

Progressive Labour Party

Summaries of Policies – Feb 2010

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What we stand for

This statement is to establish the political and social principles which will inform and guide the Progressive Labour Party and its members in their work, and to inform alliance partners of our basic principles.

The PLP encompasses as broad a section of the community as possible: wage earners, the unemployed and the under-employed. We are sympathetic to the difficulties of the small business sector, including farmers. The PLP is union and award supportive and will be broadly left in its membership. Its programs reflect the aim of creating a sustainable, inclusive and just society, and recognise that this can be best achieved by the development of policies and practices that reflect socialist democracy and are egalitarian, and promote fairness and equality for all Australians.

The PLP stands candidates in elections and aspires to be represented at the federal, state and local level. The PLP also aims to be as active as possible in campaigning in the interests of oppressed people and building workplace and community activism to promote a more democratic and equitable society.

Our core principles

- ◆ Support an end to "economic rationalism", privatisation and National Competition Policy;
- ◆ Recognise the right of everyone to quality health, education, housing and welfare as a right, not a privilege;
- ◆ Seek to boost public education funding, especially in disadvantaged areas such as the rural sector;
- ◆ Support full employment and a 35-hour workweek;
- ◆ Favour a substantial increase in R & D investment to boost science and Australian industry;
- ◆ Aim at effective rural and regional development through Government intervention - and effective protection of rural industry where necessary;
- ◆ Seek guarantees to protect the environment, ratification of Kyoto Agreement and abolish uranium mining;
- ◆ Replace the dominant two-party system with a multi-party system through Proportional Representation;

- ◆ Favour a Maximalist Republic with a directly elected President and major constitutional change;
- ◆ Recognise the need for self-determination of indigenous peoples, reconciliation and affirmative policies;
- ◆ Promote policies to spread media ownership, and secure the independence of the ABC and SBS;
- ◆ Oppose sexism, racism, homophobia, ageism, and discrimination against disabled persons;
- ◆ Seek solidarity with the disadvantaged around the globe and abide by international treaty obligations;
- ◆ Insist on complete transparency regarding international treaties and agreements and full public and parliamentary debate;
- ◆ Support the peaceful resolution, through negotiation, of international conflicts;
- ◆ Ensure stronger civil and human rights by reviewing all Security and Anti-Terrorist legislation.

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Summaries of selected policies – for full policy details see the PLP web site.

National web site: www.progressivelabour.org for full details of policies

Education Policy

Public Education - action, not words.

Australia's public education system has been subjected to real funding cuts by most federal governments, Labor and Liberal, since the 1980s. The recent coalition government shoveled obscene amounts of public funding into the coffers of private schools, while allowing public schools to struggle on with inadequate resources.

Over 70% of Australia's children attend public schools, and it is these children for whom government bears greatest responsibility. While Liberals invent statistics to try to make privileged schools look needy, and the ALP waffles about creating a knowledge nation some time, the PLP recognises that urgent steps are needed NOW to restore adequate funding to public schools. There should be no further funding increases to private schools. Parents who choose not to make use of the public education facilities that are open to all should not expect the community to pick up the bill for that choice. Instead, government revenue should be directed to increasing resourcing to public schools. Key priorities for expenditure must be:

- reduced class sizes, especially in the early years
- rebuilding the resource base of public schools and TAFE colleges
- improved wages and conditions to ensure government schools retain the best teachers and other education workers and a guarantee of quality preschool education for all Australians
- proper funding of growth in the TAFE sector
- Expanded access for rural and remote students

Australia's quality public education system is the cornerstone not only of our economic growth, but also of our social cohesion and of our ability to build a genuinely democratic society. As issues such as refugee asylum, international terrorism and economic instability provide a climate where paranoia and prejudice can flourish, the positive community-building role played by a healthy public education system is more important than ever. Public education must be celebrated, but a few heart-warming ads on TV are not enough. A real commitment is required.

The PLP sees education as a fundamental right and as an essential avenue for participation of individuals in all areas of our society. As such this system will be: free; lifelong; available to all. The PLP is committed to re-establish quality public education as a major priority of Government.

Effective education must be based on:

a gender inclusive curriculum;

a government prepared to fully fund the public education system, including community education;

establishment of public bodies consisting of policy makers, educators, parents, students and voluntary agencies who each share equal power;

establish a curriculum development process which will bring about a truly inclusive approach to indigenous peoples, children of low income parents, and migrant groups;

The PLP opposes corporal punishment and favours conflict resolution strategies instead. It aims to introduce student representative bodies at appropriate levels to ensure democratic influence on all decisions made.

Reform and revitalise the universities!

At tertiary level the PLP is committed to the autonomy of universities and staff. It opposes the commercialisation of tertiary education and favours increased public spending on and the expansion of tertiary education. The dumbing down of the universities has now become generally recognised as a disgrace of economic rationalism and a completely inappropriate strategy. It may take years to counter the damage caused by regarding universities as business corporations where the rich can even buy themselves admission should insufficient merit would bar them from entry. It is PLP policy to restore academic merit as the main yardstick by which achievements are judged and where freedom of expression is not only protected but also encouraged.

Economic policy

Preamble

The Economic Policy of the PLP shall be guided by the vision of the achievement of human emancipation and equality. The party is committed to the creation and redistribution of wealth through public ownership of strategic resources and production, through the democratisation of the area of production and distribution, against the present capitalist culture of individualisation and privatisation.

The on-going development of economic policy is basic to the PLP program. It is the major instrument through which a socialist transition can be managed. Our first objective will be for the Australian people to gain control over their economy.

This democratic project is intended to build a strong and basically independent economy together with a firm commitment to regional and international obligations. The PLP will work towards solidarity with working and oppressed people and governments who share our ideals. The PLP's notion of economic self-determination contrasts with the isolationism and populist racism of those who define self-reliance in other ways.

We will co-operate with unions, small business, small family farm enterprises, government and cooperative finance, and relevant community and local groups. We will act to prevent any exploitative practices of national and transnational companies.

With these principles in mind, the Party will work towards building a new democratic socialism, specific to Australian history and conditions.

Policy Aims:

(These aims should be read in conjunction with other policies.):

- a shorter working week (35 hours) without loss of income;
- a guaranteed minimum living income for all adults and for those under 18 years without adequate means of support.
- full, adequate funding for public education, health, transport, housing and means-tested legal aid.
- the creation of full employment for all who seek secure work,
- halt to the privatisation of public assets, including Crown Land.

- reclaim key privatised components of the public sector;
- re-regulation of the finance sector.
- repeal the National Competition Policy.
- withdraw from those various world trade agreements which undermine our national sovereignty.
- reject the free trade ideology at both national and international levels and follow a policy of new protection instead of free trade.
- regulate agribusiness and support small and medium owner-farms and encourage the cooperative and collective sectors;
- protection for selected industries and enterprises which conform to environment, labour and other conditions.
- halt and close down all uranium mining, and charge owners with rehabilitation costs of all sites.
- restructure ownership of key resources by nationalising those industries which are necessary for a strong, self-reliant infrastructure.

The overall aim of such moves is to regain control over government, so that economic policy can be enabled, and the flow of transnational investment can be controlled.

Transition Period

The transition to a predominantly socialist society is a long term process which must be constantly reviewed. The core industrial and economic programs of the Progressive Labour Party aim to build national worker sovereignty over economic affairs through programs of government intervention. These policies will enable the most extensive and creative involvement of workers in all levels of the economy:- those in paid work; unpaid workers, and those currently unemployed.

In the transition period, however, the types of business making up the economy will include foreign firms, local privately-owned large and small firms, worker-owned cooperatives and government-owned enterprises and services. All will be welcomed but will be required to meet the government employment and environmental conditions, and all transnational companies, whether foreign or domestic, will have to meet ownership rules, tax regulations, borrowing regulations and other requirements.

Taxation Policy

The main aspects of PLP taxation policy are:

- the redistribution of wealth;
- the redirection of capital and productive resources;
- the simplification and streamlining of the tax system;
- a tax system used to foster science, industry and technology
- for the good of the community;
- the provision of adequate support for welfare services.

The PLP acknowledges that compared to other OECD countries Australia is a low tax country. Furthermore, that many corporations manage to reduce their corporate taxes to well below 10%. The PLP

also acknowledges the urgent need for a progressive tax policy to establish equity by redistributing resources between high and low income-earners. A good, fair and efficient taxation system is essential to a modern democratic society.

A key part of any fair society is that all citizens have access to opportunity and help. It is most important that governments provide a high standard of education to all to ensure everyone has access to jobs and opportunity. Governments must also provide excellent health services based on need rather than wealth.

Taxes enable governments to do this and as the quality of these services improve the need for higher levels of government revenue also increases. The PLP believes that wealthy citizens should contribute at a greater rate than those less able to pay. That is, the system should NOT be based on "user pays" or on a flat rate system such as the GST, where everyone pays the same whether a pensioner or millionaire. Indeed the pensioner pays a higher portion of their income in tax than does a millionaire.

The system needs to apply higher rates of tax to wealthier individuals as well as business. For this to work the tax laws need to be applied fairly and consistently and without fear or favour.

The two major parties are in continual competition to always cut taxes to attract votes. This leaves the government with not enough money to provide adequate services which leads to outsourcing and privatisation. The mass of the population is then at the mercy of profit-oriented private services with increasing prices and declining services. We believe Australians are prepared to pay adequate levels of taxation so long as they were able to see that they get something important for it in the form of security for themselves and for their family now and in the future. Research done by EPAC in 1994 has convincingly demonstrated that preparedness.

We need:

- a progressive dismantling of the GST.
- higher rates of tax on wealthy businesses and individuals
- a "Tobin" type of tax on speculative foreign currency dealing
- more staff in the Tax Office to fairly enforce the laws
- adequate levels of taxation to maintain all public services at a high quality

Health Policy

It is no accident that our public health system is in crisis. This has been carefully orchestrated to pave the way so the health funds and American style "managed care" can be introduced into the country. To that end we will be redirecting funds from the private health system (and this includes the health funds which have received enormous payouts from the public purse) and injecting it into the public system.

The PLP is committed

- to providing every Australian with a readily accessible, comprehensive, fully tax-funded health service. The leading principle is that every Australian has the right to free, high quality health care. We support an adequately funded Medicare system.

- to promote and enhance health and prevent ill health, rather than to attempt to treat illness later. People will not be healthy if there is poor housing, widespread unemployment, poverty, crime, or environmental pollution.
- to remove the financial barriers and waiting lists which now delay early treatment of health problems. The PLP is committed to the reinstatement of a fully tax-payer funded public hospital system. This includes:
 - Remove prescription charges .
 - Increase bulk billing to 100% of the fee.
 - Abolish all hospital charges immediately except for procedures selected by the government of the day, in consultation with the community.
 - Increase nursing and clinical staffing levels and re-open hospital wards.
 - Establish democratically elected Area Health Boards which will be directly funded and which will be responsible for the funding of hospitals, GPs, and other health services. Community Health Committees will act as local health issue watchdogs.
 - The issues arising from drug abuse should be treated as a health problem as with tobacco and alcohol use now. The PLP will support reforms in relation to medical indemnity insurance which will make it possible for medical practitioners to earn a reasonable living - and not leave the profession.

Environment Policy (currently under review)

Australia's natural environment has been altered and abused since British colonisation. The vast majority of its native forests have been wiped out; sheep, cattle and grain farming methods and clear-felling have contributed to salination and destabilisation of huge quantities of arable land; bio diversity is shrinking; waterways have become prone to algal blooms destroying Australia's aquaculture; and our living environments are congested from under-resourcing and unregulated industrial pollution. Repairing the environmental damage will require a sustained effort from the whole of society.

The PLP is committed to developing ecological sustainability for Australian society. It is crucial that Australia generates, uses, and recycles its energy supplies without destroying the natural and social environment. Neither the Liberal Coalition or the ALP have a serious commitment to environmental protection or sustainability - for these parties their environmental policy is more driven by the interests of big business.

A commitment to environmental sustainability means a commitment to a balanced approach to development and the generation and use of energy to ensure that our natural and social environment is not destroyed:

- protecting the livelihood of promotion of alternative jobs for those currently employed within industries that cannot be sustained;
- promoting more efficient use of current energy supplies and the development of renewable energy sources with a view to them eventually replacing fossil fuels, eg. by subsidising such resources;

- re-establishing public control over strategic energy resources and ensuring that national and international environmental standards are met;
- reducing the use of fossil fuels;
- reducing carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuels in order to reduce the "greenhouse effect";
- relieving greenhouse emissions by extending public transport use and reducing the number of cars on Australia's roads;
- ratifying the Kyoto Treaty;
- extending and enhancing domestic recycling at the local level;
- rewarding standards for industrial and consumer packaging which reduce reliance on non-renewable packaging;
- consulting with building groups and workers to develop effective guidelines for environment-friendly building codes.

Australia needs a forest policy based on ecological, economic and social responsibility. PLP forestry policies will be based on sound land use. They take account of the principles of individual rights and ecological, economic and social responsibility and will aim to achieve accord with indigenous Australians affected by forestry practices. Progressive Labour must protect wilderness areas from harvesting and overuse. This includes old growth forests, other natural pristine landscapes and designated national parks, as well as protected and sensitive marine ecosystems (eg. mangroves, estuaries, lakes, the Great Barrier Reef etc.). Farm owners will also be encouraged to undertake farm-forestry and plant woodlots on agricultural land. We do not favour privately owned land going to a company forestry controlled by overseas interests. We propose joint ventures between Government bodies and farmers to provide capital for fencing, preparation, planting management and harvesting. Overall, we will encourage the synthesis of farming and forestry for multiple use production.

Nuclear Power is not an acceptable alternative to fossil fuels. It would only mean substituting one problematic energy source (fossil fuels) with another. Progressive Labour will not allow further exploration of uranium deposits and will phase out mining.

Industrial Relations Policy

Preamble

The Progressive Labour Party (PLP) industrial relations policy is one part of an overall policy for sustainable development and social justice. Industrial relations legislation should recognize the dignity of productive work, and facilitate healthy, open and cooperative employment relationships. This means that the unequal bargaining power of employers and workers must be recognized, and legislation must address that imbalance.

Australia should move from the current social values system where paid work defines attitude and identity, to a values system where the nature of work is redefined and where value is also placed on community involvement and on unpaid work. Current trends such as the growth in underemployment, the trend towards casual and part time work, and the lack of recognition for domestic work by women and men, make this development important.

Unions provide a voice for workers and, through collective strength, enable working people to organise for better conditions and improved pay. All working Australians enjoy terms and conditions of employment won by working people through organised trade union struggle. The PLP is committed to an industrial relations system which recognises and supports the central role of trade unions.

We need to press for democratization in the workplace and active involvement of workers in decision making. The PLP supports democratic involvement of workers at an industry level and greater participation by workers in decisions affecting their work environments, production methods and company direction.

We recognize the interdependence of management and labour and also recognize the need for effective disputes procedures to resolve workplace conflict.

The PLP opposed all anti-worker legislation, including the Workplace Relations Act (WorkChoices) and the penal powers used against employees and their unions. The Workplace Relations Act undermined the important role of unions and makes cooperative industrial relationships less likely. We also oppose elements of this old legislation that remain in the Labor government's "Fairwork" laws.

Legislation must re-establish the primacy of an arbitrated, industry Award system, confirm the central role of the Industrial Relations Commission, and provide a relevant and meaningful legislated safety net to protect those workers most vulnerable to exploitation at work, in particular young people, casual workers, Indigenous workers, workers with disabilities, and workers in industries made up of small workplaces and women.

The PLP proposes a more democratic economy, where decisions are made by the people that will be affected by them. Our regional development policy and our investment in getting Australia back to economic and industrial stability will involve workers, unions, employers and local communities in economic decision making, restoring some control over our own destiny.

Objectives

The PLP will:

- repeal any IR legislation that consists of what we consider anti worker elements
- support the living wage campaign to achieve a better minimum hourly rate
- support the re-establishment of award conditions
- support industry based bargaining and oppose individual bargaining
- eliminate individual contracts
- strengthen the role of the Industrial Relations Commission, including restoring its full arbitral powers and appointing genuinely independent and unbiased Commissioners
- facilitate greater worker participation in decisions affecting their workplaces and industries
- ensure the protection of the position of unions in the workplace, in society and before the law
- guarantee workers the right to strike and organise
- ensure that no worker can take another's employment in the course of an industrial dispute
- support the development of Unemployed Workers Unions
- oppose the importation of products made with child or slave labour, or from countries that do not have the right to labour organisation as set out in the conventions of the International Labour Organisation
- ensure "independent contractor" arrangements cannot be used to avoid employers' responsibilities to their employees
- enhance job security by providing real disincentives for using casual or short term contract appointments instead of ongoing employment

- support pay equity for women
- in consultation with Indigenous communities and workers, implement measures to eliminate direct and indirect discrimination against Indigenous workers, and implement targeted programs to increase employment levels among Indigenous Australians
- oppose the work for the dole scheme
- guarantee workplace rights for workers with disabilities
- oppose the importation by employers of workers to undermine local jobs and conditions
- cooperate with international unions and integrate with international efforts to establish workers rights and social justice in every nation

Communications Policy

The PLP believes that all Australians should have access to quality information and cultural material. For this to occur there must be a diverse range of communications available throughout Australia to all communities.

We recognise that there is presently a mixed public and private system of communication in Australia but believe that it is essential for our future that moves are made to increase public ownership and control of communications and media. The concentration of print and broadcasting media in the hands of a wealthy elite must be addressed. The PLP is opposed to the further sale of Telstra and is committed to 100% public ownership of Telstra.

The PLP supports

- the majority of communications being controlled by the people through publicly owned organisations such as Telstra, Australia Post, the ABC and SBS. In any restructuring the percentage of publicly-owned communications should increase rather than decrease.
- a mix of both publicly and privately owned communications organisations, to provide the maximum possible democratic control of decision-making, and the maximum possible diversity of views.
- cultural maintenance and diversity as the goal of communications policies, particularly in relation to the availability of information, entertainment and cultural material in broadcasting, print and news media. This entails the support of cultural production by all groups in society, not just dominant ones. Particular support should be given to cultural production and communications by indigenous Australians and those from minority cultures.
- The goal that all Australians enjoy equal, affordable and adequate access to communications. The needs of different groups of people, such as those living in rural and remote areas, people with disabilities, people from non-English-speaking backgrounds, indigenous Australians and others should be given particular attention, as their needs have not been well served by existing communications media.
- the active involvement of Australians in promoting democratic and egalitarian policies globally through assisting those working for better communications in less developed countries. The Australian Government should support progressive communications policies in the context of globalisation rather than blindly following neo-liberal and technological determinist models.
- the establishment of a Diversity in Media Seeding Fund to finance the creation of democratically owned and controlled newspapers and magazines. This Fund would be financed by a 3% levy on existing media proprietors with a revenue of over \$10m. In the first three years it would seek to

fund one new national newspaper, and a range of national and regional newspapers and magazines.

Foreign Affairs Policy

Our foreign policy starts with a commitment in international forums to support social justice and self-determination for all peoples and the rights of the disadvantaged. Our objective is also to help negotiate and support global agreements which protect natural resources, bio-diversity and ecological systems.

The PLP fully supports the UN's charter of human rights. The overriding PLP's aim is to have a sovereign Australian foreign policy. The PLP will review Australia's involvement in current "Free Trade" and investment arrangements, and reserve Australia's position regarding such arrangements where they impinge on the rights of the Australian community to economic and political self-determination and independence.

We have rejected the proposed MAI Treaty outright in our 1998 submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties. We advocated a totally independent and transparent attitude in relation to the WTO negotiations in 2001 in our Official Submission to a subsequent Parliamentary Inquiry.

Australia's Aid Program should have a poverty focus and be directed to spending on basic education, human rights, women's programs, and elimination of child and slave labour as directed by the communities themselves. Our goal is 0.7% of GDP. Foreign Investment Review Board guidelines on takeovers and mergers should be strengthened to protect the development of local cooperatives and common ownership and control.

The PLP is committed to a nuclear-free Pacific, a nuclear-free world, and to world peace. We oppose uranium mining and exports, and the import of radio-active nuclear waste. We give notice that we would support terminating any contract signed for new uranium mines. Armaments export should also be discontinued.

We support a thorough review of the defence relationship with the US, especially in relation to the Communication Bases and the "War against Terrorism" following the September 11 events in 2001. We support an independent Australian Defence Policy. The PLP absolutely opposes pre-emptive military action and reaffirms the need to work through the UN system.

We favour long-term development assistance to countries such as East Timor, and West Papua Bougainville in their struggle for development and autonomy. The PLP supports reviewing membership of regional trade pacts and forums with Asian and Pacific countries. Although the principal focus should be on our regional neighbours the PLP recognises the continuing importance of Australia's relationship with the European Union and the countries of North and Latin America as trading partners.

The PLP rejects the New Globalism of the World Trade Organisation(WTO) based solely on commercialism and the lack of labour and environmental rights. The PLP seeks the reformulation of the WTO to incorporate a strong Social Charter. The PLP also seeks the reformulation of WTO rules on TRIP's (Trade Related Investment Principles) and TRIM's (Trade Related Investment Movements) that benefit only the Trans National Companies (TNCs). The PLP opposes the implementation of GATS (General Agreement on Trade in Services) which includes free trade in global labour (the Multinational Agreement on Investment re-visited). The PLP calls for APEC to have a strong Social Charter.

Civil Rights, Counter-Terrorist and Security Legislation

Both the Liberal-National Coalition and the ALP have been involved in eroding the civil liberties of Australian citizens. It is a disturbing turn of events and is linked to what appears to be the ever increasing need of global corporate power to make it difficult for, or even prevent, legitimate protest. The undemocratic system of the 'New World order' (heralded by the USA in the early 1990s but now becoming the old world order), where un-elected corporate leaders have more power than those we elect seems to have its supporters in Australia. Unfortunately it includes both the major political parties.

Both the Coalition and the ALP supported the Federal Defence Amendment (Aid to Civilian Authorities) Bill of year 2000. In 1999, both supported increased powers for the secret police in the form of ASIO and ASIS. In 2002 eight "Counter-Terrorism" and Security Bills were presented in Parliament by the then Howard Government. The PLP protested against all of this draft legislation in our Submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee (in April 2002). By September, many of these bills were passed, with fairly minor amendments, with the support of both major parties. Civil liberties were severely limited and the hand of ASIO strengthened substantially. Further expansion of ASIO powers was supported by both major parties in early 2004.

The Defence Amendment Act (2000) for the first time codified the governments' ability to use the military to control public disorder. It allows a 'shoot to kill' policy to be implemented. The government was able through simple administrative processes, send in military forces to control or cordon off an area to restore public order. The Australian public was told that the Bill was needed for the Olympic Games yet when offered the chance to place a sunset clause in the Bill the two major parties declined the opportunity. There is very little to prevent the government of the day from deciding that a demonstration of, for example, trade unionists, was out of control and then 'legally' shooting many of them dead. All it would take is for the State police to take a policy of non-intervention. There are precedents for this latter process.

Similarly, both major parties supported the ASIO Amendment Bill of 1999. ASIO now has the power to legally enter your computer over the Internet and view the information there, copy it and even alter it. The reasons for the increase in powers was largely hidden from the public and not debated under the guise of 'national interest'. The PLP is opposed to these moves and will champion the civil rights of people. One of the ways to get progress in society is to allow dissent to work its course, to challenge the status quo, and to provide alternatives in policy. We will continually remind the Coalition and the ALP of their weaknesses in this respect, and urge electors to vote for the PLP candidates, and join the PLP to help us gain a safer, more democratic future.

Short History of the Progressive Labour Party

The PLP was formed in November, 1996 when over 100 delegates from many parts of the country assembled in Newcastle to form a new political party. Since then a key objective has been to replace the economic rationalist policies of the major parties with people oriented and environment friendly public policies.

The PLP opposes privatisation and competition policy and believes that the preservation and restoration of public ownership of basic industries and services will assist effective public policy formation and implementation. The original statement of aims also includes: "The party aims at the development of policies that are democratic, egalitarian and sustainable with programs that shall promote fairness and equality regarding gender, race, cultural identity, sexual preference and age".

The party is open to eventually be part of a new party of the Left should the opportunity for it arise. We are also open to be part of a broader electoral Alliance of progressive groups and parties that could act as a counter-balance to the economic rationalist policies of both major parties.

By mid 1997 the Progressive Labour Party had recruited over 500 members and successfully applied for federal registration under that name. The Party has held Annual Conferences since June 1997 (Melbourne, Canberra, Sydney, Wollongong, Newcastle, Sydney). The Progressive Labour Party has become a significant party to the left of the ALP - which has over the past few decades increasingly abandoned policies of the left.

Since its inception, the Party has run candidates in elections in the ACT, the Constitutional Convention, the 1998 federal election, the NSW State (LA & LC) elections, the Victorian State elections, the Federal election (WA and NSW) as well as in various Local Government elections. We have received encouraging voter support in all cases for example we achieved 70,000 votes in one federal election (NSW Senate).

Progressive Labour Party membership application

In Australia, both the Coalition and the ALP have committed themselves to economic rationalist policies. **This has meant:** Privatisation of public facilities; fewer, but more expensive services; inadequate provision for health and education; job losses; acute social and environmental problems; erosion of our welfare system. **As an alternative:** we need a progressive labour party that has an agenda for social and economic justice, genuine democracy and a peaceful world.

The Progressive Labour Party (PLP) was formed in November, 1996, and is committed to:

- Reinstating controls over banking, currency exchange & economy
- No more sell-off of our national assets and resources
- Award conditions protected by Trade Unions with the right to strike
- Increased spending on public health, education and government services
- Ensuring that the wealthy and the corporate sector pay their fair share of tax
- Protection of the environment, real equality for women, opposition to racism
- An independent foreign policy, support for civil liberties, opposition to repressive legislation
- fostering world peace and working towards eliminating the unequal distribution of power and wealth
- Building a society where a sustainable economy serves the people not multinational companies.

Visit PLP web site: www.progressivelabour.org

Please Print

Name:..... Date of birth:

Address:..... P/Code.....

Home Tel: Other tel: (if app)

Email:..... Union (if app.).....

I apply for membership of the Progressive Labour Party, & will abide by the constitution & rules of the party & support its policies and program. I enclose the relevant membership fee to join: (please tick relevant box). I am an Australian citizen (or a British citizen who was on the Australian electoral role on 25 Jan 1984) and I have lived at the above address for at least one month. Please note that the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) may contact you to confirm that you are a party member and that you have signed this form.

Circle relevant item.

Full-time employed: High income \$60 Medium income \$30

Part-time/casual employed: \$15

Low income [Pensioner, Student etc] \$5

I wish to become a non-paying supporting member (no fee)

I wish to donate to the local branch \$ I wish to donate to the National Office \$.....

Your Signature **Date:**

Cheque payable to “Progressive Labour Party”

Please post the form to: P. O. BOX 45 HAMILTON, NSW, 2303

In Newcastle contact: Rod Noble, 02-49623432. In Sydney contact: Brendan O’Kane 02-93562371 or Bruce Toms 02-93584834. In WA contact Helen Whooley 08-92752936.