



ALP NATIONAL PRESIDENT CANDIDATE PARTY REFORM SURVEY

CANDIDATE RESPONSES

<i>If elected ALP National President I will support...</i>	BUTLER	GARRETT	HAMMOND	PINSKIER	PRATT
1. Tightening guidelines around central intervention in candidate pre-selection processes to ensure that priority is given to Labor members in their electorates including raising the weighting of the local members' vote to more than 50 per cent.	Supports less intervention. Comments provided.	Refer statement.	YES. Comments provided.	YES	YES. Comments provided.
2. Amending the rules to require direct election of a major component of National and State conference delegates by rank and file members.	YES	YES	YES. Comments provided.	YES	YES
3. Amending the rules to allow members at least 50 per cent of the vote for the Senate and all state upper house candidate selections, and disallowing central intervention to prevent this.	YES	YES	In principle. Comments provided.	YES	YES
4. Amending the rules to allow for a direct election by membership ballots for all party presidential positions, both state and federal and allowing the national president a vote on National Executive.	YES	YES	YES. Comments provided.	YES	YES
5. Opening community based pre-selection ballots to Labor members, registered Labor supporters and resident affiliated union members in all states and territories for non-	In principle. Comments	Should be explored.	Within limits. Comments	Yes. Comments	YES

Labor held seats.	provided.		provided.	provided.	
6. Establishing permanent community organiser roles in all state and territory ALP branches to support capability building of branch, federal and state electorate executive officers to promote deeper engagement in their local communities and with ALP policy committees, as well as enhancing campaigning skills for local campaign teams.	YES	YES	YES. Comments provided.	YES	YES
7. Extending and resourcing the successful model of field organisers utilised in the recent federal and state election campaigns to grow and sustain a cohort of Labor supporters and volunteers in each electorate.	YES	YES	YES. Comments provided.	YES	YES
8. Amending rules to allow the establishing of Policy Action Caucuses to enhance the membership experience by providing opportunities to organise around specific policy or workplace interests.	YES	YES	YES. Comments provided.	YES	YES
9. Introducing a one-step membership application with automatic approval within 28 days unless the application is flagged in this time, this should include requirements for payment by traceable means (such as bank draft, personal cheque or credit card) to prevent fraudulent memberships.	YES	Intention supported.	YES. Comments Provided.	YES	YES. Comments provided.
10. A systematic program to enable members of affiliated unions voluntary automatic access to join the ALP and enfranchise them to vote in preselection ballots as individuals but not as blocs.	YES	YES	Should be explored. Comments provided.	YES. Comments provided.	In principle. Comments provided.
11. Surveying members' skills and interests to provide targeted opportunities for them to contribute more meaningfully to party activities as well as increasing regular online surveying of members' views on key matters before state and national conferences.	YES	YES	YES. Comments provided.	YES	YES
12. Allocating resources to develop online and face-to-face ALP training modules on the party's history, principles and policies, organisational governance and rules, effective management of branches and other party units and committees.	YES	YES	YES.	YES	YES
13. Adopting a governance charter and a clear code of ethical conduct for all party officers,	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

<p>elected members, endorsed candidates, party units and committees and independent measures to track, censure and permit appeals to any apparent breach of these standards.</p>			Comments provided.		
<p>14. Establishing appropriate and tangible performance indicators for party officers and administrative units, with annual auditing of the outcomes of decisions and/or actions of federal and state executive, administrative and policy committees.</p>	YES	NO	YES. Comments provided.	YES	YES
<p>15. Conducting elections of all party and union delegates to Labor conferences and committees with democratic standards of the highest probity including an advance notification and nomination period, transparent and accountable processes, enforcement of secret ballots, supervision by independent third parties and rules to ensure affiliation of all unions with the ALP is contingent on meeting these standards.</p>	In principle . Comments provided.	NO. Comments provided.	YES. Comments provided.	YES. Comments provided.	YES
<p>16. Conducting a review of the party's voting methods and platforms for internal elections with consideration given to supervision by an independent third party such as the AEC, and trialling electronic voting at party conferences.</p>	YES	NO	YES. Comments provided.	YES	YES
<p>17. Introducing an annual "State of the Party" reporting process with full disclosure at national and state branch levels addressing implementation of conference resolutions, establishment and achievement of key performance indicators to be published and disseminated to all ALP members with the first report to track the implementation of standard rules across all state branches within a year of 2015 National Conference resolutions.</p>	YES	YES	No. Comments provided.	YES	YES

CANDIDATES' SUMMARY STATEMENTS

Mark Butler



I believe Labor faces two great challenges: maintaining a unity of purpose in defeating the Abbott government; and building a stronger movement for change in this country.

The most important reforms the ALP needs to achieve during the term of the next national president are:

- Direct voting by members towards national conference delegates and candidates for the Senate;
- Enhancing local campaigning skills to maximise our chances of beating Tony Abbott.

Also, I support less central intervention in pre-selections and getting the balance right regarding the weight of the local members' vote.

I believe community pre-selections have a role in Labor's process and I am a supporter of examining ways to allow rank and file members of unions to participate in the ballot processes, as is happening in British Labour. This requires further examination and debate.

I support a modern, democratic and transparent process for party and union

elections that encourage participation in party affairs.

The capacity of the national president to influence change is solely one of advocacy. I've been advocating these changes since moving for direct election of National Conference delegates at the 2002 Conference, following the Hawke/Wran Review.

Let me be clear in saying that reforming our Party is not a distraction from our task of electing a Shorten Labor Government. Far from it.

I want to be Labor's President to champion our greatest strength - our membership, as together we campaign to change our country for the better.

Jane Garrett



Thank you for your questions regarding Party reform and improving organisational governance.

The issues you have raised are important to every ALP member and I've been asked at numerous member forums, my position on these questions.

While grappling with these important issues, I've developed the view that the answers are not straight forward.

It is all-too-easy for politicians and those who wish to be leaders of our Party to portray "reform" as simple. As with most of the challenges the Party faces, the answers are not simple. As with most challenges that the Party faces, the answers vary from state to state and from territory to territory.

As a starting point, each state and territory has different histories and traditions that have led to the current rules and preselection arrangements that are in place. None are perfect. Change is required. But I also believe that no single answer nor proposed solution is perfect either.

While we must look at reform, we must also acknowledge that there are important existing rules that are currently not adhered to. For example, in Victoria, our recent round of Federal preselection saw us struggle to meet our Affirmative Action target.

Much of the concern rank-and-file branch members across the country have about Party reform centres on the role of central panels in pre-selections. There are two components to this: one is about the weighting of those central panels and the other goes to the ability and willingness of those central panels to intervene or overturn local votes.

We must respect the wishes of local votes, but as a Party we must also ensure that consideration is given to what is in the best interests of the Party as a whole. We must also ensure that our labour wing is given a voice in the nature and quality of candidates we put forward. The Labour movement fought to create the Labor Party as a vehicle to improve the conditions of working people. We must ask why it is that the Murdoch press and the Liberal Party call so loudly for a structural separation of the political and industrial wings of the Party.

Reform should not just be about changing rules. Reform needs to be about challenging the clusters of unaccountable power that are exercised behind closed doors. Reform needs to be cultural as well as technical. There are those within our Party who have demonstrated a consistent ability to circumvent the intention of rules for many decades.

I will not put myself forward as a candidate and provide simplistic responses to complicated answers for the sake of winning votes. We should not let motherhood statements paper over how difficult technical and cultural change is. Importantly, we must not let general statements about reform distract us from existing challenges – such as our failure to realise the intention of existing rules.

I believe the momentum for change is with us. I believe there is tangible cultural

change occurring in our Party. I believe that those of us who wish for a more open and a more inclusive Party are winning. This is why I believe the role of National President is so crucial: whomever is in that role has the opportunity to guide cultural change, and bring together those parties from each state and territory to work through those rules. My track record speaks for itself and I would relish the opportunity to be National President through these exciting times.

Tim Hammond



To be serious about meaningful Party reform, and to help elect a Shorten Labor Government, we deserve a President with no vested interests.

I'm not a Member of Parliament. I am a proud member of the Labor Party who wants to make sure we maximise our potential.

I'm a branch activist - President of my local branch, a Vice President and delegate to the Perth Electorate Campaign Committee.

In 2014, I helped review the WA Labor Party through the Shaping Labor process. That review secured vital reforms that give members more say and confidence to participate in internal party democracy.

My plan is simple. Change the Party so the Party can change Australia.

I stand for a Party of ideas. Being prepared to fight for the hard but necessary reforms. Reforms that reward work, contribution, equality and compassion. That's why I favour deepening the role of members in working up our Labor Platform.

I stand for a Party with a culture that welcomes the contribution of its members. Honouring their commitment to the cause by offering them a bigger say in how the Party is run. That starts by extending the model of the Federal Leadership election to every State and Territory.

I stand for a modern Labor Party, with the

most innovative methods to select candidates, run branch meetings and make policy. Methods like the community preselection model trialled in NSW. Methods that maximise the Labor advantage of being the most open, inclusive and transparent political party in Australia.

I believe that the best evidence to support rank and file Senate pre-selections will come from the Queensland trial. Labor's traditions are steeped in models that work but it is important that we are always thinking about how we can improve the quality of our candidates, that is why I want to let the trial of rank and file preselections in Queensland be a model for the broader party.

I stand for an organising Party. Learning from the experience of building the Community Action Network in Victoria. With every member equipped with the skills, networks, training and support they to reach out to their neighbours, inviting them to join the Labor cause.

I will be absolutely committed as President to improve disclosure and transparency in the party in an open and accessible way.

I have a proven track record in relation to recommending changes within the party so we can be more inclusive, more democratic and more successful - see <http://shapinglabor.walabor.org.au>

And I stand for a deep and enduring partnership with the industrial wing of our Movement. A partnership that delivers the 21st Century equivalent of Superannuation and Medicare. A strong partnership that should not be compromised just because we want to rebuild. Making new friends is no excuse to treat old friends poorly. We need to talk to affiliated trade union members about what their hopes and aspirations are for participating in the party.

This platform will make our Party larger, more democratic and more inclusive. It will help us to grow popular support for Labor's programme in Government. It will better equip us to overcome the powerful forces of Conservatism and reaction the next Labor Administration will inevitably face in Government.

My commitment as National President is make the delivery of this platform the sole focus of my activism.

Because I am not an MP, a Senator, a Minister or a Shadow Frontbencher, all my time will be spent on being a force for organisational renewal.

I will be the rank-and file's Ambassador to the Parliamentary Party. Not the Parliamentary Party's Ambassador to the rank-and-file.

Henry Pinski



There are 3 major reforms that the ALP needs to introduce that will broaden participation and give a significant fillip to democratic active participation in the ALP:

- the first being direct election of delegates to National Conference
- the second is making members votes worth more than 50%. This is to specifically to address the democratisation of the union bloc vote so that it moves from union secretaries to union members within a union that support Labor and that these members are counted as votes in the ALP process. This dramatically increases democracy within the ALP.

These steps are both meaningful and symbolise significant change in the way Labor conducts itself and will have flow through across other reform agenda issues.

The 3rd major reform is that all pre-selections for the privileged positions of MPs and Upper House members across the country are subject to the opportunity for members to have a vote unhindered and not threatened by central intervention.

The growth of membership, activism and involvement must be accompanied by the opportunity to stand for public office in fair competition amongst Labor members. Members who do their job and bring the membership along with them should have nothing to fear from campaigning amongst the membership when challenged. Members of the Labor Party should have the clear opportunity to vote and have a say for all positions that are up for preselection.

In regards to the first dot point I would have the National Executive commission a member's survey to determine the membership view on this question and if elected as National President I would have a mandate to have this happen. And if that was the view of the members then seek to have the ALP rules amended so that the next ALP National Conference could occur under a direct election model. The National Executive Committee has the power in between Conferences to make this happen.

If this was not undertaken by the National Executive then as National President I would embark on a series of branch meetings across the country seeking branch and member support to get the National Executive to act on this matter as above.

In relation to the second issue this needs the engagement of the union secretaries to take that step for the good of the Party. Calls such as this are not new but neither are they easy to achieve. The union movement plays a vital role for organized labor and for the Labor Party and that cannot be forgotten or ignored. It is not easy for anyone to give up power accumulated over a long period of time, consolidated and grown particularly in this case with the merging of unions in 1980s. However the case needs to be made patiently and persistently for the good of democracy and progress within the Labor Party. Unions have in recent times

removed themselves from the Labor Party and they continue to strongly represent their members industrially so change can occur with regards to unions and union secretaries and the Labor Party.

The third reform requires a National Rule change for which I as National President would seek that the National Executive take the views of the Party to specifically define and tighten the limits of any central intervention in the process, that defines clear timetables in States where the dates of elections are fixed and in those jurisdictions where the government of the day has flexibility as to when an election is called timetables that are prescribed and that flow on from the date of the previous election such as a date 12 months out from the next scheduled election.

I have positively responded to the survey questions above because in essence they represent long held views from someone who has been an active participant in Labor across many different areas from branch to Federal Electorate to State Conference to National Conference to Policy Committees to Branch Administration. In all of these roles I have been there as rank and file member.

In 2005 as the Senior Vice President of the Victorian Branch of the ALP, I conducted the Party review into the Victorian ALP Head Office.

My report was relevant to and dealt with the sections in the survey material above:

A more community engaged party

A larger and more participatory membership

A party of best practice and good governance

The recommendations in my report were consistent with many of the suggestions of many of the survey material questions but the Administrative Committee did not act on much of it so an opportunity was unfortunately wasted.

I have also fought and won - at the National Disputes Tribunal and National Executive for the rights of members – who having become members have had their membership voting rights randomly removed by a combination of cross factional rules deals that was immoral, unfair and ultimately unsuccessful

So I am committed to reform and my history within the Labor Party is consistent.

In relation to survey question 5 I have for many years supported and argued that Labor needs to find new ways of engaging the community to participate within Labor and this is clearly one such way. I support the concept but would want to ensure that processes around this are tight and I see distinctions in the way such a process might unfold for non held seats that are unwinnable and winnable.

In relation to survey question 10 and 15 my call in relation to unions and its members is that Labor supporting union members become the voting members of the Union bloc vote.

Thank you for the opportunity to engage in this survey process.

Louise Pratt



I am really pleased to be part of this democratic process giving members a direct say in the running of our party - but as I say in my Candidate statement there is a lot more we as party members need to do to be the party that can continue to be the successful agent of the change our country needs.

I believe the most important reforms the party needs to address during the next ALP National President's term are:

- We need to reform pre-selection processes so that party members have a direct say in pre-selections including the senate and upper house as expressed in the questions above.
- We need to apply the principle of solidarity as expressed in our rules to Marriage Equality so that our party platform should be binding.
- To directly empower members – while also maintaining a strong relationship with the union movement.
- We need to be a truly national party and move towards a truly national structure and membership.
- We need to ensure that affirmative action targets are met by the party.

As ALP National President I would support the implementation of these changes by

undertaking the following measures and initiatives:

- Speak out when the party fails to live up to standards in transparent and democratic process.
- Lead debates that move us towards reform – noting the current structures need to vote for their own reform.
- Ensure the party provides a platform for discussion and engagement so such changes can gain support and be implemented.

The Australian Labor Party is the best vehicle our nation has for the creation of a fairer, just and more sustainable Australia. As a member of more than 20 years I have experienced both our successes, and our failings. I know that our capacity to deliver on our mission cannot be taken for granted.

Our party's destiny is in our collective hands, we must forge a path towards a modern party that strengthens our capacity to deliver for all those Australians who depend on us.