

On Friday 29 January, the National Executive endorsed a series of rule changes which gave effect to the 37 recommendations of the Administrators Final Report to the National Executive of the Australian Labor Party.

This represents one of the most significant changes to the Rules and Operations of a State Branch in the Party's history.

They have been written to be phased in over time, to account for upgrades to the Branch's membership database, a State Electoral Redivision later this year and a return to State Conference in 2022.

There are two versions of the Rules now available. The first of which is the rules as they currently stand. This document is titled Victorian Labor's Branch Rules.

A second version is colour coded and titled Rules and Future Rule Changes, The colour coding indicates when particular Rule changes which have been endorsed by the National Executive to give effect to the recommendations of the final report will come into effect. This is to highlight future Rule changes which have been agreed but are not yet in place. The colour coding works as follows:

- New Rules which are to come into effect on a date determined by the Interim Governance Committee, in consultation with the National Executive, are coloured red. For example, the Rules relating to the establishment of single branches per State electorate are coloured red.
- Existing Rules which are to be repealed on a date determined by the Interim Governance Committee, in consultation with the National Executive, are coloured red and italicised. For example, references to Membership renewal forms are coloured red and italicised, and will therefore be removed from the Rules at a date in the near future. These rules continue to apply until they are repealed.
- New Rules which are to come into effect on the election of a new Administrative Committee are coloured blue. For example, the Rules relating the restructured Administrative Committee are coloured blue.
- Existing Rules which are to be repealed on the election of a new Administrative Committee are coloured blue and italicised. These rules continue to apply until they are repealed.

### **Which Rules currently apply?**

The rules in the document titled 'Victorian Labor's Branch Rules' are those which currently apply. You should refer to this Rule book when seeking to apply the current Rules.

For the Rules and Future Rule Changes book, the rules in black, italicised red and italicised blue currently apply.

### **When are the red coloured rules coming into effect?**

These rule changes will come into effect at a date to be determined by the Interim Governance Committee and the National Executive. This is to allow time for the Branch to upgrade our systems, which is necessary in order to be able to implement these changes, as well as account for a State Electoral Redivision which is currently underway.

## **What are the responsibilities of the Interim Governance Committee?**

Until a new Administrative Committee is elected by State Conference, the Interim Governance committee will perform all of the functions of the Administrative Committee and Party Officers.

## **When will there be a State Conference?**

The Rules specify that there must be a State Conference held no later than 31 May 2022.

## **When will we shift to one branch per State Electorate?**

This shift will come at a date to be determined by the Interim Governance Committee and the National Executive.

## **What happens to my current Branch when we move to one branch per State Electorate?**

All members who are currently enrolled to vote, or if they are not enrolled, have proof of residence in a particular State electorate will be assigned to the branch in that State electorate. Where there is more than one branch, members will be assigned on the basis of their proximity to each branch (ie. to the nearest branch).

## **How do I renew my membership?**

The Rules in the Victorian Labor's Branch Rules apply to membership renewals. This means that you will continue to renew your membership as you previously would have last year, so long as you pay by traceable means. You will need to renew for the 2021 calendar year by 30 May, using a direct debit from your personal bank account or credit card, or by submitting a personal cheque. You can continue to do so online, by submitting a hard copy renewal form or by calling the **State Office** on **9933 8500**.

Once those rules marked red come into effect, the way you pay your membership will change.

Once they do come into effect, you will be able to pay your membership annually, quarterly or monthly, through an ongoing direct debit from your personal nominated bank account or credit card. If you can't do that, you can still pay by cheque from your own identified personal bank account.

## **How do I join the Party?**

You can continue to join the Party in the usual way – either by completing an online application or a hard copy application form.