





Message from the Premier

A CLIMATE OF OPPORTUNITY

Labor has always been a Party with a vision. We have always known the great potential of our State and we have always wanted the very best for the Victorian people.

Today is no different. Labor has a vision for change worthy of a great State: To make Victoria the best place to live, work, and raise a family. And Labor has a plan to get us there by creating jobs, building new partnerships and standing up for families. That is what this Platform is all about.

If I had to sum up the next decade for Victoria in one word, it would be this: Opportunity.

We have a real opportunity to create more and better jobs for Victorians, by being a world leader in biotechnology, innovation and the green economy.

We have an opportunity to make Victoria the most liveable place in the world.

We have the opportunity to make Victoria a fairer place for the most disadvantaged among us, and to build a culture of respect for ourselves, for the people around us, and for the entire community.

And we have the opportunity to make Victoria a greener place: a more sustainable and pleasant environment to live in now, and a great place to hand on to our children.

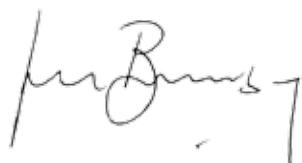
Now is the time to seize these opportunities, and Victorian Labor has the ideas, the people and the commitment to do so. We already have a strong record of genuine leadership, a real focus of the values of working families, and a vision for the future.

The ALP in Victoria has a proud tradition as the party of ideas: of vigorous debate about our values and the future of our State. In Government, we have built a hard earned reputation for turning ideas into practical actions that have made a real difference in the lives of all Victorians. We face plenty of challenges but a combination of hard work and our determination to deliver results for working families is what drives Labor in Government.

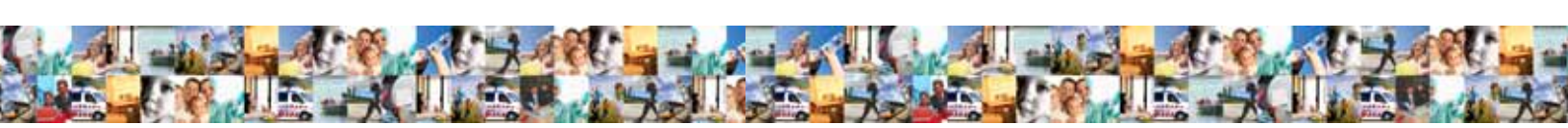
The Victorian ALP Platform is a document where we bring together our ideas, values, and the directions we believe in for all Victorians; it describes who we are as a Party. That's why every four years we review it comprehensively, from top to bottom, to keep the vision fresh. Every arm of the Party has a say: members, branches, policy committees and affiliated unions.

The result is our blueprint for the future of Victoria - a statement of our values and priorities over the coming years. It is the starting point from which our Government will develop the specific election commitments that we will put to the Victorian voters at the State election on November 27 this year.

So I want to thank all the Party members whose careful thought and hard work is evident in this Platform. Labor values belong to all of us – and the Labor vision is one which we must work together to achieve over the coming years.



John Brumby
Victorian Labor Leader.



Message from the ALP State Secretary

A HISTORY OF IDEAS

Throughout its history, the Australian Labor Party has worked hard to make a difference for all Victorians – and it has succeeded. Victoria's great strengths are the talents of its people, the spirit of innovation, and the reform focus of Labor in Government.

It is what keeps Victoria out in front and proud of what Labor has achieved in this State. We are determined to do even better in future.

Our values are not the same as the Liberals and Nationals. Labor is about a fair and egalitarian society. Our Party has upheld its tradition of reform through introducing and debating progressive ideas. From these ideas, Labor has delivered policies that have reshaped our society and made Victoria the leading State it is today.

ACHIEVING FOR VICTORIANS

Labor's capacity to deliver now and into the future can be measured by its past. Our record of achievement has significantly improved the lives of all Victorians – a legacy still felt today. Notable achievements are that Victorian Labor:

- Enacted a compulsory fortnight's leave for all Victorian employees in 1946 and established long service leave for all Victorian workers in 1953;
- Recognised equal opportunity in the workplace and community with landmark legislation in 1984, elected Pauline Toner as woman to become a Minister in 1982 and Joan Kirner as the first female Premier in 1990;
- Reformed the *Worker's Compensation Act* in 1946 to remove its unfair bias toward employers and in the 1980s established a workers compensation scheme with weekly payments, rehabilitation, return to work and most importantly safer workplaces;
- Rebuilding many of the State's major hospitals including the Austin and Mercy, Monash Medical Centre, Royal Women's Hospital, Casey, Box Hill, The Royal Children's Hospital, Sunshine, Frankston, Geelong and Bendigo Hospitals;
- Established the first Freedom of Information laws and the first Director of Public Prosecutions office in Australia in the 1980's;
- Established VicHealth in 1987, to phase out tobacco sponsorship and operate as the world's first preventative health body. This model has since been adopted by other Australian States, Canadian provinces and in the USA;
- Supported farmers by establishing Landcare to develop sustainable farming practices – like many other Victorian ideas, later expanded nationally;
- Introduced significant constitutional reform, including proportional representation in the Legislative Council and fixed four year terms for both houses of parliament in 2003, the most significant reform of the State Parliament in the modern era;
- Established Marine National Parks, the Alpine National Park, the Box Ironbark National Park, the Greater Otway National Park, the River Redgums National Park and many others;



- Led the turn-around of regional Victoria in the 2000s, building fast rail links to the regional centres of Geelong, Bendigo, Ballarat and Traralgon, re-opened rail lines and created the Regional Infrastructure Development Fund to revitalise country towns;
- Undertook, in 2006, to rebuild or modernise every school in the State - the single largest investment in Victorian schools in our State's history;
- Expanded the police force by 1920 sworn officers after a decade of decline under the Liberals;
- Gave same-sex couples equal rights in State law, to recognise families headed by same-sex couples and end discrimination against their children, and to enable unmarried couples to register their relationships without discrimination, and
- Established Melbourne as a sporting and events capital of the world by building the Tennis Centre, the MCG, the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre, establishing Southbank, rebuilding Hamer Hall and the new Rectangular Stadium, and made Victoria home to major cultural and sporting events including the Melbourne International Festival, Winter Masterpieces and the 2006 Commonwealth Games by establishing the Victorian Major Events Company.

THE NEXT STEP

Now is the time for Labor and Victoria to take the next step.

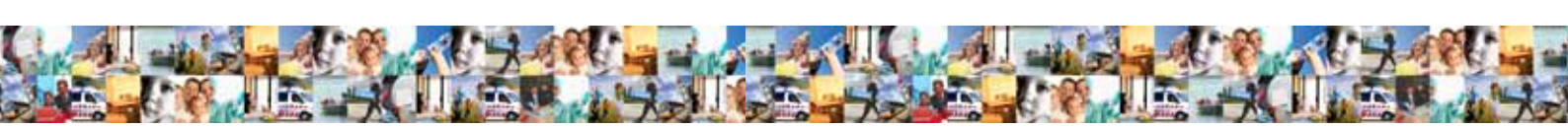
Through our extensive consultations and many hours of Party debate, Victorian Labor has listened and responded with practical solutions to the opportunities and challenges we face. The results are what you will find in this Platform.

The Platform covers topics big and small, from job creation and safety on the streets, to the challenges of climate change and managing growth. It covers social issues we see in our local communities like body image problems amongst children and bad behaviour by parents at sporting events.

Some issues will change the future direction of our State and some are small steps that respond to current pressures we all face in our daily lives. All are important to Labor.

The 2010 Platform is Labor's official commitment to continue our reform program and make Victoria the best place to live, work and raise a family.

Nicholas Reece
ALP State Secretary



MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY

The ALP guidelines for consultation between Policy Committees and Federal and State Parliamentary spokespeople (Ministers and Shadow Ministers) are set out in the ALP Policy Development Framework which is updated every four years.

Under these Guidelines, Parliamentary spokespeople are responsible for reporting back to Policy Committees on progress in the implementation of policy, the Budget processes of Government and to work with them in the development of new policy.

The Agenda Committee sets the Agenda for State Conference and convenes the Policy Co-ordination Committee, comprising the presidents and secretaries of each Policy Committee. This committee meets regularly to consider cross portfolio issues and discuss issues of concern.

To increase accountability it is proposed that in future the Policy Coordination Committee will also be the forum for monitoring policy implementation and identifying issues of concern, where Policy Committees believe further action is required to implement policy. The Agenda Committee will report through the State Secretary to State Conference, at least annually on these issues and raise with the relevant Parliamentary spokespeople the need for further action.

This 2010 Platform replaces the 2006 Platform. It should be read in conjunction with the national Platform in relation to national policy issues and where interpretation may overlap – the National Platform has precedence.

Editing note:

In this Platform, we have referred to Aboriginal Victorians, people or communities using these terms to mean the same as the alternatives of Koorie, Koori, Aboriginal or Indigenous Victorians, ATSI or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

References to disadvantaged people are intended to be inclusive to all groups suffering disadvantage and should be read as referring to low income people, single adult families, people with disabilities or mental health issues, disengaged youth, migrants, refugees and aboriginal people, amongst others.

The Platform should be read broadly to give priority to women, seniors and those living in disadvantaged communities, including in rural and remote areas, whom have historically lacked the same opportunities in our community. The term “culturally and linguistically diverse” (or CALD) communities is used to describe all categories of people of migrant or refugee backgrounds and their families.

Policies are also intended to be read as inclusive of the interests of all Victorians regardless of age, gender and sexual orientation – heterosexual, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or intersex.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE ALP PLATFORM COMMITTEE

A PRODUCT OF CONSULTATION

Good governments start with good ideas, and good policy is about turning those ideas into action.

It is based on strongly held convictions, informed by broad community input and tested by open, democratic debate.

This Platform is based on the foundations of good policy. It outlines how Labor will pursue its core beliefs and values – fairness, opportunity, respect, dignity, rights, responsibilities, security, community diversity, reconciliation and democracy – into action.

Good policy also takes a lot of hard work and the efforts of many different people, and this Platform is the product of just such a creative collaboration.

The process began soon after the 2006 Victorian State election with the ALP's 12 Policy committees developing new policy ideas which were reported to the ALP State Conference in May 2009. From here a program of broad consultation was pursued. Ministers and Policy Committees met regularly to discuss policy ideas and priorities and Policy forums on particular topics were held to enable a wide range of people to contribute their ideas.

The preparation of this Platform was overseen by the ALP Platform Committee. Lily D'Ambrosio, Jaala Pulford, Luke Donnellan and myself represented the Parliamentary Caucus. Rosemary Barker, Johan Scheffer, Luke Hilakari, Andy Richards and Raff Cicone were the elected members representing the ALP membership.

The Platform Committee held discussions with Presidents and Secretaries of Policy Committees, Unions, ALP Caucus members and Ministers. Many people volunteered uncounted hours of their time to draft material for the Platform and edit the final document.

This document is the result. It is Labor's 10 year vision for Victoria.

The draft Platform contains more than 350 policies, grouped into 13 chapters, and it will be presented for consideration at the Victorian ALP State Conference in June 2010.

The Platform takes a medium to long term view and sets out the ALP's broad directions. Specific commitments about the priorities proposed for the next term of Government, including financial commitments for particular programs, will be announced as election policies by the Premier and Ministers in the lead up to the election on November 27th, 2010.

I commend this Platform to you, and I take this opportunity to thank all those whose hard work has gone into it.

Daniel Andrews

Chair of the ALP Platform Committee