
POLICY 1989-90



Australian Labor Party
New South Wales Branch

travel to Sydney or other major centres for treatment.

13.3 To actively promote hospital authorities to include accommodation for relatives, particularly parents of young children and for women before and after childbirth, having regard to the special circumstances of the people in the regions.

13.4 That all children's vitamin supplements and infant food preparations be subject to stringent labelling requirements showing especially sugar and starch contents.

14. SPECIAL GROUPS

14.1 Ambulance services to be funded 50-50 by Commonwealth and State Government and be provided free.

14.2 Increased number of appropriate vehicles for non-urgent health transport be provided.

14.3 To greatly improve and expand geriatric services, establishing a range of appropriate facilities such as retirement hostels, convalescent hospitals, geriatric and day hospitals, nursing homes and sheltered homes.

14.4 Interpreter service to be available for migrant patients in all public and private hospitals, community health centres and other health care agencies.

14.5 Any proposed changes to the laws governing terminations of pregnancy to be treated as a matter of individual conscience.

14.6 Greatly increased funds to be devoted to medical and health services and occupational health research.

14.7 Adequate Government support for Women's Health Centres, Rape Crisis Centres, Women's Refuges, Women's Resources and Information Centres, Family Planning Associations and workers health centres.

14.8 Employers be encouraged to set up health clinics on the work site.

14.9 Birth Control and Family Planning Clinics to be free and incorporated initially into public hospitals and to be phased into community health centres when established.

14.10 Handicapped persons be provided with free education, accommodation, health services and associated facilities for recreation, holiday and future occupational projects.

14.11 All non-government agencies receiving Government finance be continually evaluated for cost benefit and cost efficiency.

15. ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE

The NSW Government to continue to take steps to improve environmental hygiene and amenity in NSW by:

15.1 Reduction of air pollution including:

15.1.1 promotion of public transport;

15.1.2 promotion of small cars;

15.1.3 reduction of hazardous motor vehicle emission;

15.1.4 reduction of hazardous industrial emission.

15.2 Reduction in risks associated with water pollution by:

15.2.1 monitoring of sewerage systems and promotion of land sewerage treatment works;

15.2.2 control and regulation of noxious waste discharge;

15.2.3 continuous improvement of water distribution system in major cities;

15.2.4 expansion of portable reticulated fluoridated water supplies to all country towns.

15.3 State Government adopt measures to protect the community from the hazards of radioactive substances whether from the indiscriminate or unsafe use of ionising radiation, or radioactive waste from nuclear extractive or power generation industries; and publish regularly reports publicly on monitoring.

16. FOOD COUNCIL

16.1 The NSW Labor Government establish a Food, Nutrition and Education Advisory Council. This should be convened by the Minister for Health and representatives appointed by the Ministers for Education, Agriculture, Consumer Affairs plus representatives of consumer groups, women's groups and include the professional groups (Home Economists, Dietitians, Nutritionists, Food Technologists, etc).

16.2 This council would advise the NSW Government through the Minister for Health on nutrition standards, nutrition education and promotion of healthy lifestyle and the way food is prepared, distributed, marketed, sold and regulated.

12. HOUSING

Housing is a basic human right. In social and economic terms, access to appropriate and affordable housing is crucial for the long-term development of society. It provides the basis for family and social life and for a large part of Australia's industrial infrastructure. Availability of affordable housing is central to Labor's policies to alleviate poverty and to remove social inequalities.

Housing Policy must be developed in accordance with the overriding objectives of the Party's Social Justice Strategy, i.e. equity, equality of rights, access to essential services and participation

Within this framework special consideration must be given to those areas of particular need and disadvantage.

Housing should be a major policy area for priority action by the Federal government under the national Social Justice Strategy in Labor's historic third term.

Principles

- Labor recognises the crucial importance of housing in the economic and social life of Australia.
- Labor believes that every Australian resident has a right to adequate and affordable accommodation within a choice of housing tenures.
- Housing policies should recognise all categories of economic, social and personal need, without discrimination, consistent with Labor's principles of social justice and equity.
- Such housing should provide security of tenure, autonomy of action and privacy, and be accessible to community facilities and other services.
- Housing policy should seek to alleviate housing-related poverty by assisting those on low and moderate incomes to achieve home ownership, meeting the cost of public and co-operative housing or facilitating the availability of private rental accommodation. Assistance should be provided on the basis of the needs of the residents rather than on the provision of a limited standard form of housing style.
- The public housing sector should continue to be developed as a viable and positive housing alternative for lower and moderate income earners. It should not be a residual or stigmatised form of housing, and should provide public tenants with equivalent advantages and amenities experienced by home owners.
- Effective housing policies require close co-ordination between federal, state and local governments, unions, tenant organisations, as well as community and housing industry bodies. They also require close co-ordination with income security, human services, education and housing industry policies.
- Ensure that all individuals are in a position to afford adequate and appropriate housing by continuing to assist low and moderate income earners to achieve home ownership or meet the cost of public, co-operative or private rental accommodation.
- Maintain and develop, in co-operation with the Federal Government an income related assistance scheme on a consistent basis, for those who are experiencing housing related poverty in public housing, in the private rental sector and in non-profit co-operative housing.
- Ensure that special need groups in the community gain access to an appropriate housing standard.
- All forms of housing should provide an assurance that occupants have the opportunity for real participation in the way their housing is provided and managed.

1. Housing for the Aged

1.1 Ensure that aged persons accommodation is provided without discrimination in a way which meets housing needs and respects the rights and dignity of residents.

1.2 Ensure all purpose built aged accommodation, both private and public, is located in reasonable proximity to public facilities and community centres.

1.3.1 Implement retirement centre legislation to cover the rights and responsibilities of both resident and proprietor, including security of tenure and a mechanism for dispute resolution.

1.3.2 Ensure that retirement centres form part of a network of the three levels of accommodation (selfcare, hostel and nursing home).

1.3.3 Give the Department of Housing power of approval for retirement centres on condition that necessary support infrastructure is in close proximity.

1.3.4 Support self care services to allow people to remain in their own homes.

2. Housing for the Disabled

2.1 Further develop design standards to cater for the specific needs of physically impaired, developmentally disabled and psychiatrically ill members in the community.

2.2 Encourage the return to appropriate housing in the community of people from institutions principally by using funds allocated from the Health Budget.

2.3 Provide the necessary comprehensive support services in the local community for the disabled.

2.4 Generate an equitable allocation of public housing for disabled persons.

3. Housing for Single People, Youth and Sole Parents

Ensure that single people, young people and sole parents have access to housing assistance programs including public and co-operative housing and that they have an effective chance of entry to private rental housing and home ownership.

4. Housing for Women

4.1 Recognise the disadvantage experienced by women in housing related poverty, physical and mental harassment, discrimination, insecurity and enforced homelessness.

4.2 Will provide funding to continue the Labor initiated programs which provided crisis, short and medium term housing for women who experienced gender related disadvantage and discrimination.

5. Boarding Houses

5.1 Recognise the critical loss of boarding house accommodation, undertake a program of acquisition and rehabilitation of boarding houses in the inner city areas of Sydney.

5.2 Provide financial and other incentives to boarding house owners to maintain their properties and encourage new premises to be set up.

5.3 Extend the Residential Tenancies Act to include protection for boarders and lodgers.

5.4 Retain State Environmental Planning Policy 10 to conserve the remaining stock.

6. Caravans and Mobile Homes

6.1 Introduce uniform licensing and regulatory systems for caravan parks and camping grounds.

6.2 Amend the Residential Tenancies Act to address the particular issues relating to caravan park residents.

7. Housing for Aborigines

7.1 Further develop the Labor initiated Housing for Aborigines and Homes on Aboriginal Land programs until all Aboriginal people in NSW are securely housed.

7.2 Consult with state, regional and local Aboriginal Land Councils on design, construction, maintenance and management.

7.3 In pursuit of these housing objectives establish special apprenticeship and employment schemes for Aboriginal people.

8. Multicultural Housing

Implement programs to ensure that housing services are accessible and relevant to all people regardless of language or cultural differences.

9. Housing for the Homeless

9.1 Provide low income rental accommodation with:

9.1.1 rent levels affordable by low income earners

9.1.2 design features and standards to suit tenants' needs.

9.2 Maintain the Supported Accommodation Assistance Programme.

9.3 Ensure that policies to reduce institutional care for certain age groups are accompanied with funding and related support so that those persons displaced are able to function effectively within the community.

10. Housing Supply

10.1 Ensure that a diverse range of housing stock is available so that the needs of all sections of the community can be met. To this end, and to provide an effective choice, the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement (CSHA) will continue to be the major vehicle to develop the public housing sector as a viable, alternative tenure choice.

10.2 Continue the development of the CSHA so that:

10.2.1 Sufficient total funding from Commonwealth and State budgets and from other sources is available so that the total stock held in a variety of public tenures is increased in real terms over the duration of the current agreement.

10.2.2 The Government uses the full amount of State Loan Council funds nominated for public housing on concessional terms.

10.2.3 The Government expand the public rental stock using borrowings, with appropriate adjustment made, to Loan Council borrowing limits to enable this.

10.2.4 Funding is sought from the Commonwealth to allow efficient planning by state housing authorities and other public housing providers.

10.2.5 The diversity of public stock is enhanced, and any sales of rental stock are reapplied to ensure no reduction in size or quality of the public rental stock in the region.

10.2.6 The public rental stock is well located, innovative in design and management, integrated with private housing and well-maintained.

10.2.7 Existing arrangements for research and data collection are maintained and upgraded to provide better forecasts of housing needs with major indicators to be published regularly.

10.2.8 Housing and financial institutions, local government, trade union and community groups are consulted in the implementation of housing policies, and that adequate provision is made for the dissemination of housing information by those organisations and government.

11. Public Tenants

11.1 Continue traditional support for public housing for a broad cross-section of the population with funding being provided by federal and state revenue and private sources.

11.2 Continue the operation of the independent Housing Review Committee to objectively assess Priority and Crisis Housing applications.

11.3 Ensure full tenant participation. A Labor Government will strengthen the NSW and Regional Tenants' Councils and maintain the Public Tenants Appeals Panel. The Public Housing Tenancy Agreement will be progressively reviewed to take account of the ongoing rights of tenants.

11.4 Continue to allocate funds from the Commonwealth/State fund Mortgage and Rent Relief Scheme for the Community Tenancy Scheme.

12. Co-Operative and Community Tenants

12.1 Give further support to both common equity and private equity housing co-operatives as well as to other forms of community-managed housing schemes.

12.2 Continue to allocate funds from the Local Government and Community Housing Programme for housing co-operatives and from the Mortgage and Rental Relief Scheme for the Community Tenancy Scheme. Additional funds will be sought from home ownership sources to encourage private equity housing co-operatives.

13. Private Tenants

13.1 Encourage an adequate supply of appropriate private rental housing by:

13.1.1 The introduction of targeted taxation and other financial measures to boost supply. Among these being the Depreciation Allowance which underpins the Rental Property Trust.

13.1.2 The introduction of a Residential Tenancies Act to give protection to both tenants and landlords.

13.1.3 Working in co-operation with the Commonwealth and local government to remove impediments to increases in private rental stock.

13.1.4 Retention of State Environmental Planning Policy 10 to conserve rental property.

13.1.5 Be committed to residential tenancies legislation which adequately protects the rights of all private tenants including those residing in boarding houses, hostels, retirement villages and caravan parks. The Act will be administered by the Housing Department and funded by the Rental Bond Board.

14. Home Ownership

14.1 Provide flexible and innovative schemes to assist low and moderate income earners by way of:

14.1.1 Low start loans

14.1.2 Income geared loans

14.1.3 Low deposit schemes

14.1.4 Deferred repayment of taxes and interest

14.1.5 Adequate mortgage relief

14.1.6 Mortgage insurance

14.1.7 Joint marketing of home by Landcom with builders, financiers and service authorities.

15. Housing Industry

15.1 Ensure a viable and efficient housing industry to meet long term housing needs through:

15.1.1 Indicative planning of industry activity in consultation with industry groups, financial institutions, Commonwealth and local government, trade unions, tenant organisations and community groups.

15.1.2 Measures to ensure adequate and stable supplies of finance, land and labour.

15.1.3 Co-ordinated public interest research into technical and associated economic problems of housing provision.

15.1.4 Co-operation by Commonwealth and local government that regulation of the industry continues to achieve its economic and social objective while remaining cost effective and flexible.

15.1.5 Developing measures to reduce costs of housing and land to promote innovations, including uniform building regulations, promotion of measures to reduce housing costs, with these measures to remain consistent with appropriate standards of housing and overall amenity.

15.1.6 Establish special apprenticeship and employment schemes aimed at women, Aboriginal and other people with limited access to traditional trade training.

16. Surplus Government Property

Transfer surplus housing property to the Department of Housing at no cost with any necessary renovation to be undertaken and funded by that Department.

17. Local Government

Foster and support local government in housing matters through the Housing Initiatives and the Community Housing Programs.

18. Rental Bond Board

Maintain the operations of the Rental Bond Board to hold the Bond money of private tenants and adjudicate entitlement disputes between landlords and tenants. The funds generated by the Board will

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- (d) The New South Wales Local Government Grants Commission makes grants to the state's 175 Councils.

(i)

The government should ensure that all appointments to the Commission are reviewed every five years.

- (ii) The government further ensure that the Commission disburses its funds in accordance with the Labor Party's objectives of equity and special assistance to disadvantaged councils, with a maximum 30 per cent of funds being distributed on a per capita basis as proposed by the National Inquiry into Local Government Finance.

5. Review of the Local Government Act 1919

A Labor Government should act to immediately establish a Committee representing the progressive forces in NSW local government to review and up-date the Local Government Act, 1919, so as to provide more adequate support for the state's local government in the last decade of the twentieth century. The review should consider:

- the provision of greater flexibility in the organisational structures of larger urban and provincial city councils;
- adequate managerial secondment, advice and training support for the many small rural councils;
- the appropriate indexing of all local government charges so as to avoid infrequent, cumbersome and large administrative changes;
- the declaration of pecuniary interests of elected members and senior staff in local government;
- the conflict between autonomy and responsibility together with the issue of dismissals;
- provide the infrastructure, training and resources for better financial management of local government through monitoring, counselling, and advisory services;
- bestowing of a general competency.

6. Boundaries

A Labor government should require the NSW Local Government Boundaries Commission to provide a report at the end of the first year of each four year local government term on:

- those councils with a per capita rate burden in highest 20 per cent of all NSW councils
- those councils where the percentage of total grants to total revenue places them in the highest 20 per cent of all NSW councils
- those councils with a per capita administrative cost in the highest 20 per cent of all councils; and
- a recommendation on whether those councils appearing consistently in categories (a), (b) and (c) should be considered for amalgamation with a similar adjoining council to make one effective unit, or be absorbed into an already adjoining and efficient council, after consideration of:
 - financial viability;
 - community cohesiveness and identification.

7. County Councils

Specific purpose county councils should be considered wherever services can be provided more efficiently and effectively, for example, for electricity, water supply, noxious weeds control, plant and equipment sharing.

Furthermore all electricity retail distribution to be by county councils:

- comprising members elected by general purpose councils;
- boundary changes to council areas be affected by taking into account efficiency and effect on communities served;
- a uniform tariff for retailing electricity be established.

8. Local Government Planning

The State's planning has three clearly acknowledged levels of state, regional and local. With local planning:

- being the responsibility of councils of elected local government representatives taking due regard of local interest;
- making specific provisions to retain the existing characteristics of an area when considering any planning proposals;
- ensuring that industries obnoxious to the surrounding environment be established in large industrial parks at sites removed from population centres and fringed by large open space barriers;
- ensuring adequate co-ordination and co-operation, by local government being effectively involved in all aspects of State Government transport policy formation;
- ensuring all third parties who have natural rights of access, sunlight and reasonable privacy are informed of proposed developments and are clearly notified of their rights of objection;
- in accordance with the Party's environmental and urban development policies, local governments whilst acting to promote their communities' interests should not use their planning powers to prevent the equitable distribution of employment, re-

gional facilities, community services and other forms of housing.

9. Elected Members

The impact and effectiveness of ALP elected members should be improved by courses and higher remuneration:

- Head Office should arrange courses in basic local government law, finances and planning, with specific consideration being given to reviving the Annual ALP Aldermanic Conference using venues in different parts of the state;
- Remuneration for elected local government members be set at a fixed percentage of the basic salary of a Member of the NSW Parliament up to a maximum of 15 percent of such salary;
- Local government be required to institute the equal opportunity standards applying in the rest of the public sector;
- The term Alderman be replaced by Councillor and that it be optional to use the title of Mayor instead of President.
- The number of elected members to a council be no less than 9 and no more than 21;
- Ordinary meetings of metropolitan and provincial city councils be finishing before midnight;
- An adequate level of insurance cover be provided for elected members in the performance of their services.

10. Local Government Employees

- The state government re-introduce compulsory superannuation for all local government employees;
- The Local Government Act be altered to provide rights of reinstatement for employees;
- That the Local Government Act be amended to provide for the declaration of interests of senior officers and these declarations be maintained in a public register.

17. THE MEDIA

The sheer power of modern communications technology has allowed a new view of broadcasting to develop. Technology has become so powerful that it is capable, with few exceptions, of meeting whatever demands are placed on it. The benefit is a new freedom to base broadcasting development primarily upon social consideration rather than what is technically possible.

Public broadcasting is the sector most readily accessible to service specific social purposes with which state governments are concerned. Public broadcasting programs are inextricably involved with the concerns of the people in the communities they serve; and, in turn, many of the most important factors in these peoples' lives are within the purview of state governments notably education, health and others.

Therefore:

- NSW government departments should make use of the opportunities provided by community radio for the dissemination of legitimate public information.
- The government should make a regular financial commitment to public broadcasting, particularly to community broadcasters responding to the social needs of specific communities.
- The criteria for funding to be determined by the Division of Cultural Activities and the control and enforcement of these criteria be the responsibility of that division.
- Labor Media Resource Centre should be established to collect all Labor movement media output and facilitate the dissemination of information contained therein into the mainstream media.
- Contribute to the Australian Children's Television Foundation proportionate to the number of Australian children resident in NSW so that the quality of television programs directed at children is improved.

18. RURAL

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

Labor's rural policy is directed towards the enhancement and conservation of the resources of the state in order that:

- the long-term viability and productivity of primary industries dependent on natural resources will be ensured
- economic and social benefits will accrue to all people who live and work in rural and provincial New South Wales.

Within the terms of the general objective, to promote special objectives in the areas of employment, health, education, transport, communications and essential social amenities to ensure the achievement and protection of equality of access and opportunity for all citizens in the state, regardless of geographical location.

RURAL RESOURCES POLICY

- To implement, in co-operation with the Australian government, a National Conservation Strategy for sustainable development

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

domestic and foreign markets should be given preference over more marginal economic activities. Innovation should be encouraged and the creation of a variety of employment opportunities is seen as a primary goal.

9.3 Viable existing industries should be encouraged to expand and supporting industries should be assisted to locate in selected growth regions to encourage the development of efficient regional economies. The assistance of existing industries and supporting industries, related to those existing industries, is seen as being more efficient than assisting more marginal economic activities. The development of balanced regional economies providing a range of employment opportunities in selected growth regions is essential.

9.4 The state government initiate a system of rural zonings to prevent the indiscriminate subdivision of rural lands, with the prime objective of preserving viable agriculture land for agricultural purposes.

9.5 Use telephone subsidies, freight concessions and subsidised rates to encourage industry away from the metropolitan areas.

9.6 Seek to move many large scale industries to new growth centres through use of Commonwealth tariff policy. Commonwealth and state governments' contracts and purchases, and locational policies of publicly run enterprises. Such relocations must, however, be consistent with the maintenance of full employment in existing metropolitan areas.

9.7 Industries desirous of extending their activities within a metropolitan area should have to convince the Decentralisation Department it was not in the public interest to shift to a new growth area. A special levy should be made on any company permitted to expand on their metropolitan site — the proceeds spent on developing the new areas.

9.8 Provide funds to permit the erection of low-cost housing in the new growth areas and local authorities be given grants to provide swimming pools, free libraries, kindergartens and other public facilities.

9.9 Any residual land in the growth centres should be acquired by public authorities for open space or other public purposes. No development other than embellishment to be allowed on parkland or open space, except in the case of open space where it should be open to negotiation provided that an equivalent or better form of open space can be substituted.

9.10 Immigration must be encouraged to the growth centres.

9.11 Social welfare assistance must be made by the federal government to help integrate newcomers to the growth centres to their new environment.

10. Urban freeways

Restriction of further construction of urban radial freeways through:

10.1 Institution of an urgent re-examination of the role of urban radial freeways, including their role in moving large numbers of workers to places of industrial employment not located in the CBD.

10.2 Pending the outcome of the inquiry, work on all urban radial freeways, at present commenced, or planned, be halted.

11. Environmental education

Courses should be included in the Department of Education's curricula which deal with all aspects of the environment, population growth, pollution and ecology.

23. YOUTH

1. General

1.1 For the purposes of this platform, Youth shall be defined as 0-26 years, as thereafter people are considered by society to be independent and responsible for themselves and to the community.

1.2 Labor recognises that young people are social beings with their own individual needs and aspirations. Labor recognises that our society is unable to meet these needs and aspirations on an individual basis, and believes that government should be the major contributor of services and facilities in our society geared to the fulfilment of these needs and aspirations.

1.3 Labor believes in developing a society where youth is provided with such rights and services sufficient to produce citizens able to make a valued contribution back to the society.

1.4 Labor believes that all youth of NSW shall have the right to full and adequate services in the areas of:

2. Education

2.1 Labor commits itself to the provision of an education system which fosters in the youth of NSW the qualities of:

2.1.1 racial and religious tolerance

2.1.2 political awareness

2.1.3 social responsibility

2.1.4 personal development and growth

2.1.5 ethical perception

2.1.6 self-reliance

2.1.7 self-respect

2.1.8 non-sexist attitudes.

2.2 These qualities should be the rationale of future curriculum development in the State system.

2.3 Furthermore, that a priority be placed on the teaching of living skills, including legal and financial education.

2.4 Courses available to youth should not be restricted solely to employment-based subjects, but also to those that assist in the development of more satisfactory use of home and leisure time.

3. Employment training

3.1 Labor believes that the role of government is concerned with the provision of employment and the matching of skills to relevant vacancies. To this end, the NSW government should make it a priority to harness the skills of a newly-trained youth.

3.2 Labor believes that the role of government is not merely confined to the provisions of employment opportunities for youth, but should also include provisions to enable the school leaver to make a properly considered choice of employment in vocations best suited to their needs, temperaments and talents.

3.3 To this end, Labor advocates:

3.3.1 full-time careers advice staff be attached to each State high school

3.3.2 careers advice be a subject to the training of teachers and an integral part of the school curriculum from Year 8 onwards

3.3.3 that the State Government ensures that apprentices in New South Wales receive a full and comprehensive employment training in their chosen vocation by way of a state-run apprenticeship authority.

3.4 Labor recognises the educational value of work experience programs for career education. Work experience programs involve the observation of job situations by students and their appraisal. They should be engaged in work experience alongside a paid employee and never in place of a paid employee. Labor advocates that the Department of Education co-operate with the Labor Council of New South Wales in the development of work experience schemes.

4. Welfare

4.1 Labor believes that welfare should be based on universal needs and that welfare procedures should be established and developed through consultation.

4.2 Labor believes that:

4.2.1 The youth of New South Wales has the right to such services that will, in concert with formal education, allow the fullest possible expression of their aspirations and the fulfilment of their needs in training for life in employment, home life and recreation.

4.2.2 The availability of services for youth should not be governed by factors such as distance or isolation.

4.2.3 The availability of services and facilities for youth should, as a priority, be provided to those areas of greatest social and economic need.

5. Recreation

5.1 Labor believes that, along with the right to employment, young people have the right to enjoy themselves during their spare time in either active or passive recreation. Labor believes that it is the role of government to ensure that all young people are provided with facilities with which they can develop their leisure time to obtain maximum benefits.

5.2 Government developed recreation facilities should, where possible, be mobile to allow greater public use and access.

5.3 Labor believes that:

5.3.1 entertainment should be provided for the under-18 age group through local government bodies

5.3.2 sports facilities should be organised for multi-use purposes and that these be augmented by the use of school grounds after hours

5.3.3 special interest sports and community organisations should be catered for in each local area

5.4 government should give equal attention to the need for passive recreation facilities as is given to active recreation facilities.

6. Health

6.1 Labor commits itself to a program which will raise the standards of awareness of health, fitness and diet amongst New South Wales youth.

6.2 Labor maintains that:

6.2.1 disadvantaged areas be funded on a per capita basis to provide morning meals before school

6.2.2 all school canteens provide nutritious food daily

6.2.3 all high schools should provide courses of study of the effects of the use of alcohol, drugs, nicotine and volatile based substances and concentrating on the ultimate result of the use of such products

6.2.4 adequate information should be provided in schools and workplaces on matters concerning health, for example, diseases, hygiene and other medical conditions, and information should be provided as to their prevention and treatment.

Alan Hill has undertaken to get
current Policy & edit for relevance.

24-11-84

NB Committee policy is 1986-7
while remained. 1989-90

FAX 7
(Not req'd by Alan Hill)
Ex Col James

POLICY 1989-90



Australian Labor Party
New South Wales Branch

Peter Hamilton

Policy on mg 'approved' 1987

but doesn't appear on 89/90

but there are other references
that appear useful

Col James.

HOUSING POLICY COMMITTEE

Five meetings between 10.12.86 to 31.3.87

R. COLLINS (Chairman) & T. WEBSTER (Secretary) & G. Ambroline & M. Knowles & B. Speers & K. Squire & J. O'Neill & F. Decker & C. James & J. Sutton & G. Thompson & P. Secretary Reps: F. Walker (SPLP), S. West (FPLP).

OBJECTIVES

A Labor Government —

- believes all Australians, regardless of gender, age, marital status, disability, race, religion, or life situation has a right to affordable and adequate accommodation of their choice;
- will actively pursue a policy of increasing the supply of private, co-operative, and public housing for rent and ownership;
- will have as its highest priority meeting the need for public rental housing.

Therefore the Labor Government will initiate programmes which will reduce the maximum waiting time for eligible applicants to under 12 months.

In addressing the complex needs of the housing market a Labor Government will:

- maintain a diverse, flexible, and innovative range of policies and programmes, allowing the community the widest practical range of options;
- assist in the co-ordination of the long-term planning of the housing industry, through financing, provision of land, building materials, training and employment of building workers;
- actively encourage the three tiers of Government and community groups to recognise their responsibilities in housing programmes and initiatives.

1. PUBLIC HOUSING

- 1.1 Public Housing should be planned so that it enjoys a location accessible to public transport, recreational facilities, community centres, job opportunities, and other public facilities.

A Labor Government will:

- 1.2 maintain and extend funding and support for the range of community based housing services offered in New South Wales including Rental Housing Associations, Tenancy Advice Services, Housing Information and Referral Services, Youth and Women's Accommodation Programmes, Emergency Accommodation, the Community Tenancy Scheme, programmes for Local Government, and rental housing co-operatives;
- 1.3 maximise the opportunities for tenants of public and community housing programmes to participate in the management of their housing and in the development of housing policies;
- 1.4 develop a comprehensive plan for the maintenance and improvement of public housing in accordance with demand with priority to be given to improving standards and security on large public housing estates and in high rise, high density developments;
- 1.5 oppose expansion of mobile home type estates as a new form of permanent housing for low income earners;
- 1.6 ensure that all Government owned housing that is not being used be made available to low income groups with the means for assessing the rent being the formula adopted by the Department of Housing;
- 1.7 transfer Government owned property at no cost to the Department of Housing with refurbishing of properties to Departmental standards, being undertaken and paid for by the Department of Housing;
- 1.8 ensure that in the inner city, rehabilitation of existing housing and infill housing (that is, medium density housing construction on vacant land within established residential areas) will be adopted to prevent the construction of further high-rise development and to increase the stock of inner city housing;
- 1.9 ensure the Federal Government is responsible for income security meeting the rental rebate deficit of the Department of Housing to ensure the security of the public housing sector. Rents in the public housing sector should not be based on private market rents, increasing as they do with every housing shortage, but rather they should be set to cover the costs of providing and maintaining the housing stock;
- 1.10 manage the retention of the public housing stock to ensure that an adequate supply of public rental housing is maintained in all areas to meet future housing needs;
- 1.11 provide crisis housing services in all major centres by the Department of Housing;
- 1.12 apply surplus funds from the Rental Bond Board to public rental housing purposes;

2. HOME OWNERSHIP

A Labor Government will:

- 2.1 provide flexible and innovative schemes to assist low and moderate income buyers including:
 - low start loans
 - income geared loans
 - low deposit schemes
 - deferred repayment of taxes and interests
 - adequate mortgage relief
 - mortgage insurance
- 2.2 implement land acquisition and land development strategies that will maximise the supply of well located and moderately priced residential land;
- 2.3 contribute to the development of financing mechanisms for the establishment of a viable housing co-operatives sector, to provide low interest loans for low-income home buyers;
- 2.4 pursue new sources of housing finance such as the secondary mortgage market, housing bonds, and superannuation funds that can be applied to improve the access to home ownership of people of low and moderate incomes.

3. HOUSING FOR THE AGED

A Labor Government will:

- 3.1 provide a range of aged persons accommodation and ensure it has a high priority;
- 3.2 provide aged accommodation by the Department of Housing on an equitable basis so that waiting times for inner areas are no longer than for outer areas;
- 3.3 ensure all aged accommodation, both private and public, will be located in close proximity to public facilities including health care, public transport, shopping facilities, community centres, adequate parking for residents and visitors;
- 3.4 ensure that retirement centres provide the three levels of accommodation (self care, hostel and nursing home) on site.

4. HOUSING FOR THE DISABLED

A Labor Government will:

- 4.1 further develop design standards to cater for the specific housing needs of physically impaired, intellectually disabled, and psychiatrically ill members of the community;
- 4.2 through the Department of Housing encourage the de-institutionalisation of disabled people commenced by the Richmond Report and provide additional funds for a proper level of support service.

5. GENERAL

A Labor Government will:

- 5.1 encourage appropriate housing types and determine standards to satisfy particular housing needs of various categories of home seekers;
- 5.2 pursue the policy of "urban consolidation" which will involve the development of vacant land, disused industrial sites and some redevelopment of low density areas to medium density housing closer to jobs, transport and recreation opportunities;
- 5.3 extend the provision of a range of supported and independent accommodation services for short, medium, and long-term purposes through the Richmond Supported Accommodation Programme, with Programmes being co-ordinated by other Government agencies responsible for recurrent funding, particularly the Department of Youth and Community Services and the Department of Health;
- 5.4 encourage a social and tenure mix in existing and new communities and the integration of public housing into established suburbs and towns;
- 5.5 support multiple occupancy by the Government through a State Environment Planning Policy;
- 5.6 further pursue legislative and planning strategies such as State Environment Planning Policies that aim to preserve low income rental accommodation in established areas;
- 5.7 develop strategies to ensure that Aborigines have equality of access to all housing programmes and to ensure that programmes are developed in consultation with Aboriginal communities;
- 5.8 provide information about housing services in a full range of community languages;
- 5.9 promote education about housing needs, housing issues, and housing policies in Australia at a secondary and tertiary level;
- 5.10 develop adequate consultation processes and structures that represent the range of housing interest groups, such as community housing organisations, peak consumer organisations, housing industry and housing finance representatives;
- 5.11 generate and maintain initiatives, such as the Rental Housing Trust, which is aimed at ensuring a balance between the supply and demand for rental housing.

travel to Sydney or other major centres for treatment.

13.3 To actively promote hospital authorities to include accommodation for relatives, particularly parents of young children and for women before and after childbirth, having regard to the special circumstances of the people in the regions.

13.4 That all children's vitamin supplements and infant food preparations be subject to stringent labelling requirements showing especially sugar and starch contents.

14. SPECIAL GROUPS

14.1 Ambulance services to be funded 50-50 by Commonwealth and State Government and be provided free.

14.2 Increased number of appropriate vehicles for non-urgent health transport be provided.

14.3 To greatly improve and expand geriatric services, establishing a range of appropriate facilities such as retirement hostels, convalescent hospitals, geriatric and day hospitals, nursing homes and sheltered homes.

14.4 Interpreter service to be available for migrant patients in all public and private hospitals, community health centres and other health care agencies.

14.5 Any proposed changes to the laws governing terminations of pregnancy to be treated as a matter of individual conscience.

14.6 Greatly increased funds to be devoted to medical and health services and occupational health research.

14.7 Adequate Government support for Women's Health Centres, Rape Crisis Centres, Women's Refuges, Women's Resources and Information Centres, Family Planning Associations and workers health centres.

14.8 Employers be encouraged to set up health clinics on the work site.

14.9 Birth Control and Family Planning Clinics to be free and incorporated initially into public hospitals and to be phased into community health centres when established.

14.10 Handicapped persons be provided with free education, accommodation, health services and associated facilities for recreation, holiday and future occupational projects.

14.11 All non-government agencies receiving Government finance be continually evaluated for cost benefit and cost efficiency.

15. ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE

The NSW Government to continue to take steps to improve environmental hygiene and amenity in NSW by:

15.1 Reduction of air pollution including:

15.1.1 promotion of public transport;

15.1.2 promotion of small cars;

15.1.3 reduction of hazardous motor vehicle emission;

15.1.4 reduction of hazardous industrial emission.

15.2 Reduction in risks associated with water pollution by:

15.2.1 monitoring of sewerage systems and promotion of land sewerage treatment works;

15.2.2 control and regulation of noxious waste discharge;

15.2.3 continuous improvement of water distribution system in major cities;

15.2.4 expansion of portable reticulated fluoridated water supplies to all country towns.

15.3 State Government adopt measures to protect the community from the hazards of radioactive substances whether from the indiscriminate or unsafe use of ionising radiation, or radioactive waste from nuclear extractive or power generation industries; and publish regularly reports publicly on monitoring.

16. FOOD COUNCIL

16.1 The NSW Labor Government establish a Food, Nutrition and Education Advisory Council. This should be convened by the Minister for Health and representatives appointed by the Ministers for Education, Agriculture, Consumer Affairs plus representatives of consumer groups, women's groups and include the professional groups (Home Economists, Dietitians, Nutritionists, Food Technologists, etc).

16.2 This council would advise the NSW Government through the Minister for Health on nutrition standards, nutrition education and promotion of healthy lifestyle and the way food is prepared, distributed, marketed, sold and regulated.

12. HOUSING

Housing is a basic human right. In social and economic terms, access to appropriate and affordable housing is crucial for the long-term development of society. It provides the basis for family and social life and for a large part of Australia's industrial infrastructure. Availability of affordable housing is central to Labor's policies to alleviate poverty and to remove social inequalities.

Housing Policy must be developed in accordance with the overriding objectives of the Party's Social Justice Strategy, i.e. equity, equality of rights, access to essential services and participation

Within this framework special consideration must be given to those areas of particular need and disadvantage.

Housing should be a major policy area for priority action by the Federal government under the national Social Justice Strategy in Labor's historic third term.

Principles

- Labor recognises the crucial importance of housing in the economic and social life of Australia.
- Labor believes that every Australian resident has a right to adequate and affordable accommodation within a choice of housing tenures.
- Housing policies should recognise all categories of economic, social and personal need, without discrimination, consistent with Labor's principles of social justice and equity.
- Such housing should provide security of tenure, autonomy of action and privacy, and be accessible to community facilities and other services.
- Housing policy should seek to alleviate housing-related poverty by assisting those on low and moderate incomes to achieve home ownership, meeting the cost of public and co-operative housing or facilitating the availability of private rental accommodation. Assistance should be provided on the basis of the needs of the residents rather than on the provision of a limited standard form of housing style.
- The public housing sector should continue to be developed as a viable and positive housing alternative for lower and moderate income earners. It should not be a residual or stigmatised form of housing, and should provide public tenants with equivalent advantages and amenities experienced by home owners.
- Effective housing policies require close co-ordination between federal, state and local governments, unions, tenant organisations, as well as community and housing industry bodies. They also require close co-ordination with income security, human services, education and housing industry policies.
- Ensure that all individuals are in a position to afford adequate and appropriate housing by continuing to assist low and moderate income earners to achieve home ownership or meet the cost of public, co-operative or private rental accommodation.
- Maintain and develop, in co-operation with the Federal Government an income related assistance scheme on a consistent basis, for those who are experiencing housing related poverty in public housing, in the private rental sector and in non-profit co-operative housing.
- Ensure that special need groups in the community gain access to an appropriate housing standard.
- All forms of housing should provide an assurance that occupants have the opportunity for real participation in the way their housing is provided and managed.

1. Housing for the Aged

1.1 Ensure that aged persons accommodation is provided without discrimination in a way which meets housing needs and respects the rights and dignity of residents.

1.2 Ensure all purpose build aged accommodation, both private and public, is located in reasonable proximity to public facilities and community centres.

1.3.1 Implement retirement centre legislation to cover the rights and responsibilities of both resident and proprietor, including security of tenure and a mechanism for dispute resolution.

1.3.2 Ensure that retirement centres form part of a network of the three levels of accommodation (selfcare, hostel and nursing home).

1.3.3 Give the Department of Housing power of approval for retirement centres on condition that necessary support infrastructure is in close proximity.

1.3.4 Support self care services to allow people to remain in their own homes.

2. Housing for the Disabled

2.1 Further develop design standards to cater for the specific needs of physically impaired, developmentally disabled and psychiatrically ill members in the community.

2.2 Encourage the return to appropriate housing in the community of people from institutions principally by using funds allocated from the Health Budget.

2.3 Provide the necessary comprehensive support services in the local community for the disabled.

2.4 Generate an equitable allocation of public housing for disabled persons.

3. Housing for Single People, Youth and Sole Parents

Ensure that single people, young people and sole parents have access to housing assistance programs including public and co-operative housing and that they have an effective chance of entry to private rental housing and home ownership.

4. Housing for Women

4.1 Recognise the disadvantage experienced by women in housing related poverty, physical and mental harassment, discrimination, insecurity and enforced homelessness.

4.2 Will provide funding to continue the Labor initiated programs which provided crisis, short and medium term housing for women who experienced gender related disadvantage and discrimination.

5. Boarding Houses

5.1 Recognise the critical loss of boarding house accommodation, undertake a program of acquisition and rehabilitation of boarding houses in the inner city areas of Sydney.

5.2 Provide financial and other incentives to boarding house owners to maintain their properties and encourage new premises to be set up.

5.3 Extend the Residential Tenancies Act to include protection for boarders and lodgers.

5.4 Retain State Environmental Planning Policy 10 to conserve the remaining stock.

6. Caravans and Mobile Homes

6.1 Introduce uniform licensing and regulatory systems for caravan parks and camping grounds.

6.2 Amend the Residential Tenancies Act to address the particular issues relating to caravan park residents.

7. Housing for Aborigines

7.1 Further develop the Labor initiated Housing for Aborigines and Homes on Aboriginal Land programs until all Aboriginal people in NSW are securely housed.

7.2 Consult with state, regional and local Aboriginal Land Councils on design, construction, maintenance and management.

7.3 In pursuit of these housing objectives establish special apprenticeship and employment schemes for Aboriginal people.

8. Multicultural Housing

Implement programs to ensure that housing services are accessible and relevant to all people regardless of language or cultural differences.

9. Housing for the Homeless

9.1 Provide low income rental accommodation with:

9.1.1 rent levels affordable by low income earners

9.1.2 design features and standards to suit tenants' needs.

9.2 Maintain the Supported Accommodation Assistance Programme.

9.3 Ensure that policies to reduce institutional care for certain age groups are accompanied with funding and related support so that those persons displaced are able to function effectively within the community.

10. Housing Supply

10.1 Ensure that a diverse range of housing stock is available so that the needs of all sections of the community can be met. To this end, and to provide an effective choice, the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement (CSHA) will continue to be the major vehicle to develop the public housing sector as a viable, alternative tenure choice.

10.2 Continue the development of the CSHA so that:

10.2.1 Sufficient total funding from Commonwealth and State budgets and from other sources is available so that the total stock held in a variety of public tenures is increased in real terms over the duration of the current agreement.

10.2.2 The Government uses the full amount of State Loan Council funds nominated for public housing on concessional terms.

10.2.3 The Government expand the public rental stock using borrowings, with appropriate adjustment made, to Loan Council borrowing limits to enable this.

10.2.4 Funding is sought from the Commonwealth to allow efficient planning by state housing authorities and other public housing providers.

10.2.5 The diversity of public stock is enhanced, and any sales of rental stock are reapplied to ensure no reduction in size or quality of the public rental stock in the region.

10.2.6 The public rental stock is well located, innovative in design and management, integrated with private housing and well maintained.

10.2.7 Existing arrangements for research and data collection are maintained and upgraded to provide better forecasts of housing needs with major indicators to be published regularly.

10.2.8 Housing and financial institutions, local government, trade union and community groups are consulted in the implementation of housing policies, and that adequate provision is made for the dissemination of housing information by those organisations and government.

11. Public Tenants

11.1 Continue traditional support for public housing for a broad cross-section of the population with funding being provided by federal and state revenue and private sources.

11.2 Continue the operation of the independent Housing Review Committee to objectively assess Priority and Crisis Housing applications.

11.3 Ensure full tenant participation. A Labor Government will strengthen the NSW and Regional Tenants' Councils and maintain the Public Tenants Appeals Panel. The Public Housing Tenancy Agreement will be progressively reviewed to take account of the ongoing rights of tenants.

11.4 Continue to allocate funds from the Commonwealth/State fund Mortgage and Rent Relief Scheme for the Community Tenancy Scheme.

12. Co-Operative and Community Tenants

12.1 Give further support to both common equity and private equity housing co-operatives as well as to other forms of community-managed housing schemes.

12.2 Continue to allocate funds from the Local Government and Community Housing Programme for housing co-operatives and from the Mortgage and Rental Relief Scheme for the Community Tenancy Scheme. Additional funds will be sought from home ownership sources to encourage private equity housing co-operatives.

13. Private Tenants

13.1 Encourage an adequate supply of appropriate private rental housing by:

13.1.1 The introduction of targeted taxation and other financial measures to boost supply. Among these being the Depreciation Allowance which underpins the Rental Property Trust.

13.1.2 The introduction of a Residential Tenancies Act to give protection to both tenants and landlords.

13.1.3 Working in co-operation with the Commonwealth and local government to remove impediments to increases in private rental stock.

13.1.4 Retention of State Environmental Planning Policy 10 to conserve rental property.

13.1.5 Be committed to residential tenancies legislation which adequately protects the rights of all private tenants including those residing in boarding houses, hostels, retirement villages and caravan parks. The Act will be administered by the Housing Department and funded by the Rental Bond Board.

14. Home Ownership

14.1 Provide flexible and innovative schemes to assist low and moderate income earners by way of:

14.1.1 Low start loans

14.1.2 Income geared loans

14.1.3 Low deposit schemes

14.1.4 Deferred repayment of taxes and interest

14.1.5 Adequate mortgage relief

14.1.6 Mortgage insurance

14.1.7 Joint marketing of home by Landcom with builders, financiers and service authorities.

15. Housing Industry

15.1 Ensure a viable and efficient housing industry to meet long term housing needs through:

15.1.1 Indicative planning of industry activity in consultation with industry groups, financial institutions, Commonwealth and local government, trade unions, tenant organisations and community groups.

15.1.2 Measures to ensure adequate and stable supplies of finance, land and labour.

15.1.3 Co-ordinated public interest research into technical and associated economic problems of housing provision.

15.1.4 Co-operation by Commonwealth and local government that regulation of the industry continues to achieve its economic and social objective while remaining cost effective and flexible.

15.1.5 Developing measures to reduce costs of housing and land to promote innovations, including uniform building regulations, promotion of measures to reduce housing costs, with these measures to remain consistent with appropriate standards of housing and overall amenity.

15.1.6 Establish special apprenticeship and employment schemes aimed at women, Aboriginal and other people with limited access to traditional trade training.

16. Surplus Government Property

Transfer surplus housing property to the Department of Housing at no cost with any necessary renovation to be undertaken and funded by that Department.

17. Local Government

Foster and support local government in housing matters through the Housing Initiatives and the Community Housing Programs.

18. Rental Bond Board

Maintain the operations of the Rental Bond Board to hold the Bond money of private tenants and adjudicate entitlement disputes between landlords and tenants. The funds generated by the Board will

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

domestic and foreign markets should be given preference over more marginal economic activities. Innovation should be encouraged and the creation of a variety of employment opportunities is seen as a primary goal.

9.3 Viable existing industries should be encouraged to expand and supporting industries should be assisted to locate in selected growth regions to encourage the development of efficient regional economies. The assistance of existing industries and supporting industries, related to those existing industries, is seen as being more efficient than assisting more marginal economic activities. The development of balanced regional economies providing a range of employment opportunities in selected growth regions is essential.

9.4 The state government initiate a system of rural zonings to prevent the indiscriminate subdivision of rural lands, with the prime objective of preserving viable agriculture land for agricultural purposes.

9.5 Use telephone subsidies, freight concessions and subsidised rates to encourage industry away from the metropolitan areas.

9.6 Seek to move many large scale industries to new growth centres through use of Commonwealth tariff policy. Commonwealth and state governments' contracts and purchases, and locational policies of publicly run enterprises. Such relocations must, however, be consistent with the maintenance of full employment in existing metropolitan areas.

9.7 Industries desirous of extending their activities within a metropolitan area should have to convince the Decentralisation Department it was not in the public interest to shift to a new growth area. A special levy should be made on any company permitted to expand on their metropolitan site — the proceeds spent on developing the new areas.

9.8 Provide funds to permit the erection of low-cost housing in the new growth areas and local authorities be given grants to provide swimming pools, free libraries, kindergartens and other public facilities.

9.9 Any residual land in the growth centres should be acquired by public authorities for open space or other public purposes. No development other than embellishment to be allowed on parkland or open space, except in the case of open space where it should be open to negotiation provided that an equivalent or better form of open space can be substituted.

9.10 Immigration must be encouraged to the growth centres.

9.11 Social welfare assistance must be made by the federal government to help integrate newcomers to the growth centres to their new environment.

10. Urban freeways

Restriction of further construction of urban radial freeways through:

10.1 Institution of an urgent re-examination of the role of urban radial freeways, including their role in moving large numbers of workers to places of industrial employment not located in the CBD.

10.2 Pending the outcome of the inquiry, work on all urban radial freeways, at present commenced, or planned, be halted.

11. Environmental education

Courses should be included in the Department of Education's curricula which deal with all aspects of the environment, population growth, pollution and ecology.

23. YOUTH

1. General

1.1 For the purposes of this platform, Youth shall be defined as 0-26 years, as thereafter people are considered by society to be independent and responsible for themselves and to the community.

1.2 Labor recognises that young people are social beings with their own individual needs and aspirations. Labor recognises that our society is unable to meet these needs and aspirations on an individual basis, and believes that government should be the major contributor of services and facilities in our society geared to the fulfilment of these needs and aspirations.

1.3 Labor believes in developing a society where youth is provided with such rights and services sufficient to produce citizens able to make a valued contribution back to the society.

1.4 Labor believes that all youth of NSW shall have the right to full and adequate services in the areas of:

2. Education

2.1 Labor commits itself to the provision of an education system which fosters in the youth of NSW the qualities of:

2.1.1 racial and religious tolerance

2.1.2 political awareness

2.1.3 social responsibility

2.1.4 personal development and growth

2.1.5 ethical perception

2.1.6 self-reliance

2.1.7 self-respect

2.1.8 non-sexist attitudes.

2.2 These qualities should be the rationale of future curriculum development in the State system.

2.3 Furthermore, that a priority be placed on the teaching of living skills, including legal and financial education.

2.4 Courses available to youth should not be restricted solely to employment-based subjects, but also to those that assist in the development of more satisfactory use of home and leisure time.

3. Employment training

3.1 Labor believes that the role of government is concerned with the provision of employment and the matching of skills to relevant vacancies. To this end, the NSW government should make it a priority to harness the skills of a newly-trained youth.

3.2 Labor believes that the role of government is not merely confined to the provisions of employment opportunities for youth, but should also include provisions to enable the school leaver to make a properly considered choice of employment in vocations best suited to their needs, temperaments and talents.

3.3 To this end, Labor advocates:

3.3.1 full-time careers advice staff be attached to each State high school

3.3.2 careers advice be a subject to the training of teachers and an integral part of the school curriculum from Year 8 onwards

3.3.3 that the State Government ensures that apprentices in New South Wales receive a full and comprehensive employment training in their chosen vocation by way of a state-run apprenticeship authority.

3.4 Labor recognises the educational value of work experience programs for career education. Work experience programs involve the observation of job situations by students and their appraisal. They should be engaged in work experience alongside a paid employee and never in place of a paid employee. Labor advocates that the Department of Education co-operate with the Labor Council of New South Wales in the development of work experience schemes.

4. Welfare

4.1 Labor believes that welfare should be based on universal needs and that welfare procedures should be established and developed through consultation.

4.2 Labor believes that:

4.2.1 The youth of New South Wales has the right to such services that will, in concert with formal education, allow the fullest possible expression of their aspirations and the fulfilment of their needs in training for life in employment, home life and recreation.

4.2.2 The availability of services for youth should not be governed by factors such as distance or isolation.

4.2.3 The availability of services and facilities for youth should, as a priority, be provided to those areas of greatest social and economic need.

5. Recreation

5.1 Labor believes that, along with the right to employment, young people have the right to enjoy themselves during their spare time in either active or passive recreation. Labor believes that it is the role of government to ensure that all young people are provided with facilities with which they can develop their leisure time to obtain maximum benefits.

5.2 Government developed recreation facilities should, where possible, be mobile to allow greater public use and access.

5.3 Labor believes that:

5.3.1 entertainment should be provided for the under-18 age group through local government bodies

5.3.2 sports facilities should be organised for multi-use purposes and that these be augmented by the use of school grounds after hours

5.3.3 special interest sports and community organisations should be catered for in each local area

5.4 government should give equal attention to the need for passive recreation facilities as is given to active recreation facilities.

6. Health

6.1 Labor commits itself to a program which will raise the standards of awareness of health, fitness and diet amongst New South Wales youth.

6.2 Labor maintains that:

6.2.1 disadvantaged areas be funded on a per capita basis to provide morning meals before school

6.2.2 all school canteens provide nutritious food daily

6.2.3 all high schools should provide courses of study of the effects of the use of alcohol, drugs, nicotine and volatile based substances and concentrating on the ultimate result of the use of such products

6.2.4 adequate information should be provided in schools and workplaces on matters concerning health, for example, diseases, hygiene and other medical conditions, and information should be provided as to their prevention and treatment.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- (d) The New South Wales Local Government Grants Commission makes grants to the state's 175 Councils.

(i)

The government should ensure that all appointments to the Commission are reviewed every five years.

- (ii) The government further ensure that the Commission disburses its funds in accordance with the Labor Party's objectives of equity and special assistance to disadvantaged councils, with a maximum 30 per cent of funds being distributed on a per capita basis as proposed by the National Inquiry into Local Government Finance.

5. Review of the Local Government Act 1919

A Labor Government should act to immediately establish a Committee representing the progressive forces in NSW local government to review and up-date the Local Government Act, 1919, so as to provide more adequate support for the state's local government in the last decade of the twentieth century. The review should consider:

- the provision of greater flexibility in the organisational structures of larger urban and provincial city councils;
- adequate managerial secondment, advice and training support for the many small rural councils;
- the appropriate indexing of all local government charges so as to avoid infrequent, cumbersome and large administrative changes;
- the declaration of pecuniary interests of elected members and senior staff in local government;
- the conflict between autonomy and responsibility together with the issue of dismissals;
- provide the infrastructure, training and resources for better financial management of local government through monitoring, counselling, and advisory services;
- bestowing of a general competency.

6. Boundaries

A Labor government should require the NSW Local Government Boundaries Commission to provide a report at the end of the first year of each four year local government term on:

- those councils with a per capita rate burden in highest 20 per cent of all NSW councils
- those councils where the percentage of total grants to total revenue places them in the highest 20 per cent of all NSW councils
- those councils with a per capita administrative cost in the highest 20 per cent of all councils; and
- a recommendation on whether these councils appearing consistently in categories, (a), (b) and (c) should be considered for amalgamation with a similar adjoining council to make one effective unit, or be absorbed into an already adjoining and efficient council, after consideration of:
 - financial viability;
 - community cohesiveness and identification.

7. County Councils

Specific purpose county councils should be considered wherever services can be provided more efficiently and effectively, for example, for electricity, water supply, noxious weeds control, plant and equipment sharing.

Furthermore all electricity retail distribution to be by county councils:

- comprising members elected by general purpose councils;
- boundary changes to council areas be affected by taking into account efficiency and effect on communities served;
- a uniform tariff for retailing electricity be established.

8. Local Government Planning

The State's planning has three clearly acknowledged levels of state, regional and local. With local planning:

- being the responsibility of councils of elected local government representatives taking due regard of local interest;
- making specific provisions to retain the existing characteristics of an area when considering any planning proposals;
- ensuring that industries obnoxious to the surrounding environment be established in large industrial parks at sites removed from population centres and fringed by large open space barriers;
- ensuring adequate co-ordination and co-operation, by local government being effectively involved in all aspects of State Government transport policy formation;
- ensuring all third parties who have natural rights of access, sunlight and reasonable privacy are informed of proposed developments and are clearly notified of their rights of objection;
- in accordance with the Party's environmental and urban development policies, local governments whilst acting to promote their communities' interests should not use their planning powers to prevent the equitable distribution of employment, regional facilities, community services and other forms of housing.

regional facilities, community services and other forms of housing.

9. Elected Members

The impact and effectiveness of ALP elected members should be improved by courses and higher remuneration:

- Head Office should arrange courses in basic local government law, finances and planning, with specific consideration being given to reviving the Annual ALP Aldermanic Conference using venues in different parts of the state;
- Remuneration for elected local government members be set at a fixed percentage of the basic salary of a Member of the NSW Parliament up to a maximum of 15 percent of such salary;
- Local government be required to institute the equal opportunity standards applying in the rest of the public sector;
- The term Alderman be replaced by Councillor and that it be optional to use the title of Mayor instead of President.
- The number of elected members to a council be no less than 9 and no more than 21;
- Ordinary meetings of metropolitan and provincial city councils be finishing before midnight;
- An adequate level of insurance cover be provided for elected members in the performance of their services.

10. Local Government Employees

- The state government re-introduce compulsory superannuation for all local government employees;
- The Local Government Act be altered to provide rights of reinstatement for employees;
- That the Local Government Act be amended to provide for the declaration of interests of senior officers and these declarations be maintained in a public register.

17. THE MEDIA

The sheer power of modern communications technology has allowed a new view of broadcasting to develop. Technology has become so powerful that it is capable, with few exceptions, of meeting whatever demands are placed on it. The benefit is a new freedom to base broadcasting development primarily upon social consideration rather than what is technically possible.

Public broadcasting is the sector most readily accessible to service specific social purposes with which state governments are concerned. Public broadcasting programs are inextricably involved with the concerns of the people in the communities they serve; and, in turn, many of the most important factors in these peoples' lives are within the purview of state governments notably education, health and others.

Therefore:

- NSW government departments should make use of the opportunities provided by community radio for the dissemination of legitimate public information.
- The government should make a regular financial commitment to public broadcasting, particularly to community broadcasters responding to the social needs of specific communities.
- The criteria for funding to be determined by the Division of Cultural Activities and the control and enforcement of these criteria be the responsibility of that division.
- Labor Media Resource Centre should be established to collect all Labor movement media output and facilitate the dissemination of information contained therein into the mainstream media.
- Contribute to the Australian Children's Television Foundation proportionate to the number of Australian children resident in NSW so that the quality of television programs directed at children is improved.

18. RURAL

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

Labor's rural policy is directed towards the enhancement and conservation of the resources of the state in order that:

- the long-term viability and productivity of primary industries dependent on natural resources will be ensured
- economic and social benefits will accrue to all people who live and work in rural and provincial New South Wales.

Within the terms of the general objective, to promote special objectives in the areas of employment, health, education, transport, communications and essential social amenities to ensure the achievement and protection of equality of access and opportunity for all citizens in the state, regardless of geographical location.

RURAL RESOURCES POLICY

- To implement, in co-operation with the Australian government, a National Conservation Strategy for sustainable development