

Australian Labor Party Victorian Branch

**State Conference
21 May 2011**



Book 2

- Conservation, Environment & Resources policy committee – page 2
- Transport policy committee – page 3
- Economics, Innovation, Employment & Industry Development policy committee – page 4
- Education & Youth Affairs policy committee - page 6
- Culture, Sports and Tourism policy committee – page 10
- Health, Community Services & Senior Victorians policy committee - page 15
- GLBTI policy committee – page 17
- Commonwealth Affairs & Federal Relations policy committee – page 19
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs policy committee – page 27

**REPORT OF THE CONSERVATION, ENVIRONMENT & RESOURCES
POLICY COMMITTEE**

A. GENERAL REPORT

Attendance since last Conference Report

Member	Attendance	Total Possible
Tony Flynn		
Marg Lewis		
Chrys Abraham		
Daniel Blandthorn	Counted Off	
Gayle Burmeister	Resigned	
Moss Cass		
Max Costello		
Ben Davis		
Richard Diamond		
Jeanette Johanson	LOA	
Peter Kreisner		
Anne Paul		
David Redfearn		
Susan Staples		
Julie Soares		
Helga Svendsen		
David Werner		
Lance Wilson		
Caroline Wright-Neville	Counted Off	
Associate Members	Attendance	Total Possible
Manny Manatakis		
Blair Trewin		

* Attendance has not been recorded as both meetings held since the last conference have been inquorate and informal with discussions about current issues and future planning taking place.

OTHER ITEMS including recommendations for future research.

Need to audit Federal Platform and hold a Policy Forum in relation to the Federal Platform promptly after the election of new Policy Committee.

Tony Flynn
President

Marg Lewis
Secretary

REPORT OF THE TRANSPORT POLICY COMMITTEE

A. GENERAL REPORT

Attendance since last Conference Report

Member	Attendance	Total Possible
Jan Thompson	0	1
Bill Albon	1	1
Chris Anderson	1	1
Adina Aquilina	0	1
Darren Arthur	1	1
Steve Boyce	0*	1
Kevin Bracken	0	1
Sacha Fenton	1	1
Ella George	0	1
Esther Glexiner	0	1
Russell Griffith	0	1
Mounir Kiwan	0	1
Victor Moore	1	1
Jason Murray	0	1
Jesse Overton-Skinner	1	1
Aynur Sirik	0	1
Manny Spiteri	0*	1
Shannon Threlfall-Clarke	0	1
John Parker	1	1
Grant Wainwright	1	1
Associate Members		
Brian Dunn	1	1
Bill Albon	1	1
Don Townsend	1	1
James Singh	1	1
Ken Sayer	1	1

B. STATE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

NA

C. FEDERAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

NA

Associate Members		Attendance	Total Possible
David	Bell	3	6
John	Benson	6	6
Moss	Cass	2	6
Alan	McPhate	5	6
Joy	Mettam	5	6
Kenneth	Sayers	5	6
L	Leake	0	6
T	Chambers	2	6
Tony	Salem	0	6
Blair	Boyer	0	6
Anton	Nekic	3	6
J	Douglas	3	6
A	Speakman	0	6
Jacinta	Allen	0	6
P	Erickson	0	6
J	Jarvis	0	6
R	Sercombe	0	6
A	Veal	0	6
L	Grealish	0	6

B. STATE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

NA

C. FEDERAL POLICY RECOMENDATIONS

2010 national review

The Committee request that the Administrative Committee outline a plan for progressing the consideration of recommendations of the Review in Victoria including discussion at the forthcoming autumn state conference.

Henry Tax review

That the Committee recommends that the Administrative Committee consider how policy committees will have input and representation on the Tax Forum to be conducted in the second half of 2011.

D. CORRESPONDENCE

Received from	Subject	Date	Action
NA			

E. OTHER ITEMS

Tony Falkingham
President

Jim Tangas
Secretary

C. FEDERAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Submission to the Review of Federal Funding to Schools:

Victorian ALP Education Policy Committee Response Review of Funding for Schooling

Aim of Public Education

The contribution of public schools is needed to build a cohesive society, especially important in a society characterised by high migration.

In the national interest, everyone should get a decent education; public funding may be needed to ensure that all students are educated at a community standard.

Important matters

The Committee believes the following matters to be important:

- * The federal government's primary obligation is to public education.
- * Clear expectations of organisations that receive public money should be set and monitored.
- * The concept of private and public in education to be clearly enunciated.
- * The improvement of educational outcomes for all students must be a priority.
- * The problem of the concept of choice; it cannot be unfettered because it may limit the choice of others.
- * Schools should only be funded at a community standard, otherwise they should receive no government funding.
- * There is a need for every child to have a quality education, which entails extra funding for students with extra needs (e.g., ESL, disability, socio-economic status).
- * High fee schools will always exist, but problems arise where middle level fee private schools deprive lower SES government schools of students, thus segregating the systems and turning government schools into residual, ghetto schools.

Educational Need

All students deserve a successful outcome from school.

While Australian students perform reasonably overall, Australian PISA results for social equity have not been as good as they should be. We can learn from countries like Canada, which is a comparable society to Australia's, and has a better equity outcome.

Need for Public Education

Public education has to be provided everywhere, accessible to all and take all students, regardless of students':

- location
- income
- cultural or religious background
- ability/disability.

Public school systems are therefore more expensive to operate, as they are not provided on the basis of economic modelling, but on the legislated duty to provide accessible, non-discriminatory education on a universal basis.

Problems with the Current Funding Model

The current model is disjointed and unfair because of:

- dual funding by state and federal governments has resulted in very large increases in funding to non-government schools (which are largely Commonwealth funded) in comparison with state/territory education systems
- the problem of significant overfunding of many non-government schools, including some of the most exclusive and expensive schools, caused by the commitment that no school would be worse off under the SES index introduced under the Howard administration
- the artificial census district SES formula, which is not based on the actual characteristics of parents sending their children to private school – this index has been shown to overestimate the income of families using public schooling, and to significantly underestimate the incomes of families using private schools
- the absence of limits set on the income spent on any one student
- the supposed impact of increased public funding (i.e. lower fees) has not eventuated (See “In the past 10 years inflation was 37%...”, The Sunday Age, 16/1/2011 for examples)
- the underfunding of government schools
- a lack of real choice in some areas for working class people without payment of fees or religious affiliation -choice for some should not be at the cost of limiting choice for others.

Future funding arrangements should be:

- based on needs
- coordinated, to ensure that state and federal funding together contribute to the achievement of a fairer outcome from schooling
- ensure that every student receives a quality education, in schools funded to a ‘community standard’
- limited to schools that are prepared to abide by the obligations set out below

All subsidies should be completely removed from schools that are already operating at a level that is above the established community standard.

In addition, a new national school education policy commission should be established, involving key stakeholders and education academics, to advise government on strategies for addressing educational disadvantage in Australia.

Obligations for Schools that Receive Public Funding

All schools that receive public funding should:

- be subject to equal employment legislation
- be subject to the same admission and expulsion regulations as government schools
- practice complete administrative transparency, including accurate disclosure of investment properties, shareholdings, depreciation expenses, fees, government grants and donations
- have a limited scope to charge fees
- not use any public funding for religious instruction or the construction of facilities for use by a religious organisation
- be available for public use, on the same terms as public schools, where buildings have been constructed with government funds

In addition, limits should be set on the establishment of new schools which could be achieved by the re-introduction of the New Schools Policy (abolished during the Howard Government).

This policy required any proposal for a new school or campus of an existing school, to be subject to an educational impact statement, to ensure that there was actually a need for new education places in the area. It also required new schools (campuses) to demonstrate financial viability.

Marg Lewis
Chair
Victorian ALP Education Policy Committee

2. Submission to the Higher Education Base Funding Review

Federal Labor when in opposition prepared a “White Paper on Higher Education, Research and Innovation – Australia’s Universities: Building our Future in the World.” The paper was issued by Jenny Macklin MP Shadow Minister for Education, Training, Science and Research in July 2006. (ALP, 2006)

“This White Paper begins a dialogue to develop a new policy framework for higher education, research and innovation that fits Australia’s needs and circumstances. Labor’s nation-building reform will result in real choice and higher quality education and training for individuals. Lifting up all universities is central to a Beasley’s Labor Government’s economic agenda to build a prosperous future for all Australians.”

The *economic* and *social imperatives* needed for Australia to sustain a superior knowledge-based society both globally and in the Asian arena was stressed in the paper. HIGHER EDUCATION was the main focus of the White Paper and the problems with the (then) current policy were identified as *Inflexibility*, *Underfunded* and *Quality under threat*. Labor’s higher education policies was introduced as,

“In today’s market-driven environment, policy must promote competitiveness, diversity choices for students, higher demands of quality and safeguard community benefit. Labor supports competition and will encourage diversification and innovation in the provision of higher education.”

More specifically *Quality*, *University Financing*, *Student participation and support*; *Research and Innovation* were addressed in detail.

The impressive list of Labor’s first term achievements in keeping with the White Paper are listed below;

1. Commonwealth Funding increased and linked to indexation .
2. Removal of restrictive compliance conditions and reporting requirements.
3. Abolition of Higher Education Workplace Relations Requirements (HEWRRs)
4. Mission Based Compacts with each university to cater for diversity and different missions.
5. Terminated full-fee places for Australian undergraduates at public universities.
6. Expand the availability of Associated Degree programs through universities and TAFE Colleges.

The Education Youth and Affairs Policy Committee (EYAPC) Post Compulsory Sub-Committee of the Victorian Branch of the Australian Labor Party contends that the Federal Labor Government, in its second term of office, enables the realisation of its “broader direction for higher education policy” (ALP, 2006) by substantially increasing the public funding of Higher

Education to at least the equivalent average of OECD countries in terms of GDP so to maintain international competitiveness and to not fall further behind.

And further, the EYAPC contends the Review Panel proposes a funding model based on the above, "...that gives all institutions strong incentives to invest in and deliver high quality teaching, maintain strong academic standards and enrol students from low socioeconomic backgrounds." (Australian Government, 2010). Unless the above is done the Review of Basic Funding for Higher Education "... *for teaching and learning...*" will remain „tinkering around the edges of what could be a magnificent opportunity to create a threshold change in Higher Education for all Australians.

Marg Lewis
Chair
ALP Education & Youth Affairs Policy Committee

E. OTHER ITEMS including recommendations for future research

- The Policy Committee intends to undertake research on the following issues for future policy development:
- Teacher welfare
- Network based support & resource facilities
- School size
- School staffing
- School rebuilding program
- Re-organisation of DEECD facilities management
- School Council membership discrimination

Marg Lewis
President

Alex white
Secretary

REPORT OF THE CULTURE, SPORT & TOURISM POLICY COMMITTEE

A. GENERAL REPORT – MAY 2011

Attendance since last printed Conference Report (November 2009)

Members	Attendance	Total Possible
Colin Benjamin		1
John-Paul Blandthorn	6	9
Tony Cahill		1
David Cragg (Secretary)	8	8
Judith Crozier	8	9
Joshua Cusack		1
Robert Dimmack		1

Brian Dunn	8	9
Nick Gemmell		1
Matthew Incerti	5	7
Pam Mutton	6	7
Brett Osler		1
Stephen Paul (President)	9	9
Tony Robinson	1	1
Shannon Threlfall-Clarke		1
Patricia Toop		1
Jim Yuncken	3	3
Martin Zakharov	8	9
Associate Members	Attendance	Total Possible
Shadow Ministers / Advisors	Attendance	Total Possible
Lisa Neville MP (Arts)		
- Claire McClelland, advisor		
Luke Donnellan MP (Sport)	2	2
- Beth Edwards, advisor		
Martin Pakula MLC		
- Christina Dickinson (Gaming)		
- Harriet Shing (Racing)		
Justin Madden MP (Tourism)		
- Claire McClelland, advisor		

B. REPORT ON THE WORKING OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

The Committee in full has met EIGHT times since November 2009 State Conference – on November 25 in 2009 – February 24, March 24, April 28, May 26 & June 23 (an historic evening!!!!) in 2010 – and February 23, March 23 in 2011. The gap of more than six months is attributable to the Federal Election on 21 August and the State Election on 27 November, both of which preoccupied committee members.

In addition, sub-committee and special meetings have also been held. The Committee has formed three Sub-Committees, with convenors as follows:

- Culture & Arts – Martin Zakharov
- Sport & Recreation – (vacant)
- Tourism & Gaming – David Cragg

The Committee meets at Head Office at 6.00 pm on the Fourth Wednesday of the month. Its next regular meeting post-conference will be scheduled for **Wednesday, 22 June 2011 – 6.00 pm** at ALP Head Office – and all interested party members are welcome to attend.

Since November 2010, Shadow Sport & Recreation Minister (**Luke Donnellan MP**) has given Committee members comprehensive portfolio briefings. In addition, Ministerial Advisors had previously regularly attended committee meetings.

C. STATE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS – MAY 2011

Preamble

Committee representatives Stephen Paul & Matt Incerti met with the ALP Platform Committee in December 2009, as did Stephen & David Cragg in March 2010.

Regrettably, the Committee Report to June 2010 Conference was mislaid by ALP Head Office, and was not printed in the agenda papers available to conference delegates at that time. The recommendations below include items adopted prior to June 2010, as well as newer items.

Motion

“That the State Conference adopt the following State Policy recommendations –

ARTS

- Notes with concern the ongoing problems in the relationship between VCA and Melbourne University (viz. submission & comments by former minister Race Mathews)
- The desirability, within reasonable financial limits, to be pro-active in avant garde areas of artistic endeavour
- The desirability of providing support mechanisms to improve access to venues or forums for amateur or emerging artists, rather than the Government trying to pick “winning” performers
- Strong support for the representative body “Music Victoria”, recently established by the Victorian Labor Government
- State Government support for critical mentor programs, structured peer review opportunities and other developmental aid schemes to assist the emergence of new practitioners in the Arts
- Encouragement through Film Victoria for innovative script development outside the commercial mainstream
- Supports the use of the municipal level of government for the delivery of community arts programs (for example, arts tourism in regional centres), similar to sports programs effectively implemented through LGA’s and recommends expansion of the role of local government in Arts funding as a way to better respond to the breadth of diversity in the sector.

ELITE and COMMUNITY

- Need to develop better linkages between “Elite Arts & Sports” (e.g. AFL, Grand Prix, NGA, Opera) and “Community Arts & Sports” in suburbs and regional centres

INNOVATION

- Via the Innovation portfolio, the development of longer term plans to roll out hi-tech and inter-active communications initiatives across both Cultural and Sports areas
- But – importantly – move Film and Television policy back from the Innovation portfolio to the Arts portfolio

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT & LIQUOR LICENCES

- Inconsistency of application of policy – requirement to provide security in live music venues, but not a requirement on ALL liquor licences – this seems a misplaced priority – check with AHA
- More robust refusal of entry to drunks, at both arts & sporting venues
- Training and licensing of security staff AND firms – check with LHMU
- The particular King Street problem – Town Planning permits for entertainment, and Liquor Licences, should be more sensitive to the nature of particular premises and their likely clientele
- Government commit to a Review of Live Entertainment in next Parliamentary Term
- And commission academic research to identify changed patterns of social behaviour and community expectations of licensed premises

MYKI & TOURISM

- The extent to which the introduction of Myki may impact on Tourism and Special Events, and the ease of movement around Melbourne
- Support the further development of Tourism Trains, with links to local tourist attractions – for example, use of the steam railway niche market and the possible extension of Train Trails to the Healesville Zoo (subject to viable coexistence with freight usage)
- Support for the assessment of a multi-use “Eurorail” style tourist pass

SPORTS

- Special care for the promotion of “codes of conduct” across Victoria’s 16,000 sporting clubs and 74 State Federations, to address issues of concern such as racial vilification, discrimination, health & safety and a general duty of care
- Special emphasis on the relationship of different sporting codes to schools, and the impact on nurturing enthusiasm and interest for particular sports

- To support the development of a comprehensive Motor Sports policy, in particular to address the drag racing problem on public roads. Any policy should assess the viability of multi-use strips around Melbourne’s fringe, to provide appropriate outlets for sports competitors and members of the public

D. FEDERAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS – MAY 2011

Preamble

Motion

“That the State Conference adopt the following Federal Policy recommendations –

ARTS

- To encourage the Commonwealth Government to reinstate the traditional national policy of an “Australian-made” requirement for all radio, TV and film advertising

SPORTS

- To repeat at a national level the Victorian State Policy of establishing an independent statutory body to regulate and oversee sports betting
- Support for a national law, or uniform state legislation, to oversee the governance of ALL sports where gambling may threaten the integrity of the code. The need for nationally-coordinated action across all relevant sports, such as Rugby and Australian Rules, parallel to the governance of racing
- National Sporting Organizations should fund their respective State Sporting Organizations, to minimize unnecessary duplication of funding or waste in expenditure

E. CORRESPONDENCE – MAY 2011

F. OTHER ITEMS – MAY 2011

A number of policy recommendations are repeated in this May 2011 Report – the Committee’s fourth report to Conference – from our 3rd Report (June 2010). There is a reason for this. Regrettably, Head Office was unable to print our 3rd Report in the conference papers tabled in June 2010 – we have no idea why, but we regret any inconvenience caused to Conference. Head Office has not provided any explanation for this apparent maladministration.

STEPHEN PAUL
President

DAVID CRAGG
Secretary (pro tem)

**REPORT OF THE HEALTH, COMMUNITY SERVICES & SENIOR VICTORIANS POLICY
COMMITTEE POLICY COMMITTEE**

A. GENERAL REPORT

Attendances since last Conference Report

Member	Attendance	Total Possible
Terrie Seymour	1	2
Robyn Williams	2	2
Phillip Bain	2	2
Anne Black	2	2
Margaret Barrett	1	2
Frank Thompson	1	2
Ilia Vurtel	2	2
Joshua Cullinan	1	2
Graeme Doidge	1	2
Andrew Giles	0	2
Marlene Kairouz	0	2
Paul Frayne	0	2
Felicity Smith	1	2
John Ryan Resigned 10/2/10		
Bernie Chatley (elected on countback 10/2/10)		
Antony Kenney	0	2
Fleur Harbridge	0	2
Angela Oborn	0	2
Fiona Zapantis	0	2
Lizzy Zwalf	0	2
Cecila Gomez (elected on countback 13/4/10)	0	2
Associate Members	Attendance	Total Possible
Valerie Gerrand	1	2
Ric Pawsey	1	2
Anne Howe (resigned 5/3/11)	2	2
Philip Benjamin	0	2
Maxine Grierson	0	2
Anne Thompson	0	2
Abdullah Mohammad	0	2

Vince Lyneham	0	2
Sofia Kotandis	0	2
Katherine Kingsbury	0	2
John Cheshire	0	2
Helen Norman	0	2

B. STATE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

See E. below

C. FEDERAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

See E. below

D. CORRESPONDENCE

Received from	Subject	Date	Action
Mental Health sub-committee	Removal of Medicare rebates for mental health services provided by Social Workers & Occupation Therapists under the Better Access programs from July 1 2010	10/6/2010	Correspondence sent to Nicola Roxon Minister for Health and Ageing

E. OTHER ITEMS

Productivity Commission Reports

Associate member Anna Howe agreed to represent this Policy Committee at both Productivity Commission hearings on their Draft Report ***Caring for Older Australians*** and ***Disability Care and Support*** in March and April 2011.

Reforms

Items that have been under discussion include support for the former Victoria Labor Government's efforts for Commonwealth health and hospital reforms via COAG. The Committee supports

- the need, to retain the integrity and funding of Community Health in Victoria
- the continuation of the highly valued primary care programs
- the need for additional Commonwealth investment in infrastructure, workforce and additional hospital beds.

Medicare

On the unresolved Better Access to Mental Health services covered by Medicare, this Policy Committee urges Minister Roxon to re-evaluate the changes in order to include Social Workers & Occupational Therapists so that people who are most at risk, including those who may develop more severe conditions can access early intervention services and support.

Terrie Seymour
President

Robyn Williams
Secretary

REPORT OF THE GLBTI POLICY COMMITTEE

A. GENERAL REPORT

Attendance since last Conference Report dated 21 May 2010

Members	Attendance	Total Possible
Greg Adkins	5	6
Mark Baker	2	6
Angela Bell	3	6
Megan Berry	4	6
Sarah Cole	5	6
Holly Cooper	1	6
David Imber	3	6
Jamie Gardiner	6	6
Liz Landray	5	6
Tim Lisle-Williams	2	6
Jennie McKenzie	0	6
Steve Michelson	4	6
Olivia Pantelidis	0	6
Steve Perryman	3	6
Sarah Rogan	0	2
Luke Sheehy	1	2
Daniel Skelton	2	6
Steven Staikos	3	6
Dr Paul Vout	2	6
Lance Wilson	1	6
Associate Members	Attendance	Total Possible
Hugh Mortensen	3	6
James Russell	3	6

Resignations

Sarah Rogan resigned from the ALP in October 2010

Luke Sheehy resigned from the committee (transfer to the ACT Branch) in February 2011

B. STATE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

That the law be reformed to remove discrimination against same-sex couples and their children in relation to both known-parent adoption and adoption in general.

That the Liberal–National Government proposals to amend the Equal Opportunity Act 2010 so as to expand the licence of religious bodies to discriminate be vigorously opposed.

C. FEDERAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

That the National Platform be amended to require an end to sex and sexual orientation discrimination in the Marriage Act 1961.

That the homophobia revealed in the wake of recent Defence Force scandals be deplored, and a full investigation and report be required.

That Australia should adopt and pursue a policy of opposing homophobic and transphobic laws and practices internationally, and in our region in particular, and take steps to encourage countries in our region and beyond to respect and protect the human rights of lesbians and gay men and of transgender and intersex people.

D. CORRESPONDENCE

Received from	Subject	Date	Action
NA			

E. OTHER ITEMS including recommendations for future research

NA

Steve Perryman
President

Jamie Gardiner
Secretary

27 April 2011

**REPORT OF THE COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS AND FEDERAL RELATIONS
POLICY COMMITTEE**

A. GENERAL REPORT

Attendance since last Conference Report

Member	Attendance	Total Possible
Max Costello	2	2
Judy Crozier	1	2
Sacha Fenton	0	2
Shelley Freeman	0	2
Sylvia Freeman	0	2
Peter Gelo	2	2
Ella George	0	2
Helen Hill	0	2
Judith Klepner	1	2
John Langmore	0*	0
Anthony Leong	0	2
Cynthia Pilli	2	2
Cesar Piperno	1	2
James Reeves	0	2
Robin Rothfield	2	2
Warren Sapir	2	2
Hakki Suleyman	1	2
Simon Miller	2	2
Dean Rizzetti	2	2
Associate Members	Attendance	Total Possible
Ken Sayer	2	2
Harvey Stern	2	2
Dong Thi Trung	1	2

B. STATE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

NA

C. FEDERAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Pursuit of climate change and other important public policy

The Commonwealth Affairs and Federal Relations policy committee seeks strong policy on the part of the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party towards taking action to address climate change in the present term.

Moved: Robin Rothfield
Seconded: Judy Crozier

Status and future of asylum seeker policy

That the CAFR policy committee write to the Prime Minister, requesting a full and frank updating on government policy towards asylum seekers by boat. This letter would raise the following points:

- 1 The committee's appreciation of policy difficulties arising from the Coalition's break with traditional bipartisan approaches towards asylum seekers, and our appreciation of the PM's efforts during the election to debunk mythologies propounded by some media and Opposition about asylum seekers.

The dispelling of such mythologies is basic to the development of good policy. Such an approach should include not only the full facts behind appeals for asylum, but also the financial and social costs of mandatory detention, as it now exists, compared to community-based alternatives.

- 2 The committee's welcoming of the announcement that children and their families be moved into appropriate community-based accommodation.

Transfers should be a matter of urgency, and the new procedure should be a matter for legislation.

- 3 The committee now sees questions arising out of pre-election pronouncements on changes in policy, and asks how these relate to principles that underpin current Party policy at Federal and State levels. Such issues include:

- our relief that the freeze on processing of asylum seekers from certain ethnic groups has been lifted, but our concern that Afghani asylum seekers are being discriminated against, particularly when it is well known that Hazaras remain in real danger of persecution in Afghanistan. We refer to chapter 7, paragraph 156 of the National Platform:

Australia will comply with the non-refoulement and all other protection obligations we have voluntarily assumed in signing the Refugee Convention and other

relevant international instruments and actively engaging in the work of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees and other relevant international and regional agencies;

- how changes to notions of offshore processing fit with ALP policy and Australia's commitment to the UN Convention on Refugees, including the maintenance of the right to seek asylum, the guarantee of transparency of process and the treatment of people; further we seek to know what role is envisaged for the UN, eg in planning oversight, and what for Australian authorities and for the authorities of the host nation.

- 4 The committee welcomes the High Court's decision to allow judicial oversight of offshore decisions on asylum claims, and urge that the government respect this decision.

Public policy toward asylum seekers by boat should be based on strong humanitarian principles; Party principles should be adhered to with regard to treatment of vulnerable persons, the minimizing of any period of detention, and the avoidance of placing of such people in any position of risk; and all processes and treatment must be transparent, in order to ensure respect for justice and human rights.

Policy must move away from the legal fiction of excision of Australian territory from the migration zone; and the effectively two-tiered and discriminatory processing system be abolished in favour of transparency and fairness.

- 5 The Committee believes it is time to increase Australia's intake of refugees and build in greater flexibility regarding intake of refugees from regions of high need and amongst those who have been languishing offshore for long periods.

Australia's annual intake under the Refugee and Humanitarian program should be increased to at least 20,000 persons, to allow for greater flexibility on the basis of need.

Moved : Judy Crozier

Seconded: Robin Rothfield

CARRIED

MOTION ON URANIUM EXPORTS TO RUSSIA

The Commonwealth Affairs and Federal Relations Policy Committee draws the attention of Prime Minister Julia Gillard to:

- the attached motion dealing with the export of uranium to Russia submitted as part of the report to the ALP Victorian State Conference of June 2010 which was adopted by Conference
- the media release of 11 November 2010 which announced a nuclear cooperation agreement between Australia and Russia which will see Australia sell uranium to Russia – see <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/11/11/3064183.htm?section=justin>

and requests the Prime Minister to explain the response of the Government (to each of the 9 objections set out in the motion) which permitted the decision to export uranium to Russia.

Moved: Robin Rothfield
Seconded: Warren Sapir

CARRIED

Previous motion: Uranium exports to Russia

The Commonwealth Affairs and Federal Relations Policy Committee recommends to the Victorian ALP State Conference:

That Conference calls on the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party to heed the 2008 report of the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties which recommended that the 2006 Howard Government agreement to start uranium exports to Russia be shelved.

Conference urges the FPLP to consider the following reasons for continuing to oppose the exports of uranium to Russia:

- The military are inextricably linked to the civilian nuclear sector in Russia so that Australian uranium is then supporting and endorsing the Russian military sector. The military show every indication of continuing to produce and upgrade their nuclear weapons and delivery systems, and their nuclear facilities can be expected to continue to have leaks and spills and contamination and fail to adequately manage radioactive waste.
- On the evidence presented to the federal parliamentary inquiry, the likelihood is that Australian uranium would simply disappear off the safeguards radar on arrival in Russia. This treaty allows Australian uranium to be processed and used in facilities that are not covered by the International Atomic Energy Agency - so that DFAT would then ignore where our own uranium would go.
- Providing nuclear material to Russia will exacerbate the terrorist, environmental, waste management and health risks associated with Russian nuclear facilities and materials.
- Safeguards cannot prevent Australian uranium from being used, either directly or indirectly, for nuclear weapons or in military programs - including as fuel for military and research reactors. Under the terms of the Australia-Russia Nuclear Cooperation Agreement, some Australian uranium will be processed in and pass through non-IAEA safeguarded facilities.
- The Agreement also leaves open the dangerous possibility of reprocessing, whereby weapons usable plutonium is separated from spent reactor fuel.
- Article IX of the Australia-Russia Nuclear Cooperation Agreement allows Russia to withhold any information relating to "State Secrets" Presumably this could include

information on the potential diversion of - or other mismanagement of - Australian uranium. This secrecy would automatically negate the whole purpose of safeguards.

- Whistleblowers form an important part of the detection of illicit activity. They must be given legal protection. In Russia they typically receive not protection but punishment.
- The announcement by Russia's Prime Minister Putin, that Russia would help Iran launch and fuel its first nuclear power plant, has added a new dimension of concern about the possible end use of Australian uranium. At a minimum, Australian uranium supplies allow for the diversion of limited Russian uranium supplies to provide nuclear fuel to countries that Australia would not countenance for direct uranium and nuclear trade.
- Russia is failing to fully observe its NPT nuclear disarmament obligations under the NPT Article VI and Objects of the NPT, for:

"...the elimination from national arsenals of nuclear weapons and the means of their Delivery...under strict and effective international control" (NPT 1967)

Labor's national policy commitments set out a fundamental pre-condition to only supply Australian uranium to countries observing the NPT:

In relation to exports, Labor will allow the export of uranium only to those countries which observe the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), are committed to non-proliferation policies, have ratified international and bilateral nuclear safeguards agreements and maintain strict safeguards and security controls over their nuclear power industries.

(ALP National Platform 2009, Chapter 3, para 140)

Enrolment of new voters

That State Conference urges the Federal Government to reverse the previous Liberal Government's unethical curtailing of voters' rights to timely enrollment provisions.

Further, rather than relying on the high court decision in the GetUp! case, conference calls for the Government to legislate to confirm that (a) the electoral roll shall be kept open, allowing persons to apply to be enrolled, until three working days before the election date, and (b) such persons, if eligible, shall then be placed on the roll.

Moved: Robin Rothfield
Seconded: Max Costello

CARRIED

Fixed Four-year Terms

That CAFR policy committee endorse the establishment of fixed four-year terms for both houses of Parliament at the Federal level, as is already in existence in some States, on the grounds that this broadened cycle would provide more scope for important forward planning and the establishment of key public reforms.

Moved: Robin Rothfield
Seconded: Dean Rizzetti

CARRIED

OH & S issues

Given that, in the Sister Brigid Arthur case (January 2011), the High Court found “strong and uncontested evidence” of a serious risk of psychological harm to asylum seeker children held in offshore detention, the CAFR policy committee calls on the Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills, Jobs and Workplace Relations, Senator Chris Evans:

a) using his power under s. 12(2) of the Occupational Health and Safety Act 1991 (“the act”) to direct the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission to promptly commence an investigation into – and provide to the Minister a report with recommendations about – the apparent contravention of the following provision of the Act:

- Duty of employers in relation to third parties

An Employer must take all reasonably practicable steps to ensure that persons at or near a workplace under the employer’s control who are not the employer’s employees or contractors are not exposed to risk to their health or safety arising from the conduct of the employer’s undertaking.

b) upon receiving such report and recommendations, to make them public and announce the Government’s response to them.

Moved: Max Costello
Seconded: Harvey Stern

CARRIED

Gonski Review

Motion: That the CAFR policy committee refer the following motion to the Education Policy committee: That as a matter of consistency in application of fundamental Labor principals in the area of Commonwealth-State relations this committee asks that the Government’s response to the Gonski Review of federal funding of schools ensures that a resource allocation principle is applied to future funding direct to schools so that the wealthiest schools will eventually receive no funding and funds are re-distributed in favour of disadvantaged government and non-government schools in low-income communities.

Moved: Robin Rothfield
Seconded: Cynthi Pilli

CARRIED

Same Sex Marriage

Motion: In regard to Penny Wong's motion carried at the recent South Australian ALP conference, namely:

This convention calls upon the ALP national conference to amend the platform to support the legal right of all adult couples in Australia to be married if they so choose, and for that marriage to be recognised and registered by law in Australia, regardless of the sexual orientation, or gender, of the parties to the marriage.

That the Victorian State Conference also calls upon the ALP national conference to amend the platform to support the legal right of all adult couples in Australia to be married if they so choose, and for that marriage to be recognised and registered by law in Australia, regardless of the sexual orientation, or gender, of the parties to the marriage.

Moved: Harvey Stern

Seconded: Robin Rothfield

CARRIED 4 -3: Peter Gelo, Simon Miller and Hakki Sulleyman asked that their dissent be noted.

Vietnam Motion

That the CAFR Policy Committee write to Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd about Vietnam's political prisoners who are imprisoned or held under house arrest. This letter should cover the following points:

A request for information on what the Australian Government is doing regarding:

- Expressing concerns for and advocating for the release of political prisoners,
- Learning about their health, wellbeing, and how they are treated under detention

A request that the Australian Government consider, in addition to its current activities, the following additional actions:

1. Having Australian Government officials meet families of political prisoners at their homes or at the consulate, and seeking the Vietnamese authorities' permission to visit political prisoners. These meetings and requests would show Australia's concern in a practical way, and help Australian officials learn about conditions in jail as well as hear the prisoners' and their families' stories

2. Review the human rights-specific aid program called Australia-Vietnam Human Rights Technical Cooperation, in terms of political prisoners. The HRTC is meant to improve the

authorities' understanding of and respect for human rights. The Review would assess how effective the HRTC has been in terms of citizens being able to exercise their rights without being jailed

Moved: Trung Doan

Seconded: Robin Rothfield

CARRIED

7.4 Foreign Aid

The Commonwealth Affairs & Federal Relations Policy Committee ("**CAFR**") notes the Party's commitment to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals ("**MDGs**"), the aspirational goal for Australia's overseas development assistance funding of 0.7% of Gross National Income ("**GNI**"), and the return of Australia to a place of leadership in international development assistance (as contained in paragraphs 92 to 94 of Chapter 10 of the National Platform).

In addition, CAFR notes that funding for Australia's overseas development assistance now stands at approximately \$4.349 billion (representing 0.33% of Gross National Income ("**GNI**")), and that the Federal Government is working towards the achievement of a target of 0.5% of GNI by 2015.

CAFR requests that the Federal Government:

- Establishes a timetable for the achievement of the goal of 0.7% of GNI for Australia's overseas development assistance funding, and the intermediate target of 0.5% of GNI by 2015 and
- In line with the achievement of the aspirational goal of 0.7% of GNI and the intermediate target of 0.5% of GNI by 2015, ensures a significant increase in funding for Australia's overseas development assistance in the 2011/2012 Federal Budget, expressed both as a monetary figure and a proportion of GNI, featuring, but not limited to, the following –
 - 6 An expansion of levels of funding support for water and sanitation programs (\$180 million under the 2010/2011 Federal Budget) to the requirement of \$350 million per annum as contained in the MDGs;
 - 7 Increases in funding for health, in particular maternal and child health and HIV in both country-specific and regional programs; and
 - 8 Increases in funding for climate change mitigation and adaptation in developing countries and natural resource management.

Moved: Simon Miller

Seconded: Peter Gelo

CARRIED

D. CORRESPONDENCE

To	Subject	Date	Action
Hon. Kevin Rudd MP	Vietnam	27 April 2011	
Hon. Chris Bowen MP	Refugee matters	14 April 2011	
Hon. Julia Gillard MP	Russia & climate change	14 April 2011	
Hon Chris Evans	OH & S issues	14 April 2011	

E. OTHER ITEMS

NA

Simon Miller
President

Dean Rizzetti
Secretary

REPORT OF THE ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AFFAIRS POLICY COMMITTEE

A. GENERAL REPORT

Attendance since last Conference Report

<i>Member</i>	<i>Attendance</i>	<i>Total Possible</i>
Jenne Perlstein	4*	5
Beth Edwards	5	5
Grant Poulter	2*	5
Clare George	4*	5
Edwina Byrne	3	3
Nicole Lynch	4*	5
John Marra	0	5
Hugh Mortensen	1	5
Nathan Murphy	0	5

Andrew Scott	0	5
Lorie Werner	3*	5
Sheena Watt	0	1
Sue Fairbairn	2	2
Heather Abramson	2	2
Adam McLean	1	2
Koora Cooper	1**	5
Harvey Stern	2**	5
Andre Zonn	3**	5
Ella George	1**	5
<i>Associate Members</i>		
<i>Attendance</i>		
<i>Total Possible</i>		
No associates as there is room to co-opt as full members all new interested members due to non-attendance of several original committee members		

*full apologies

**partial apologies

B. STATE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

That more support be given to newly elected policy committees, provided by state office, in the form of information packs, work timetables and output targets over the full term of the committee, as well as in relation to platform formulation.

Moved: Beth Edwards

Seconded: Hugh Mortensen

Labor will financially support the recognised reconciliation body on a recurrent basis to continue the very important work of reconciliation between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Victorians.

Moved: Lorie Werner

Seconded: Clare George

That Koora Cooper is recognised as the Victorian NILN representative, and her nomination be accepted by the state branch and forwarded to National Secretariat.

Moved: Jenne Perlstein

Seconded: Harvey Stern

That the committee make a submission to Rules Revision Committee about structure of ATSI policy committee.

Moved: Lorie Werner

Seconded: Nicole Lynch

C. FEDERAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

None

D. CORRESPONDENCE

Received from	Subject	Date	Action
Gavin Jennings	Barmah State forest duck hunting and ILUA	7 th July 2010	none
Bob Cameron	Justice recommendations	24 th June 2010	none
ALP State Office	Policy Co-ordination committee meeting 10 th April	5th April	ATSI committee representatives attending

E. OTHER ITEMS including recommendations for future research

The committee has a timetable scheduled for our work over the next 8 months, leading into National Conference at the end of this year.

Jenne Perlstein
President

Beth Edwards
Secretary