 1: Enduring Labor Values

PREAMBLE

Queensland holds a special place in the history of the Australian Labor Party. When striking shearers met under the Tree of Knowledge in Barcaldine in 1891, they ensured that our state would forever be linked to the genesis of our party. They cemented two core Labor values, a fair go for all, and standing up for each other. Labor was founded as a collective for the common good.

For more than 120 years since, Labor, in partnership with our great trade union movement, has continued to stand up for workers’ rights and for a dignified life for all Queenslanders.

OUR VALUES

1.1 We believe in the dignity of work, and that every member of our society has a fundamental right to work so that they can support themselves, their families and their dependents, and enjoy the quality of life they deserve. We believe in working together, a collective approach, to achieving the best for all Queenslanders.

1.2 We value every member of our society – no matter their location, race, ethnicity, gender, age, religion, sexual identity, ability or educational qualification. We believe in, and work to achieve, a society that supports equality, acceptance and inclusion and a society that shuns discrimination. We believe firmly in social justice.

1.3 We believe in a just and reconciled Queensland, where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures are valued, respected and affirmed across all areas of society.

We believe in ending racism.

We believe that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples should have the same life chances and choices as other Queenslanders and the length and quality of your life should not be determined by your racial background.

We believe in self-determination for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and working together in closing the gap in life expectancy, education, health and employment outcomes.

1.4 We will always stand up for fairness. Our party was founded on the important principle that everybody deserves a fair go in life.

We believe that a society's quality can be measured by how it treats its’ most vulnerable people and that government has an important role to play in creating a more equal society, in which people are treated with respect and compassion. We believe in government that aims to lift people up to achieve the very best that they can, that appeals to the best characteristics of human kind.

1.5 We believe in building a society, not just an economy. We believe that government plays an important role in providing the economic framework, infrastructure and services our society needs to build a prosperous future. We believe Government has a responsibility to ensure every Queenslander has the same opportunities to achieve their goals and maximise their potential, regardless of where they live or their life circumstances. We believe no-one should be left behind.
1.6 We believe in a society where people care about each other, where we create and engage with each other through our communities. We believe community engagement enriches our lives. We believe in government that genuinely consults with and works to strengthen our engagement in local communities.

1.7 We believe in treating our natural environment with respect and that government policy should be directed at creating and maintaining a clean and healthy environment for the current generation and for generations to follow.

1.8 We believe in the importance of key democratic principles including the primacy of Parliament, the separation of powers and the independence of the judiciary.

We believe in executive government that is open, transparent and accountable to the people, and an independent electoral system founded on the basis of one vote, one value.

1.9 We believe in hope. Our hope for a better life for all, our hope for a more caring and compassionate society, our hope for a prosperous future for all is the motivation that ensures we act to bring about change.
Chapter 2: A Strong Economy – Creating jobs and opportunities for all

LABOR VALUES

Labor believes that to achieve our vision of economic prosperity for all Queenslanders our economic policy must address the following key principles.

Strong Public Finances

2.1 Labor supports an economically responsible and prudent approach to managing the Queensland Budget leading to a sustainable long-term fiscal position. Responsibly managing our State’s finances will drive positive business sentiment, to deliver a stronger Queensland economy.

2.2 Labor will ensure Queensland is protected from both internal and external economic risks through the use of internationally proven risk-management policies. We support a combination of public and private efforts to grow the economy and will apply economic stimulus when circumstances require.

2.3 Labor is committed to long-term economic planning, especially in regional Queensland. Having a long term vision for the economic growth of our State will enable Queensland to deal with the economic cycles around major projects starting and ending.

A Fair and Equitable Federal Funding Model

2.4 Labor supports Queensland receiving a fair and equitable share of federal revenues from the Australian government to ensure the sustainability and growth of the Queensland economy.

2.5 We believe Queensland should play a leading role in national economic debate and policy development. We must not only have a fair and sustainable model of distribution of national resources to ensure growth in the economy but also recognise areas of competitive advantage our State possesses. This can be achieved only through a stronger partnership between the Queensland Government and the various other governments that make up the Australian Commonwealth.

A Tax System That is Fair, Straightforward and Sustainable

2.6 Where it will benefit Queensland, the taxation system of Queensland must be simplified and rationalised with Commonwealth taxes to encourage growth in the economy.

Any changes must be fair, straightforward and sustainable. Simplifying the system in this way reduces red tape and makes Queensland a more commercially attractive and competitive place to do business.

A Reduction in Household Budget Pressures

2.7 Labor recognises that government policies have an impact on household budgets.

2.8 Labor supports the development of clear strategies that address the causes and consequences of household budget pressures. Partnering with other governments,
industry leaders, trade unions, charities and other stakeholders, a Labor government will help reduce these relative costs to levels that are sustainable for Queensland households over the long term.

2.9 A Labor government will make economic policy decisions that will protect our quality of life for future generations.

**Encouraging and Attracting Investment**

2.10 Labor believes strong domestic and international investment in our State will encourage entrepreneurialism and enable all Queenslanders to benefit from a growing economy. Labor supports greater access to capital for investment, to encourage new ventures and enable small to medium sized business to grow and prosper. Labor also supports the growth of large businesses as these businesses contribute to our state’s low unemployment and strong economic position.

2.11 Labor is committed to building a diverse economy that supports a broad range of industries, including manufacturing.

**Strategic use of Public Resources to Stimulate and Encourage Growth**

2.12 Labor believes a targeted and focused approach to directing public resources toward growing the Queensland economy is essential to the long-term future of the state. Providing incentives and assistance to industry in Queensland, where necessary and where there is a clear competitive advantage, will ensure our industries are able to compete sustainably at national and international levels.

Labor rejects the use of outsourcing where it results in the undermining of job security, wages and conditions of public sector employment and service delivery. Labor in government will ensure that industrial instruments reflect these values and will work with Unions and employees to ensure outcomes that are consistent with Labor principles in this regard.

**A Strong Culture of Research and Innovation for New Products and Services**

2.13 Labor believes there is a role for Government in helping to enable individuals and industry to pursue innovation that delivers new products and services for both Queenslanders and international markets. Labor supports the establishment of industries around new innovation and the services economy that will deliver the jobs of the future and diversify Queensland’s economic base.

2.14 Labor will build an economy for Queensland that exports the products of our intelligence, creativity and business capabilities, not one based on the cheapest hourly rate for our labour. A Labor government will foster links between science, business and industry to encourage innovation to promote commercial outcomes.

**High Employment, Workforce Participation and Workforce Planning**

2.15 Labor believes in working towards full employment in Queensland, by providing opportunities for all Queenslanders who are able to participate in our economy. Opportunities for employment will be generated only where there is an environment that stimulates growth in current and new competitive industries across the State.
2.16 Labor believes high employment and workforce participation is possible only when employers and employees collaborate for the common good. Respectful communication and compromise between employer and employee is the key to building profitable and sustainable businesses, the backbone of an economy that is globally competitive and growing. Labor has successfully facilitated this collaboration in the past and it is the only political party that can and will do this again.

2.17 Labor believes in ensuring Queenslanders receive a fair day’s pay for a fair day’s work, protection while at work, and the ability to access further skills for career development.

2.18 Labor supports workforce planning to identify potential areas of skills’ shortages and demand, and that this planning be used to inform course and program development in training organisations connected to the relevant industry.

**Employment Based Training and Apprenticeships**

2.19 Labor acknowledges that the government has a critical role to play in the provision of employment-based training and apprenticeships opportunities for our youth and understands that providing these opportunities is an integral part of creating a strong economy.

2.20 In consultation with Unions and industry, Labor is committed to the establishing a suitable ratio between qualified tradespersons and apprenticeships that will help ensure that future skills shortages are avoided.

**A Strong Corporate Governance Culture in both the Public and Private Sector**

2.21 For Queensland to attract investment from both local and international companies, our State must be considered a safe and secure place to do business through a transparent and actively managed culture of strong corporate governance.

The perception of unnecessary red tape can constrain and discourage business growth, so a Labor government will work to implement a clear risk-management framework to provide the most efficient solution to protect and grow Queensland.

2.22 Labor believes the appointment and promotion of individuals should be based on their merit, not on their political affiliation or connections.

2.23 Labor believes our economic future depends on our local and global environment being healthy and robust. Climate change is an increasingly urgent challenge, and it must be tackled head on. Labor commits to working with unions and industry to transition the economy to a sustainable, low carbon economy as quickly as possible.

2.24 Labor supports the responsible usage of our natural resources, including those impacted by agricultural, mining, tourism, manufacturing and other industries. We are committed to integrating environmentally sustainable development into economic decision making, including climate concerns, to ensure that all Queenslanders will share in the economy of the future.
LABOR ACHIEVEMENTS

Labor in Government puts our principles and our beliefs into action.

2.25 Labor in government will commit to a just transition to a low carbon sustainable economy, including:

- making a plan to transition Queensland’s economy to ensure workers are not disadvantaged, including investigating financial and economic mechanism to fund transition
- ensuring public consultation with affected industries and unions for the process of transition
- maintaining public ownership of the power industry as it transitions to new renewable technology including owning and operating new renewable programs
- building renewable energy infrastructure, for example, renewable power generation, grid connections to renewable resource regions
- providing financial support to business and workers to transition to sustainable industries, including consideration of requirements that the transition to renewable locally sourced and produced materials
- introducing appropriate regulation to ensure that there are enforceable training standards and appropriate qualifications for workers in new and emerging sustainable industries
- ensuring that all measures taken by the Queensland government are consistent with the ALP Federal Platform, especially in regards to provision regarding transition.

2.26 Labor drives economic growth by providing incentives for investment that increases Queensland’s economic advantage and by recognising the power of new initiatives to transform and diversify the way we do business.

The Smart State project propelled Queensland into the 21st Century by diversifying the economy into more shock-resistant knowledge based industries. Investments in science, research and innovation dramatically elevated Queensland’s research profile and performance and brought into being a number of world-class research facilities, such as the:

- Tropical Sciences and Innovation Precinct (Townsville)
- Institute of Glycomics (Gold Coast)
- Ecosciences Precinct (Brisbane)
- Institute of molecular Biosciences (Brisbane)

These investments combined with industry incentives saw research jobs more than double from 8500 to well over 18000, significant growth in knowledge-intensive exports, and increased business expenditure on research and development. For instance, the biotechnology industry grew from $150 million in annual earnings each year in 2002 to well over $1 billion each year less than a decade later. Under this scheme, Labor also secured Virgin Blue’s headquarters in Queensland and significantly expanded our aviation industry.
2.27 Labor delivers state-building infrastructure for the next generation, also delivering hundreds and thousands of jobs in the process.

Labor’s infrastructure program during the first decade of the 21st Century saw some of Queensland’s most significant state-building projects completed. Everywhere you look across the State, Queenslanders are utilising the legacy of Labor’s investment in infrastructure: the South East Queensland Busway network, Gateway Bridge Duplication, Gold Coast Rapid Transit, Airport Link, Goodwill and Kurilpa pedestrian bridges, the Gallery of Modern Art, Cairns cruise ship terminal, Townsville Ring Road, the Whitsunday Coast Airport upgrade, and hundreds of other major projects.

At one point, Labor was building new hospitals or undertaking major hospital redevelopments in every major centre across the State. As a result we now have the new Queensland Children’s Hospital, Gold Coast University Hospital, Cairns Base Hospital emergency department extension, Mackay Base Hospital redevelopment, Rockhampton Hospital expansion, Bundaberg Hospital expansion, Toowoomba Hospital Birthing Centre, and many more – all delivered by Labor.

When Labor came to Government in 1998 the unemployment rate was around 8%. Premier Peter Beattie committed to reducing this rate to under 5%. Labor’s growth-generating policies successfully drove unemployment down to under 4% – something the Liberal National Party denied was possible. Even during tough times between 2009 and 2012, Labor helped the Queensland economy grow by 80,000 jobs, with the economy avoiding recession and recovering to growth of 4% by 2011–12 despite the Global Financial Crisis and the 2010–11 Summer of Natural Disasters. Under the subsequent Liberal National Party, Queensland’s unemployment rate has risen significantly and our economic growth has slowed.

2.28 Labor uses our investment in the economy to drive down unemployment, maximise workplace participation and support fair work practices.

In the first decade of the 21st Century, Queensland’s Labor Government prioritised the delivery of job creation programs and employment support to unemployed and underemployed Queenslanders. The ‘Breaking the Unemployment Cycle’ initiative assisted over 175,000 Queenslanders in the decade from 1998 and created over 124,000 job placements. An independent evaluation from Deloitte Access Economics found that the ‘Skilling Queenslanders for Work’ initiative helped a further 57,000 Queenslanders to gain more skills and increase their employability. Twelve months after receiving assistance through Skilling Queenslanders for Work, over two thirds of participants were in employment or further training. These programs have since been cut by the Liberal National Party. The Skilling Queenslanders for Work program was delivering a greater return through increased tax receipts from employment growth than it cost to run, returning nearly $8 for each $1 invested and assisting 26,000 job seekers each year.

Through Labor’s ‘earning or learning’ reforms, more Queenslanders than ever either completed Year 12 or completed trade qualifications. Our investment in Trades Training Centres across the State and our introduction of Kindergarten and Prep saw Labor improve educational outcomes, and therefore the employability of Queenslanders, right from early childhood through to entry into the workforce and beyond.
LABOR BELIEFS

2.29  Queensland Labor believes in improving the lives of all Queenslanders by growing our State’s economy while providing the conditions that give each of us the opportunity to reach our full potential. Labor in Queensland believes Government has a role to play in enabling both economic growth and opportunity for all.

2.30  Labor believes in building a society, not just an economy. Labor believes that government has a critical role to play in the provision of reliable and affordable essential services such as health, education, emergency services, water, public transport and electricity to the Queensland community. In instances where the Government owns or operates services, assets or infrastructure, Labor commits to retaining these in public ownership during Government and rejects privatisation of essential services.

2.31  A Labor Government will be there for Queenslanders during good times and bad. Labor will be there to help grow jobs and facilitate appropriate investment in our economy, but we’ll also be there to help when times are tough. Labor will provide support for those who are unemployed or facing disadvantage and help them get back on their feet.

2.32  Labor’s vision is to build a strong, efficient and diverse Queensland economy that is capable of supporting full employment, delivering higher living standards and eliminating poverty. Labor will create the economic climate for people to transform their aspirations into reality.

2.33  Labor believes that Government should own, on behalf of its people, important infrastructure and services to:

- secure government revenue and keep personal taxes fair
- provide essential services
- provide options to stimulate employment and economic growth.

2.34  Labor holds these values because we believe the market, left entirely to its own devices, cannot support full employment nor distribute wealth equitably to end economic disadvantage. Markets of themselves do not serve people – people serve people. If our economy is to reach its full potential and Queenslanders are to be supported during good times and bad, then there must be an ongoing role for Government as the ‘do-er’ in the economy, not just the enabler.

2.35  Labor recognises the importance of maximising opportunities for local companies to compete for government business, as this strengthens local industry and secures jobs for local people. Labor believes that local content should be supported and will advance procurement policies that support Queensland jobs.

2.36  Labor believes employees should always have a choice about where they and their families live and work, including to work and live in mining communities in regional Queensland.

2.37  Labor recognises the contributions past and present made by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders to our strong economy. Labor believes in maximising opportunities for the participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders in our State’s future economic growth.
LABOR PRIORITIES IN GOVERNMENT

2.38 Labor is the party that creates jobs, not cuts them. In Government we do this by navigating the complex national and international economic environment, balancing competition, encouraging innovation and efficiency, promoting economic stability and supporting consumer protection through strong leadership and responsible economic management. A Labor Government will bring together all members of the community who are directly and indirectly involved in the economy, to build a stronger future for all Queenslanders.

2.39 Queensland in the 21st Century is a place vastly different from that of last century. Our competitive economic advantage now lies in our capacity to value-add and our access to key markets in the Asia-Pacific Century. The Labor Governments will focus on economic policies that share the economic benefits of the 21st century with all Queenslanders.

2.40 Labor will responsibly manage our revenue and expenditure to grow our Budget while controlling our spending.

2.41 Labor will deliver additional infrastructure for Queensland. Labor will explore additional sources for the funding of infrastructure, such as encouraging the investment of Queensland superannuation in Queensland projects, while upholding return on investment requirements.

2.42 Labor will provide incentives for innovation. Labor recognises the digital revolution and the power of knowledge-intensive industries to grow our economy. We will continue to diversify our economic base and encourage growth industries such as high-end manufacturing, tropical expertise and tertiary education of overseas students. Through research and industry encouragement, Labor will continue to develop a knowledge-based economy that supports meaningful and sustainable job opportunities. Focus areas include medicine, engineering, science, agriculture, mining, construction and education.

2.43 Labor will enable and encourage the continued growth of the services economy including in the areas of agriculture, resources, construction, manufacturing, health, aged care, education, tourism, financial services and professional services. Labor will support small and medium-sized businesses whose services underpin the Queensland economy, while encouraging larger organisations in the financial and professional services nominated sectors to call Queensland home. Labor will continue to grow our existing economic strengths across industries including tourism, resources, manufacturing and agriculture. Labor will implement policies that help grow jobs and investment across all sectors of our economy.

2.44 Labor will work with small business owners and representatives to provide ongoing support and development of meaningful incentives that strengthen business capacity and resilience.

2.45 Labor will maintain a strong public sector. Labor values and respects the Queensland public service and the vital contribution it makes to our State. Labor will grow public service jobs in key areas such as health and education to enhance frontline services to the people of Queensland.
2.46  Labor will adopt a value supply chain approach to economic development, particularly in agriculture to support growth in the food industry, with a focus on identifying new and emerging opportunities and developing high-value, niche markets.

2.47  Labor will support employment, reduce economic disadvantage and maintain a social safety net. Labor will implement policies that are pro-jobs and reduce unemployment. Labor will prioritise skills development and assist Queenslanders who are unemployed or underemployed with proactive measures that help them to enter or re-enter the workplace.

2.48  Labor recognises gender equality improves national productivity and competitiveness, and will remove disincentives that operate to discourage the entry, re-entry or advancement of women in the workplace.

2.49  Labor will support regional Queensland. Labor will implement policies that encourage economic growth and employment opportunities outside South East Queensland.

2.50  The Coordinator General will be required to review existing unnecessary 100% fly-in fly-out workforce arrangements in established mining communities, and implement conditions allowing the choice of workers to live with their families in regional communities.

2.51  Labor will emphasise the importance of local procurement and purchasing to all government departments and agencies. Labor will consider the introduction of minimum local content targets in major projects.

2.52  Labor will ensure that all entities tendering for government work (including construction and/or the provision of goods and services) will need to demonstrate social obligation credentials and that such credentials will be considered and given weight when determining the successful tenderer. Such credentials will include but not be limited to past industrial, health and safety, quality standard, environmental, corporate governance and tax compliance record.

2.53  Queensland Labor will work with Federal Labor to support Australian and Queensland jobs in the Port of Gladstone.

The CSG/LNG industry will provide a massive economic benefit to the Queensland and the Australian economies.

Labor is committed to a minimum of 30% of CSG/LNG ships being crewed by Australians to ensure long-term employment and career opportunities for Australians.

2.54  Labor is committed to ensuring adequate gas is available to service demand from both domestic users and the state’s developing liquefied natural gas (LNG) export industry.

Labor will re-introduce an annual gas market review that includes modelling and analysis of a range of factors including gas demand, gas pricing, gas reserves, gas supply and transmission and an assessment of current market issues.

The annual review will inform any potential implementation of Prospective Gas Production Land Reserve (PGPLR) under Part 2A of the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004.

2.55  Labor’s vision is to see a successful and dynamic agriculture, fisheries, forestry sector that benefits all Queenslanders through education opportunities, jobs growth, and an economic dividend through trade, innovation and technology.
Labor acknowledges the need to have resilient, sustainable and productive agricultural businesses for the benefit of our communities in Queensland, including in regional and remote areas. Labor recognises the expanding global markets that the Queensland agricultural industry can access and in turn provide economic benefit to the state economy.

**Primary production**

2.56 Labor will support agriculture initiatives that will secure the future of the food and fibre sector through planning and capitalising on regional opportunities.

2.57 Labor recognises that agriculture is a uniquely placed strength of the Queensland economy, and with the increase in food demand globally there is ongoing prospects for growth in the sector.

Labor will advocate for the Federal Government to include Queensland’s agricultural products, including sugar, in any trade negotiations.

2.58 Labor will support trade opportunities for Queensland’s world class food and fibre, marketed as clean, green, healthy and premium products. Labor will sponsor overseas trade missions with industry to assist producers and industry to expand into export markets, with a renewed focus on Asian markets.

2.59 Labor in government will work with agricultural industry associations, trade unions, research bodies, local government, education providers, and business to support a prosperous and productive agriculture sector. Labor recognises the potential for rural job opportunities and will work with industry to address labour issues in the sector.

2.60 Labor supports outback Queensland to diversify its economic base, particularly in tourism which can provide jobs throughout the dry season.

2.61 Labor will work with the agriculture sector to develop measures to manage climate change induced risks and producer preparedness to ensure the long-term advancement of the sector. Labor will promote drought readiness and sector resilience in its drought assistance program.

**Biosecurity**

2.62 Labor recognises the unique biosecurity threats faced by Queensland and is committed to ensuring that our response capability is world’s best practice.

2.63 Labor believes that a strong biosecurity system with appropriate capabilities is the building block for a strong and profitable agricultural sector.

2.64 We recognise that biosecurity is a shared responsibility for governments at all levels, industry and the community and that it must also include co-ownership of biosecurity preparedness and responses.

**Fisheries and Forestry**

2.65 Labor is committed to maximising the economic and social benefits that Queenslanders receive from the sustainable management of fisheries in Queensland.

2.66 Labor will ensure that forestry and quarry resources are scientifically and environmentally managed to produce a long term economic gain to Queenslanders.
Drought

2.67 Labor will work with the agriculture sector to develop measures to manage climate change induced risks and producer preparedness to ensure the long-term advancement of the sector. Labor will promote drought readiness and sector resilience in its drought assistance program.

2.68 Labor will reinvigorate and augment support programs, including the DRAS program, with additional measures where required in light of ongoing drought conditions.

2.69 Labor will continue to support and fund additional Rural Financial Counselling Services further to the contribution of the Commonwealth.

2.70 Labor will develop a 10-year research and development blueprint for agriculture and food to enhance scientific collaboration within the state, ensure research is aligned with emerging opportunities and seek new and innovative ways to attract new funds.

2.71 Labor will maintain the Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority, or its equivalent, as a delivery organisation for approved Queensland Government schemes of low interest loans, while also supporting schemes that provide a climate change and agricultural benefit.

2.72 Labor in conjunction with industry and trade unions, will consult on legislation or regulation that may adversely impact primary producers while in drought or during drought recovery.

2.73 Labor will develop further responses required to manage drought impacted farmers from the stresses of both drought and debt if conditions continue to worsen across the west of the State of Queensland.

2.74 Labor in Government will seek to work with the Federal Government to make all possible responses and drought recovery programs available and easily assessable by primary producers.
Chapter 3: Learning for Life – Investing in our people

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

LABOR VALUES

3.1 Labor believes that all Queenslanders must have the opportunity to participate fully in the economic, social, political and cultural dimensions of society.

3.2 Receiving quality education and training is a basic right and is critical to our people having the opportunity to participate fully in society. It is an investment in the worth and lifelong growth of our people and the creation of a civil society.

3.3 Labor believes that improving the educational and training outcomes of Queensland’s people is a key contributor to the future economic growth that will generate secure employment.

3.4 Labor believes that provision of jobs for the future requires linking economic policy with complementary education and training policies.

3.5 Labor believes in supporting strong public providers of education, to ensure the delivery of quality education and training to all Queenslanders.

3.6 Labor recognises the distinctive educational disadvantage experienced by many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and supports efforts to close the education and training gap that they experience through ongoing consultation with members of their communities.

3.7 Labor believes in school and training environments which foster cultural awareness, acceptance and the valuing of difference among peoples.

3.8 Labor believes in cooperating within a federal framework in the crucial areas of education and training, without limiting the capacity of state-based policies to manage Queensland’s unique challenges, especially in delivering effective programs to regional Queensland.

3.9 Labor believes in implementing effective strategies to fully address systemic barriers to access and opportunity to education and training for all people in Queensland.

3.10 Labor will work in partnership with families, communities, employers and unions in providing life-long learning.

3.11 Labor believes in the right of workers to unionise and the right of relevant unions to be stakeholders in education and training. Labor values the facilitation roles of unions in industrial negotiations, their support of the rights of individual workers, and in maintaining workplace harmony and the delivery of workplace health and safety.

3.12 Labor believes that all Queenslanders have the right to a well-resourced, inclusive, secular public education system.

LABOR ACHIEVEMENTS

Labor acknowledges with pride its many achievements in improving the education and training provided to all Queenslanders, including:
3.13 Labor rejects for-profit corporatisation and commercialisation of public education.

3.14 Creating the Smart State Strategy that linked our school, vocational and higher education systems with the broadening of our economic base and the development of jobs in new and expanded knowledge-based industries, such as medical research, biotechnology and aviation.

3.15 Transforming the schooling system by introducing the Preparatory Year of learning, expanding kindergartens, and funding the Flying Start Initiative to move Year 7 into secondary school from 2015.

3.16 Increasing the achievement and attendance levels of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in Queensland schools through funding dedicated intervention and support programs and supporting federal initiatives.

3.17 Implementing the Education and Training Reforms of the Future, to ensure that all young people remain in education and/or training until they turn 17 or have begun to earn an income.

3.18 Offering more school-based apprenticeships and traineeships than any other State.

3.19 Reducing class sizes across all year levels, particularly in the middle-years of Year 4 to Year 9, to enable teachers to provide more individualised attention to students.

3.20 Creating Queensland Academies of Excellence - Year 10 to Year 12 – in Health Sciences, Creative Industries, and Science Mathematics and Technology.

3.21 Expanding training opportunities for the long-term unemployed and other groups of disadvantaged job seekers through the Working Queensland initiatives.

3.22 Supporting a comprehensive Technical and Further Education (TAFE) system on multiple sites throughout the state to provide entry level and advanced trade, technical and commercial training opportunities; and to support the government’s community service obligations in providing training support to marginalised groups in society who experience difficulty in participating in the workforce.

LABOR BELIEFS

Life-long Learning

3.23 Labor believes learning is a life-long process that:

- acknowledges the value of a knowledge-based society that provides opportunities for all Queenslanders to contribute to and share in their local, national and global economies, communities and environments and for personal growth
- provides Queenslanders with the literacy, numeracy, technological skills and general knowledge that is necessary for, and enabling of, their future engagements in paid employment or self-employment
- enables people to critically interrogate information and to participate in the social and cultural life of their communities
- enables and encourages individuals to participate as responsible local, national and global citizens.
Early and School-based Education

3.24 Labor believes that early and school-based education is the foundation on which a strong society is built and is one of the most critical functions of government.

3.25 Labor believes that parents and carers have primary responsibility for the education and development of children in their care, and that early childhood education and care services providers and schools extend the abilities all children.

3.26 Labor believes that the early years from birth to eight are critical in shaping the development and growth of an individual.

3.27 Labor believes in the provision of free kindergarten and pre-preparatory education for all Australians, mirroring the current models of publicity funded primary and secondary schools.

3.28 Labor believes that parents should have a choice as to which school they send their children to, including non-government schools, but government funding and policies need to ensure fairness in the opportunities available to all students.

3.29 Labor believes in providing a high quality early childhood education system that increases access to play-based experiences in the kindergarten and preparatory years of schooling.

3.30 Labor believes in building an education system focussed on mutual respect, individual achievement and excellence to become a global leader that:

- provides opportunities for all students regardless of income, gender, sexual orientation, regional location and background
- is transparent, accountable and highly valued by parents, industry and the wider community
- provides a platform that promotes student and staff safety at school and in online learning environments – free from discrimination and bullying
- encourages students to work collaboratively and independently on tasks that are challenging, authentic and multidisciplinary, suited to their individual ability, progress, passions and learning styles
- creates learning environments that value diversity and multiple perspectives to enable critical thinking
- allows teachers to facilitate, guide and mentor students in skills for lifelong learning
- provides broad educational experiences with a focus on the Australian curriculum, while ensuring that students have access to specialised subjects
- values and fosters the professional growth of teachers.

3.31 Labor acknowledges that many factors affect individual educational performance. These include:

- family support and early childhood experiences
- personal challenges and disruptions experienced in the lives of children, especially those in the care of the state
• forms of disadvantage that can arise from factors including gender, sexual orientation, health and disability status, regional location, socio-economic status, culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and Indigeneity
• school resourcing policies, including access to ICT
• teacher professionalism and the access of teachers to ongoing professional development including mentoring
• teacher workloads.

LABOR PRIORITIES IN GOVERNMENT

3.32 Labor will strengthen a publicly funded secular and inclusive education system that provides equal access to and opportunity to participate in a high quality and challenging education for all, as a basic right.

3.33 Labor will build a school sector that is progressive, and values and encourages innovation in meeting the challenges of the future.

3.34 Labor will enact a needs-based model for schools that targets sectors of educational disadvantage covering factors such as educational achievement, including all necessary personnel, capital works and information and communication technologies and curriculum development with additional needs-based resourcing, consistent with the Gonski principles, to ensure equity of access.

3.35 Labor will develop funding and school management models that give individual schools the flexibility to access resources identified as necessary to service the educational needs of their students – in particular, the flexibility to provide safe environments for all students and the programs, facilities and staffing to assist in supporting students, depending on their needs.

3.36 Labor will ensure a fair and transparent state-wide staffing system and a rigorous process of principal selection that values diversity.

3.37 Labor will encourage parental engagement in education as fundamental to the future success of all school-age students.

3.38 Labor will provide a high quality early childhood curriculum that includes access to a play-based model of education in the early years of schooling.

3.39 Labor will ensure that schools are resourced to support the teaching of Languages other than English, especially Indigenous and Asian languages and ensure that Indigenous histories and cultures are included as part of the Queensland education system. Resourcing should focus on the recruitment of appropriately qualified teachers.

3.40 Labor will further develop consultative partnerships between students, teachers, parents, parent organisations and members of the wider community members to support the development of young people to their highest potential.

3.41 Acknowledging the importance of optimum individual achievement of all students, Labor will recognise the need for specific programs and resources to support those students identified as being gifted and talented.
3.42 Labor will recognise the need for specific programs and resources to support those students identified as having learning needs.

3.43 Labor will ensure students occupying the middle ground of educational ability are also supported in attaining their full potential.

3.44 Labor will ensure both government and non-government schools provide a curriculum and teaching programs that are consistent with federal and state educational objectives and meet the needs of the schools’ students, families and broader communities.

3.45 Labor will ensure that programs and resources are available to cater for students whose abilities and circumstances do not fit within the mainstream or special schooling programs.

3.46 Labor recognises that some students are unable to maintain engagement with conventional classroom learning and will explore options to provide alternative educational programs.

3.47 Labor recognises that traineeships and apprenticeships are highly valuable alternative educational pathways for secondary school students and will continue to invest in quality vocational and educational programs.

3.48 Labor will ensure that changes and initiatives which affect students and teachers are developed and implemented under a governance model that includes representatives from the teaching profession, education sector, industry and wider school communities.

3.49 Labor will maintain a system of compulsory teacher registration to ensure that all Queensland students are taught by suitably qualified teachers.

3.50 Labor will ensure that teacher-training courses equip beginning teachers with the necessary curriculum knowledge, practical teaching skills and cultural/sociological understandings to enable them to confidently commence their professional careers.

3.51 Labor will ensure that beginning teachers are provided with structured support, including mentoring. It will provide teachers and school support staff with guaranteed access to professional support services and professional development and supports a career structure that will attract and retain competent, committed and qualified staff.

3.52 Labor values the role of all education and support staff and recognises they all have an important place in the school community. Labor will ensure that support services are delivered in-house, rather than through outsourcing. Labor will not support individual contracts for teachers, principals and support staff and ensure they have the opportunity to gain permanent employment.

3.53 Labor will nurture schools staffed by professionals working within collegiate frameworks that support both the compatible goals of student education and continuous staff support and development.

3.54 Labor will build communities in which schools have opportunities to develop as broader community assets by becoming hubs that provide a range of affordable child- and education-focused community services such as:

- childcare
- child, maternal and community health services
• other services that support community education
• outside school hours care and vacation care.

3.55 Labor will improve the interface between intensive family support services and early childhood development.

3.56 Labor will develop a workforce action plan to enhance the qualifications, skills and capabilities of the early childhood education and care services workforce.

3.57 Labor will develop a better way of identifying high-performing teachers and give excellent teachers the opportunity for promotion without leaving the classroom.

3.58 Labor will revitalise teacher training to make sure graduates are well equipped for the classroom.

3.59 Labor will provide more jobs for guidance officers to support students at school.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

LABOR BELIEFS
Labor believes that national productivity and individual economic success both depend upon vocational education and training (VET) systems. These systems:

• provide entry level skills to allow people to enter the workforce
• increase workforce participation, by providing opportunities for unemployed and under-employed people, and those returning from breaks in their career, to gain or enhance their employment
• provide leadership in provision of Occupational Workplace Health and Safety Training
• support business and workers with retraining and up-skilling in times of change in the labour market, arising from structural changes in the economy and technological and other developments
• recognise, where appropriate, the benefits of a market-based training system, but acknowledge the need for an associated focus by government on quality, consumer protection and areas of market failure
• recognise the important links between the VET system and higher education through articulation, bridging programs and joint programs
• act inclusively to ensure that marginalised groups in the community have access to VET
• recognise the need for an equitable fee structure
• is regulated by a public organisation to enhance quality.

3.60 Labor believes the quality of the VET system is dependent on having a suitably qualified and experienced teaching staff.

LABOR PRIORITIES IN GOVERNMENT

3.61 A flexible and effective VET system includes institutional training, structured on-the-job training and work experience. It is therefore a partnership between government, training providers, employers, trade unions, trainees and apprentices.
3.62 Labor will support a continuing strong publicly funded TAFE system that enables the government to take a leadership role in VET consistent with its obligations to local, state and national economies and meeting the needs of Queenslanders.

3.63 Labor will provide leadership in the provision of pre-vocational experience and training to secondary school students.

3.64 Labor will ensure that apprentices and trainees are paid fair wages and have access to affordable training.

3.65 Labor will provide opportunities for Queenslanders to obtain the entry-level qualifications they need to enter the workforce.

3.66 Labor will reinstate Skilling Queenslanders for Work to support Queenslanders entry into the workforce.

3.67 Labor will restore TAFE as Queensland’s premier public provider of VET.

3.68 Labor will establish an independent statutory body to provide advice to government on skills demand and long-term workforce planning.

3.69 Labor will return control of the state’s training assets to the Department of Education and Training.

3.70 Labor will create an independent Training Ombudsman with the power to investigate complaints about the quality of training.

3.71 Labor will provide skilling opportunities to underpin jobs in new, emerging or changed economic and social circumstances.

3.72 Consistent with its community service obligations, Labor will provide a second chance at education and training for people who have been out of the workforce, for example, people returning to the workforce after time out for family responsibilities, workers made redundant through structural and technological changes in the workforce, and people whose personal circumstances meant they require access to training to obtain employment.

3.73 Labor will work with disadvantaged and marginalised groups across the state to ensure they can access training opportunities, course structures and content appropriate to their needs.

3.74 Labor recognises the distinctive circumstances of regional Queenslanders and will ensure that access to training, including on-line learning, is not limited unnecessarily by location. Labor believes that training provision should take into account the economic, commercial, industrial and socio-cultural needs of each region.

3.75 Labor recognises the need for an equitable fee structure within the VET system to ensure that all Queenslanders have access to high quality training which meets personal needs and provides opportunities to secure meaningful employment.
HIGHER EDUCATION

LABOR BELIEFS

Labor supports a higher education sector that:

3.76 provides globally acknowledged programs of excellence for undergraduate and postgraduate students, including research centres

3.77 attracts students and professional staff who want to engage in world’s best courses and research

3.78 contains centres of research excellence that are capable of developing knowledge, products and processes of global significance

3.79 provides access, and eliminates systemic blockages, to the participation of disadvantaged groups in the community, especially those whose participation may be limited because they have inadequate financial support, or are from rural, regional or remote areas

3.80 is regulated by a publically funded organisation, currently the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency.

LABOR PRIORITIES IN GOVERNMENT

3.81 Labor believes that student representative organisations (unions, guilds and SRCs) are an important component in both higher education institutions and in civil society more broadly.

3.82 Labor strongly supports undergraduate student, postgraduate student and staff involvement in the management of their university communities and in university decision making processes. As such Labor supports elected undergraduate student, postgraduate students and staff representation at all levels of university decision making.

3.83 Labor will develop partnerships with the sector that provide access to the human, financial, natural and infrastructural resources of government to enhance the capacity of those institutions to develop courses, undertake research and promote the work of those institutions.

3.84 Labor will engage with the higher education sector to develop partnerships and enable participation of marginalised groups in Queensland, for example, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, rural and remote communities and culturally and linguistically diverse groups.

3.85 Labor will work with the higher education sector to boost online-learning opportunities for Queenslanders to undertake further education and lifelong learning.

3.86 Labor will support the development of partnerships between higher education and employer groups.

3.87 Labor will support Queensland secondary schools in building partnerships with higher education institutions.
Chapter 4: Industrial Relations – Making our workplaces safe, productive and fair

LABOR VALUES

4.1 Labor’s industrial relations policy is built on the values of a fair go for all working Queenslanders and for employers. Labor believes in an industrial relations environment that relies on genuine consultation, cooperation and mutual respect between all parties.

4.2 Labor believes in collective participation. The best way to ensure collective participation is to recognise, support and encourage the right of workers to organise through unions. Through unions working Queenslanders have achieved fair standards in health and safety, in remuneration, and in conditions of employment. Unions are the best way to maintain and advance those standards.

4.3 Labor believes that a fair industrial relations system relies on independent tribunals and on an independent judicial system.

4.4 Labor believes in workplaces free from discrimination, bullying and harassment.

LABOR ACHIEVEMENTS

4.5 Queensland Labor has a long and proud history of advancements for workers through progressive industrial relations policies.

4.6 Labor introduced an impartial Court of Industrial Arbitration in 1916, which recognised unions, introduced the eight-hour work day, ruled on workers’ overtime payments and holidays, ruled on employment disputes, and made general rulings and awards regarding the wages and employment conditions of workers and enforced entitlements (Industrial Arbitration Act 1916, Trade Union Act 1915 and Wages Act 1918).

4.7 Labor introduced a no-fault workers’ compensation system that ensured support for workers who suffer an injury related to their employment, including industrial diseases and journey claims (Workers’ Compensation Act 1916).

4.8 Labor introduced legislation to deal with the issue of unemployment through relief work and unemployment insurance (Unemployed Workers Act 1919).

4.9 Labor introduced legislation providing rights and entitlements for seasonal workers such as those in the sugar industry, including unfair dismissal and continuity of employment.

4.10 Labor introduced legislation to provide suitable accommodation for workers in the pastoral industry.

4.11 Labor introduced portable long-service leave and superannuation for casual workers in the building and construction and contract cleaning sectors.

4.12 More recently, Labor governments have introduced and maintained fair and balanced legislation such as the Industrial Relations Act 1999, the Workers’ Compensation and
Rehabilitation Act 2011 and the Work Health and Safety Act 2011. These laws have ensured at least minimum protections for Queensland workers.

4.13 Labor introduced the Anti-Discrimination Act 1991, which protects workers against discrimination on the basis of sex, age, race, sexuality, disability and other protected attributes.

LABOR BELIEFS

4.14 Queensland Labor’s policy on industrial relations is founded on the following beliefs.

4.15 In 2015, Labor passed the Industrial Relations (Restoring Fairness) and Other Legislation Bill 2015 through the Queensland Parliament, has issued a formal commitment to union encouragement for public sector employees and has moved to secure funding for TAFE; with legislation also soon to be enacted in support of enhanced workplace health and safety and workers compensation rights, FIFO and other long distance community work practices and restoring the Labour Day public holiday to May from 2016. A collaborative process facilitates review of the state Industrial Relations Act and Industrial Tribunals to restore workers’ rights. Labor has also spoken out in support of the retention of workers’ penalty rates. These actions deliver on key election promises.

4.16 The existence of a strong, representative and responsible union movement is essential to the achievement of an efficient, just and equitable industrial relations system.

4.17 Every employee has a right to a “fair go” at work.

4.18 Workers who dutifully provide their mental and physical labour to their employer should be able to expect job security from their employer.

4.19 Every worker is entitled to a fair day’s pay for a fair day’s work. Further, wages and employment conditions need to be underpinned by relevant and enforceable industrial instruments and legislation.

4.20 All industrial parties involved in the employment relationship should be able to resolve disputes before an impartial tribunal.

4.21 All workers have the right to be paid the same transparent remuneration for undertaking the same work.

4.22 All workers have the right to bargain collectively, to be represented by their union, and to have access to union support at their workplace, and workers and employers have the right to negotiate any matter as part of enterprise bargaining.

4.23 Workers and employers have a mutual interest in working collaboratively to ensure the delivery of high-quality services and products in an efficient and effective manner.

4.24 Workers and employers will enhance productivity in the State by enhancing the skills and capabilities of workers, developing the leadership and management skills of employers, and adopting innovative work practices.

4.25 Workers and employers will benefit by adopting for workplaces a high-level skills agenda that increases the capability and competitive advantage of Queensland industries and services. Further, workers and employers should contribute to developing this agenda, as it will directly benefit industry.
Both workers and employers will benefit by the provision of relevant re-training and industry support to those employees and businesses negatively impacted by economic and industrial adjustment.

Workers and employers benefit by having safe and healthy workplaces where parties involved share responsibilities for preventing accidents and injuries.

All employees have a right to access a no-fault, universal workers’ compensation and rehabilitation system that supports injured workers and their families and allows for common-law damages against negligent employers.

Queensland Labor’s policy on industrial relations has repeatedly faced the challenge of attacks on workers’ rights and conditions by conservative governments that continually amend legislation and policies to reduce the ability of union members to organise and protect workers’ employment conditions.

Labor will proudly defend workers and their families against these attacks, restoring workers’ rights and conditions by conservative governments that continually amend legislation and policies to reduce the ability of union members to organise and protect workers’ employment conditions.

Labor will proudly defend workers and their families against these attacks, restoring workers’ rights and employment conditions and ensuring fairness, equality and access to opportunity. We will fight to ensure legislative and policy changes do not disadvantage workers, whether they are in the public or private sectors.

The Labor Government in Queensland will restore conditions and rights stripped away as a result of the passing of the ‘Industrial Relations (Fair Work Act Harmonisation No. 2) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013’ and other legislation passed by the former LNP state government that has attacked workers’ rights and entitlements.

Labor will restore a fair and independent industrial relations system and protect the rights of all working Queenslanders.

Labor will implement industrial relations policies within the framework of the following measures.

Labor will immediately commence a comprehensive review of the state’s industrial relations laws and tribunals, including the structure, functions and powers of those tribunals, and will ensure the independence of industrial tribunals.

Labor commits to completing fair reparations to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, who up to the 1970s had their wages stolen under the auspices of previous state governments, removing an injustice that has stained Queensland’s history.

Labor will encourage a workplace environment of collaboration and mutual respect between employees and employers.

Labor will restore job security for workers in the public sector, providing confidence for those workers and their families and restoring the proper independence of the public service.
4.38 Labor will support employers and unions to develop working time arrangements that are consistent with employees’ preferences and needs and that will reduce excessive working hours and maximise employment creation. Penalty rates for excessive or unsociable hours, and for weekends and public holidays, will be maintained at current rates.

4.39 Labor will ensure the protection of employment conditions through a comprehensive award framework that will provide for the well-being of working families in our State (including, but not limited to, employment conditions such as reasonable hours of work, consultation, leave, public holidays, penalty rates, overtime and allowances for disabilities or additional responsibilities).

4.40 Labor will ensure consistent treatment of public holidays, including the issue of Easter Sunday and the treatment of Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year’s Day where they fall on weekends. Further, Labor will work to provide for appropriate penalty rates and leave arrangements, where any new public holiday is gazetted.

4.41 Labor will re-establish collective bargaining and enterprise agreements as the core mechanism for securing wages and conditions, with no disadvantage to workers, against a comprehensive award safety net. Labor’s legislation will enable unions and their members to take industrial action in support of their claims and allow agreements to be made in relation to any matters (including, but not limited to rostering, workloads, job security and right-of-entry provisions).

4.42 Labor will ensure there are no statutory individual contracts for workers covered by industrial instruments. Labor will ensure that the state’s industrial relations tribunals are given primacy in determining industrial matters affecting all workers in the state’s industrial relations system, including trading hours.

4.43 Labor will ensure workers are fairly remunerated by employers for the work that they perform.

4.44 Labor is committed to a minimum wage that will improve the relative living standards of low paid workers.

4.45 Labor will regulate the labour hire industry to eliminate labour hire practices that undermine existing employment rights, conditions and job security, exploit workers, breach federal or state laws, and result in the avoidance of payroll tax and WorkCover premiums.

4.46 Labor will prevent transfer of business, corporate restructuring, phoenixing, labour hire, insourcing or outsourcing arrangements to be used to avoid obligations to employees under relevant legislation, an award or a collective agreement.

4.47 Labor will ensure the industrial relations system operates to reduce the incidence of underemployment and insecure work and will also set an objective test for determining when a worker is casual.

4.48 Labor will ensure that employers give priority to permanent employment over other types of employment.

4.49 Labor will give priority to secure and direct employment arrangements when awarding tenders for State Government procurement. Labor understands the importance of State funded projects for local employment.
4.50 Labor will ensure that sham contracting arrangements are prevented by law and that relevant legislation is enacted and enforced.

4.51 Labor recognises the importance of mutually beneficial economic relationships with trading partners as crucial to our nation’s future prosperity. However, Labor stands with unions and communities in opposing Free Trade Agreements that would undermine job security and employment opportunities for local workers, compromise training and apprenticeships for young people, erode safety standards, expose government to costly litigation, place unprecedented power in the hands of corporations at the expense of Australian national sovereignty and impede the ability of current and future federal, state and local governments to legislate in Australia’s national interest.

4.52 Labor will ensure that workers have the security of knowing that the terms and conditions of employment mutually agreed to by themselves and their employers will not be unilaterally extinguished or modified while in force.

4.53 Labor recognises and encourages the important role of unions and union delegates in enhancing and maintaining the well-being of working people and their families in Queensland.

4.54 Labor will ensure that consultation in relation to industrial matters is undertaken regularly through the Queensland Labour Advisory Council, which will be made up of affiliated unions, the Parliamentary Labor Party, the ALP Queensland branch and non-affiliated peak bodies by invitation.

4.55 Labor will ensure the freedom of unions to participate fully in matters of public debate and public policy.

4.56 Labor will restore the ability of unions and their representatives to freely organise and access members so as to enhance and protect their industrial interests, including restoring right-of-entry provisions.

4.57 Labor will develop the capabilities and leadership of the public sector to deliver high-quality services to the Queensland community. Further, it will ensure that there is accountability for the delivery of such services and that such accountability and quality will not be outsourced or privatised.

4.58 Labor will ensure that workers have appropriate remedies available to them if they suffer discrimination in their workplaces.

4.59 Labor supports the right of every worker to a safe home, community and workplace. Labor stands against family violence. Labor commends the state government’s response to the Not Now, Not Ever report on Domestic and Family Violence, including the introduction of domestic violence leave of 10 days paid leave per year and employer support measures as a minimum standard and will work with stakeholders in the Industrial Relations Act Review to implement this reform.

4.60 Labor will amend Queensland’s anti-discrimination laws to include domestic violence victim status as a protected attribute.

4.61 Labor will ensure that workers have appropriate remedies available to them if they are subject to workplace bullying and that any matters of workplace bullying can be dealt with by the state’s industrial relations tribunals.
4.62 Labor will ensure that workers have mechanisms to ensure remuneration equity for work of equal or comparable value.

4.63 Labor will reinstate Labour Day to its historic place in May.

4.64 Labor will help people manage their work and caring responsibilities through paid parental leave, rights to unpaid parental leave of up to two years, the right to request part time work or other flexible work arrangements (including an effective right of review for unreasonable refusals of their requests) and the right to work reasonable but not excessive hours.

Labor rejects any corruption of the national paid parental leave scheme to no longer enable working parents to access the national scheme in addition to any paid parental leave benefit negotiated at workplace level.

Labor is committed to the goal of minimum 26 weeks at full pay plus superannuation through a combination of government and employer contributions.

4.65 Labor will ensure that workers have safe workplaces and full access to support and legal rights if injured in the conduct of their employment.

4.66 Labor will ensure government funding is dependent on the maintenance of safe work practices, award and industrial instrument conditions on the project for which the financial assistance or investment is given.

4.67 Labor will recognise the important role played by workplace health and safety representatives within workplaces.

4.68 Labor will restore the rights of accredited Union Officials to gain meaningful access to workplaces, particularly when responding to emergent safety issues and allowing workplace health and safety representatives the capacity to direct workers to cease work when the representative identifies imminent safety risks to workers.

4.69 Labor will restore the original elements of the harmonised Work Health and Safety Act 2011 that was brought into full effect in 2012 and will restore the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999 to its pre-April 2012 status.

4.70 Labor will investigate opportunities for expanding the application of portable employment entitlements (long-service leave, superannuation) to other industry sectors.

4.71 Labor will ensure the industrial framework in Queensland is inclusive and incorporates an obligation on all parties to consult so that there is consistency and stability with regard to industrial matters.

4.72 Labor will develop legislation to provide reasonable protections for workers in relation to obtrusive surveillance in the workplace including camera, audio, email and internet monitoring and the use of tracking devices.

4.73 Labor will regulate and educate employers to promote equal opportunity, gender pay equity and work and family balance. Labor will enact an equal pay for equal or comparable work strategy underpinned by legal obligations. Labor will act to bridge the gap in women’s retirement incomes.
Workers’ Compensation and Rehabilitation

4.74 Labor will remove the retrograde denial of access to legal rights for workers injured at work, through the imposition of a threshold on whole-of-person impairment. Labor will remove this unwarranted and discriminatory threshold.

4.75 Labor will reverse amendments to the legislation that allow a worker’s compensation history to be used against them with regard to future career prospects.

4.76 Labor will introduce legislation for fire fighters who contract scheduled respiratory diseases so that they do not bear the burden of having to prove they contracted such disease/s while performing their duties.

4.77 Labor will restore the ability of people who have contracted a dust disease, such as asbestosis, to progress their case in an unrestricted manner rather than be required to obtain a terminal diagnosis.

4.78 Labor will ensure rehabilitation and return to work are a priority for workers and employers, rather than employers simply terminating the employment of injured employees.

4.79 Labor will work with all unions and the legal community to implement an orderly transfer to a new workers’ compensation system, with due consideration of the rights of injured workers and the timing of workers’ compensation payments.
Chapter 5: Our Environment Our Future

LABOR VALUES

5.1 Queensland’s unique and ecologically diverse environment must be protected, preserved and managed for the public good and in perpetuity for future generations.

5.2 Labor believes in a low carbon economic growth using the principle of ecologically sustainable development. Labor will ensure that the principles and purpose of ESD and the framework of environmental economics are reflected, where required to develop a sustainable low greenhouse gas emission economy, in all statutory legislation.

5.3 The rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be central to conservation and cultural heritage management, and the value of their traditional knowledge of land management respected and acknowledged in the development of conservation policies and joint management arrangements.

5.4 In response to the evidence of declining habitat and the impact of climate change, Queensland Labor will acquire and manage an increased amount of terrestrial and marine habitats to ensure the preservation of biodiversity and ecological systems.

5.5 Confronting the issue of climate change is an important priority for all governments. Labor recognises that Queensland is in a unique position to embrace a low-carbon future.

5.6 In an integrated, scientifically robust approach to the management of Queensland’s natural resources, a Labor Government will focus on the connections between water, land and vegetation to underpin a coordinated policy for the management of sustainable production in agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

5.7 The Commonwealth should retain responsibility for the approval of actions that may have a significant impact on Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES), including:

- matters of World Heritage
- National Heritage
- wetlands of international importance (i.e., RAMSAR wetlands)
- listed threatened species and communities
- listed migratory species
- protection of the environment from nuclear actions
- the marine environment
- the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
- the protection of water resources from CSG and mining.
LABOR ACHIEVEMENTS

5.8 Labor will commit to reviewing the current terms of mining leases in Queensland, with the terms of reference to include mining approvals and conditions, how ongoing changes in communities are considered, and the role of the regular reviews.

5.9 World Heritage listing of Fraser Island, the Gondwana Rainforest and Riversleigh.

5.10 An end to logging of remnant and regrowth native forest through the Regional Forestry Agreements.

5.11 An End to broad-scale tree clearing (remnant and regrowth).

5.12 Legislation to protect the Great Barrier Reef from the impact of chemicals, nutrients and sediment runoff.

5.13 A Boost to solar energy uptake across Queensland, lifting the number of Queensland homes with solar panels from 1000 to just over 100,000 in just four years.

5.14 Legislation to end sand mining on Stradbroke Island.

5.15 Increased protection of our coastal areas, with a stronger Coastal Protection Plan

5.16 Green zones in Moreton Bay, the Great Sandy, and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Parks.

5.17 Introduction of Wild River declarations to protect key rivers for future generations.

NATURE CONSERVATION AND HERITAGE PROTECTION

LABOR PRIORITIES IN GOVERNMENT

5.18 Queensland Labor will preserve our environmental, social, cultural and built heritage. Queensland has an extraordinarily rich and diverse biological and cultural heritage and the Government has a responsibility to conserve this heritage for the enjoyment of current and future generations.

5.19 Labor will promote the conservation of fauna, flora, ecosystems and genetic diversity through a comprehensive national park and protected area estate, world heritage listing, and conservation agreements on private land. Labor believes that Government has an obligation to work in partnership with Traditional Owners to achieve the best conservation outcome

5.20 Labor will ensure that the “State of Environment” environmental report regime is maintained as required under the Environmental Protection Act (1914), and that “environmental indicators” reporting remains evidence based and reflects world’s best practice methodology. Labor will promote the State of Environment report to the community.

5.21 Labor recognises the valuable work done by the voluntary conservation movement and will provide funding to support them in their conservation work.

National parks and protected areas

5.22 Labor recognises that the Convention on Biological Diversity set a target to preserve 17% of the Australian landmass as protected area estate. Queensland Labor commits to securing, connecting and conserving representative and viable samples of all bio-
geographical regions of the state in the national park estate and moving towards the target set through the Convention on Biological Diversity.

5.23 Queensland Labor acknowledges the need for a comprehensive protected area estate including national parks, national park (scientific), national park (recovery), national park (Aboriginal Land), national park (Torres Strait Islander Land) and national park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land), conservation parks, resources reserves, nature refuges and state forests, and will restore these categories of parks to reflect the purpose and level of protection needed. Queensland Labor acknowledges the need for a comprehensive protected area estate and will restore the categories of parks to reflect the purpose and level of protection needed.

5.24 Queensland Labor will restore the cardinal principle to the management of national parks which is to provide, to the greatest possible extent, the permanent preservation of the natural condition and the protection of the estate’s cultural resources and values, and reverse the changes which weakened the principal purpose of the Nature Conservation Act.

5.25 Labor will maintain the ban on exploration and mining in national parks.

5.26 Queensland Labor supports the use of parks for appropriate, ecologically focused commercial activities and will provide equitable access and facilities to support park visitors. Queensland Labor will ensure that any intensive or damaging commercial development is located outside park boundaries.

5.27 Labor will ensure activities within national parks and protected areas are assessed according to the precautionary principle.

5.28 Labor will adequately resource the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service to maintain the protected area estate in its natural condition and the maintenance of ecosystem services.

5.29 Labor will aim to eradicate pest and weed incursions in the protected area estate, including prohibiting the grazing of livestock in national parks.

5.30 Labor will require all national and marine parks to have comprehensive, scientifically based management instruments.

5.31 Queensland Labor will protect and conserve ecologically important marine areas through a network of marine parks and supporting World Heritage listing for internationally important areas.

**World Heritage Listing and International Environmental Treaties**

5.32 Queensland Labor supports the world heritage list coordinated by UNESCO. Labor in Government will work with the Australian Government to manage listed properties in accordance with best practice and UNESCO recommendations and support new listings.

5.33 Labor recognises the world environmental and cultural value of other sites in Queensland, most notably Cape York and the Great Sandy region, and provided there is support from traditional owners and local communities, Labor will assist in their nomination to UNESCO.

5.34 Labor supports the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and commits to the proper management of listed sites. Queensland Labor will ensure that all developments in the
vicinity of Ramsar sites must show that they contribute to the improvement of water quality readings.

**Off-Park Conservation**

5.35 Queensland Labor understands that preserving Queensland’s unique environmental attributes cannot be solely achieved by protecting public land and internationally recognised areas. To increase the area of land where nature is conserved, Labor will encourage the establishment of Nature Refuges on private land by providing incentive and support to freehold landowners and will establish mechanisms for the protection of nature refuges with outstanding conservation values from incompatible land uses. Application of this mechanism would be subject to relevant consultation regarding the conservation value, and potential future mining interests, of the land in question.

5.36 Labor will provide incentives and mechanisms for leasehold and freehold land owners to protect environmentally significant ecosystems and corridors and ecosystem services.

5.37 Labor will use the regional planning system and legislative instruments to protect and restore the natural environment.

**Biodiversity Conservation**

5.38 Queensland is home to a large array of flora and fauna, many of which are not found anywhere else in the world. Many of these species are threatened by habitat loss, introduced species and impacts of climate change. Labor believes that native species deserve legislative and regulatory protection under both the *state Nature Conservation Act 1992* and the *federal Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

5.39 Labor supports:

- the maintenance of rigorous and scientifically based classification of threatened native species
- government-funded programs to rehabilitate populations of threatened species in the protected area estate and private land
- the protection of people from potentially dangerous native animals according to independent scientific research
- the humane culling of non-threatened native species according to independent scientific monitoring of numbers in the wild.

**Social, Cultural and Built Heritage Protection**

5.40 Queensland Labor recognises the bio-cultural values of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples that exist on land and in water courses and will ensure their protection through a statutory cultural register, the maintenance of native title rights, the planning framework, the education system and appropriate presentation and interpretation. Legislation and policy to support protection will be developed in collaboration with traditional owners using consultation processes that ensure that those authorised to speak for country are properly consulted.

5.41 Queensland Labor also values more recent history since the first European contact and will work to protect significant places and artefacts through both local and state-wide heritage lists. We recognise the obligation of property owners to adequately maintain
heritage-listed sites and will examine methods to reward owners who meet their responsibilities. We will preserve Queensland’s social, cultural and built heritage through state and regional planning schemes and through a well-resourced heritage sector including museum networks.

**Climate Change and Renewable Energy**

5.42 Labor accepts that human-induced greenhouse gas emissions are the major cause of accelerated global climate change. Labor endorses the International scientific and political consensus that global warming can and should be contained to less than 2°C Celsius.

5.43 Labor will accept the advice of the Australian Climate Change Authority on Australia’s emissions reduction requirements as part of the global effort to mitigate the effects of climate change. Labor believes that the best way to contribute to global action is to establish a National emissions trading scheme.

5.44 Labor acknowledges that Queensland must have a leadership role in reducing domestic emissions. Labor will pursue as a priority all policies necessary to combat climate change and its effects on carbon emissions.

**Domestic Emissions**

5.45 Labor will implement energy efficiency measures and incorporate climate and environmental sustainability across the economy, including:

- water supply, distribution and use
- energy generation, distribution and use, including time-of-use or floating tariffs for commercial and residential customers
- government services and procurement
- land use planning and building design.

5.46 Labor will increase the production and use of renewable energy by:

- implementing targets that align with the National Labor Platform of at least 50% by 2030 and that are contingent on the creation of a new federal agency to assist with the retraining, deployment and compensation of workers impacted by the transition to renewable energy
- investing in renewable energy research and development to provide schemes to encourage energy efficiency and the uptake of renewable energy
- ensuring that the electricity grid is able to equitably accept and distribute dispersed renewable energy generation.
- developing a plan that incorporates transitioning power generation companies to renewable energy whilst maintaining employment and that includes research and development
- facilitation of secure and sustainable employment in clean energy industries

5.47 Labor will reduce emissions from land management, transport and industry by:

- strictly controlling land clearing and re-vegetating degraded land
• supporting primary producers to adopt practices that sequester carbon in soils and perennial vegetation, encouraging carbon farming
• supporting energy-efficient technologies that convert emissions and plant wastes into energy and other useful products
• not approving new fossil fuelled power stations without deploying full carbon capture and storage
• Working with industry to encourage the recycling of gases produced by extractive industries for energy use and to reduce the flaring of bi-productive gases
• investigate the feasibility of implementing carbon capture and storage to existing coal fired power stations and increasing research and development around new technologies that reduce emissions attached to the coal industry.

Transitional Arrangements

5.48 To facilitate the transition from current fossil fuel dependency to a low emission Queensland economy, Labor in government will:

• coordinate all areas of government responsibility to take into account climate effects
• develop community awareness and engagement programs
• identify, develop and support new job opportunities created by low emission technologies
• ensure there is protection for low income energy users from significant price rises
• identify and optimise revenue streams arising from low emission technologies
• encourage the development of sustainable, zero carbon industries in regions dominated by unsustainable industries
• encourage the development of sustainable, zero carbon industries in regions where employment and economic opportunities are dominated by high polluting industries.

NATURAL RESOURCES

LABOR PRIORITIES IN GOVERNMENT

5.49 Labor acknowledges Queensland’s unique and ecologically diverse environment must be protected and managed now and into the future. Labor will therefore follow principles of environmental policy, including:

1. the precautionary principle
2. intergenerational equity
3. Conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity.

5.50 Labor acknowledges that the prosperity of present and future generations of Queenslanders is dependent on the health of our natural environment and the effective management of all natural resources. Labor understands the interconnection between land management practices and the health of marine environments, most
notably through water quality. Labor is committed to sustainably managing the state’s natural resources, by implementing the following policies.

**Land and Vegetation**

5.51 Labor will prevent broad-acre clearing and clearing of endangered and threatened ecosystems and essential habitat for threatened species and ecologically sensitive areas.

5.52 Labor will establish programs to revegetate depleted landscapes and ecosystems.

5.53 Labor will establish programs that will reduce soil erosion and sediment loads entering waterways.

5.54 Queensland Labor will assist a transition to low impact practices such as reduced use of agricultural fertilisers and pesticides and improved pests and fire management regimes to provide benefits to both primary producers and the environment in water quality, soil loss, reduce costs and enhance production.

**Coastal and Marine Management**

5.55 Labor will ensure coastal development is managed sustainably, for current and future generations, by considering the social and environmental impacts in addition to the economic benefits.

5.56 Labor will sustainably manage the coastal and marine zone for current and future generations by reviewing, strengthening and integrating coastal and marine management legislation, and integrating coastal management and marine planning and development assessment.

5.57 Labor will ensure the protective function of natural coastal environments (for example, dune systems) is recognised, and where new development is proposed a buffer zone should be provided to allow the natural fluctuation of the foreshore and foreshore ecosystems to continue.

5.58 Labor will ensure public access to the coast is enhanced for current and future generations.

5.59 Labor will protect coastal and marine zones by prohibiting large-scale reclamation within marine parks and wetlands. Reclamation outside marine parks and wetlands must meet strict environmental standards.

**Water**

5.60 Labor will implement catchment-based water resource plans to provide sustainable water allocations for agriculture, industries, population centres and the environment. As a priority, Labor will develop and implement a water resource plan for the Cape York region within this term of government.

5.61 Labor will legally protect environmental seasonal flows to ensure the health of rivers, wetlands, estuaries and groundwater systems is maintained.

5.62 Labor will price water to reflect the costs of supply and encourage users to invest in efficient water supply and use.

5.63 Labor will improve community resilience and reduce flooding impacts by re-vegetating waterways and upper catchments.
5.64 Labor will reinstate natural flow regimes in waterways by removing redundant or deleterious in-stream infrastructure and ensuring that releases from storages replicate seasonal flows.

5.65 Labor will legally protect the extent and function of all remaining natural wetlands and reinstate wetlands that provide important ecosystem functions and services.

5.66 Labor will support local water harvesting in small dams, reservoirs and tanks where it is ecologically sustainable and environmental impacts are minimised and mitigated.

5.67 Labor will ensure that new dams are only supported where there is a recognised need that cannot be met by alternative options, and where the impact to the environment can be avoided or minimised and, if there are no alternatives, offset.

5.68 Labor will regulate the take and interference of groundwater across Queensland, including the reinjection of treated CSG associated water to protect ground water dependent ecosystems and aquifers, including the Great Artesian Basin.

5.69 Labor will regulate wastewater discharged from agriculture, industry, mining and urban development to waterways by requiring water quality impacts to be mitigated and residual impacts to be offset.

5.70 Labor will ensure that impacts to catchment hydrology that occur from diverting waterways will be minimised and mitigated.

5.71 Labor will introduce legislation to protect pristine and near natural river systems in the Channel Country, Cape York, Gulf and other parts of Queensland from all potentially deleterious developments.

5.72 Labor will continue to implement National Water Initiative measures.

Extractive Resources

5.73 Labor acknowledges and supports the great contribution the resources industry has made to our State, our economy and our community. However, Labor also acknowledges that the industry has the potential to cause environmental harm, which can take many years to remediate and can impact on other industries such as agriculture and tourism.

5.74 Labor will require that mine and well sites are progressively and totally rehabilitated and will establish a stringent financial assurances regime to secure a rehabilitation guarantee.

5.75 Labor will subject new underground coal gasification development and coal to liquid fuel projects in Queensland to rigorous scientific and environmental impacts and cost benefit analysis. Labor will prohibit uranium mining in Queensland.

5.76 Labor will commission an independent, rigorous scientific assessment of oil shale, shale oil and shale gas extraction. The assessment will consider the environmental impact of exploitation of these resources and impacts on other industries including agriculture and tourism. Labor will not proceed with the development of these resources until there has been a public consideration of the environmental impacts of oil shale, shale oil and shale gas extraction, including consideration by ALP State Conference.

5.77 Labor will work to reduce Queensland’s dependence on fossil fuels and explore new export opportunities in response to declining market demand.
5.78 Labor will require independent water models of designated gas development areas. The models will consider spring complexes, groundwater recharge areas and whether there is demonstrated connectivity between targeted coal seams and water supply aquifers.

5.79 Labor will restore Environmental Impact Statements and Social Impact Assessments in the process of assessing and approving major projects to at least the standard of previous Labor governments.

5.80 Labor will legislate for the closure and cessation of all sand mining activity on North Stradbroke Island between 2015 and 2019.

Great Barrier Reef and Marine Conservation

5.81 Queensland has an extraordinarily rich and diverse marine environment that includes areas of international significance (for example, the Great Barrier Reef, Moreton Bay and the Great Sandy Straits). As Queenslanders, we are custodians of these important marine environments and have a responsibility to protect, conserve, rehabilitate and manage them for current and future generations.

5.82 Labor recognises that climate change represents the greatest threat to the marine environment of the Great Barrier Reef, and will act to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to lessen the threat from its impacts, such as sea level rise, ocean acidification and weather extremes.

5.83 Labor acknowledges that a healthy marine environment is important for the long-term viability of many economically important industries such as reef tourism and commercial fishing. As the health of marine ecosystems is largely dependent on adjacent catchments being healthy, Labor recognises that ensuring reef catchments are healthy will require a combination of a regulatory and an incentives approach to transition activities that currently degrade catchments and marine ecosystems to ecologically sustainable practices. In addition, Labor will prepare annual catchment reports to demonstrate the progress that has been achieved in meeting catchment pollution reduction and industry practice change targets.

5.84 Labor reaffirms our commitment to marine conservation and will review and strengthen marine and coastal management legislation to protect and conserve Queensland’s important marine environments, while balancing this with the sustainable recreational and commercial use of these areas.

5.85 Labor will manage and expand marine conservation programs based on sound scientific evidence and advice.

5.86 Labor will facilitate incentives to improve the health of our marine environment through industry-based programs such as the Reef Water Quality Science Program, and through the use of environmental offsets to provide incentives for land holders to protect riparian areas.

Dredging and Disposal of Dredged Material

5.87 Labor will prohibit the dumping of capital dredge spoil within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage area. In addition, Labor will reduce the impacts to the GBRWH from the dumping of maintenance dredge spoil by requiring it to be used for land reclamation where practicable, or for other beneficial purposes. In other State marine
waters, Labor will ensure that development of new and the operation of existing ports meet world’s best environmental practices.

5.88 Labor will provide incentive for the beneficial use of suitable, clean dredged material for beach nourishment purposes as a means of mitigating coastal erosion.

**Waste Management**

5.89 Queensland Labor will apply full life cycle management of resources to encourage recycling.

5.90 Queensland Labor will provide incentives for industries to improve their practices and reduce the amount of waste material they produce.

5.91 Labor will promote the principles of Clean Production in all commercial and industrial activities, and will use the State Government’s purchasing policies and other measures to take a leadership role in maximising the use of goods made from recycled and renewable materials.

5.92 Labor will implement programs and penalties to tackle litter and illegal dumping of waste.

5.93 Labor will restrict the use of single use plastic bags.

5.94 Labor will actively pursue model legislation across all states that establishes a National Container Deposit Scheme, and investigate the establishment of a state-based container deposit scheme.

5.95 Labor will encourage the expansion of the Queensland recycling industry by:

- using market-based mechanisms to reduce landfill and make recycling more cost-effective, competitive and marketable
- educating the community and business to increase participation in recycling schemes
- investigating ways to beneficially reuse/improve collection of waste from regional areas to processing centres
- providing incentives to encourage research, development, manufacture, marketing and job creation of products made from recycled and reusable materials.

**Landfill**

5.96 Labor recognises landfill destroys the natural value of areas, increases the prevalence of pests and weeds and is responsible for the emission of greenhouse gases. It is also a burden to nearby residents and businesses. Queensland Labor will ensure that the cost of dealing with landfill is borne by the waste generators not by communities.

5.97 Labor will ensure that landfill sites:

- follow strict environmental guidelines
- are appropriately planned to ensure adequate buffer zones between nearby homes and businesses
- ensure the capture and beneficial reuse or safe disposal of methane and other pollutants from landfill sites.
Implementation and Transition

5.98 Labor will collaborate with stakeholders including traditional owners, landholders, industry peak bodies, regional natural resource management bodies and the conservation sector. Labor will ensure that consultation with traditional owners is undertaken by those authorised to speak for country and, where necessary, will prepare legislation to deliver and adequately resource government departments to monitor and enforce compliance.

5.99 Labor will develop a plan that outlines a transitional pathway to a low carbon economy.

5.100 Labor will provide extension services to primary producers and landholders to assist transition to ecologically sustainable practices. Labor will provide reskilling support and development assistance to workers and communities dependent on the fossil fuel resource industry to transition to sustainable industry.

5.101 Labor will review and revise development approval processes, including of the Biodiversity Offset Act 2014, to ensure that:

- environmental impacts are assessed independently, comprehensively, and with scientific rigour
- environmental offsets are applied as a last resort, and only when it is demonstrated that the impacts cannot be avoided or mitigated. Offsets will not allow development that would otherwise not be approved and will be strictly monitored and enforced

5.102 Labor will support the community’s participation in the development and implementation of plans, policies and regulations, and in terms of reference to apply to the assessment and approval of development proposals.
Chapter 6: Healthy Living – a better quality of life for all Queenslanders

LABOR VALUES

6.1 Labor values and supports a well resourced, publicly funded, universal health system that helps Queenslanders achieve and maintain good physical and mental health and well-being. This health system needs to be effective, coordinated, efficient and sustainable, providing appropriate and timely evidence-based services.

6.2 Good health, however, needs and means more than well functioning free hospitals and Medicare-funded GP services. Providing all citizens with the best opportunities to live full, happy, healthy and productive lives requires proactive, effective, preventative and protective public health programs, and integration with other government services. Such programs need to take account of economic, social, employment and environmental conditions. They need to address, among other things, Queensland’s growing, ageing and highly decentralised population, as well as Queensland’s great cultural, social, economic and infrastructure diversity.

6.3 Attaining a better quality of life for current and future generations of Queenslanders is the responsibility of all Queenslanders. Commonwealth, State and Local governments, community-based organisations, private health services, families and individuals must all be involved in maximising the health potential of this State through investment in:

- action and incentives to maintain wellness, both mental and physical
- prevention of disease and injury
- early detection and treatment of disease
- appropriate hospital and community-based treatment, care, rehabilitation, palliation, and support for living and dying with dignity
- easing suffering and minimising disability
- research to foster innovation and the sharing of effective practices shown to improve specific services and the health of individuals and communities
- education and positive cultural change for the public and for the health workforce
- equity, by addressing socio-economic disadvantage and the social determinants of health
- the provision of frameworks that support community and society, to ensure access, information, education and assistance so all can participate and benefit
- coordinated service delivery that delivers patient outcomes.

6.4 A comprehensive whole-of-government and whole-of-community approach is essential to ensure that healthy choices are always easy choices and that needed services are readily accessible and affordable by all sectors of society. Broad partnerships and opportunities for action need to be established among government, non-government and private sectors to guarantee access for all.
6.5 The core goals Labor seeks to achieve for the health of Queenslanders are:

- access to safe, ethical and quality services for enhancing well-being and treating illness and injury
- access that maintains dignity and self-determination
- timely receipt of services without catastrophic financial consequences for both individuals and communities
- innovative, patient- and community-focussed, cost-effective processes for delivering public health by using all available appropriate resources most effectively
- involvement of all sectors and communities in the planning, design, delivery and oversight of services for a healthier Queensland.

6.6 These goals are the bedrock of Labor’s policy position for a healthier Queensland.

LABOR ACHIEVEMENTS

6.7 At State level, Labor has led the way in delivering better health care and a healthier community by:

- establishing Queensland’s free hospital system, maternal and child health services, and school dental services across the State
- expanding or rebuilding every major hospital in Queensland during the last Labor government, the largest health infrastructure program ever in Australia
- achieving the shortest elective surgery waiting times in the country and reducing the average waiting times in emergency departments
- helping to lift Queenslanders’ life expectancy by 2.7 years in the last decade
- introducing fluoride to water systems statewide to protect the teeth of our children
- employing thousands more doctors, nurses and health professionals to provide quality health care to all Queenslanders through the Health Action Plan
- improving quality and accountability processes across all areas of health services especially in clinical care, including the establishment of the Health Quality and Complaints Commission
- improving vaccination and cancer screening rates
- developing and implementing of a long-term plan for a healthier Queensland
- funding medical research infrastructure.

6.8 At Commonwealth level, Labor:

- created Medibank, and later Medicare, to provide free access for all to hospitals and bulk-billing GP services
- made prescription drugs more affordable through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme
• introduced the Community Health Program and Medicare Locals to provide individuals and communities with health services not available in acute hospitals
• has provided free basic dental care access to thousands of children through the Children’s Dental Benefits Scheme
• increased funding for regional health programs by 150%
• implemented the National Mental Health Plans and the National Drug Strategy.

LABOR BELIEFS

6.9 Labor believes in strengthening our publicly funded health and mental health system so that all Queenslanders can always obtain quality, affordable primary, acute and chronic health care if and when they need it, regardless of their wealth, gender, age, ethnic background, sexual orientation or location.

6.10 Labor believes that public hospitals and health services should be owned, managed and operated by the State.

6.11 Labor believes in taking the longer term view of health by investing in education, primary care, research, health promotion and illness prevention, and by focusing on good health rather than ill health. This way Queenslanders can make healthy choices, live healthier lives, and thereby reduce the burden of chronic disease on our health services and ensure a healthier and more productive society.

6.12 Labor believes that sound prevention investments will save several-fold in treatment costs.

6.13 Labor believes good health involves physical, mental and social well-being, rather than merely the absence of disease or infirmity.

6.14 Labor believes in providing person- and community-centred services that take account of individual differences, preferences and cultural diversity, and are designed to promote ease of access, navigation and continuity of care.

6.15 Labor believes in providing community based safe housing as an option for people presenting at risk of suicide or with suicide ideation, and for those transitioning from mental health services back into the community, in order to gain appropriate support and care during their time of risk.

6.16 Labor believes that developing whole-of-government links is vital to promoting healthy outcomes for the whole population.

6.17 Labor believes in partnering with individuals and education providers to ensure that an appropriately qualified, culturally competent, clinically skilled, and experienced health and community workforce is available to provide the services required now and into the future.

6.18 Labor believes in facilitating open, transparent reporting and public accountability regarding the provision of health services, within a supportive culture that encourages improvement and innovation.

6.19 Labor believes in engaging consumers, carers, health-service providers, clinicians, local communities, non-government organisations and unions in active partnerships to address:
• all aspects of advocacy
• the planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating of health policy
• service delivery and societal engagement
• the identification of efficiencies within the system to ensure sustainability of quality health care for the public and service delivery providers alike.

6.20 Labor believes in ensuring that evidence-based value for money is a primary consideration in its policy and service delivery for healthy living.

6.21 Labor believes in building a skilled, valued and sustainable workforce within a system that is efficient and delivers safe, quality, patient-focused services.

LABOR PRIORITIES IN GOVERNMENT

6.22 Labor will restore harmony to the health system and promote negotiated solutions to managed change.

6.23 Labor will give priority to reinstating the central co-ordination and capacity-building role of Queensland Health to:
• ensure appropriate funding of the services provided by the community sector
• undertake to meet the regulation/licensing responsibilities necessary for safe provision of services and to address any failings that may arise from time to time
• co-ordinate the relationships among Hospital and Health Services, Primary Health Networks, Ambulance, NGOs and private providers to foster continuity of care for people with complex health needs, both mental and physical
• prevent expensive duplication of services across sectors and Hospital and Health Services
• bring transparency and clarity to waiting times for public hospitals
• negotiate with the private sector to ensure that public and private health services complement each other
• ensure there is adequate funding for high risk users to access publicly funded detox and rehabilitation services for alcohol, tobacco and other drugs

6.24 Labor will not outsource or privatise any current services managed and delivered by Queensland Health. Labor will insource services currently delivered by the private sector where it is financially viable.

6.25 Labor will establish a Commission for Clinical Excellence to monitor patient safety and the quality of hospital, primary health care and community health services, with a governance framework that includes consumers, clinicians, communities, health care providers and unions.

6.26 Labor will establish a separately funded State-wide Health Promotion Service to build both whole-of-system and local capacity. This Service will promote health and well-being ensuring an expanding the range of early detection and early intervention services across all areas of developmental, physical and mental health and across all ages of the lifespan through educational and clinical programs, for effective, on-going management and continuity of care.
Further, this service will partner with local shop-front services for providing primary health care where people live, work and shop, to promote better health and well-being. Such partnerships will focus on:

- the promotion of good mental health
- the identification of people at risk of suicide and referrals to appropriate services and support programs
- the promotion and resourcing of positive mental health programs such as Mates in Construction and other similar initiatives in high risk industries
- health education programs to improve health literacy in a range of clinical and community settings
- positive social marketing for health and well-being
- the prevention chronic physical illness and injury
- the promotion of good mental health
- the promotion nutrition and physical activity
- prevention of the spread of communicable disease
- promotion of safety of food, water, environment and radiation use
- the implementation of proven harm reduction strategies from alcohol, tobacco and other drugs
- sexual health services
- appropriate services for the LGBTQI community, young Queenslanders and disadvantaged Queenslanders
- Vaccination and cancer-screening services.

6.27 Labor will ensure all publicly funded health services to encourage and facilitate the participation of patients and clients in the Australian Government’s personally controlled electronic health record system. Further, public and contracted health services will promote the use of eHealth technology to:

- improve access to and support for, specialist services including acute and emergency care
- provide more timely discharge information to treating clinicians and services
- provide services to rural and remote communities to lower the travel costs of patients, their families and the Hospital and Health Services
- provide information on the local health precinct
- improve access to routine screening and to allied health services
- Improve access to health and community professional education
- provide key statistical information on service delivery, chronic disease, health care outcomes and community health
- provide multi-functional business hubs for education, professional trade and skills training, community consultation and exchange.
6.28 Other key strategic priorities will:

- design, establish and evaluate services in partnership with consumers, carers, clinicians, health care providers, local government and the community
- enable the full use of professional scopes of practice for all health practitioners and their assistants, to meet the clinical needs and quality expectations of the public and improve efficiency
- improve cooperation between medical research and health services to enable a more efficient and effective translation of research into practice
- report on performance indicators in an annual public health report that includes reporting on service delivery and efficiency, physical and mental illness and community indicators of wellness
- establish and evaluate a variety of models of treatment, supportive accommodation and services, for people with disabilities or who need rehabilitation, convalescence or palliative care outside the public acute hospital system, in home-like, age-appropriate settings
- invest in programs, initiatives and research to attract health care professionals to regional and remote areas
- commit to technological innovation that empowers regional and remote communities to access specialists and healthcare professionals on a needs basis
- enhance community midwifery programs for the best possible life start for infants and for good parenting
- establish a new community based safe housing model of care, support and treatment for suicide prevention and people transitioning from mental health services back into the community.

Enhancing Services for Specific Populations

6.29 Labor will work cooperatively with Commonwealth, Local governments and Aboriginal-controlled community health organisations to improve health promotion, illness prevention, early detection and treatment services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, to close the gap in health status and life expectancy between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and other Australians. Addressing a range of social determinants of health such as housing, employment, education and economic development will be central to this work as it will enhance environmental health, water supply and sewerage provision.

6.30 Labor will introduce Integrated Health Checks in all Queensland Health and Hospital Services to promote early detection and effective, ongoing management of people at high risk of developing chronic diseases such as asthma, diabetes, cardiovascular and kidney disease and mental illness.

6.31 Labor will work with resource communities, the resources industry, health and air quality experts to ensure that those living in proximity to resources developments are protected from air, noise and vibration impacts of extractive industry activities. Further, Labor will mandate air quality monitoring in resource communities to ensure that air, noise and vibration impacts are maintained to equal or below best practice
benchmarks in proximity to towns, communities and other land-uses deemed sensitive.

6.32 Labor will provide accessible, culturally appropriate mental illness prevention, early detection and intervention services, and recovery orientated support services across all communities including regional, rural and remote, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Questioning/Queer people, those living without carer support, the homeless and those held in custody. This will include a model for stepped care that includes self-help, peer-based and online services integrated with existing Tier 1 to Tier 3 treatment services through clear treatment pathways, and provided by a mental health workforce of clinical staff and staff with lived experience of mental illness. Young vulnerable people at high risk of self-harm require our particular attention.

6.33 Labor will enhance mental health services through a model of shared service provision and collaboration across government sectors, and between the non-government sector and the government sector that encourages open dialogue and collaborative case management and support.

6.34 Labor will develop comprehensive reproductive health services, including pregnancy counselling, post-natal infant care, fertility and termination procedures, particularly for Queenslanders in regional and remote areas.

6.35 Labor will work towards ensuring that rehabilitation services across all age groups are available in regional and remote areas

6.36 Labor will provide funding, in line with normal government procurement processes, to the Queensland Aids Council as the peak organisation in Queensland providing health promotion and prevention to the LGBTIQ community, based on international best practice peer to peer standards.
Chapter 7: Building Connected Communities

LABOR VALUES

7.1 Building communities that are liveable requires foresight, good planning, and provision of the services that people need in their local area. The policy areas of planning, local government, housing, transport and communications have obvious interconnections and all contribute to the quality of lifestyle enjoyed by Queenslanders.

7.2 As we deal with the challenges brought by ongoing growth in Queensland, we need to ensure that people can easily access employment, whether they do so by travelling to work or by telecommuting. Good planning and infrastructure provision can make commutes to and from work faster and more efficient, leaving more time for Queenslanders to spend with their family. The provision of high speed broadband will enable Queenslanders to embrace more flexible work options and to work and access services from home.

7.3 The provision of the best possible transport and telecommunications infrastructure where and when it is needed can drive the economic growth opportunities of the future. Queensland residents and businesses benefit from a transport network that operates efficiently and moves people and goods quickly. The role of public transport is critical in connecting people with employment and recreational activities.

7.4 Labor has a vision for a Queensland where the integration of policy objectives in these areas is the first priority of government, not an afterthought.

LABOR ACHIEVEMENTS

7.5 Labor partnered with all levels of government to deliver more than 7000 new social housing dwellings from 2008 to 2011, providing homes for more than 24,000 people.

7.6 Labor established the Urban Land Development Authority, which it rolled out across the state to deliver affordable homes for Queenslanders.

7.7 Labor delivered an integrated planning system that ensured all impacts of development are properly and thoroughly assessed.

7.8 Labor introduced statutory regional planning, which limited urban sprawl and protected the majority of metropolitan areas from urban development.

7.9 Labor legislated a new Sustainable Planning Act, which placed ecologically sustainable development at the core of development planning and assessment.

7.10 Labor reformed infrastructure charges to reduce the upfront cost of new housing.

7.11 Labor delivered integrated land-use planning with infrastructure planning for the first time, through the South East Queensland Infrastructure Plan and Program and the Queensland Infrastructure Plan.

7.12 Labor supported regional growth and development through the first Queensland Regionalisation Strategy.

7.13 Labor demonstrated nation-leading disaster-rebuilding and resilience strategies through the establishment of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority.
7.14 Labor delivered a more sustainable local government sector for Queensland by amalgamating unsustainable councils, enabling them to achieve better economies of size and scale.

7.15 Labor transformed and modernised our great State. This is especially evident in the vastly improved transport network that Queensland Labor has delivered right across the State. New roads, railway lines, busways and cycleways and rail trails are all evidence of record investment in a better network.

7.16 Labor invested significantly in public transport and infrastructure to support an expanded and multi-modal public transport system. Key achievements include:

- designing and rolling out the go card system, the envy of other States
- delivering 64 new trains – the largest expansion of the CityTrain network since electrification – and commencing the procurement of a significant increase in passenger trains through the Next Generation Rollingstock project
- building the new railway line to Richlands, the first new spur line in generations, and commencing the extension to Springfield
- securing and starting the Moreton Bay Rail Link, together with Federal Labor
- extending rail on the Gold Coast through the Robina to Varsity Lakes rail extension
- planning, funding and commencing the Gold Coast Light Rail project
- delivering over 20kms of busways, including the South East, Northern and Eastern Busways throughout Brisbane.

7.17 For a state as large and decentralised as Queensland, safe and reliable roads are critical. In government, Queensland Labor heavily invested in road infrastructure in regional Queensland including key projects such as:

- Bruce Highway improvements – in the five years to 2012 Queensland and Federal Labor Governments invested $1.9 billion to upgrade the Bruce Highway including improvements between Ingham and Innisfail and Cooroy to Curra
- Bundaberg Ring Road
- Forgan Bridge in Mackay
- Houghton Highway between Brisbane and Redcliffe
- Douglas Arterial Duplication of the Townsville Ring Road
- Townsville Port Road.

7.18 In South East Queensland, key achievements by Queensland Labor in government include:

- building the Tugan Bypass
- building the second Gateway Bridge and widening the Gateway Motorway from Nudgee to the Pacific Motorway
- upgrading the Sunshine Motorway
- upgrading the Centenary Highway
• improving access to Brisbane Airport through Airport Link and upgrade to the Airport Roundabout
• building 75 kilometres of dedicated bike infrastructure across Brisbane.

7.19 In the first six months, Labor has signed contracts to build the Gateway Upgrade North, the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing, Exit 54 on the Pacific Motorway, major road projects for the Commonwealth Games, and announced new funding for the upgrade of the Vines Creek bridges in Mackay, a major Western Roads upgrade package of roadworks and drought affected areas, and restored Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme funding, that had been slashed by the LNP, for local government roads.

HOUSING

LABOR BELIEFS

7.20 Access to safe, adequate, appropriate and affordable housing is a basic right of all people.
7.21 Government assistance is required for those who are unable to obtain adequate secure and affordable housing in the private market.
7.22 Private and public residential development should be planned, sustainable and encompass a variety of housing types that cater to the differing needs of people of different ages, family circumstances and cultural values.
7.23 Home ownership is a legitimate goal of most people. Labor supports that goal, including for low and middle income earners.
7.24 Local communities, residents and representative groups should be involved wherever possible in decisions relating to the planning, development, management and operation of public housing.
7.25 Ongoing efforts must be made across government to reduce homelessness by working with all levels of government and the non-government sector to improve and expand homelessness services. A particular focus is getting homeless people into stable employment with an income that enables them to end rather than manage their homelessness.

LABOR PRIORITIES IN GOVERNMENT

Assistance to Tenants

7.26 Labor will provide legislative protections for tenants in the private rental market (including right of appeal against listings on tenant databases) and restore outreach and advocacy services for public housing tenants and private renters.
7.27 Labor will protect tenants in the private rental market from cost shifting by lessors/agents and acknowledge that the cost associated with the collection of rents is the responsibility of the lessors/agents.
7.28 Labor will restore tenancy advisory services including the Tenant Advice and Advocacy Service.
7.29 Labor will work with all levels of government, the private sector and the non-government sector to develop and restore rent relief and advisory schemes, innovative rental housing such as cost-rent associations and common equity housing, cooperatives, joint public and private schemes, joint ventures with State and Local Government and lease-back arrangements.

**Housing Assistance for Special Needs**

7.30 Labor recognises that some groups in the community have special housing needs including the elderly, caravan/mobile home park residents, women, young people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, families, people from multicultural backgrounds and people with a disability. Labor will tailor housing programs and develop accommodation types that recognise and cater to these specialised needs.

**Commonwealth–State Housing and Funding**

7.31 Labor will support the National Affordable Housing Agreement as the mechanism for ensuring that adequate Commonwealth and State funds are guaranteed for secure and affordable housing programs.

7.32 Labor will also support the National Housing Strategy.

7.33 Labor will ensure that State housing authorities are provided with sufficient funding to achieve the policy objectives in this section.

**Home Finance and Home Ownership Assistance**

7.34 Labor will work with the Federal Government and the private sector to broaden the source and types of finance available for housing.

7.35 Labor will encourage financial institutions to provide finance to innovate housing schemes, encouraging the introduction of more flexible mortgage schemes such as capital-indexed and other low start loans.

7.36 Labor will develop assistance to help home buyers to bridge the deposit gap. It will assist with interest payments and ensure that any state schemes in this area are closely coordinated with any Commonwealth Government schemes.

7.37 Labor will support moves to target first home owners with assistance, tax relief mechanisms and similar grants towards low income households.

**Housing Cost, Regulation and Development of Affordable Housing**

7.38 Labor will monitor the adequacy of stocks of serviced land throughout Queensland to avoid price escalation caused by shortages.

7.39 Labor will regularly review building codes and regulations, housing and development standards and private regulation through developer’s covenants with a view to removing obsolete and inconsistent requirements that impose unnecessary costs without significantly enhancing amenities.

7.40 Labor will assist in the development of innovative housing projects using alternative planning and engineering methods while maintaining standards.

7.41 Labor will amend legislation to provide affordable housing in areas of housing need where planning changes and urban renewal permit redevelopment.
7.42 Labor will actively encourage industry and public superannuation funds to facilitate the provision of affordable housing on previously unreleased state government land through prudential investment of funds, and the extent of this investment is to be reported annually to members.

**Public Housing**

7.43 Labor will increase public housing stock to continue to reduce waiting lists to a reasonable level.

7.44 Labor will ensure that state Housing Authorities are provided with sufficient funding to allow public housing accommodation to be expanded to at least 10% of the total housing stock in each region by 2020.

7.45 To assist with meeting the above goal, upon the sale of State Government land designated for housing development, a minimum of 10% of the land or land value equivalent be set aside for social housing (both public and community).

7.46 Labor will ensure public housing rental rebate policies do not require tenants to pay more than 25% of household income in rent, unless there is an agreement with the housing authority to charge a higher rate for the provision of additional services.

7.47 Labor will increase the public housing stock through a combination of public tender and direct construction, acquisition through spot purchase, restoration and rehabilitation of existing structurally sound dwellings, and promoting small scale redevelopment projects in existing residential areas.

7.48 Labor will review all State Government land holdings with a view to releasing land for affordable housing development in accordance with the principles and policies in this section.

7.49 Labor will give consideration to installing solar panels on and implementing improvements to the energy and water efficiency of public housing.

**TRANSPORT**

**LABOR BELIEFS**

7.50 Labor believes in a transport system that is:

- a public good, to be provided in the public interest to all Queenslanders, with community service obligation payments where necessary
- safe for users and for those who build, operate and maintain it
- sustainable, and considers environmental, social and health impacts
- affordable and accessible for all members of the community
- efficient, integrated, connected and reliable, and supports growth of the economy
- well planned in consultation with the community, with corridors secured in advance of development.
LABOR PRIORITIES IN GOVERNMENT

Policy and Planning

7.51 Labor will deliver integrated regional transport plans in conjunction with regional land use plans in all urban areas across Queensland.

7.52 Labor will implement targets to increase public and active transport usage.

7.53 Labor will consider demand management measures where appropriate and equitable.

7.54 Labor will consider increased penalties for wilful damage to transport infrastructure, noting the safety and efficiency costs.

7.55 Labor recognises the particular vulnerability of public transport workers to physical assault and will improve safety and security. Labor will increase penalties for people found guilty of assaulting public transport workers.

Public Transport

7.56 Labor will maintain Queensland Rail and Brisbane Transport as vertically integrated, publicly owned providers of public transport services.

7.57 Labor will build an inner city rail solution consistent with the Cross River Rail capacity outcome as part of a broader vision to revitalise and transform rail services. It will increase frequency and provide more express services. It will also deliver new links, including to Kippa-Ring, Flagstone, Ripley, Coolangatta, Maroochydore and through the North West Rail Link along the Trouts Road corridor, consistent with the SEQ Connecting 2031 transport strategy.

7.58 Labor will extend Brisbane’s world-class busway network, including completing the Eastern and Northern Busways, CoastConnect on the Sunshine Coast, and rolling out more high frequency routes and bus priority lanes.

7.59 Labor will complete the Gold Coast light rail from Helensvale to Coolangatta and consider the feasibility of light rail in other corridors.

7.60 Labor will upgrade public transport stops and station infrastructure to ensure safety, accessibility, amenity and additional park and ride facilities for those who use and operate the system.

7.61 Labor will maintain public transport concessions and extend them to recipients of the Newstart allowance, and will ensure the independent Fare Review Taskforce considers the adoption of travel concessions for asylum seekers.

7.62 Labor will continue to subsidise and improve public transport services, including in provincial centres, with a funding requirement being world’s best practice by contractors.

7.63 Labor will review the public transport fare system to improve affordability in South East Queensland.

7.64 Labor will ensure that all communities have access to public transport services to connect them to the rest of Queensland, including Traveltrain, long distance bus and air services.
7.65 Labor will release regular public reports against both performance measures and funding provided for all subsidised public transport services.

**Taxis**

7.66 Labor will maintain regulation of the taxi industry to ensure it meets high standards of safety, service quality, responsiveness and accessibility.

7.67 Labor will consider options to enable competing taxi companies in a single market to cooperate where there is benefit for users.

7.68 Labor will investigate the use of taxis to provide public transport where other services are not viable.

7.69 Labor will roll out additional secure taxi ranks where required.

7.70 Labor will ensure that all taxi districts have adequate provision of wheelchair accessible taxis, including providing incentives for conversion, and it will implement a passenger lift fee.

7.71 Labor will regularly publish taxi performance measures where government subsidies are provided.

**Active Transport**

7.72 Labor will expand the dedicated cycling network along key corridors, including disused rail lines, and ensure that active transport facilities are included in all new and upgraded roads.

7.73 Labor will pursue measures to ensure end of trip facilities are included in new buildings where appropriate, to encourage active transport.

7.74 Labor will encourage greater use of public and active transport for school travel.

**Freight**

7.75 Labor will implement strategies to increase mode share for rail freight on defined strategic rail freight networks.

7.76 Labor understands there is community concern regarding coal dust adjacent to rail corridors in Brisbane.

Labor supports an independent, scientific review of mitigation treatments and will implement best practices and support further technological improvements in this area.

Labor supports consultation with the relevant industry, union and community groups as the coal industry grows in Queensland.

7.77 Labor will develop and publish a plan for the progressive priority upgrade of the North Coast Rail Line, to improve safety, efficiency and reliability.

7.78 Labor will support construction of the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing and Gowrie to Grandchester rail line, with other levels of government and the private sector.

7.79 Labor will invest in removing conflicts between passenger and rail freight movements where they share the same corridor.

7.80 Labor will enable construction of the Surat Basin Railway with appropriate provision for its potential future role as part of an inland railway.
R
defs
7.81 Labor will plan, design and build roads which are fit for purpose, future-proofed, and to standards which meet the needs of road users and the wider community.
7.82 Labor understands that road infrastructure is critical to sustaining regional and rural communities and will therefore ensure that a fair proportion of road funding is allocated to regional Queensland.
7.83 Labor will always engage in public consultation and integrated planning approaches, to new road works.
7.84 Labor will continue to provide fair and just compensation for private property owners directly and adversely affected by road construction.
7.85 Labor will develop and publish a plan for the progressive priority upgrade of the Bruce Highway and the construction and upgrade of other major roads which will unlock Queensland’s economic potential, such as the Warrego Highway, the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing and the Ipswich Motorway.
7.86 Labor will review and consider reforms to calculating motor vehicle registration.

Safety and Security

7.87 Labor will implement strategies based on world’s best practice and thorough research to reduce the road toll and improve road safety.
7.88 Labor will expand the coverage of security services and officers across the public transport network to improve safety for users, constructers, operators and maintainers.
7.89 Labor will regulate the hours of work for train crew to ensure safety and investigate regulation of hours of work for other transport operators.
7.90 Labor will maintain and strictly enforce chain of responsibility legislation for the trucking industry and implement a regulatory system to provide adequate and ongoing training to heavy vehicle operators to an accredited standard.
7.91 Labor will prioritise and progressively deliver grade separations and other safety measures at rail level crossings.

Maritime

7.92 Labor will work closely with the Australian Government to ensure the highest standards of safety and environmental protection at sea.
7.93 Labor will continue to roll out infrastructure improvements for recreational boat users.

Australian Government

7.94 Labor will lobby the Australian Government to provide increased transport funding for Queensland based on the decentralised nature of the State and to reduce congestion, with a particular emphasis on the Bruce Highway, Gold Coast Light Rail, Cross River Rail, the Pacific Motorway, Ipswich Motorway and North Coast Rail Line, without asset recycling.
7.95 Labor will lobby the Australian Government to maintain the Road Safety Remuneration Tribunal as an important safety initiative.
7.96 Labor will encourage the Australian Government to proceed with a premium performance and 21st century alignment of Inland Rail through to Brisbane.

7.97 Labor will encourage the Australian Government to include purchase of public transport tickets in salary packaging arrangements.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

LABOR BELIEFS

7.98 Labor supports the provision of a National Broadband Network that will underpin the digital economy in Queensland by providing high speed broadband services for residential and business use. These services will:

- future proof broadband infrastructure in terms of increased speed and increased demand
- provide broadband services on an equitable basis regardless of where people live, the socio-economic status of their suburb, or regional location
- support telecommunications competition reforms that provide multiple service providers open access to broadband infrastructure
- provide sufficient bi-directional bandwidth and quality of service to effectively deliver real time services for health, education, broadcasting and business use.

7.99 Labor recognises that the inclusion of all sectors of the community in the digital economy must be a key element of plans to tackle unemployment and underemployment and to create a thriving economy. Digital technologies and the NBN open up new employment opportunities by enabling the formation of micro-businesses, social enterprises and e-traders, throughout the whole State.

7.100 An efficient, integrated communications network underpins the delivery of government, business, health, education, transport, electricity and information services.

7.101 Broadband access and internet services should be available on an equitable and affordable basis.

7.102 Labor reaffirms its commitment to open government based on citizen-focused services and accessible, transparent data.

7.103 Labor believes all infrastructure and assets that are owned by Government entities (including electricity distributors) and are used to provide telecommunications services should remain in public ownership.

LABOR PRIORITIES IN GOVERNMENT

Connected Communities

7.104 Labor supports the formation of community and industry alliances to aggregate demand and funding for networks that extend the reach of the NBN in regional Queensland. Labor also encourages major telecommunications carriers, electricity transmission providers and road and rail authorities to cooperate in the development of open access fibre optic and wireless communications infrastructure.
7.105 Labor proposes that a Digital Economy Strategy should support:

- creation of Connected Neighbourhood Charters and funding partnerships for developing regional digital “blueprints” or “masterplans”
- inclusive and affordable access to digital technologies, devices and services for low income earners or unemployed people who most need to access new employment and skills opportunities
- investment programs in ICT research and development.

7.106 Labor supports and encourages initiatives that:

- foster innovation in sectors including the creative industries, tourism, and online provision of goods and services
- promote digital inclusion, ensuring that all residents can access the online services, technologies, applications, content and information that they need to engage in the digital, connected community
- improve the health and safety of communities through better coordination of health, emergency, police and volunteers in times of community crisis such as natural disasters.

7.107 Labor will seek from telecommunications carriers Community Service Obligations that guarantee the availability and quality of voice, broadband, mobile phone and payphone services, and reliability, connection and repair times.

**Participation in the Digital Economy**

7.108 Labor supports services designed to make government data available to the public, in line with the principle recognised in the *Right to Information Act 2009* that government data is a public resource that should, by default, be available for access and reuse. Government data (such as meteorological, geosciences and agricultural data) should be:

- provided under permissive copyright licences such as Creative Commons
- made available in open data formats that facilitate reuse and are not locked into a specific product or technology
- provided in a computer-readable form so that it can be analysed or used to create new applications and services
- supplied with relevant metadata (for example, date of creation, author, keywords).

7.109 Labor supports efforts to ensure that a range of members of the community, which is as broad as possible and specifically includes people with disabilities and special needs, has affordable access to up to date computing and communication services, including through public libraries, schools and community organisations.

7.110 Labor is committed to ensuring that websites, digital content and services are designed in compliance with accessibility standards so that the widest range of people (including those with impaired sight, hearing or mobility) can readily access the internet, use government services, locate information, communicate, and engage in transactions online.
7.111 Labor supports the strengthening of privacy protections using legal, technical and administrative safeguards for individuals in the online environment, through prohibitions on intrusion by government and business into individuals’ personal privacy.

7.112 Labor supports the coordinated delivery of citizen-focused healthcare services by private, public, community and national providers, supported by access to electronic patient and provider data, and health information services.

**Investment and Training in the Digital Economy**

7.113 Labor believes that a central agency should review and advise on the procurement of government ICT, ensure that duplication, wastage, delays and inefficiency are eliminated, and through improvements in government service delivery maximise the overall financial value and benefit of ICT to the community.

7.114 Labor believes that an appropriately skilled workforce is required for growth of the digital economy. Labor supports the development of a workforce strategy that will:

- ensure appropriate courses are available in schools, Adult Education and TAFE
- develop industry-based training and mentoring programs (including within public sector agencies) designed to enable IT graduates to gain industry experience
- provide increased opportunities for training for teachers in the application of ICT in learning and teaching, to enhance their capacities to teach ICT literacy and skills.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

**LABOR BELIEFS**

7.115 Local government is the level of government closest to the community. Every day it affects the lives of Queenslanders – our local services, where we live, and the look and feel of our communities.

7.116 Local Government is a genuine partner in the Australian government system.

7.117 The potential of Local Government is best realised when the roles and responsibilities of Local Government are constitutionally recognised.

7.118 The State Government has a responsibility to consult with Local Governments on matters that affect local communities.

7.119 Queensland Labor will ensure that local government elections are conducted in a fair and democratic fashion.

7.120 Local Governments should be adequately resourced to ensure they can fulfil the functions required of them by the State Government and by local residents.

7.121 The State Government has a responsibility to ensure that the state has a system of Local Government that is efficient, effective and accountable, and that provides fairness and equity for Local Government employees.

7.122 Aboriginal Shire Councils and Torres Strait island-based Councils have extra-ordinary obligations to their constituents and require particular support from the State
Government to meet the intent of the principles and objectives of the Social Justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

7.123 Local Governments should maintain a competent permanent workforce at all levels to ensure continuity of operation and the most efficient and effective provision of community services.

7.124 Local Government utilities such as water supply, sewerage, waste management and transport should not be privatised or contracted out. Local Government water retail and distribution should continue to be wholly operated by Local Government and owned by the people.

7.125 Local Governments must ultimately be accountable to their electors for their activities. A Labor government in Queensland will refrain from interfering in Local Government operations unless there is evidence of gross mismanagement, illegal activity or the Council has acted outside its powers under the relevant Acts.

LABOR PRIORITIES IN GOVERNMENT

Structure, accountability and operation of Local Government

7.126 Delivery and management of Local Government services such as (but not limited to) libraries, customer service, planning, local laws and accounts should not be privatised or contracted out. Local Government services should continue to be delivered directly by Local Government employees and with a commitment to supporting the local community.

7.127 Any services or utilities which would otherwise ordinarily be delivered by Local Government but are required to be delivered by private entities should be obliged to report against the same transparency and accountability requirements as Local Government for the delivery of those services.

7.128 Local governments are more often than not the first to respond to natural disasters. Labor sees local governments as a key partner in emergency management.

7.129 Labor believes local government’s important role must be recognised, supported and funded, including for clean-up and reconstruction efforts, as well as being part of discussions with the federal government in terms of natural disaster funding distributions and mitigation.

7.130 Labor will maintain the recognition of Local Government in the Constitution Act of Queensland and guarantee the continuation of a Local Government system in Queensland.

7.131 Labor will promote and facilitate regular discussion, consultation and negotiation with Local Governments.

7.132 Labor will allow Local Government autonomy over matters that are the province of Local Government.

7.133 Labor will formalise regular meetings with representatives of the Local Government Association of Queensland, the Aboriginal Local Government Association of Queensland, unions of employees and relevant State Government departments.

7.134 Labor will ensure Local Government electoral laws are fair and equitable, that electoral boundaries are appropriate to the communities they serve, and that these boundaries
are based on a ‘shared community of interest’. Labor has a commitment to a ward system with single-member representation and full preferential voting where possible, and a preference for proportional representation where multi-member divisions are necessary.

7.135 Labor will provide for an independent review process of Local Government size and boundaries to ensure that existing configurations of councils are appropriate for the communities they serve.

7.136 Where multi-member divisions are necessary, and when the policy of proportional representation for such Council elections is implemented, Labor will seek to replace by-elections by appointing through count back the failed candidate with the highest number of votes who is willing to accept the appointment. Proportional representation vacancies should also be filled via count back.

7.137 Labor will ensure that the wages and conditions of local government workers are fair and protected by ensuring that local government industrial relations regulation remains in the Queensland jurisdiction.

7.138 Labor will provide for appropriate remuneration to elected members of local Councils for the time they have spent in service.

7.139 Labor will protect the right of Crown and statutory authority employees to nominate for Local Government elections.

7.140 Labor will maintain fixed, four year terms for Local Governments. Casual vacancies, except in the final year of term, should go to by-election.

7.141 Labor will require a Pecuniary Interest Register be maintained by all Local Government authorities and will extend public disclosure requirements for State Government candidates to include Local Government candidates. Such a register must contain the dates, amounts and sources of political donations.

7.142 Labor will amend legislation to ensure that Councils are open and accountable, ensuring that FOI principles apply to all local governments including Brisbane City Council.

7.143 Labor prefers Council ownership and Council management of Local Government public utilities, particularly water and sewerage. Where Council assets have been transferred to public corporations, Labor expects that Councils should always retain responsibility through mandatory occupation of governing board positions. Councillors should occupy governing board positions commensurate with a Councils’ level of equity in corporatised utilities,

7.144 Labor will require all tendering for Council services and projects to be subject to open advertising/assessment processes. The principle of best value for money should be the prime criteria for assessment.

7.145 Labor will support the use of Council day labour in preference to the use of contractors for disaster recovery and reconstruction work. Further, Labor will support the permanent funding of such work through the Federal Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA).
Finance

7.146 Labor will continue to provide an adequate level of funding to assist local authorities to perform their functions, particularly in the area of capital works for water, sewerage, drainage and roadworks projects and major sporting and recreational facilities.

7.147 Labor will ensure Local Government has access to low cost loans through such instrumentalities as the Queensland Treasury Corporation.

7.148 Labor will provide incentives to Local Governments to pursue innovative and environmentally sensitive infrastructure projects.

7.149 Labor will assist Local Governments in resourcing activities related to the responsibilities that the State Government has delegated to Local Governments.

7.150 Labor will provide incentives for Local Governments to introduce policies and practices that facilitate a better balance for employees between work and family life.

Community Development and Participation

7.151 Labor will expand Local Government’s role in community development functions and human services, with particular regard to its role in planning, coordinating, facilitating and delivering human services programs.

7.152 Labor will encourage local authorities to maximise community participation in Local Government matters through formal consultative processes.

7.153 Labor will encourage local authorities to offer services responsive to different cultural values and expectations.

7.154 Labor will support and encourage Local Governments to provide and maintain an appropriate public transport system.

URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING POLICY

LABOR BELIEFS

7.155 Labor believes effective urban and regional planning is critical to Queensland’s liveability, sustainability and prosperity. We believe in a planning system that is:

- fair and flexible, to effectively manage the challenges of urban growth and rural decline
- open and accountable, to ensure communities and neighbourhoods can fully participate in the planning and development decisions that affect their local areas
- integrated and efficient, to ensure confidence and certainty of decision making
- future focussed, with an emphasis on long-term strategies that deliver sustainable development
- grounded in local communities, to recognise and support the central role of local government in land-use planning and decision-making.
LABOR PRIORITIES IN GOVERNMENT

Ensuring Growth Delivers Liveability, Sustainability and Prosperity

7.156 Labor will restore a balanced planning system that is focussed on the three core objectives of liveability, sustainability and prosperity.

7.157 Labor will reinstate the nexus between land-use planning and infrastructure planning, so that infrastructure and essential services are in place as communities grow.

7.158 Labor will ensure planning considers the full range of needs for community formation, including sufficient land supply for residential, employment, retail, educational, community facilities and open space uses.

7.159 Labor will ensure that high-quality urban design and place-making underpins new development, with a strong emphasis on public and active transport to support more compact and walkable communities.

7.160 Labor will develop and implement healthy planning principles that recognise the important link between community design and health outcomes.

7.161 Labor will establish appropriate protections for sites with national, state or local heritage values.

7.162 Labor will encourage the Australian Government to restore the Major Cities Unit and re-engage with urban policy, particularly in terms of supporting strategic trunk infrastructure investments.

Supporting Integrated and Strategic Planning

7.163 Labor will deliver for each region of Queensland new statutory regional plans that effectively integrate land-use planning and infrastructure planning.

7.164 Labor will publish regular reports, supported by measurable data, on the progress of implementing each regional plan, as well as on their social, economic and environmental impacts and benefits.

7.165 Labor will establish genuinely consultative and collaborative decision-making structures that ensure local government and local communities can participate effectively in the process of regional planning.

7.166 Labor will work with local government to ensure that planning schemes appropriately respond to the risks posed by natural disasters and climate change.

7.167 Labor will genuinely integrate the state’s referral agency jurisdiction through a reformed single assessment agency function.

7.168 Labor will appropriately consider local government planning strategies for the use of Crown Land.

7.169 Labor will ensure that all applications for resource developments are subject to a social impact assessment process to ensure that such developments proceed in a socially responsible and sustainable manner.

7.170 Labor believes that public scrutiny of, and the right to object to, resource and urban development proposals is an important part of an open, transparent and accountable
democracy. Labor will reinstate statutory notification rights and public objection rights for resource and urban development proposals.

7.171 Labor will implement administrative arrangements that ensure the Department of Infrastructure and Planning is the principal planning agency of government.

Delivering Effective Urban Growth Management for South East Queensland

7.172 Labor will deliver a planning approach based on “smart growth” principles, including focussing development around activity centres, employment corridors, and public transport hubs.

7.173 Labor will make strategic government land available for transit-oriented development in areas near major rail and busway stations, where this does not compromise future corridor needs.

7.174 Labor will replace Economic Development Queensland with a strategic government land organisation that works to address the challenges of housing supply, housing affordability and housing choice.

7.175 Labor will protect and enhance South East Queensland’s green space through retaining a statutory urban footprint.

7.176 Labor will prioritise development in areas serviced by existing public transport, while ensuring that new development is in appropriate locations that respond to community expectations.

Providing Better Planning for Regional and Rural Queensland

7.177 Labor will support rural and regional local councils to undertake planning that responds to the diverse needs of their local communities.

7.178 Labor will recognise the geographic decentralisation of Queensland and support planning for the further regionalisation of government services and agencies.

7.179 Labor will support rural, regional and peri-urban councils to examine strategic regional growth issues, including lot sizes, land fragmentation, rural–urban interface issues and the preservation of strategic and good quality agricultural land.

Ensuring Transparent and Accountable Development Assessment

7.180 Labor will review the Planning Act to further embed the best practice model developed by the Development Assessment Forum.

7.181 Labor will expand the use of online tools that support community understanding of planning and development assessment, including integrated mapping, online lodgements, and new engagement tools.

7.182 Labor will explore opportunities for using new technologies in assessing development proposals, including use of 3D tools.

7.183 Labor will reinstate the “own costs” jurisdiction of the Planning and Environment Court and ensure submitter appeal rights.

7.184 Labor will restore adequate funding for independent, community-based planning advice and advocacy organisations, such as the Environmental Defender’s Office.
Chapter 8: Caring and Secure Communities

Queensland Labor recognises multiple dimensions that contribute to creating and maintaining caring and secure communities. These include Arts and Culture, Democratic Institutions, Law, Justice and Community Safety, Child Protection, Community and Disability Services, needs associated with age for Older and Young Queenslanders, and Sport and Recreation.

OUR DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS

LABOR VALUES

8.1 Labor believes in a Queensland that is a free, democratic society, built upon the principles of Westminster Responsible Government and respect for the separation of powers.

8.2 Labor believes that Queenslanders are entitled to have a government that is accountable and as open as possible. Queenslanders deserve a government they can trust.

8.3 Queensland’s system of government, constitution and our laws must reflect the dignity and fundamental rights of citizens.

LABOR ACHIEVEMENTS

8.4 Since 1989, Labor Governments in Queensland have modernised Queensland’s government, legislation and judicial system. Starting with the recommendations of the Fitzgerald Report, Labor delivered a system of government in which Queenslanders can have confidence.

8.5 Labor made government in Queensland more open and accountable by:

- providing open Right to Information legislation
- introducing independent oversight of government, including an independent Crime and Misconduct Commission, Auditor-General and Ombudsman
- ensuring disclosure of political donations of $1000 or more
- regulating government interaction with lobbyists.

8.6 Labor made our Queensland Parliamentary system more democratic and government more accountable by:

- Introducing independent oversight of elections and electoral redistributions
- Introducing a committee structure and estimates scrutiny to keep Queensland governments accountable.

LABOR BELIEFS

8.7 Labor believes parliaments must derive their membership through a fair, democratic and transparent electoral system based on the principle of equal universal adult suffrage. Labor is committed to an electoral system consisting of:
• compulsory enrolment and voting for all Australian citizens of adult age
• a secret ballot
• the principle of “one vote, one value”, with electoral boundaries regularly redistributed to ensure equal representation within areas determined by geography, community and population
• an independent electoral commission to conduct redistributions and elections
• public funding of election campaigns and full disclosure of political donations
• laws providing that public service and Local Government employees, and employees of government-owned corporations and boards who contest elections be automatically entitled to unpaid leave and, if unsuccessful, will not be disadvantaged as a result of their candidacy.

8.8 Labor believes parliaments should have, and be accepting of, a diversity of membership, reflecting the diversity of our community – for example women, ethnic minorities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and people with disabilities.

8.9 Labor believes in a transition to an Australian Republic, with and Australian Head of State, who can fully represent our traditions, values and aspirations as a nation.

Integrity in Government

8.10 Labor believes that citizens have a right to information on the decisions and procedures of government and a right to access and correct where necessary information that government holds about them. Labor will ensure that costs for citizens to access information are not a barrier to right to information applications.

8.11 Labor believes in independent oversight of government actions and will support statutory office holders such as the Auditor-General, the anti-corruption watchdog and the Ombudsman.

LABOR PRIORITIES IN GOVERNMENT

8.12 Labor will implement parliamentary processes that provide for the proper scrutiny and accountability of the Executive and the public service. Labor will ensure that Parliament, through Estimates hearings and a bipartisan parliamentary committee system, is provided the opportunity to properly scrutinise Executive Government.

8.13 Labor will ensure that the appointments to the anti-corruption watchdog are made with bipartisan support from the parliamentary committee responsible for its oversight.

8.14 Labor will ensure the anti-corruption watchdog is properly resourced and focused on preventing and investigating major crime and corruption, major criminal activity and misconduct.

8.15 Labor recognises the importance of women in government and will retain a Minister for women, who is a woman.

8.16 Labor recognises women in leadership roles across the workforce, increases productivity and grows our economy, and is committed to a target of 50 percent
women on all Government boards by 2020, and 50 percent of all new appointees to all Queensland Government bodies to be women.

8.17 Labor will maintain a Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy.

8.18 Labor will review our Queensland’s electoral system to ensure elections are free, fair and transparent and provide the greatest opportunity to have their say. Labor will consult the Queensland community on measures to provide greater consistency on voting systems and parliamentary terms between States and with the Commonwealth, including compulsory preferential voting and four year fixed terms.

LAW

LABOR VALUES

8.19 Labor believes that all citizens, regardless of their background, circumstances or beliefs, have the right to equal and fair treatment before the law.

8.20 Labor will introduce an LGBTIQ government round table to improve whole of government engagement with the LGBTIQ community.

8.21 Labor is committed to a strong and independent legal system that respects and promotes the following principles:

• the rule of law including the right to be treated equally before the law and the rights to due process and a fair trial
• an independent, open and accessible judicial system
• the right to liberty and security
• freedom of thought, conscience and liberty
• freedom of speech and expression subject to reasonable restrictions required to protect the reputation of others or to protect national security, public order, public health or public morality
• freedom of association
• the right to protection from unlawful discrimination and harassment including on the grounds of sex, gender identity, intersex status, race, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, or status as a victim of family violence.

8.22 Labor believes that citizens have a right of access to justice, and is committed to ensuring citizens obtain that right through a competitive and efficient legal profession and a modern, open system of courts and tribunals.

8.23 Labor believes in the fundamental human rights, dignity and worth of the human person.

8.24 Labor recognises the importance of respectful and confidential communication and consultation between the government, the legal profession and the judiciary regarding judicial appointments and the functioning of the judiciary.
LABOR ACHIEVEMENTS

8.25 Labor has improved the access of justice for Queenslanders by:

- modernising our courts and our court processes to reduce barriers to accessing justice
- establishing the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal
- providing for independent oversight of a modern and efficient legal profession.

8.26 Labor has protected the rights and dignities of Queenslanders by:

- introducing anti-discrimination legislation and removing discriminatory legislation from Queensland Laws
- providing Queenslanders with modern laws that are inclusive, non-discriminatory and reflect the Queensland community experience.

LABOR BELIEFS

Access to Justice

8.27 Labor believes that all Queenslanders have a right to access justice before Queensland’s courts and tribunals. Labor believes that a properly funded Legal Aid and network of Community Legal Centres is crucial to removing barriers to accessing justice.

8.28 Labor believes that women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, culturally and linguistically diverse communities and the LGBTIQ community, need special support to seek access to justice. Labor will continue to fund legal and justice services for these communities.

The Rights of the Terminally Ill

8.29 Labor believes that voluntary euthanasia, in addition to comprehensive palliative care options, should be legally available as an option for a person of sound mind suffering from a terminal illness that has diminished their quality of life to the extent that the person requests termination of their life. Labor supports a conscience vote on the question of voluntary euthanasia consistent with the 1996 decision of the National Executive.

LABOR PRIORITIES IN GOVERNMENT

8.30 Labor will promote access to justice for Queenslanders. Labor will continue to modernise our court system and ensure that barriers to justice for Queenslanders are removed.

8.31 Labor will ensure that Queenslanders continue to have access to a free and fair trial from an independent judiciary. Labor will respect the separation of powers and the judiciary as an independent arm of government.
8.32 Labor will strengthen anti-discrimination legislation, particularly in the areas of employment, family violence education, housing, public accommodation, public entertainment and recreation, state taxation, property rights, and fiscal or financial benefits.

8.33 Labor will ensure uniformity of age across laws relating to the age of consent for lawful sexual activity.

8.34 Labor will review Queensland law to enable class actions and to facilitate access to and appearances by community groups in Queensland courts.

8.35 Labor will provide for the protection of residential tenants and manufactured home park residents through the funding of the Tenancy Advocacy and Advice Services.

8.36 To ensure that all couples who have a mutual commitment to a shared life do not suffer discrimination because they are not married, Labor in government will develop relationship registration legislation that will include the opportunity for couples who have a mutual commitment to a shared life to have that relationship registered and certified. This legislation will be based on a relationship recognition scheme.

8.37 Labor will amend the Queensland Adoption Act to allow for same sex couples to legally adopt.

8.38 Labor will amend the law so that all legal distinctions between termination of pregnancy and other medical procedures are abolished by repealing sections 224, 225 and 226 of the Criminal Code.

8.39 Labor will reinstate the rights of Queensland workers to seek common law damages for work-related injuries.

8.40 Labor recognises that organised criminal networks pose a significant risk to Queensland families. Labor will repeal the existing anti-association criminal organisation laws and replace them with workable, robust laws that attack organised crime by penalising people for their criminal conduct, not for whom they associate with.

8.41 Labor will ensure that the Criminal Code makes it a criminal offence to intentionally distribute an intimate image of another person without that person’s consent, and any threat to do so, a criminal offence. Labor will advocate to all other Australian jurisdictions to enact similar or parallel legislation.

8.42 Labor will repeal legislation which fetters judicial discretion by imposing mandatory minimum sentences for criminal offences.

8.43 Labor will introduce a charter of human rights and responsibilities in Queensland.

8.44 Labor commits to reforming the processes of the State Government, including the issuing and modifying of identity documents, certificates and any other documents, so that these processes and documents are inclusive of and cater for the needs of sex and gender diverse people. This reform will include:

- ensuring no “forced divorce” of persons who wish to change their legally recognised gender
- simplifying the process for change of gender signifiers
- allowing neutral or unspecified signifiers
• actively protecting the rights and autonomy of intersex persons from birth
• reviewing any other legislation that adversely impacts the sex and gender diverse community.

8.45 Labor will introduce a Multicultural Recognition Bill which will establish a Multicultural Queensland Charter and a Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council.

JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

LABOR VALUES

8.46 Labor believes that crime requires appropriate penalties and responses. Labor is also committed to building a safe community that requires government to address the causes of crime and the social factors that underlie them.

8.47 Labor recognises the important role the police, courts and correctional centres play in curtailing crime. Labor also recognises that poverty, inequality of opportunity and access to resources, unemployment and mental health also impact significantly on the level of crime in our communities. Labor is committed to exploring and implementing innovative measures to reduce crime in these at-risk communities.

8.48 Labor believes that in a democratic society, it is necessary that the Police Service be competent, effective, non-partisan and apolitical. The Police Service must have the respect of the community, and work with the community to make communities safer.

8.49 Labor believes that the purpose of an emergency service system is the protection of life, property and the environment. Labor also believes that emergency services must be able to respond to emergencies, with maximum speed and effectiveness, to preserve life and property and the environment, aid recovery from disasters and work towards disaster mitigation.

8.50 All Queenslanders should have access to Public Ambulance Services regardless of location and free of cost.

8.51 Appreciating the value of Public Ambulance Services and the difficulties staff face in their work, Labor recognises the need to improve work safety for these workers and to actively seek a targeted reduction in Lost Time Injury rates.

LABOR ACHIEVEMENTS

8.52 Labor in government delivered a safer Queensland through programs addressing the causes of crime. Labor’s approach resulted in long-term reductions in the rates of crime affecting Queensland communities over an extended period of more than 10 years.

8.53 Labor delivered a modern, well-resourced Police Service that set high standards in professionalism and integrity.

8.54 Labor government in Queensland made record investment in Ambulance Service staffing, technology and equipment.

8.55 Labor successfully established several diversionary programs and alternative legal pathways including the Drug Court, the Special Circumstances Court and the Murri Court.
8.56 Labor implemented youth justice conferencing, a highly successful program that provided an alternative to detention for children.

LABOR BELIEFS

8.57 Labor supports introducing legislative systemic police and court diversionary practices to enable vulnerable people to avoid the operation of the Criminal Justice System for minor public order offences. Labor believes diversionary strategies are a cheaper and more effective option than incarceration for dealing with minor personal drug misuse and minor related offences.

8.58 Labor believes that Police should be provided with ongoing support for professional development in dealing with domestic and family violence and child abuse.

8.59 Labor acknowledges the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the law and justice system as both offenders and victims of crime. Labor is committed to reducing the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the criminal justice system.

8.60 Labor supports a holistic approach to addressing the socio-economic disadvantage and geographic circumstances that lead to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples entering the law and justice system.

8.61 Labor recognises that more collaborative responses are required to reduce the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the criminal justice system.

8.62 Labor believes in the value of programs of rehabilitation for offenders, especially when criminal liability is admitted.

8.63 Labor acknowledges the vital work of the emergency services through the divisions of the:

- Queensland Ambulance Service
- Queensland Fire and Emergency Service, including the agencies of the State Emergency Service, Aviation Services and volunteer marine rescue organisations
- Queensland Police Service.

8.64 Labor believes that Queenslanders are best protected from natural disaster by the continued integration of emergency services, with coordinated emergency protocols and disaster management plans, to ensure an effective and timely response to emergencies and disasters.

8.65 Labor acknowledges the community spirit and dedication of Queensland’s highly motivated volunteer emergency service workers, including those volunteers who serve in the State Emergency Service, Rural Fire Brigades and volunteer marine rescue organisations and surf lifesaving organisations. Labor will continue to ensure that they are given maximum flexibility and adequate equipment and resources to make their contribution.

Corrective Services

8.66 Labor believes that Corrective Services are an essential component of Queensland’s criminal justice system and should play an important role in crime prevention.
8.67 Labor believes that correctional facilities currently operated by Queensland Government employees should remain under the operation of the Queensland Government.

8.68 Labor believes Queensland’s Corrective Services system should provide appropriate responses and support for people in this system who suffer from cognitive disability, intellectual disability, mental health issues, acquired brain injury and dementia.

LABOR PRIORITIES IN GOVERNMENT

8.69 Labor will actively consult with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to develop and update proposals to overcome the problems of the overrepresentation of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples within the Juvenile Justice System.

8.70 Labor will re-establish the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council to ensure that the views of a wide cross-section of legal stakeholders and victims of crime are represented in our justice system.

8.71 Labor is committed to reinstating a broad range of options when it comes to youth sentencing with a focus on rehabilitation within the community.

8.72 Labor is committed to reinstating youth and adult justice conferencing and mediation to allow victims of crime input into the justice system and provide perpetrators an opportunity to make appropriate recompense for their offenses.

8.73 By 2017, Labor will commence transitioning individuals under the age of 18 into the youth justice system.

8.74 Labor will reinstate the operation of the Special Circumstances Court with a view to extending its operation throughout Queensland, including rural and remote areas where appropriate, for people suffering from cognitive disability, intellectual impairment, mental health issues, acquired brain injury and dementia.

8.75 Labor will reinstate the operation of drug courts as an effective diversionary strategy for dealing with drug misuse and minor related offences as an alternative to the criminal justice system.

8.76 Labor will review the law relating to defences for murder to ensure that it adequately takes account of the position of a person who has suffered a history of domestic violence.

8.77 Labor will ensure that the option of allowing an accused in criminal cases to sit at the bar table removing the stigma of the dock.

8.78 Labor will review laws relating to sexual offences to ensure proceedings are, wherever possible, less traumatic for the victim.

8.79 Labor will establish, support, and effectively resource diversionary centres whose focus will be on primary intervention and the assessment of the health and well-being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples for subsequent referral.

8.80 Labor will support, operate and effectively resource Murri Courts, which will include the involvement of statutory and non-statutory Community Justice Groups, Elders and victims of crime.
8.81 Labor will ensure that Probation and Parole Service officers who work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities are initially trained and assessed to be culturally competent.

8.82 The Probation and Parole Service will offer a broad range of culturally matched intervention and rehabilitation programs designed specifically to meet the distinct needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

8.83 Labor will continue to increase the numerical strength of the Queensland Police Service, and the proportion of that strength assigned to operational duties, classifications, sections and equipment required to establish a competent, effective law enforcement operation.

8.84 Labor will ensure that functions that do not require a Police Officer’s training and experience are undertaken by civilians.

8.85 Labor will continue to promote a Police Service that reflects the diversity of the broader community of Queensland.

8.86 Labor sees emergency services expenditure as an investment in the lives and the quality of life of Queenslanders. Labor will focus on protecting all Queensland communities, as far as possible, from the effects of natural and man-made disasters and emergencies. In achieving this, expenditure will continue to be focused on:

- front line service delivery
- training and development for all personnel including volunteers
- effectively coordinated communication systems and protocols.

8.87 Labor will continue to advance the professionalism of emergency services personnel by ensuring their proper recognition, job satisfaction, incentives and career paths.

8.88 Labor in government will continue to increase the numerical strength of Queensland Ambulance Services, and the proportion of that strength assigned to operational duties, classifications, sections and equipment required to establish a competent, effective ambulance service operation.

8.89 Labor will develop an appropriate Resourcing Matrix to ensure the Queensland Ambulance Service has the ability to respond to community demand for ambulance services without compromising staff safety.

8.90 Labor in government will develop and enhance ambulance operations through the implementation of Low Acuity Response, Specialised Retrieval Units (Bariatric, Paediatric, Neonatal) and alternate referral pathways for patients, to reduce the burden on hospital Emergency Departments.

8.91 Labor will ensure that victims of crime are properly supported, through timely and appropriate responses to help victims of crime rebuild their lives.

8.92 Labor will ensure that the Queensland Police Service provides appropriate special assistance to people from vulnerable backgrounds such as women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, people from non-English speaking backgrounds and people with cognitive disability, intellectual disability, acquired brain injury, dementia or mental illness.
8.93 Labor recognises the right of all to access public space and believes Police should not have a general power to move on people from a public space. Labor will ensure an independent review of the move-on power legislation, consulting widely with relevant community stakeholders.

Labor will establish a public register of move-on directions and reasons, without identifying individuals, and will ensure adequate appeal mechanisms exist to challenge these directions.

8.94 Labor will equip each operational police officer with body-worn digital video recording devices to improve evidence collection and accountability.

8.95 Labor believes crime prevention requires strong community connections. Labor will:

- ensure that police are recruited from all cultural and ethnic groups, particularly people of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds
- encourage the community to work with police in both detection and prevention of crime, including Neighbourhood Watch and Police Community Consultative Committees.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

LABOR VALUES

8.96 Labor is committed to eradicating all forms of violence against women.

8.97 Labor acknowledges domestic and sexual violence, including intimate partner violence, is a whole of society issue that affects all people but, are overwhelmingly forms of violence that affect women and are reinforced by cultural attitudes and gendered bias.

8.98 Labor understands that reducing violence against women is contingent on increasing women’s representation throughout all areas of our society.

8.99 Labor understands that addressing violence against women must be undertaken through an integrated and multi-sector approach and undertaken in a culturally appropriate manner that is respectful and takes into account the wishes of, and best practices for, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Queenslanders.

LABOR ACHIEVEMENTS

8.100 Labor in government has begun significant work to eradicate domestic and family violence in Queensland, including:

- supporting the creation and expansion of domestic and family violence services in predominantly rural and regional areas across Queensland
- trailing Queensland’s first specialist Domestic and Family Violence Magistrate and Court
- funding to establish two dedicated 24 hour crisis shelters, one each in Brisbane and Townsville
- funding to establish an independent Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board, and expand the Domestic and Family Violence Review Unit
• funding to expand the Domestic Violence Duty Lawyer Service to 14 locations through Legal Aid Queensland.

• working with other states to implement the National Framework to Prevent Violence Against Women and Their Children

• contributing funding for a national campaign to raise awareness to the prevalence and early warning signs of domestic and family violence

• funding to develop and trial integrated responses in urban, regional and indigenous setting

• joining Our Watch, a nationwide foundation that works to prevent violence against women and children.

LABOR BELIEFS

8.101 Labor believes approaches to domestic and family violence must take into account the gendered nature of this violence, and work at addressing violence against women as a whole.

8.102 Labor believes that all children have the right to grow up without seeing or experiencing domestic and family violence.

8.103 Labor believes that the prevention of violence against women must be addressed through a comprehensive action plan that is collaborative, and engages with stakeholders in the wider community.

8.104 Labor believes that strategies developed to prevent domestic and family violence must be informed by the community, as well as a range of sectors that are impacted by domestic and family violence, including the health, education, judicial and housing.

8.105 Labor believes that all victims and survivors should be able to access paid leave through their workplaces, when dealing with matters arising from or as a result of domestic and family violence.

LABOR PRIORITIES IN GOVERNMENT

8.106 Labor will implement a targeted, state-wide strategy for the prevention of domestic and family violence with a holistic approach to the causes and effects of domestic and family violence at state, regional and local community levels.

8.107 Labor will provide a coordinated network of counselling and support services to assist victims of domestic and family violence, including children, ensuring adequate accessibility of services in rural and regional locations.

8.108 Labor will prioritise the provision of both emergency and long-term accommodation for victims of family violence, with specific regard for need in the regions.

8.109 Labor will continue to fund legal assistance to victims of domestic and family violence and sexual violence, primarily through adequately funding and resourcing Legal Aid Queensland and community legal centres.

8.110 Labor will ensure that officers and staff of the Queensland Police Service are adequately trained and educated to appropriately and effectively deal with family and domestic violence and sexual violence matters.
8.111 Labor in Government will work with the education sector to implement programs aimed at teaching children and teenagers about healthy, respectful relationships.

8.112 Labor will ensure a range of resources and services are available to address the causes of domestic and family violence, including:

- counselling and behavioural change programs for perpetrators in order to prevent and respond to domestic and family violence
- community education programs focussed on preventing domestic and family violence and changing community attitudes towards domestic and family violence
- training for professionals (such as nurses and social workers and legal practitioners) to help them recognise signs of violence and appropriately and effectively deal with domestic and family violence matters
- training for workplaces to build understanding of domestic and family violence, and violence against women, and provide appropriate support.

CHILD PROTECTION

LABOR VALUES

8.113 Labor recognises that the best way to protect children is to minimise child abuse and neglect in the first place. To do this, we need to build capacity and strength in our families and communities across Queensland, through high quality universal education, health and social services.

LABOR ACHIEVEMENTS

8.114 Previous Labor in governments in Queensland have led the reform of Queensland’s child protection system, delivering:

- a more accountable child protection system, overseen by the Commission for Children and Young People and the Child Guardian
- increased allowances and training for foster carers
- specialist targeted programs for children with complex and extreme needs
- Early Years Centres for “one-stop-shop” family support
- intensive therapeutic residential support services
- early intervention and prevention services for children and families at risk
- establishment of Safe Houses in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities
- specialist positions to support quality practice.

8.115 The Queensland Labor government has delivered significant funding to reform child and family services in Queensland and provide new family support services that assist parents and families with the right service at the right time, including:

- establishing a two year trial to deliver universal parenting support programs for all Queensland parents
• the expansion and integration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family support and child protection services, including funding a peak body to plan and develop the capacity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander controlled agencies to provide family services.

**LABOR BELIEFS**

8.116 All children have a right to grow up in an environment free from neglect and abuse. Children’s best interests are paramount in all decisions affecting them.

8.117 Children and their families have a right to participate in decisions affecting them.

8.118 The safety and well-being of children is primarily the responsibility of their families, who should be supported by their communities and governments.

8.119 Children’s rights must always be upheld by systems and institutions.

8.120 Policies and interventions must be evidence-based.

8.121 The disadvantage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is best addressed by a collaborative approach that incorporates holistic and culturally sensitive responses that are informed by solutions led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and community-identified solutions.

**LABOR PRIORITIES IN GOVERNMENT**

8.122 Labor will develop an accessible, inclusive integrated network of early intervention and prevention services available to all Queensland families to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect.

8.123 Labor will provide comprehensive support in the transition to independent living for young people leaving care.

8.124 Labor will establish the mandatory conditions for organisations to have child-safe environments and robust accountability frameworks for responding to allegations.

8.125 Labor supports the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and in government will work towards implementing the Commission’s recommendations to ensure zero tolerance of child sexual abuse and support for victims of child sexual abuse.

8.126 Labor will work towards a significant reduction in the removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their family networks; and institute policies and practices which support the care of these children within their family networks.

**COMMUNITY AND DISABILITY SERVICES**

**LABOR VALUES**

8.127 Labor is committed to building an equal and equitable society that is free from discrimination, poverty and prejudice, by taking action to ensure the structures that promote these features are eradicated.
8.128 Labor recognises the social, cultural and economic benefits that a multicultural society delivers to all Queenslanders and is committed to promoting a united, harmonious and inclusive community.

LABOR ACHIEVEMENTS

8.129 Labor in government has continuously encouraged and supported the innovative development, coordination, integration and resource growth of the community sector as an essential part of the Queensland social services system.

8.130 Labor has established human services and programs, using frameworks that recognise human rights and in particular the rights of individuals to actively participate in the making of decisions affecting their lives.

8.131 Labor established Queensland’s first Department of Disability Services, then progressively increased funding to assist more Queenslanders who have a disability.

8.132 Labor has implemented initiatives to build inclusive communities in which all citizens can participate fully in social and economic opportunities.

LABOR BELIEFS

8.133 The contribution of all members of society, including people of all ages, people with disabilities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds is valuable and should be recognised.

8.134 Building a strong and cohesive community requires support for people of all ethnicities, cultural backgrounds and ages to fully participate in the social, economic and cultural fabric of our community.

8.135 Social policy must not only address societal inequalities but must also be a vehicle for the empowerment of individuals and communities.

8.136 The majority of informal care is provided by family members and that these carers should be supported in that role.

8.137 All people with a disability have the same rights to health, work, adequate housing, and social participation as the rest of the community.

8.138 Labor is committed to the priorities of the National Disability Strategy and to full implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme. Labor will prioritise infrastructure and practical assistance in the application of National Disability Insurance funding in order to apply real and tangible assistance to Queenslanders living with a disability or mental illness; while also ensuring that those people not eligible for the National Disability Insurance Scheme continue to have access to necessary services and supports.

8.139 Quality and affordable childcare services should be available for all families throughout the State.

8.140 Access to safe, adequate, appropriate and affordable housing is a basic right of all people.

8.141 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities continue to be subject to particular disadvantage in our society, and government has a primary role to
partner with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities in correcting this situation.

8.142 Labor shall undertake a comprehensive review in relation to the access and cost of fresh food and other groceries in remote and indigenous communities.

8.143 Remote and regional disadvantage should be addressed by place-based responses that build community capacity, well-being and resilience.

8.144 Policy development and implementation is undertaken in collaboration with service users and their families/advocates and government and non-government agencies and unions to ensure appropriate, effective and coordinated responses.

8.145 Labor will continue its support for multicultural groups and organisations in their efforts to celebrate Queensland’s diversity, promote harmony and strengthen cultural understanding with the wider community.

8.146 Labor will support culturally and linguistically diverse Queenslanders in our community by ensuring they have equitable access to services and opportunities.

8.147 Labor recognises that public sector and not-for-profit organisations are better positioned than for-profit corporations to provide crucial frontline support services.

LABOR PRIORITIES IN GOVERNMENT

8.148 Labor will ensure adequate and sustainable funding of both Government and non-government programs as a prerequisite to the provision of quality services.

8.149 Labor will pursue implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

8.150 Labor strongly supports the vital work performed by all staff in the community and disability sector and will address the capacity, skill and remuneration issues affecting the disability workforce due to the huge expansion of the sector under the National Disability Insurance Scheme. Ongoing workforce attraction and retention is necessary to ensure quality care and outcomes for people living with a disability.

8.151 Labor will work with disability services workers and their unions, service providers and stakeholders to develop and implement a disability sector workforce strategy to improve sector capacity and maintain and enhance quality standards.

8.152 Labor will pursue a ‘housing first’ strategy which ensures access to secure and appropriate housing and flexible supports, to significantly reduce homelessness.

8.153 Labor will deliver innovative and collaborative development, with community and private sector partners, of sustainable social, appropriate and affordable housing initiatives.

8.154 Labor will continue to address youth unemployment through initiatives and programs that encourage young people to undertake further education and training and that achieve real job outcomes.

8.155 Labor will deliver integrated, flexible and innovative programs to address vulnerability and support individual and family capacity to live full and effective lives.

8.156 Labor will collaborate with the Commonwealth government to ensure financial support for approved non-government organisations is sufficient to ensure that award wages and conditions apply to all workers.
8.157 Labor will evaluative welfare and community development programs to ensure improved outcomes are achieved and to safeguard the effective and efficient use of public funds.

8.158 Labor is committed to supporting local community advocacy and front-line support services through community hubs, providing local people with access to local support networks on an immediate and on-going basis for those individuals and families experiencing difficulties.

8.159 Labor will work with the community sector and its workforce representatives to establish a new model for funding community services to better address the needs and interests of the people they support and the local communities in which they work. Funding of community services in our community should be: sustainable; focus on collaboration rather than competition between providers; and support local, appropriate and qualified service provision.

OLDER QUEENSLANDERS

LABOR VALUES

8.160 Labor is committed to ensuring that older Queenslanders are able to lead a healthy and productive life, whether in work, volunteering or in retirement; with access to choice of lifestyle opportunities and care and support, appropriate to their needs

LABOR ACHIEVEMENTS

8.161 Labor recognises the importance of older Queenslanders having a voice in government and will retain a Minister for Seniors.

8.162 Labor in government will continue to prioritise a range of services and subsidies for older Queenslanders that enhance their independence, dignity, health and happiness.

LABOR BELIEFS

8.163 Older Queenslanders should be able to live in their communities wherever possible and, where necessary, be supported and maintained by a diverse and flexible range of services designed to enhance their independence, dignity, health and happiness and to assist them in transitions as they age.

8.164 Government must promote a greater community understanding of the wider issues concerning positive ageing and of the valuable contribution that older Queenslanders have made and continue to make to society.

8.165 A whole of Government approach is needed on policy affecting older Queenslanders.

8.166 The development of a quality aged-care workforce should be actively supported through appropriate award conditions, remuneration and training opportunities.

LABOR PRIORITIES IN GOVERNMENT

8.167 Labor will upgrade, extend and maintain a comprehensive range of domiciliary support services for older Queenslanders.
8.168 Labor will maintain and enhance the services, subsidies and discounts provided to older Queenslanders, where appropriate.

8.169 Labor will plan and integrate services for older Queenslanders at a regional level and ensure that these services are adequately funded.

8.170 Labor will encourage community support to enable older Queenslanders to remain in their own homes wherever possible.

8.171 Labor will prioritise and support the advocacy and policy role of the Office for Seniors to ensure that older Queenslanders are consulted and their needs met and that there is greater government and community awareness of the issues affecting them.

8.172 Labor will work actively with employers to address workforce shortages by supporting improved remuneration and conditions for aged care workers, and investing in increased training and development initiatives.

**YOUNG QUEENSLANDERS**

**LABOR VALUES**

8.173 Labor values the considerable contribution young people make to our society as they participate and contribute to the wider social, economic, educational, cultural and environmental development and prosperity of our State.

**LABOR ACHIEVEMENTS**

8.174 Labor supported programs to assist disadvantaged youth and their families, particularly those who are at risk of homelessness, engaging in criminal behaviour or suffering mental illness.

8.175 Labor has reinstated successful training and development programs such as Skilling Queenslanders for Work to help young people gain meaningful employment.

8.176 Labor supports the engagement and empowerment of young indigenous women through the Deadly Sistas program.

8.177 Labor delivers Youth Support Services to assist young people to connect with positive family support, jobs, education and training, a healthy and violence-free life and safe and stable housing.

8.178 Labor is committed to fostering young Queenslanders talent and innovation through the sponsorship of the Queensland Premier’s Young Publishers and Writers Awards.

8.179 Labor continues to support Youth Leadership Programs such as the YMCA, Youth Parliament, the Indigenous Youth Leadership Program and the Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

8.180 Labor is committed to encourage young people to participate in sports and recreation through programs like the ‘Get in the Game’ initiative and the ‘Get Out, Get Active’ program which seeks to increase lifelong participation of women and girls in sport.

**LABOR BELIEFS**

8.181 Labor believes there should be greater awareness of issues concerning young people and of the valuable contribution young people make to our society.
8.182 Labor is committed to fostering an awareness and understanding of the central role of the community in developing policies and programs that focus on issues affecting young people, their status in society, and their relevant cross-cultural needs and concerns.

8.183 Labor recognises that young people need the support of caring adults in their transition from dependent to independent living.

8.184 Labor is committed to providing a range of support services to young people, their families, other adults who provide care, and those who work towards meeting the diverse needs of the young people of our State.

8.185 Labor recognises that to meet the needs of young people, there needs to be a focus on setting priorities, defining goals, coordinating efforts across Government departments, and increasing the consultative and cooperation process between Government and the community.

LABOR PRIORITIES IN GOVERNMENT

8.186 Labor will encourage young people to be involved in decision making in relation to the social, economic, environmental, cultural, educational, recreational and political life of their community.

8.187 Labor will fully recognise and encourage the participation of young people in all relevant aspects of life.

8.188 Labor will promote an integrated and coordinated delivery of services to young Queenslanders.

8.189 Labor will promote two-way communication between young people, community groups and organisations, and agencies and government departments.

8.190 Labor will make resources available in key areas in accordance with the needs of young people, and will identify and target disadvantaged young people in the allocation of these resources.

8.191 Labor will undertake research to gain an awareness and understanding of the needs, problems and issues confronting young people, and develop resources for sharing knowledge and information between the government and the community.

ARTS AND CULTURE

LABOR VALUES

8.192 Labor recognises that the arts are an essential element of human endeavour. The key values for sustainable development are creativity, heritage, knowledge and diversity.

8.193 Labor is aware that the arts, through the specific contributions that they make as knowledge capital and a sector of creativity and exploration, promote inclusive social and economic development, environmental sustainability, harmony, peace, security and wonder. Labor knows that the arts and expressions of heritage and culture are essential elements for the development of people and communities.

8.194 Labor values the considerable contribution the arts make to the economy of Queensland and the GDP of the nation.
LABOR ACHIEVEMENTS

8.195 Labor support for the arts is shown nationally by The Australia Council, formed in 1973 by the Whitlam government. Keating brought in the Creative Nation policy and Gillard, Creative Australia.

8.196 Queensland Labor has a long history of supporting the arts and arts education. Initiatives include:

- the Millennium Arts Projects: the Gallery of Modern Art and the Queensland State Library extensions
- the Queensland Literary Awards
- doubling the budget for the Regional Arts Development Fund
- art+place Public Art program
- Premier Drama Awards
- Matilda Awards
- backing Indigenous Arts program
- funding a range of larger institutions such as Queensland Theatre Company, Queensland Symphony Orchestra, Queensland Ballet, Queensland Museum, Queensland Performing Arts Centre, Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art
- established the Queensland Arts Showcase program to support small to medium arts organisations.

LABOR BELIEFS

8.197 Labor believes that a vibrant, widespread, accessible and comprehensive arts sector will benefit Queensland culturally and economically.

8.198 Involvement in the arts should be available to all Queenslanders and the arts, personal and commercial, should be resourced to enable and foster this.

8.199 The availability of arts education at all levels of schooling and tertiary education is essential.

LABOR PRIORITIES IN GOVERNMENT

8.200 Labor will maintain a Ministry for the Arts and ensure the Agency is committed to promoting Queensland artists and arts practice.

8.201 Labor will encourage and support the arts for their social, cultural and commercial values by policy review, analysis and development and substantial resourcing of the arts and the creative industries. Labor will encourage participation in the arts throughout the State and will support and encourage production of new work of exceptional quality.
8.202 Labor will promote the creation of national and international interest in Queensland arts and culture and promote the growth of cultural tourism.

8.203 Labor will foster, support, and actively promote, traditional and contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts, and the training of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples for employment in arts industries and Statutory Authorities.

8.204 Labor will ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples participate in the planning decision-making and implementation of policies and programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts.

8.205 Labor will realistically resource Arts Queensland administration and support offices to be self-sufficient and autonomous. The Labor Government will be advised by consultative committees of representatives from all arts sectors.

8.206 Labor will support artists at all stages of their careers, especially on career longevity. Labor’s programs of assistance to Queensland’s artists and arts workers will be designed with sector input, and will actively encourage collaborations with industries of all types.

8.207 Labor will implement peer assessed short and long-term project-based funding for the arts. Focused on proper pay and conditions for artists.

8.208 Labor will examine affordable public liability insurance for arts workers and events.

8.209 Labor will support the advocacy roles of relevant and effective State peak arts bodies.

8.210 Labor will develop programs to increase the publication of Queensland writers.

8.211 Labor will support arts and cultural projects that foster inclusive community development. Labor will ensure that arts and cultural projects within communities are designed in consultation with those communities and professional arts workers, and are appropriately resourced.

8.212 Labor will maintain regional branches of offices of the arts to service the regions and facilitate effective communication between regional arts workers and organisations and government. Labor will support the Regional Arts Development Fund, and through the ArTour, maintain and strengthen an arts touring program to and from regional and remote communities.

8.213 Labor will support diversity in the performing arts in Queensland by providing funding to a range of music, dance and theatre companies. Labor will require those companies to produce work by Queensland artists with specific funds available annually so that companies can commission new works by Queensland resident writers, choreographers and composers.

8.214 Labor will require that a percentage of the total value of Queensland government public works building projects be used to incorporate work by Queensland artists, craftworkers and designers.

8.215 Labor will encourage the development of a viable, sustainable and effective statewide creative industries sector that will be serviced by an expanded Arts Queensland and will encourage the growth of Queensland film and television production and distribution by providing incentives.
8.216 Labor will support the education and training of Queensland artists, designers, craftspeople, and theatre, film and television professionals, and support demand driven vocational education and training that is managed collaboratively with industry.

8.217 Labor will work with local governments to keep public libraries publicly funded, relevant and useful to the communities they serve. Labor will ensure that all Queensland regional areas have good access to free information sources.

8.218 Labor will review and monitor the performance indicators for each statutory authority and support partnerships between Artslink Queensland, Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art, State Library and the Queensland Museum Network, with a particular regard to the needs of rural and remote areas.

**SPORT AND RECREATION**

**LABOR VALUES**

8.219 Labor recognises that involvement in sport and recreation activities brings together community members and is an essential element in building strong and cohesive communities.

8.220 Labor recognises that participation in sport and recreational activities enhances the quality of life of Queenslanders, by delivering social, health and economic benefits.

**LABOR ACHIEVEMENTS**

8.221 Labor invested in major sporting infrastructure including stadium developments, to provide community members with high-quality experiences at major events.

8.222 Labor supported hundreds of grassroots sporting organisations by providing funding for upgrades to facilities and grants for equipment, administration and services.

8.223 Labor secured the 2018 Commonwealth Games for the Gold Coast – the first time this multi-sport event will be hosted in a regional city.

8.224 Labor provided funding to sports clubs and organisations to build capacity in coaching and administration, which encouraged community participation in a range of activities.

**LABOR BELIEFS**

8.225 Access to and participation in organised sporting and recreational activities enhances the quality of life of all Queenslanders.

8.226 The promotion of the benefits of sport, recreation and leisure activities must be in accordance with the ideals of access, equity and participation.

8.227 Increased participation in all areas of the sports industry, particularly among young people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, women, people with a disability and people in regional and rural Queensland, benefits the whole community.

8.228 The values of fair play should be embraced, and policies and guidelines should be implemented to ensure a quality sport experience for all participants.
LABOR PRIORITIES IN GOVERNMENT

8.229 Labor will provide services and funding to State sporting organisations and peak bodies to facilitate the development of the sport and recreation industry.

8.230 Labor will continue to ensure that the sport and recreational needs of young people, women, seniors, people with disabilities, people from non-English speaking backgrounds, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and people in rural and regional areas are identified and supported in all of its policies and programs.

8.231 Labor will facilitate the delivery of well-planned, developed and managed facilities and natural environments to accommodate participation at all levels.

8.232 Labor will attract, secure and support major national and international sporting and recreational events that have the capacity to encourage large numbers of participants, spectators and visitors from interstate and overseas.

8.233 Labor will encourage families, individuals and communities to adopt healthy lifestyles and enjoy physical activity by participating in sport and recreation.

8.234 Labor will facilitate the provision of a wider range of opportunities to encourage more Queenslanders to take regular, moderate, physical activity throughout the various stages of their lives.

8.235 Labor will develop specific programs that engage young people, seniors, people with disabilities, women, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, in sport and recreation activities.

8.236 Labor will support programs that involve children in regular physical activity and promote children’s sport programs with emphasis on participation, respect for team effort and enjoyment.

8.237 Labor will encourage the use and further establishment of public recreation areas.

8.238 Labor will provide sporting and recreation facilities for people with a disability.

8.239 Labor will encourage the pursuit of excellence in sports and will continue to support excellence in elite sports through the Queensland Academy of Sport.