

# **PLP CONSTITUTION**

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the years**

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## **PREAMBLE**

The Progressive Labour Party will prioritise working class economic issues while supporting social and environmental issues, and will be based on the working class in all its diversity while encompassing as broad a section of the community as possible. It will be union and award supportive and will be broadly left in its membership.

Its programs will reflect the aim of creating a socialist and democratic society, and will recognise that this can be best achieved by the development of policies that are democratic, egalitarian and sustainable within party structures and practices that promote fairness and equality regarding gender, race, sexual preference religion, ethnicity and age.

This party will actively seek to develop a broad Electoral Alliance of progressive groups and parties that will act to replace the economic rationalist policies of both major parties in Australian politics.

The Progressive Labour Party aims to keep this Alliance focused on class and structural issues and towards progressive change rather than simply staying on the defensive against the powerful New Right culture and institutions which now prevail.

## **1 NAME**

The name of the Party will be the Progressive Labour Party

## **2 FOUNDING PRINCIPLES**

The PLP is committed to the following principles:

### **2.1 Participatory Democracy.**

The PLP recognises the right of all people to participate in the decisions that affect the lives of all Australians, presently and in the future.

### **2.2 Socialism and State Responsibility.**

The PLP is committed to the equitable redistribution of wealth and resources through public ownership and control of strategic resources. The State has a positive duty to intervene in the monetary economy and to promote the welfare of its citizens. The PLP shall be guided by the vision of the achievement of human emancipation and equality. The party is committed to a society in which the highest aim is the intellectual, emotional, spiritual, physical, creative and social fulfillment of each individual, including egalitarian, democratic and co-operative participation in the political,

economic and social life of their communities. It is committed to the creation and

redistribution of wealth through public ownership of strategic resource and production,

through the democratization of the area of production and distribution, against the

present capitalist culture of individualization and privatisation

### **2.3 Social Justice.**

The PLP recognises the right of all people to expert and appropriate health care; proper housing; free education; socially useful and environmentally sustainable employment; freedom from discrimination and exploitation.

### **2.4 Environmental and Social Sustainability.**

The PLP is committed to sustained environmentally sound, humane, social and ecological development.

### **2.5 Reconciliation.**

The PLP is committed to the process of reconciliation in consultation with and as determined by the indigenous peoples of Australia.

### **2.6 Women.**

The PLP is committed to the full participation of women in all aspects of society and will promote gender equity within the PLP

### **2.7 Diversity.**

The PLP respects people's differences and promotes cultural, ethnic, sexual, religious and spiritual diversity.

### **2.8 Global Responsibility**

The PLP recognises that Australia is part of a global community. It seeks co-operation between all peoples and equitable redistribution of the world's resources.

### **2.9 Dignity**

The PLP is committed to a society in which all can live with dignity.

### **2.10 Equality**

The PLP is committed to a society that takes whatever steps are necessary and feasible to ensure that there is genuine equality of opportunity and outcomes available for all.

## **3 PRINCIPLES OF ACTION**

3.1 To achieve the Founding Principles, the PLP adopts the following principles of action:

- The PLP will promote its objectives and policy through participation in community groups;
- support for trade unions;
- the development of active PLP Branches;
- The fostering of appropriate networks and coalitions.
- It will work through constitutional and legislative action through all levels of parliament and government, including municipal and other statutory authorities, as well as through direct extra-parliamentary action.

## 4 POLICY

4.1 All policy of the PLP will be informed by and evolve from the Founding Principles through the Principles of Action.

4.2 PLP policy will be determined annually at National Conference and will be contained in PLP policy statements documents programs and platforms.

4.3 A PLP National Policy Committee will oversee policy development including revision, updating and reconciliation of existing policies, and facilitate grassroots membership involvement in such policy development, reporting to and under the direction of the National Council or Executive. Its work will be to produce on-going economic and social policy and proposals in line with the party's basic platform, with such policies and proposals to be approved by National Council between National Conferences, and to be ratified at National Conference. National Council or Conference may make amendments to the proposed policies but in the event of serious differences of view where appropriate should refer the section concerned back to the Policy Committee for a further process of consultation with the membership.

4.4 It will be elected annually and will comprise ex-officio the National President, National Vice-President, National Secretary, National Treasurer, and National Policy Co-ordinator, together with one representative from each Branch.

4.5 The National Policy Committee can appoint such officers, such as minute taker, necessary for its internal working, and can establish specialist working groups open to all members to assist the policy formulation process. All members of the party have the right to participate fully in any working group.

4.6 Policy Drafts and Documents Procedure

Apart from such working documents as the Policy Committee may prepare, policy documents will be at three levels:

Level one: **Initial, Proposed or Unofficial drafts** generated by a party organisation or member for examination by the Policy

Committee and/or circulation to branches, these are not to be quoted from;

Level two **Official draft Policy** - a draft policy that has been circulated to all branches, comments solicited, controversial issues noted, and has been vetted and collated by the policy committee, becomes an '**official draft policy**' that can be quoted from publicly. This is the case provided certain conditions are met. One of these conditions is that such a policy or part thereof shall be accompanied by a rider that it is a draft policy. Another condition shall be that any controversial issues be barred from quotation or removed from the policy until National Conference makes a decision. The National executive will be final arbitrator if time does not permit a higher body to arbitrate.

Level three: **Official Policy** - a draft policy that is passed by National Conference, or by National Council, pending ratification by National Conference.

4.7 The National Policy Committee will send any new or revised draft policy related documents to the branches. The branches will submit within 2 months of receiving them any changes they suggest to the National Policy Committee. It is the National Policy Committee's responsibility to ensure that such draft documents conform to the Founding Principles of the Party. The proposed or revised draft, having been checked by the Committee, is normally to be circulated to the branches as a recommendation to Conference, at least one month before National Conference. The National Policy Committee is to be guided by Conference and within such guidance by the National Council and/or the National Executive, in the order of priority in which various policy drafts are produced or processed.

4.8 The National Policy Committee will facilitate the development and distribution of the ideology and policies of the PLP, and circulate draft new policy for approval.

4.9 This policy committee is to have a National Policy Co-ordinator elected by Conference, with the role of convening and facilitating the work of the policy committee and liaising between the committee and the National Council or Executive.

## **5 MEMBERSHIP**

5.1 Each ordinary member will be entitled to one vote at any formal party meeting (except at National Conference (See clause 12.4) and in the case of affiliated trade unions (see clause 5.1.1)

5.1.1 Unions are encouraged to affiliate to the PLP at District, State and National level.

5.2 The National Council will recommend the level of the annual membership fee, and the Conference will make the final decision and set the fee and the proportion, which will be retained, at each level of the Party. (See clauses 10.5, 14.1, 14.2, and 14.3).

From Year 2002 the membership fee for ordinary members be set at

- \* \$60 - High wage earner
- \* \$30 - Low Wage Earner
- \* \$15 - Low Income A
- \* \$5 - Low Income B

with the first \$10 of each membership fee (or \$5 in the case of \$5 members) retained by the branch (where there is a branch) and the remainder retained by the National Account."

Members are to be encouraged to arrange regular pledges to the party funds in addition to party dues.

5.3.1 Any person or organisation will, upon payment of the appropriate fee, be eligible to apply for membership of the PLP. A person may be refused membership by the Branch or District Council on any of the grounds contained in clause 5.3.3. Membership of a branch will be subject to a credentials committee consisting of the Branch Secretary and two branch members elected to the committee. The committee will determine whether the membership application is genuine and report to the Branch. A member will be entitled to vote on any party matters only after attending at least one Branch meeting or holding membership for at least one month.

5.3.2 It is a condition of membership that all members will support this Constitution and the principles and objectives of the PLP.

5.3.3 A Branch or District Council may declare as ineligible for membership any person who:

- is a member of any organisation proscribed under clause 5.3.6; and/or
- who actively espouses beliefs and principles which are substantially contrary to the principles and/or objectives of the PLP; and/or
- Who stands, or is a member of an organisation, which stands a candidate or publicly supports a candidate for any public position against an PLP candidate, or against an PLP-endorsed candidate.
- Is a member of any registered Australian political party or organisation registered to contest elections (parliamentary or local) with its own political program which meets as a separate entity and/or takes a prepared political agenda into meetings and forums of the PLP. Dual memberships of such organisations and the PLP will cease at July 31 1997.

5.3.4 The National Council may rule that membership of any organisation is incompatible with membership of the PLP.

5.3.5 Where a person is ineligible for membership of the PLP pursuant to clause 5.3.3, the following processes will apply:

- In the case of a membership application, that membership will be declined.
- Any person whose membership is so declined may appeal in writing to the State/Territory Council (or National Council where it does not exist) within thirty days of receiving written notification denying membership.
- The State/Territory Council (or National Council where it does not exist), following appropriate hearings in accordance with clause 18, and being satisfied that any of the above criteria apply, may declare that person ineligible for membership.

In the case of an existing member of the PLP, the State/Territory Council or National Council of its own initiative, or upon complaint of a member, may suspend any person's membership if, following appropriate hearings in

accordance with clause 18, it is satisfied that the above criteria are met. If they are not satisfied that the above criteria are met, any suspension will be lifted.

A person whose membership is suspended or who is declared ineligible for membership by the Branch or District Council may appeal to the State/ Territory Organising Committee only; by the State/Territory Council to the National Council only; by the National Council to the National Conference (the Annual Conference) only. There is one appeal only.

Any declaration of ineligibility by the National Conference pursuant to clause 5.3.3 will dis-entitle a person to membership for up to five years or until overturned on an appeal in accordance with clause 18.

5.3.6 The National Council, by its own initiative or upon complaint from a member or members, will proscribe any organisation or group, not being a constituent body of the PLP:

that espouses beliefs and principles which are substantially contradictory to the principles and/or objectives of the PLP as defined in the PLP Constitution and policies; and/or

That acts consistently in a way, which is disruptive of the PLP administration or organisation.

This proscription may be appealed to the National Conference (clause 5.3.5(c))

5.3.7 All members will be guaranteed freedom of expression and debate in the party and the right to informally recognise caucuses and tendencies\* as forums for ideas. Members will be expected not to work against those decisions outside party decisions outside of the party.

\* (limit of 5 months)

5.4 In addition to ordinary members, there shall be a category of members known as Supporter members who support the aims and objectives of the PLP. Such members shall not be required to pay any fee but shall have no voting rights or other rights of members. Supporting members shall be deemed to be members until they resign or until National Council decides otherwise.

Reference to members elsewhere in these rules shall not include supporting members.

5.5 Any person who will not (or cannot), except for the acceptable reasons below, sign federal and state electoral forms indicating membership of the PLP, will not be allowed as a member of the party.

- When a person is a foreign national and cannot register to vote in an Australian election.
- When a person is under 18 years old.

5.6 Any member who is not a member of the executive and charges accounts in the party name without authorisation will be immediately suspended and may be liable to charges of fraud. This will also apply to any member of the executive who exceeds the allowable limit without authorisation.

## **6 SUSPENSION OF PARTY MEMBERSHIP**

6.1 Any member who campaigns against a duly selected or properly endorsed Party candidate in any election or belongs to any organisation which campaigns

against a duly selected or properly endorsed Party candidate in any election, will be suspended from the Party for any period up to five years by the State/Territory Council or by the National Council.

6.2 Any member whom the State/Territory Council or the National Council is satisfied has acted in manner substantially at variance with the Constitution and policies of the Party, will be suspended from the Party for any period up to five years by the State/Territory Council or by the National Council.

6.3 A member whose membership is suspended by the State/Territory Council may appeal to the National Council only. A member whose membership is suspended by the National Council may appeal to the National Conference only.

## **7 PARTY STRUCTURE AND ORGANISATION**

### **7. Principles**

In accordance with the Objectives of this Constitution, the following principles will apply:

#### **7.1 Equal Representation of Women**

The PLP is committed to ensuring equal representation of women throughout its structure and organisation. In all proceedings and at all meetings, all members will observe and promote Party structures, practices and policies that ensure equity in gender representation and participation.

In applying the principle of clause 7.1, the following will, among other processes, be considered:

- a women 's caucus will have the right to convene at each Branch, at State/ Territory Council and at National Conference;
- Standing orders and chairing will facilitate equal participation of women and men.
- With the exception of clause 7.6.4, in the event that the election to any party committees or councils produces more males than females, the election will stand, but further female nominations will be called for and a second ballot will be held for the specific purpose of equalising the numerical representation of women on that body. The women so elected in this second ballot will be in addition to the other elected officers of the committee and will enjoy the same duties and rights as the other members.

#### **7.2 Organisational Democracy and the Devolution of Power**

The PLP is committed to ensuring that all members are given the opportunity to participate in policy formulation and to be elected to official positions. The National Conference will be the supreme decision making body.

Within the PLP decentralised decision making will be practised and power will be exercised by those directly responsible for activities undertaken, within the context of PLP policies and this Constitution. That is, decisions taken within the Party will remain as much as possible the provenance of those undertaking them. Appeals against such decisions and the actions following from them will be made to the next level of the party only (See clause 18).

National Conference directs the Constitutional Review Committee (as defined in clause 19) to develop some ideas on grievance procedures, and right of recall of parliamentary, District Council and other public representatives.

Any candidate for office will sign their resignation from such office before pre-selection is confirmed by the party. The resignation letter is to be held by the National Council.

### **7.3 Party Composition**

The Party shall consist of, if so created:

- Members
- Branches (Electorate and Non-Electorate)
- State/Territory Councils
- District Councils
- National Council
- National Executive
- National Policy Committee
- Caucuses - Women 's; Indigenous; Parliamentary; Ethnic; Trade Union, Youth as determined by District, State/Territory and National Councils and National Conference

7.3.1 Meetings and quorum: There will be regular meetings of each party organisation, following at least 7 days notice to each relevant member. For all party organisations other than Branches a quorum shall consist of at least 50% of actual members being present or at least 60% of actual members (not counting vacant positions) being present or having submitted proxies. Where a quorum is not reached, the meeting may decide to proceed informally, and the chairperson shall be responsible for polling all non-proxied absentees, to obtain their votes on all motions and amendments recorded at the meeting. The combined votes will be aggregated to determine valid decisions.

### **7.4 PLP Branches**

7.4.1 An electorate Branch will consist of 10 or more members of the PLP living in one Federal electorate or neighbouring electorates. Proof of residence may be requested by the District, State/Territory or National Councils.

7.4.2 Such a Branch will be registered by the National Council on the request of those members, subject to Branch boundary considerations.

7.4.3 A register of all Branches and their membership will be maintained by the National Council for the purposes of vote allocation, financial obligations, determining District boundaries, etc.

7.4.4 There will normally be only one electorate Branch in any Federal electorate, except where the National or State/Territory Council approves the formation of additional electorate branches in that electorate.

7.4.5 Where there are fewer than 10 members in an electorate, or where the electorate members decide to do so (by two thirds majority in each relevant electorate), a multi-electorate Branch may be formed with:

another neighbouring electorate or electorates each having less than 10 members, or

With an established Branch in a neighbouring electorate.

This process must not isolate members geographically or otherwise impede their full participation in Party meetings and activities.

7.4.6 Considerations of District boundaries will be referred to the appropriate District Council(s) in the first instance, otherwise to the State/Territory Council.

## **7.5 Branch Functions**

The functions of Branches are

- to attract, retain and educate/inform PLP members;
- to discuss and develop policy and inform the public of PLP policy;
- to promote and support Party policy by involvement in community groups, trade unions, and other grassroots organisations and to represent the views of these groups within the Party;
- to elect and send delegates to District Council, State/Territory Council, National Conference and Special Conferences, and other Party forums;
- to assist in organising candidate selections and to support the candidate selected in any election;
- to support PLP or endorsed candidates and PLP activities by fund-raising and campaigning;
- To hold regular meetings at least monthly. A Branch that has held no meetings for a period of six months, and all attempts to revive it have failed, will be deemed defunct, and all its books and assets sent to the National Secretary of the Party;
- To convene an AGM to elect Branch office holders and provide an annual financial statement in July each year. Each Branch must have its books audited before the AGM by a suitable member of the Branch who is not a Branch office holder, and the balance sheet of the Branch be available for inspection at the AGM.
- to work with PLP elected representatives to implement Party policy and goals;
- To communicate and work with other Party Branches. To facilitate this, all Branch secretaries will at least once every year be supplied with a comprehensive up to date list of the names of all other Branch secretaries throughout Australia.

## **7.6 Non-electorate Branches**

7.6.1 A Non-electorate Branch is one, which forms at a workplace, industry or other location whose members have direct association with that workplace, industry or location. A minimum of 10 members is required.

7.6.2 The National or State/Territory Council may register a non-electorate Branch of the Party and it will have all the rights and duties of a Branch of the Party, provided that a member of the Party will only be a member of either one such non-electorate or an electorate Branch for all Party purposes.

7.6.3 A Non-electorate Branch may co-exist in any one electorate with an electorate Branch or may exist in more than one Electorate.

7.6.4 Requirements for gender equity pertaining to Branch protocol may be waived by the State/Territory or National Council only if a Non-electorate Branch is formed in an industry or workplace etc., which is gender specific (e.g. Waterfront, Nursing, Women 's Centres).

## **8 OFFICE HOLDERS - ALL LEVELS**

8.1 Office holders will include, though may not only be limited to:

- President who will ensure that the meetings are regular, prepares an agenda and arranges chairing of the meeting;
- Secretary who will be the main contact person for other Party bodies, will be responsible for correspondence, ensure minutes of meetings are recorded and maintain records;
- Treasurer who will be responsible for opening and maintaining the bank account (which must have the President or Secretary as co-signatories with the Treasurer), handling all finances and maintaining records of all financial transactions;
- Women's Officer who will be responsible for convening the Women's Caucus, if one is established, and for liaising with the Branch, National and State Women's officers

National Office bearers will include Vice President, Assistant Secretary and other caucus leaders.

8.2 Members must ensure that women, indigenous Australians, and other traditionally disenfranchised people in the Branch are properly represented in all structures of the Party and the Branch, consistent with the Objectives of the Constitution and the Principles outlined in this Constitution.

## **9 DISTRICT COUNCILS**

9.1 The State/Territory Councils will determine appropriate areas to be registered as Districts. Where there is more than one Branch in a District, a District Council may be established. Such a Council will be registered by the State/Territory Council on the request of those members, subject to boundary considerations.

9.2 A District Council will consist of no less than two delegates (one female, one male), from each Branch within any one region or district elected at the Branch AGM. Each Branch should also elect two alternate delegates (one female, one male) to their District Council.

9.2.1 State/Territory Councillors (see clause 10.2) are also members of the District Council appropriate to their branch if they exist.

9.3 Where a Branch or Branches border District boundaries, the Branch or Branches may seek the advice of their State/Territory Council about the most appropriate District to belong to.

9.4 The District Council will:

Initiate and co-ordinate PLP district activity including seminars, conferences, public rallies, involvement with trade unions, community groups, social movements, recruitment, policy development, elections, assistance with candidate selections, fund-raising and other activities as appropriate.

Ensure that electorate, non-electorate and multi-electorate Branches are active, informed of Party activities, and functioning in line with Party principles and objectives.

Ensure communication and liaison with the State/Territory and National Councils, Policy Committee and other Party bodies.

Hold regular meetings with an AGM to be held the first meeting after the AGM of each Branch within the district.

## **10 STATE/TERRITORY COUNCILS**

10.1 The functions of State/Territory Councils are conducive with those outlined in 9.4, but particularly relate to the organisation of State/Territory politics and to dealing with organisations (unions, social movements, and other parties) at a State/Territory level. A State/Territory Council will be registered by the National Council on the request of those members.

### **10.2 Election of State/Territory Councillors**

Each Branch at their AGM will elect two delegates (one female, one male), and two alternate delegates (one female, one male), to represent it on the State/Territory Council.

10.3 State Office bearers to hold tenure for two years. After holding office for two years State Office Bearers must have a one-year break before seeking re-election of the same position. In the event of a mid-term resignation, the person appointed will serve out the remaining time left in that term. On resignation of Office Bearer the position be filled on interim basis by a person on that same committee within which they held office. The consequential vacancy be filled by nomination from and by the electorate from which they were elected.

10.4 The members of the State/Territory Council will include:

National Council members from their respective states who will be ex-officio non-voting members with speaking rights.

President, Secretary, Treasurer, Women's Officer and other officers as required who are not members of the National Council, elected by Party members resident in the State/Territory by a postal ballot organised by the outgoing State/Territory Council Secretary or by the National Council members of the State/Territory in the first instance.

10.5 State/Territory/District Councils should have no share of membership fees. Membership fees should be retained by National Council. Instead State, Territory, District Councils should have the right to impose an agreed levy on their included branches in order to fight elections or State/Territorial issues.

## **11 NATIONAL STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONS**

11.1 The National Council will be elected by the National Conference and by the Branches.

11.2 The National Council shall comprise National Executive and one councillor per 50 members or part thereof from each branch. All other National Officers will

report to National Council and do not have a vote. Council is to ensure that gender equality be achieved by the branches.

11.3 The National Executive Officers are elected by the National Conference at its annual meeting and to hold tenure for two years. After holding office for two years National Executive officers. can be re-elected to the same position on a year to year basis. In the event of a vacancy occurring between Conferences a person elected by the same electorate shall complete the term of office of the departing incumbent.

#### 11.4 Functions of the National Council

The National Council will:

- guide the work of the Party between conferences
- be responsible for the Party 's National Office
- ensure communication between Party bodies
- reflect the will of the Branches and Districts of the Party

It will meet at least four times each year.

11.4.1 Members of the National Council will each have one vote at the National Conference independent of the Branch votes.

11.4.2 National Council meetings shall be held face-to-face in combination where necessary with e-mail, mail or phone polling of absentees? vote on motions and amendments arising at the physical meeting.

11.5 A National Council member may be suspended by two thirds vote of the National Council members (whether present or not) on the grounds of failure to contribute to Party work in accordance with their position, such suspension to have effect until it is overturned by the National Council by the same majority, or by the National Conference, or by a Special Conference called under this Constitution.

11.6 The National Council will appoint an auditor to provide an annual financial account of the national finances.

11.7 “The National Executive comprises up to nine members, the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, two Assistant Secretaries, Women’s Officer, and two other Executive members.”

11.7.1 The task of the National Executive is to implement National Conference policy and the decisions of the National Council and to provide support to the other organisations of the PLP.

11.8 The National Council will convene and organise the National Conference at an Australian venue with a host PLP Branch.

11.9 The number of votes sent by each branch to the Conference, will depend upon the total registered and paid up members in that Branch on the following basis: 1 vote for each 10 members financial at 28 days before Conference.

11.10 Each Branch must send at least one delegate or proxy to National Conference, but no more delegates than the number of votes it holds. Party members other than delegates are encouraged to attend the National Conference,

and have speaking rights. Standing orders regulate speakers to ensure voting delegates are able to speak where debate is limited.

### **11.11 Special Conference**

A Special Conference will be convened by the National Council as required or within 6 weeks when one third or more of the Branches request one.

### **11.12 Credentials**

Other State or Territory Branches to carry their vote/s as a proxy due to distance and expense in attending the National Conference/Council can credential a branch delegate to National Conference/Council. Such credentialing must be in writing and signed by the Branch President and Branch Secretary issuing the proxy. The National Secretary must be forewarned of this action.

### **11.13 Notice of credentials**

Notice of credentialing for delegates must reach the National Secretary in writing at least one month before National Conference. Arrangements for proxy votes to come to the National Secretary prior to conference.

## **12 NATIONAL COUNCIL AND PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS**

12.1 The National Council must accept and have the opportunity to debate any motion calling to account any member of any Parliamentary Caucus.

12.2 The National Council may call upon any member of the Parliamentary Caucus to account to it for any action taken substantially at variance with Party policy or with this Constitution.

12.2.1 Where this account is not acceptable to the National Council, the following actions may be taken if approved by a two thirds majority of the National Council: a motion of censure and/or suspension from Party membership for a period of up to 5 years.

## **13 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

13.1 Each organisation in the Party will have the power to raise funds, but all funds will be kept by the appropriate treasurer.

13.2 The allocation of funds from membership dues between levels of the Party structure will be decided by the National Conference

13.3 The National Council may strike a levy on the Branches from time to time.

13.4 All Party funds will be kept on trust for the Progressive Labour Party in a bank account named 'Progressive Labour Party.... (Insert Branch/Committee details)', as appropriate for local branch convenience.

## **14 PLP PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUSES**

14.1 All Members of Parliament of the PLP will belong to the PLP Parliamentary Caucuses. There will be one PLP Parliamentary Caucus for each Parliament, which

will meet at least three times a year, and an overall all-parliaments caucus of all PLP parliamentarians, which will meet at least yearly.

14.2 The National Council will elect two of its number (one of each gender) who are not parliamentarians to the Federal parliamentary caucus who will also serve on the all-parliaments caucus.

14.3 The State/Territory Council will elect two of its number (one of each gender) who are not parliamentarians to the State/Territory parliamentary caucus. They will also serve on the all-parliaments caucus.

14.4 The PLP Parliamentary Caucuses will determine their own procedures, and they will not contravene this Constitution.

## **15 PLP DISTRICT COUNCIL CAUCUSES**

15.1 All elected members of Local Government of the PLP will belong to the PLP Local Government Caucuses. There will be one PLP Local Government Caucus for each Local Government, which will meet at least three times a year, and an overall all-Local Governments caucus of all PLP Councillors in each State/Territory, which will meet at least yearly in each State/Territory.

15.2 The PLP District Council (or local branch where it does not exist) will elect two of its number (one of each gender) who are not Councillors to the Local Government caucus. The two will also serve on the all-Local Governments' State/Territory caucus.

15.3 The PLP Local Government Caucuses will determine their own procedures and they will not contravene this constitution.

## **16 SELECTING CANDIDATES FOR STATE AND FEDERAL ELECTION**

16.1 Nominations for parliamentary electorates will be called for in writing from all members by the Secretary of the State/Territory Council (or District Council or Branch if it does not exist) at least 25 days before the official closing date of receipt of candidates' registration.

16.2 Written nominations must be received by the State/Territory Council Secretary (or District Council or Branch secretary if it does not exist) no later than 20 days after the call for nominations is sent to members. The Secretary will advise the District Council (or Branch) secretary of their receipt.

16.3 Each nominee must be nominated by two Party members and the brief reasons for their nomination (including the nominee's work for the Party and other evidence of commitment) will be signed by them and must accompany the nomination and the nominee's pledge. Each nominee will sign the following pledge:

I, \_\_\_\_\_ a financial member of the PLP in the \_\_\_\_\_ Branch, accept this nomination and pledge that I will in good faith abide by the Constitution and rules of the PLP and uphold its policies. I promise that if I am not selected, I will support the candidate who is selected.

16.4 If more than one nomination is received, the District Council (or Branch) secretary will call, with at least one week's notice, a special meeting of all Party

members in the Electorate Branch with all members of Non-electorate and Multi-electorate branches living in the electorate.

16.5 Selection of the candidate will be by secret ballot at the meeting in Clause 16.4 of Party members in the Electorate Branch and members of Non-electorate and Multi-electorate branches living in the electorate, who have attended at least three meetings of their own Branch in the 12 months prior to the meeting.

16.5.1 The meeting will be chaired by the District Council (or Branch) president who will read the nominations and each statement of support and the names of the nominators to the meeting. The returning officer will be from outside the electorate, either the State/Territory Council Secretary or a National Councillor or nominated by her/him. Each nominee may supply a scrutineer from the meeting other than themselves.

16.6 There will be more than one vote taken if there are more than two nominees for the one position so that the final vote is between two nominees only. If the winning nominee does not obtain a two-thirds majority of the vote of those present, then a simple majority of the voters at the meeting may decide instead to select the candidate by the Selection Panel method.

16.7 When the ballot is announced, where the winning nominee does not receive two-thirds of the votes at the meeting in Clause 16.5, then the returning officer must advise the meeting that a simple majority of the voters at the meeting may decide instead to select the candidate by the Selection Panel method. If the meeting does decide then by simple majority to use the Selection Panel method, the meeting will immediately elect by simple majority in a secret ballot one man and one woman (who are not nominees) to go on to the Selection Panel.

16.7.1 Other members of the Selection Panel will be: two members (one of each gender) of the National Council from outside the electorate selected by the NC; one member of the State/Territory Council from outside the electorate selected by the State/Territory Council; one member of the District (or Branch) Committee elected by it. One NC member will convene and chair the Selection Panel and one will be the returning officer for the secret ballot. The nominee receiving more than 50% of the final vote in Clause 16.5 will have one extra vote counted for him/her.

16.7.2 The meeting convened in accordance with Clauses 16.4 and 16.5 may decide by a two-thirds majority to move directly to the Selection Panel method of candidate selection. In this case, the meeting will elect three men and women (rather than two) of those present to be on the Selection Panel.

16.8. Where no branch organisation exists, the State/Territory Council or NC may select a Candidate.

16.9 “Where an optional preferential voting system exists, the local PLP Campaign committees shall decide on how many candidates to preference.”

## **17 SELECTING CANDIDATES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION**

17.1 Nominations for District Council electorates will be called for in writing from all members by the Secretary of the District Council (or Branch where this does not exist) at least 25 days before the official closing date of receipt of candidates' registration.

17.2 Written nominations must be received by the District Council (or Branch secretary if it does not exist) no later than 20 days after the call for nominations is sent to members.

17.3 Each nominee must be nominated by two Party members and the brief reasons for their nomination (including the nominee's work for the Party and other evidence of commitment) will be signed by them and must accompany the nomination and the nominee's pledge. Each nominee will sign the following pledge:

I, \_\_\_\_\_ a financial member of the PLP in the \_\_\_\_\_ Branch, accept this nomination and pledge that I will in good faith abide by the Constitution and rules of the PLP and uphold its policies. I promise that if I am not selected, I will support the candidate who is selected.

17.4 If more than one nomination is received, the District Council (or Branch) secretary will call, with at least one week's notice, a special meeting of all Party members in the Electorate Branch with all members of Non-electorate and Multi-electorate branches living in the electorate.

17.5 Selection of the candidate will be made by secret ballot at the meeting in Clause 17.4 of Party members in the Electorate Branch and members of Non-electorate and Multi-electorate branches living in the electorate, who have attended at least three meetings of their own Branch in the 12 months prior to the meeting. The meeting will be chaired by the District Council (or Branch) president, and the returning officer will be from outside the electorate, either the State/Territory Council Secretary or a National Conference or nominated by her/him. Each nominee may supply a scrutineer from the meeting other than themselves.

17.6 There will be more than one vote taken if there are more than two nominees so that the final vote is between two nominees only.

17.7 Where no branch organisation exists, the State/Territory Council or NC may select a candidate.

17.8 "Where an optional preferential voting system exists, the local PLP Campaign committees shall decide on how many candidates to preference."

## **18 ESTABLISHING AN APPEALS COMMITTEE**

18.1 The body to whom the complaint has been made or who is refusing or suspending membership, will advise the member in writing of the contents of the complaint or the reasons for suspending or refusing membership, and will invite a written response within thirty days. If this response is not received, the complaint will be acted on, and the suspension or membership refusal may be confirmed.

18.2 If requested to in the written response from the member affected, the body to whom the appeal is made will convene an appeals committee of three of its members to hear the member concerned. The member may be accompanied to the appeals committee by another Party member. The appeals committee may also choose to hear other members involved in the matter. It will then inform the body concerned of its decision, which will then decide to act or not act on the complaint; to confirm or overturn the membership application; to sustain or remove the suspension, and will advise the member affected accordingly. No further appeals are possible.

## **19 CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE**

19.1 This Constitution may be amended by the National Conference following circulation of the proposed amendments to the members at least 60 days before Conference meets.

19.2 The National Conference will establish a Constitutional Review Committee of 4 members (two women and two men) to be elected at each Conference. The Review Committee will elect its own convenor during the meeting of Conference, and it will receive suggestions for Constitutional change from the Party, will monitor and advise on the implementation of the Constitution and will propose changes for each Conference as appropriate.

## **20 WORKING WITH THE ELECTORAL ALLIANCE**

20.1 The District Council (or Branch), State/Territory Council and National Council of the PLP will determine appropriate representation in the Alliance at their respective levels and in accordance with PLP policy.

20.2 A PLP member may not campaign against an Official Alliance candidate. Since Official Alliance candidates are ?PLP-endorsed? candidates, the provisions of Clauses 5.3.3 and 6.1 apply.

20.3 Our Alliance strategy will have two elements. The first being potential electoral Alliances and the second being non electoral Alliances. We recognise that the two will often coincide and assist each other. In the first element we continue and build on discussions with progressive political parties and progressive Indigenous Peoples organisations. In the second element we focus on union, environmental and other concerns with regard to campaigns and broadly based movements/committees.