

STATE *Victorian Labor* **CONFERENCE 2024**

Book 2A Policy Committee Reports

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Affairs PC

Commonwealth Affairs & Federal Relations PC

Culture, Sport & Tourism PC

Conservation, Environment & Resources PC

Economics, Innovation, Employment & Industrial Development PC

Education & Youth Affairs PC

Health, Community Services & Senior Victorians PC

Venue

Moonee Valley Racecourse

Feehan Street, Moonee Ponds

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy Committee

State Conference Report

May 2024

A. MEETING ATTENDANCE REPORT

1. Elected Policy Committee members

Member	Attendance	LOA /Apology	Total Possible
Ngairé Bogemann	4	0	4
Lauren Scott	3	1	4
Harvey Stern	4	0	4
Jennifer Perlstein	3	1	4
Berhan Ahmed	3	1	4
Pamela Anderson	2	2	4
Peter Cornwell	1	3	4
Lani Dumas	2	2	4
Tracey Evans	0	4	4
Stephen Fodrocy	1	3	4
Mark Gazic	3	1	4
Skye Griffiths	2	2	4
Matthew Landolfo	0	4	4
Hannah Purdy	1	3	4
Nessie Sayar	3	1	4
Patrick Taylor	2	2	4
Simon Vallone	1	3	4
Robyn Williams	3	1	4
Christine Wilson	4	0	4
Kenton Winsley	1	3	4

2. Minister, Parliamentary Secretaries & Caucus Representative

Minister/Parliamentary Secretary/Caucus Representatives	Attendance	Total Possible
Natalie Hutchins	0	4
Christine Couzens	0	4

3. Associate Policy Committee Members

Name	Attendance	Total Possible
Rosalind Byass	3	4
James Gaffey	0	4
Jane Rollason	0	4

B. CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

Received From Constituent Units	Subject	Date Received	Action
Stephenie Kelley, CLX Secretary	Country Labor Victorian Recommits to First Nations Australians	07/01/2024	Raised in Secretary's report for ATSIPC to note

C. POLICY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

1. Policy Committee organisation

Subcommittees
Education: issues relating to the access, quality and experience of all levels of education for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
Language: issues relating to the preservation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages as well as relating to the teaching and celebration of such languages
Welfare and Housing: issues relating to the access, quality and experience of the state and federal welfare and public and private housing systems for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
Health: issues relating to the access, quality and experience of the health system for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
Justice and Democracy: issues relating to the access and experience of the justice systems and democratic processes at state and federal levels for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
Disability and Intersectionality: issues relating to the access, quality and experience of systems and services for disabled Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, as well as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders with other diverse and intersecting identities.

2. Key policy Issues - a brief summary of the work the committee plans to undertake, including an outline of policy problems, possible solutions and actions the committee will take to address them.

The Policy problem - raising the age of criminal responsibility

At the 2023 State Conference our Policy Committee sought endorsement for raising the age of criminal responsibility to 14 years without exception, for First Nations young people currently incarcerated, to reform Victorian bail provisions. Unfortunately this has not been adopted by the Parliamentary wing.

Possible solutions:

Immediate raising of Age of Criminal Responsibility to 14 years.

Pros:

Stakeholders strongly agree that a raised age would significantly reduce a range of harms presently experienced at unacceptable levels by already marginalised groups.

Cons:

Political problem - ALP having the power to enact the above in the Legislative Assembly but not in the Legislative Council,

Alternative solutions:

Any raising of age would be an improvement but clearly sub-optimal. not a real alternative where lives are in the balance

Actions

- Conference must endorse raising the age of criminal responsibility and note that on-going trauma and suicide/attempted suicide following release from incarceration, continues at

completely unacceptable rates, for Victorian youth and particularly our indigenous young.

- We continue to negotiate with Jill Gallagher, CEO Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (VACCHO).
- Consult with the Alban government to secure its acknowledgement of current (2023) policy in regard to Age of Criminal Responsibility
- Braden engagement with all stakeholders including organisations representing marginalised groups, police, Corrections officers etc.
- social media and Facebook campaigning targeting the young community groups
- letters to the Editor in The Age, Herald Sun and local newspapers, etc.

Policy Problem - First People’s Health policy issues

The government’s has committed to implement or enhance policies and programs for Victorian First Nations that will improve health and wellbeing outcomes, increase Self Determination, Close the Gaps, early intervention and prevention programs, address systemic racism barriers, creating culturally safe healthcare, recognition of the better health outcomes through supporting holistic physical, social, emotional, cultural and spiritual wellbeing for First Nations people, families, communities and enhancing connection to culture, kinship and country.

Areas to be addressed include:

- Prevention and early intervention Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing in Victoria
- Culturally safe healthcare
- A self-determined health system
- Working from a shared evidence base
- Building a sustainable health sector
- Workforce
- Long-term, outcomes-based funding for Aboriginal health services
- Drug & Alcohol services
- Justice Health

Mental Health

Work towards implementing the solutions as outlined in Balit Durn Durn (VACCHO Report to the Royal Commission into Victoria’s Mental Health System.

Action

The extensive health Issues are being dealt with by the Health Subcommittee in conjunction with VACCHO. Further information on proposed consultations and collaboration will emerge as ideas develop.

2. Policy Forums held or planned

Date	Location	Key Topics	Guest Speakers	No. of Attendees
None				

D. ANY OTHER ITEMS

1. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affirmative Action Working Group Members of the ATSIPC worked with members of the Rules Revision Committee and other interested party members to refine and endorse a proposed rules change regarding the introduction of affirmative action requirements for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander party members. The working group, which was established by a resolution of the 2016 State Conference, met multiple times between November 2023 and March 2024 and was jointly chaired by Ngaire Bogemann, President of

ATSIPC, and Senator Jana Stewart, with logistical support from Sheldon Oski, Secretary of the Rules Revision Committee. Here is a brief description on the proposed rules change:

Introduces Affirmative Action for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. Similar model to that for women, but with a significantly lower minimum percentage and it only comes into effect if Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders nominate.

This rule change proposes changes being implemented incrementally as follows:

On 1 January 2025, a 2.5% minimum percentage for party positions (not preselections) takes effect.

On 1 January 2028, the minimum percentage for party positions increases from 2.5% to 5%.

On 1 January 2031, a 5% minimum percentage for preselections takes effect (noting grandfathering protections, similar to those that existed for the AA rules for women – see Rule 3.2.7.3 and 3.2.7.4 of proposed rule change below).

Clause 38 of the Organisational Policies adopted by the National Conference on 19 August 2023 provide as follows: “*State branches are empowered to make affirmative action rules, in consultation with their state Indigenous Labor Network, for the preselection of public office holders that require a minimum of relevant positions to be held by Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander peoples. The minimum level that can be set by such affirmative action rules is 5%.*”

The Committee thanks Sheldon Oski and Senator Jana Stewart for their time and effort in chairing and contributing to the creation of this rules change. This proposed rules change was endorsed by ATSIPC at its' March meeting.

1. Interactions with Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries and other Government representatives

Engagement with relevant Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries and other Government representatives has been lacking, owing to difficulties in contacting the correct people. The Committee hopes this will be rectified and that the Minister, Parliamentary Secretary or another representative will engage with the Committee regularly going forward.

2. Issues raised by party members

Graham Proctor raised a number of issue via email, including the results of the Voice Referendum, Treaty and unrest in Alice Springs.

Helen Breier raised issues regarding dingos and Mooroopna Park Primary School.

3. Conference Fringe event

The Policy Committee will be holding a Fringe event at State Conference to discuss health policy issues. Details are on the Victorian Labor website's State Conference page.

President: Ngaire Bogemann

Secretary: Lauren Scott

Commonwealth Affairs and Federal Relations

State Conference Report

May 2024

A. MEETING ATTENDANCE REPORT

1. Elected Policy Committee members

Member	Attendance	LOA /Apology	Total Possible
Michael Cooney	2	1	3
Connor Darling	2	1	3
Tracey Davis	3		3
Jane Douglas	3		3
Tully Fletcher	0	1	3
Josephine Fox (Jo)	3		3
Andrew Gargett (Andy)	1	1	3
Chloe Gaul	1	1	3
Ella Gvildys (Resigned February)	1		1
Alec Hayes	3		3
Nosrat Hosseini (Nos)	1	2	3
Ravinder Kaur	3		3
John Langmore	2	0	3
Jake McGuinness	0	1	3
Matthew Rocks	0	1	3
Neha Samar	0	0	3
Jason Schwarz	0	1	3
Jaswinder Singh	0	2	3
Jessica Stone (Jess)	1	2	3
Jason Vellios	2	1	3

2. Minister, Parliamentary Secretaries & Caucus Representative

Minister/Parliamentary Secretary/Caucus Representatives	Attendance	Total Possible
Tim Pallas	0	3
Danny Pearson	0	3

3. Associate Policy Committee Members

Name	Attendance	Total Possible
Guiled Abdullahi	0	3
Laura Adams	0	3
Simar Bedi	0	3
Lucy Benbow	2	3
Megan Bridger-Darling (Resigned February)	0	2

Georgie Brimer	0	3
Janette Collinson	1	3
Phillip Danh	0	3
Jeremy Davies	0	3
Jonathan De La Penna	0	3
Kristen Dodson-Geary	0	3
Declan Dubout	0	3
Anna Dunne	2	3
Nildhara Gadani	1	3
James Gaffey	1	3
Isaac Gross	0	3
Jesse Hermans	0	3
Andria Hutchins	1	3
Nathan Ivetic	0	3
Jalisa Johnson	2	3
Robert Johnson	2	3
Enzhe Li	0	3
Ingrid Magtengaard	0	3
Stephen McDonald	0	3
Jean McLean	2	3
Mark Morante	0	3
Cecilia Mphande	1	3
Bridget Mullahy	1	1
Sophie Nguyen	0	3
Brett Osler	3	3
Kaumil Patel	0	3
Susan Pavlovich	2	2
Adam Rae	0	3
Christophe Runciman	0	3
Emily Sagoli	0	3
Parsuram Sharma Luital	0	3
Andrew Stephens	1	1
Christophe Tancheff	0	3
Ulfat Sifatullah	2	3

B. CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

Received From Constituent Units	Subject	Date Received	Action
Country Labor Executive	Impact of policy on regions.	05/12/2023	Noted
Health Community Services and Senior Victorians Policy Committee	Motion re WorkCover Modernisation Bill 2023	12/02/2024	Noted and supported
Health Community Services and Senior Victorians Policy Committee	Motion re Ceasefire in Israel Gaza conflict	14/02/2024	Noted and supported

C. POLICY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

1. Policy Committee organisation

Subcommittees - <i>Still under consideration</i>
National Economic Policy: Public sector employment issues; Wealth inequality; Taxation.
International Relations: AUKUS re uranium waste storage. Skilled migration; Overseas development assistance and humanitarian aid. Commonwealth/State roles and responsibilities.
Australian Human Rights: Increasing wealth gap; health care and aged care; cost of living; social policy including housing.

2. Key policy Issues - a brief summary of the work the committee plans to undertake, including an outline of policy problems, possible solutions and actions the committee will take to address them.

Policy Issues under consideration
<p>NATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wealth inequality - Recent decades have produced a growing gap between upper and lower income/wealth households, both in Australia and globally. Since COVID/2020, there have been indications of an even larger growth in such inequality. Effective redistributive measures are necessary; the longer it takes to act, the larger the intervention required. This is not addressed by tackling bracket creep or supermarket price gouging or mortgage interest rates (as important as they may be); it is much more entrenched and structural, and determinant of longer-term, intergenerational inequality. • Workforce (e.g. APS employment issues) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Employment services outsourced to private enterprise and use of consultants to perform work that should be undertaken by VPS/APS staff. (b) Return employment services to the APS using the CES model. Reduce the use of consultants in the APS. Create employment opportunities. Using the skills and experience of the APS. Retaining expertise within the VPSAPS and making them model employers. Cost reduction; startup costs of the CES model could be used as a reason to not take this approach. • Anti-competitive behaviour (e.g. ABC erosion, Mining) • Taxation - corporations currently paying none to little tax due to loopholes: https://michaelwest.com.au/top-40-tax-dodgers-of-2023/ <p>Action Proposed subcommittee working with the CPSU State and Federal Branches.</p>

Policy Issues under consideration

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS:

- **AUKUS**
- **Uranium waste storage.**
 - (a) Uranium waste storage contrary to Party policy. Redefine Commonwealth and State roles.
 - (b) Change policy, this would cause problems with relationships in the Pacific, particularly with New Zealand. Much of the funding for State services comes from the Commonwealth limiting the State's ability to control outcomes. There is very little employment creation with uranium storage and the results of leaks are catastrophic.
- **Australian – American Alliance.**
- **ALP Platform** - Strategic attention to key areas within Chapters 5-7 of the National Platform,
 - **Skilled Migration (given current issues around accreditation),**
 - **Solidarity with the People of Iran, and**
 - **Rebuilding Australia's ODA**
- **Overseas development assistance and humanitarian aid -**
- **Commonwealth & State Roles & Responsibilities** – Much of the funding for State services comes from the Commonwealth limiting the State's ability to control outcomes. Non recurrent funding for services results in a lack of ability for long term planning and uncertain employment opportunities, which can result in loss of quality candidates who want more certainty.
 - redefining after seeing years of Commonwealth fiscal-leveraged creep into state matters.
 - rebuilding Commonwealth expertise in policy development and implementation after years of Commonwealth neglect and outsourcing of both;
- **Peace building:** Ukraine/Russia/Poland, Palestine/Israel

Action- Proposed subcommittee

Australian Human Rights and Quality of Living

There is an ever-increasing gap between upper and lower income households, not isolated to Australia. Real taxation reform is long overdue, both for personal income tax and company tax which has a flow-on effect to Federal/State funding.

Immigration policy needs to be targeted to State needs to increase required skills; building and construction being standouts.

- **International Human Rights Law Framework**
- **Health and Aged Care** - including federally funded aged care homes in Victoria, pandemic preparedness, biosecurity
- **Youth & Cost of Living**
- **Social policy including housing**

Action - Proposed subcommittee

Technology Rights and responsibilities is being considered and is dependent upon members skills and interest.

3. Policy Forums held or planned

Date	Location	Key Topics	Guest Speakers	No.of Attendees
22/11/2023	Trades Hall	Bring back the CES, sponsored & organised by the CPSU PSU Group	Luke Hilakari, Secretary Trades Hall Karen Batt CPSU SPSF Group, Matthew Harrison CPSU PSU Group	40

D. ANY OTHER ITEMS - None

President: Nos (Nosrat) Hosseini

Secretary: Jo (Josephine) Fox

Conservation, Environment & Resources Policy Committee

State Conference Report

May 2024

A. MEETING ATTENDANCE REPORT

1. Elected Policy Committee members

Member	Attendance	LOA /Apology	Total Possible
Nathan Miles (President)	6	0	6
Robbie Nyaguy (Secretary)	6	0	6
Sue Anderson	6	0	6
Helen Breier	4	2	6
Georgie Brimer	3	1	6
Beatrice Co	2	3	6
Ernest Healy	5	1	6
Rana Javed	0	0	2
Jalisa Johnson	1	0	1
Marg Lewis	6	0	6
Fergus Mckinnon	0	0	2
Chris Miles	4	2	6
Steph Morgan	2	2	6
Spencer Perry	1	0	1
Ishmohit Sabharwal	2	2	6
Kieran Simpson	5	1	6
Robert Szatkowski	1	1	6
Michael Wheatland	5	1	6

2. Minister, Parliamentary Secretaries & Caucus Representative

Minister/Parliamentary Secretary/Caucus Representatives	Attendance	Total Possible
Nil		

3. Associate Policy Committee Members

Name	Attendance	Total Possible
Ahmed Berhan	1	6
Greg Hunt	0	6
Nathan Ivetic	0	6
Matt Landolfo	0	6
Oscar Machen	0	6
Stephen McDonald	0	6
Reggie Michelson	1	6
Adam Rae	0	6

Blair Trewin	4	6
Lynne Bourke-Finn	1	1
Paul Ting	1	1

B. CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

Received From Constituent Units	Subject	Date Received	Action
Monbulk Branch	Duck Hunting	27 February 2024	Noted

C. POLICY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

1. Policy Committee organisation

Subcommittees
Biodiversity (ecosystem decline and wildlife)
Food Security (agriculture, game management)
Resources (resources, recycling and waste recovery, energy and gas)
Climate Change (climate change and climate inequality)
Planning (environmental planning, land management, population planning)

2. Key policy Issues - a brief summary of the work the committee plans to undertake, including an outline of policy problems, possible solutions and actions the committee will take to address them.

1. Water:

Review and refine the rainfall and runoff models used to forecast flows in regulated rivers (including the Murray Darling Basin) to reflect the most likely challenges to water security review and refine the tools used to allocate share of storage space in dams for water supply, environmental flows and flood mitigation.

- Strategic Management of water grid supply within the state and cross border coordination.
- Mapping and status of aquifer systems
- Water rights, allocation, and licensing.
- Management of water catchments and river systems.
- Environmental flows management within Victorian Rivers
- First Nations water rights (In conjunction with ATSI Policy Committee)
- Policies on water conservation and sustainable usage.
- Legislation governing water supply, recycling water, desalination, treatment, distribution and sewage systems. (In conjunction with planning policy committee)
- Strategies for water security and resilience in response to climate variability.
- Strategies for flood mitigation and planning in response to climate adaptation (in conjunction with planning policy committee)
- Mitigation plans for sea level rise
- Impact of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan on Victoria (Water Trigger)

Action

Consult with water minister's office
 Consult with Environmental Water Holder
 Consult with ATSI PC re Water for Life

2. Energy:

Renewable energy development and integration into the energy grid including solar, wind and offshore wind.

- Waste management, recycling, and resource recovery laws and regulations.

- Minerals Victoria
- State Electricity Commission
- Maintenance and accessibility of mineral and resources data for the public good.
- Victorian Timber Industry and VicForests
- Infrastructure required for supply and distribution of natural resources In conjunction with the Transport Policy Committee
- Investigating progress of a gas reservation process, per Policy Platform 2022 and CERPC recommendation in report 2023
- Policy relating to mine rehabilitation

Action

Consult with:

- Lily D'ambrosio (Minister for Climate Action, Energy, and Resources) -Briefing about policy development and strategy relating to resources and energy.
- Natalie Hutchins (Minister for Jobs and Industry) Briefing about policy development relating to resources and energy relating to jobs and industry.
- Gayle Tierney (Minister for Regional Development) Briefing about regional development policy relating to resources and energy.

Liaise with the following policy committees:

- Economic, Innovation, Employment and Industrial Development Policy Committee.
- Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Affairs
- Industrial Affairs
- Commonwealth affairs and Federal Relations
- Transport

3. Biodiversity:

The focus for biodiversity policy over the coming period will be policy areas, which have not been enacted or yet adequately addressed. Including:

1. A permanent end to the governance of native wildlife species as 'game' for recreational destruction, as currently permitted under the Wildlife Act and Game Management Authority legislation.
2. A permanent end to the commercial destruction of native wildlife species.
3. The discontinuation of wildlife status being afforded to deer species.
4. A review of legislation and regulations relating to the issuance of Authorities to Control Wildlife and of native wildlife unprotection orders.
5. An end to systematised lethal control of Victoria's native apex predator the dingo.
6. Ensure that invasive pest animal species management does not itself result in serious ecological harm.
7. A comprehensive review of the environmental effects of poison use within Victoria.

Future policy emphases:

1. Ensure the maximum realisation of the biodiversity conservation and restoration possibilities, which arise from the permanent of native forest logging.
2. The comprehensive recognition within relevant Victorian legislation that society is not only facing a climate crisis, but a biodiversity crisis – that virtually all Victorian ecosystems are compromised not only by climate pressures, but by escalating human demands. Following this recognition, ensure that climate actions are not pursued at the expense of biodiversity conservation and restoration – as recognised in Victorian Labor's 2009 White Paper *Securing Our Natural Future*. Relevant climate response legislation should be reviewed to ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to avoid a trade-off between climate action and biodiversity conservation/restoration.
3. A systematic consideration of the consequences of population growth for:
 - a/ biodiversity conservation/restoration,
 - b/ urban lifestyle amenity, in particular the continued availability of quality open public space, and
 - c/ the direction of scarce public funds away from an enhanced environmental agenda.

4. Develop enhanced policy frameworks and specific recommendations to address the primary risks to Victorian biodiversity in the following areas:
- a/ Fire management and prevention
 - b/ Management of exotic invasive species
 - c/ Poor Land Management
 - d/ Outdated laws and Regulations, including the legal destruction of habitat and wildlife.

Action

Consult with minister and staff.
 Survey branch members about biodiversity priorities.

3. Policy Forums held or planned

Date	Location	Key Topics	Guest Speakers	No. of Attendees
Nil				

D. ANY OTHER ITEMS

Nil.

President: Nathan Miles

Secretary: Robbie Nyaguy

Culture, Sport & Tourism Policy Committee

State Conference Report

May 2024

A. MEETING ATTENDANCE REPORT

1. Elected Policy Committee members

Member	Attendance	LOA /Apology	Total Possible
Hasina Chowdhury	4	1	6
Brian Dunn	6		6
Nildhara Gadani	5	1	6
Alec Hayes	5	1	6
Rana Javed	4	1	6
Jake Keogh	0	0	6
Tegan Lang	6	0	6
Oscar Machen	4	2	6
Neo Williams	4	2	6
Christopher Miles	5	1	6
Stephanie Morgan	4	2	6
Rachel Tian	4	1	5
Hasan Naim	3	3	6
Dilhan Simsek	2	1	6
Kimberley Wheeler	6		6
Nather Truong	1		6
Adam Steiner	4		6
Guleid Abdullahi	3	2	6

2. Minister, Parliamentary Secretaries & Caucus Representative

Minister/Parliamentary Secretary/Caucus Representatives	Attendance	Total Possible
Grant Poulter Chief of Staff Office of the Hon. Ros Spence MP Minister for Agriculture Minister for Community Sport Minister for Carers and Volunteers	1	1
Jarran Heywood Chief of Staff Minister for Environment Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Minister for Outdoor Recreation	1	1

3. Associate Policy Committee Members

Name	Attendance	Total Possible
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Berhan Ahmed	1	4
Deepti Alurkar	2	4
Simar Bedi	2	4
Helen Breier	2	4
Lani Dumas	2	4
David Haidon	4	4
Tarik Koc	4	4
Francis Leach	1	4
Cheuk Lee	2	4
Simon Lewis	4	4
Reggie Michelson	1	4
Mark Morante	0	4
Brett Osler	4	4
Kaumil Patel	2	4
Adam Rae	2	4
Declan Redden	2	4
Christopher Runciman	2	4
Roger Walters	1	4
Daniel Ware	2	4

B. CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

Received From Constituent Units	Subject	Date Received	Action
None			

C. POLICY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

1. Policy Committee organisation

The three working groups – culture, sport and tourism – have commenced convening since December 2023. The working groups and committee membership aim to undertake benchmarking, research, industry, union and member consultation. The key policy areas and issues below will be further explored over the next 12 months by:

- Each working group having a number of consultative meetings and workshops
- A policy forum to further test and explore the below issues in order to provide meaningful and achievable solutions
- Benchmarking policy interventions both locally and globally and incorporating relevant research
- Consulting with unions, experts, organisations, industry associations including small to medium sector organisations and grassroots organisations
- Engaging with branches and other policy committees

Subcommittees
Culture
Sport
Tourism

2. Key policy Issues - a brief summary of the work the committee plans to undertake,

including an outline of policy problems, possible solutions and actions the committee will take to address them.

Policy Area 1 - Culture

Victoria is the Creative State and Labor has been focused on growing jobs, developing skills, and securing Victoria's reputation as a global cultural destination and bold creative leader.

In 2021-2022 the creative industries contributed almost \$38.7 billion to the Victorian economy and over the last 5 years has grown at an average of 4.3%. The creative industries support over 220,000 full-time jobs, eight per cent of Victoria's employment sector, and attracts around a billion dollars a year in cultural tourism. The sector has been categorised by a workforce that has faced immense systemic challenges through freelancing, gig contracts, low rates of union membership, disruptions to historic venue and festival models, and post pandemic impacts. The current biggest impact for patrons and audiences is the cost of attendance and cost of living [pressures](#).

In 2023 the consultation and development of the Modern Award Review – Arts and Culture Sector, commenced under the Federal Labor government and was seen by many as a major moment of recognition for the need for macro employment law and industry reform in the sector. The policy focus areas require connection to numerous structural issues to be resolved as well as working collaboratively across a number of policy realms including industrial relations, urban affairs and local government and more to systemically secure a contemporary and thriving creative state for the future.

1.1 Foregrounding First Nations Culture

Celebrating and sharing both contemporary first nations art practices, cultural leaders and sustaining cultural practice. For First Nations people and artists this initiative should provide audiences for artistic practice at a local and global scale as well as provide a means to connect and strengthen culture. Experiencing First Nations culture and artistic practices should be a source of collective pride for all Australians.

1.2 Sustaining and reviewing the funding and revenue models for the culture, creative and arts sector

In real time a number of state funding programs (Creative Victoria) have been reduced over the last 3 years, leading to direct implications to the viability of both individual art practices as well as organisations of significance (e.g. La Mama, Circus Oz et al as well as numerous events and festivals). The funding models for the sector needs to be fit for purpose, and share meaningful investment from multiple tiers of government, as well as beneficiaries of the sector.

1.3 Building membership - unionising live music, events and festivals industry and implementing the modern award and superannuation for artists and performers.

With the incoming Modern Award Review and the 2022 changes to superannuation legislation, payable to performers and arts contractors, there is a need to work with venues, promoters and presenters as well as artists to ensure compliance, fairness and to lift membership rates in the sector to support fairness.

1.4 Sustaining and re-imagining live music, events and festivals

With the concerning number of festivals cancelling or going into administration in the last 6 months and the research from [Creative Australia](#) on the health of the sector, consultation needs to occur to understand new models for operating live venues, new models for live performer payment and how to sustain a healthy and attractive calendar of events for Victoria as a major driver of tourism and a source of social benefit for local communities.

1.5 Increasing diversity - ensuring a community of culture and creative workers that reflects contemporary Victoria

Ongoing research demonstrates the lack of diversity in leadership in Victoria's cultural institutions. Working systemically to address policy gaps across major Victorian institutions and training providers to ensure succession planning, mentoring and pathways are opened for the next generation of culture workers.

1.6 Access to culture, creativity and the arts

Arts funding has historically been funded along definitions of Urban metro and Regional. Interface and Growth area councils now have communities and populations with dire rates of access to experiencing art and creativity, compounded through transport issues as well as the lack of provision of local experiences. Access to culture needs to be reviewed as a right and benefit for all Victorians and significant issues in growth areas should be addressed for equity as well as social, economic and cultural benefits.

1.7 The role of Melbourne Arts Precinct

To retain Melbourne's global and national achievement as a creative city, this precinct and its encompassing institutions, open space and programming require strong and sustained investment particularly into asset management, workforce development, dynamic programming and connection to the city and the state.

Policy Area 2 - Sport

Labor invests in community sports because they are good for families and local workers. They create jobs, boost local economies, level the playing field and help community sport organisations grow their participation. Most importantly, they encourage Victorians to get active and stay healthy.

.1 Community sport, participation and inclusion

Participating in community sport is central to building healthy and engaged communities. Labor acknowledges the importance of local clubs and organisations having strong governance in place to ensure access for all community members. The SC will review programs to encourage good governance in community sporting clubs through the provision of practical tools and resources, support disadvantaged and underrepresented cohorts to participate in community sport.

2.2 Community Sport, facilities and inclusion

Labor acknowledges the fundraising efforts undertaken by sporting clubs to enhance their activities.

Labor will continue working in partnership with local councils and sporting organisations to deliver new and improved community sports infrastructure and programs to boost participation in local clubs and organisations for local areas and for sports codes that require boosts or renewals.

*the CST committee has not discussed a position on racing at the time and so is omitted from report.

Policy Area 3 - Tourism

Labor understands the importance of the tourism industry to Victoria, particularly through the hundreds of thousands of jobs it supports. Collaboration between the sector and government, together with investment in planning, marketing and infrastructure, will see this industry grow further.

3.1 Culture and Nature Based Tourism

Labor recognises the importance of Victoria's natural environment and its inherent cultural and economic importance, as well as the individual health and wellbeing benefits.

In government, Labor has been motivated by the importance of protecting our natural environment, building experiences and destinations to support the development of world class First Nations cultural tourism (Budj Bim) and safeguarding precious natural resources, landscapes and biodiversity. A well managed tourism sector will continue to generate jobs and economic impact that many Victorians rely on.

Policy to be reviewed include support the diversity and growth of Victoria's tourism opportunities especially in regional Victoria; maintain and develop Victoria's UNESCO environmental sites as tourism destinations;

invest in new bike and walking trails throughout Melbourne and regional Victoria; facilitate new investments in regional Victoria; and create opportunities to increase economic activity and local employment in regional centres by turning day trips into longer trips.

3.2 Victoria as a Destination

Build on the excellent work to develop Victorian intrastate tourism to improve Victoria's presence in

domestic national tourism, as well as reviving and growing the yield from the Asian tourist market. Support new and emerging operators to create initiatives that extend stays and improve experiences for visitors. Destination Management Plans are developed regionally. Grass roots and localised campaigns via social and marketing platforms into target markets are relevant, bespoke and connect to target audiences.

3.3 Supporting unique Victorian Experiences

Encourage policy revision that generates and sustains unique regional and urban experiences for tourists. Partner with businesses and industry and other state agencies (eg Parks Victoria, Sporting and Festival Event organisation) to build unique place based cultural, creative and active experiences.

3.4 Major Events

Review visitor experiences to major events (Australian Grand Prix and Australian Open, Eras Tour) to understand any significant improvements in order to retain and attract future major events. The boost to tourism through staging major events has created and continues to support thousands of jobs.

Review programs and policies to ensure that our support for tourism and major events results in the creation of secure jobs and the investment in infrastructure that benefits all Victorians every day.

2. Policy Forums held or planned

Policy forums are in development and include open call to union and Vic ALP members at Trades Hall as well as direct consultation with organisations delivering CST programs, state agencies (Creative Victoria review of Creative State 2.0), ministers and staffers and benchmarking ad research with other state and national peers.

Date	Location	Key Topics	Guest Speakers	No. of Attendees
August	Trades Hall	Major open policy workshop	TBC	150
Commenced and Ongoing		Consultation research and review to relevant contacts	As invited	14

D. ANY OTHER ITEMS

President: Mita Chowdhury

Secretary: Tegan Lang

Economics, Innovation, Employment & Industry Development Policy Committee

State Conference Report

May 2024

A. MEETING ATTENDANCE REPORT

1. Elected Policy Committee members

Member	Attendance	LOA /Apology	Total Possible
Sam Almaliki	6	0	6
Deepti Alurkar	4	2	6
Pamela Anderson	6	0	6
Wesa Chau	5	1	6
Karen Douglas	6	0	6
Adam Fforde	4	2	6
Aman Gaur	2	0	6
Hassaan Gul	1	0	6
Lachlan Kerwood-Mc Call	6	0	6
Stephanie McGregor	5	1	6
Jake McGuinness	0	1	6
Andi Moore	4	2	6
Tony Piccolo	3	3	6
Helen Politis	4	2	6
Lucy Rachman Vascotto	4	2	6
David Reeves	5	1	6
Emily Sagolj	3	3	6
Tina Samardzija	0	6	6
John Speight	5	1	6
Andrew Stephens	6	0	6

2. Minister, Parliamentary Secretaries & Caucus Representative

Minister/Parliamentary Secretary/Caucus Representatives	Attendance	Total Possible
Assistant Treasurer, Danny Pearson	0	6
Assistant Treasurer Staff Adviser– John Hondros	1	6
Treasurer, Minister for economic growth, Tim Pallas	0	6
Minister for Jobs & Industry, Natalie Hutchins	0	6

Minister for Development Vic, Colin Brooks	0	6
Minister for small business, Natalie Suleyman	0	6
Minister for Regional Development, Gayle Tierney	0	6

3. Associate Policy Committee Members

Name	Attendance	Total Possible
Berhan Ahmed	1	6
Ali Al Lawati	0	6
Caroline Arman	2	6
Nathan Beattie	0	6
Harry Black	0	6
Alex Bourikas	0	6
James Brennan	0	6
Megan Bridger-Darling	0	6
Graeme Bryan	3	6
Geoffrey Butt	1	6
Tarekegn Chimdi	1	6
Jerry Cui	0	6
Remy Davies	0	6
Jonathan DeLa Pena	0	6
Tully Fletcher	0	6
Isaac Gross	1	6
David Haidon	1	6
Jesse Hermans	1	6
Nathan Ivetic	0	6
Shirley Jackson	0	6
Louise Johnson	3	6
Terry Konstandelis	0	6
Alexander Law	0	6
Matthew Lay	0	6
Francis Leach	0	6
Fergus McKinnon	0	6
Rachel Miller	0	6
Jake Miller-Randle	0	6

Kaumil Patel	0	6
Adam Rae	0	6
Declan Redden	0	6
Matthew Rocks	0	6
Christopher Runciman	0	6
Sandeep Sarathy	0	6
Kieran Simpson	3	6
Harvey Stern	5	6
Ravi Sudewo	2	6
Chris Tancheff	2	6
Victor Tran	3	6
Nather Truong	0	6
Simon Vuong	1	6
Roger Walters	0	6
Tim Watts	0	6
Mark Fogarty-Young	4	6
Harry Braddick	0	1
Ella Gvildys	Resigned	
Mitch Vandewerdt-Holman	Resigned	

B. CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

Received From Constituent Units	Subject	Date Received	Action
None received			

C. POLICY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

1. Policy Committee organisation

Subcommittees
<p>Manufacturing, Innovation & Sustainability Subcommittee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus on reinvigorating manufacturing within Victoria, enabling workers to be innovative and reward innovation in the workplace. Manufacturing should be sustainable as it creates jobs, has a positive impact on the economy of Victoria.
<p>Housing & Cost of Living</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Addressing the issue of housing in Australia and recognising that this must be a priority for all Australian Governments.

Jobs, Skills & Small Business

- Labor should be the party for small business as well as for jobs. Small business are the largest employers in Australia contributing \$506 billion of value in 2021-22 equal to 32% of Australia's total GDP. The social support and care workforce is in demand in Victoria (The Victorian Skills Plan for 2023 into 2024) yet this work is undervalued and workers, mostly women, are underpaid, vulnerable and experience precarious work and employment conditions. Privatising essential public services has created conditions of exploitation for workers, clients and the Victorian community who fund these services. All funding for social support and care provision must be conditional on creating good union jobs for this essential workforce. Bringing this work back into a direct employment relationship with government will address work and employment exploitation and achieve government goals of being a fair and model employer of choice.

Economic Structure & Reform

- Taking a long-term view and looking at how the Australian economy can be serving the people of Australians. What changes can be made that will mean a better and fairer future for all Australian's. Key focus areas being a sustainable state budget, a sustainable economy and sustainable service delivery.

2. **Key policy Issues** - a brief summary of the work the committee plans to undertake, including an outline of policy problems, possible solutions and actions the committee will take to address them.

Manufacturing, Innovation & Sustainability Sub-Committee

- A. **A.** Have a facility dedicated to developing new ideas from shop floor manufacturing workers, deemed "Line Zero". A proposed condition to use the facility is that the state retains some equity in project, if an idea is commercially viable. A leading candidate for one of these facilities is the former BAE systems shipyard in Williamstown. This 60 acre shipyard has access to a port and a dry dock. If this facility were to be launched, BAE systems has stated that they would like to retain a section of it. However, they would also welcome their skilled staff from this section to assist in any projects associated with Line Zero. Despite the site being the front runner for this facility, the subcommittee proposes that the general idea be proposed first prior to choosing a site.

Action

Manufacturing, Innovation & Sustainability Subcommittee & AMWU who have commissioned a report on this matter.

- B. Assembly of housing in factories, assist with housing migrants and creates jobs.
have a facility dedicated to developing new ideas from shop floor manufacturing workers, deemed "Line Zero". A proposed condition to use the facility is that the state retains some equity in project, if an idea is commercially viable. A leading candidate for one of these facilities is the former BAE systems shipyard in Williamstown. This 60 acre shipyard has access to a port and a dry dock. If this facility were to be launched, BAE systems has stated that they would like to retain a section of it. However, they would also welcome their skilled staff from this section to assist in any projects associated with Line Zero. Despite the site being the front runner for this facility, the subcommittee proposes that the general idea be proposed first prior to choosing a site.

Action

Manufacturing, Innovation & Sustainability Subcommittee & AMWU who have commissioned a report on this matter.

- C. Australia is only one in six countries that has the capabilities to take cars from the design stage to the manufacturing stage. The policy position is that the committee is tasked with bringing a car manufacturing back to Australian shores.

Action

Manufacturing, innovation & Sustainability Subcommittee.

D. Wind towers that are currently being imported to Australia are of a poor quality. An idea to have better quality wind towers is to make more wind farm components locally. There are businesses willing to invest in this industry. There are certain policy positions that we can take to incentivise manufacturing of wind tower components locally. This includes linking planning permits of wind farms to certain conditions requiring Australian manufactured goods in the mix. This will create jobs.

Action

Manufacturing, Innovation & Sustainability Subcommittee & AMWU who have commissioned a report on this matter.

Housing & Cost of Living

A. It is undeniable that there is a housing crisis in Victoria. One aspect of this is the slow provision of affordable quality homes and the ongoing collapse of many existing building firms. It is therefore appropriate for government action to encourage different and innovative production options, in particular, the factory-based production of modular homes.

Action

This idea is from the Housing Subcommittee of the Economics, Innovation, Employment & Industry Development PC.

Consultations are needed with existing modular house builders - such as Form Flow and CLOS-QBuild in Queensland, Victorian modular house builders and relevant building unions.

B. An alternative to many builders and sub-contractors creating individual houses is to produce housing under one roof, in a factory where quality is assured, innovation encouraged, labour unionised and, because of the economies of scale possible, where housing is manufactured for quicker, cheaper and with less waste, to be delivered to site for speedy completion. Currently modular, factory produced housing is only a small proportion of housing, due to market resistance and some local regulations limiting their use. But government procurement from existing producers or the creation of a manufacturer akin to QBuild in Queensland could kick start the expansion of this industry.

Action

It is also appropriate to consult with those involved in the Big Build as it will be through the heft of government procurement that economies of scale can be generated.

There may also need to be changes to local government regulations to ensure the legality of such housing across the state.

Consultation with Universities involved in building and construction innovation as well as the Government architect could also ensure even higher quality and more sustainable housing.

C. An alternative is to offer more guarantees to preferred builders on Big Build and other government housing projects.

Jobs, Skills & Small Business

A. Support a skilled health and social assistance sector - Fund and expand full-pay higher apprenticeships in the care, support and community health sectors, provide financial support for unpaid placements in the allied health, nursing, care and support sectors, and reinstate bursaries for medical scientists to boost productivity and value these women-dominated industries.

Action

This idea is from the small business & Jobs subcommittee and require further investigation with the Minister for Jobs, Minister of Health and engagement with the relevant unions that have coverage of the Health sector, branches of the HSU and Professionals. Collaboration with other policy committees such as health and education.

B. Make care and support work safe - Establish a dedicated OHS inspectorate for aged care, disability and mental health that collaborates with quality and safeguards commissions, and make the Fair Conduct and Accountability Standards mandatory for on-demand platforms.

Action

This idea is from the small business & Jobs subcommittee and require further investigation with the Minister for Jobs, minister for health and unions, branches of the HSU, UWU, ASU.

- C. Retain a skilled NDIS workforce - Fund retention and qualification allowances, safe staffing and supervision levels, and make the Victorian Disability Worker Registration Scheme mandatory to professionalise the disability sector and address widespread shortages.

Action

This idea is from the small business & Jobs subcommittee and require further investigation with the Minister for Jobs, minister for health and unions, branches of the HSU, UWU, ASU.

- D. Support small businesses - Require a minimum percentage of government work to be provided to qualified Victorian small businesses, establish a body that can enforce payment of outstanding invoices owed to small businesses within the invoice frame, and encourage small business owners to be members of their unions.

Action

This idea is from the small business & Jobs subcommittee and require further investigation with the Minister for Jobs, Minister for small business and unions branches of the HSU, FSU, CFMEU, Professionals, ASU professionals, ACTU

Economic Structure & Reform

Improved Budgetary Management:

The Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI) in State and Commonwealth Wellbeing Budgets fills the gap in the available metrics by integrating wide-ranging impacts (22 cost & benefit items) of economic activity into a single index of household consumption, providing a counterpart to GDP.

Pros: properly measures living standards of households by capturing the true value of manufacturing, environmental conservation, mental health, and unpaid household labour.

Con: While the Victorian Government could collect data and publish a GPI, ideally the ABS would publish the GPI in the National Accounts. Alternatively, Victoria and the Commonwealth could continue publishing the 'dashboard' of measures in the Commonwealth's Wellbeing Budget.

Employment for All:

Reinstating the Working for Victoria Fund: Australia should move toward enshrining the right to employment as a fundamental human right, starting with resumption of the Working for Victoria Fund, which created 15,000 good-quality union jobs at a cost of \$500 million during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pros: A more fiscally sustainable basis for job creation;

Cons: Victoria would have to negotiate Federal funding at least equivalent to the savings by the Commonwealth.

Achieving Sustainable Revenue:

Reforming our Tax System: Victoria does not collect enough tax for long-term fiscal sustainability because the Commonwealth collects most of the revenue yet the States are responsible for most of the spending. The few taxes left to the States are highly inefficient, limiting productivity and the States' ability to achieve sustainable budgets and productivity growth. The Commonwealth could allow the States to collect a corporate cash-flow tax (corporate revenues minus expenses), taxing corporate rents while exempting investment, allowing the States to phase out payroll tax, and introduce a graduated stamp-duty-to-land-value-tax, giving taxpayers the option of paying stamp duty.

Pros: Increased revenue, fiscal sustainability, private investment, tax simplicity, small-business-friendly tax system and nominal wages growth.

Cons: Requires an agreement with the Commonwealth to allow States to collect corporate taxes.

Encourage the Commonwealth to Raise Revenue on Behalf of the States and Territories:

A Carbon Solutions Levy, as proposed by Ross Garnaut and Rod Sims, in their presentations to the National Press Club of Australia on February 14, 2024, should be set at a similar level to the European Union carbon price, raising funds to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, budget repair, tax reform and increased funds to the States and Territories. The Levy would also avoid

Australia paying additional taxes (and trading at a significant disadvantage) with countries such as the EU, which will implement a similar levy in 2026.

Sustainable Victorian Public Institutions and Service Delivery:

Supporting Not-for Profits as a Form of Social Delivery of Goods and Services: The Victorian economy is dominated by services and Not-for-Profits could be supported by: (1) courses and research at TAFEs and Universities to generate high prestige, world-class managers for Not-for-Profits, boosting their efficiency and development, and (2) research into and dissemination of AI to enable the Not-for-Profit sector to attain higher levels of economic efficiency. Rebuilding Capacity in the Victorian Public Service: A prevalent problem is the loss of in-house capability and technical expertise within the VPS Departments. An in-house Economic Analysis Bureau within the VPS could build long-term, career expertise capable of under-taking genuinely independent business cases, to replace reliance on the “Big Four” accounting companies, saving money, creating career paths and sounder policy proposals. The Agency could service both spending departments and agencies and the Treasury, with provisions to avoid conflicts of interests.

Action

These ideas are from the Economic Structure & Reform sub committee. The committee acknowledges that a number of the theories relate to federal matters, however the state of Victoria can still benefit from these ideas. These ideas will continue to be developed and fine tuned during the term of the committee.

The Committee notes five fundamental structural issues affecting Victorian public sector finances and policy making:

- *Commonwealth and State Finances are Different:* The Commonwealth can create money, limited only by the supply of goods relative to demand, whereas the States cannot create money and have very limited revenue raising powers, but deliver the great majority of public goods and services.
- *Commonwealth-State Economic Relations are Interdependent:* The Commonwealth has power over many areas of policy, raises the majority of public revenue and makes tied grants to the States. Many of this Committee’s proposals will require negotiation with other jurisdictions and with the Commonwealth itself.
- *Failed Housing Policies are a Root Cause of Economic Stress:* Decades of failed housing policy, substantially at the Commonwealth level, has resulted both in unacceptable social justice outcomes and fundamentally distorting the structure of our national and state economies.
- *Uncertain Work and Employment Harms Our Economy:* Employment policy is primarily driven by the Commonwealth, which has robbed young people of the certainty enjoyed by their parents and grandparents.
- *Neo-liberal Ideology Limits Policy Advice:* Many people today, including public servants, have known nothing other than working within the neo-liberal ideological framework and this can limit perceptions of “what is possible” and the breadth of advice and considered options they provide to Governments and Ministers.

3. Policy Forums held or planned

Date	Location	Key Topics	Guest Speakers	No. of Attendees
TBC	TBC	Current Economic Climate	Ministers, Economist and Experts	50

D. ANY OTHER ITEMS

REPAIR THE PENSIONER PAYMENT RATE

The ALP election promise was that No One Would Be Left Behind, but pensioners have been.

This Conference notes and expresses its grave concern at the drift of Aged Pensions to be at, or just below, the poverty line.

We endorse the efforts of members and affiliated unions' retired members to bring this to the attention of the broader community, including ALP members.

Linking the aged pension to prices and wages every six months is a good idea. However, the current link to Male Total Average Weekly Earnings (MTAWE) is the wrong measure

The current calculation uses one of two possible cost of living indexes (the CPI and the PBLCI) and connects to Male Total Average Weekly Earnings (which includes apprentices, juniors and part time workers) which has steadily eroded the relativity of the Aged Pension rate.

The current link to Male Average Weekly Total Earnings is now the wrong one because the situation has changed since 2008.

To simplify the calculation of Aged Pensions they should be **benchmarked at 35% of Full-time Male Adult Average Weekly Ordinary Time Earnings**. This will restore the pension above the Poverty Line and remedy the pensioner slide into poverty.

President: Sam Almaliki

Secretary: Pamela Anderson

Education and Youth Affairs Policy Committee

State Conference Report

May 2024

A. MEETING ATTENDANCE REPORT

1. Elected Policy Committee members

Member	Attendance	LOA/Apology	Total Possible
Indra Adhikari	6	-	6
Liz Aird	6	-	6
Deepti Alurkar(to 6/3/24)	1	0	5
Luke Cherry	2	0	6
Chris Curtis	6	-	6
Micaela Drieberg (to 1/10/23)	0	-	1
Jesse Damjanovski *(fr 6/2/24)	5	1	6
Esther Ellwood	4	0	6
Hamish Grundy	4	2	6
Nordin Hammouche	3	1	6
Thomas Henderson (to 1/11/23)	0	0	3
Dustin Kim	3	0	6
Marg Lewis	6	-	6
Alex Marinelli	5	0	6
Janet McCalman	5	1	6
Mark Morante	5	1	6
Katharine Nikolic* (fr 6/2/24)	1	0	6
Adam Rae	4	0	6
Daniel Robson	6	-	6
Beth Shegog	4	2	6
Ravi Sudewo	4	2	6
Catherine van Vliet	6	-	6

* includes attendance as associate members

2. Minister, Parliamentary Secretaries & Caucus Representative

Minister/Parliamentary Secretary/Caucus Representatives	Attendance	Total Possible
Lizzie Blandthorn (fr 2/10/23)	0	5
Ben Carroll (fr 2/10/23)	0	5
Darren Cheeseman (fr 2/10/23)	0	5
Nathan Lambert (fr 2/10/23)	0	5
Natalie Suleyman	0	6
Gayle Tierney	0	6

3. Associate Policy Committee Members

Name	Attendance	Total Possible
Berhan Ahmed	2	6
Jill Blackmore	4	6
Helen Breier	4	6
Lea Campbell	6	6
Suzanne Carmody	5	6
Bridget Chapman	0	6
Joseph Costigan	2	6
Joshua Cusack	2	6
Michael Ford	1	6
Sam Harrison	5	6
Timothy Harte	3	6
Jesse Hermans	2	6
Matthew Lay	2	6
Andrew Leap	2	6
Wendy Morris	5	6
Maureen O'Flaherty (fr 7/2/24)	2	3
David Reeves	3	6
Ralph Richardson	5	6
Marc Wigan	6	6
Ali Yunespour (to 26/10/23)	1	2

B. CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

Received From Constituent Units	Subject	Date Received	Action
Brunswick ALP	EYAPC email addresses	8/11/24	Reply
Brunswick ALP	Job cuts at ACU	13/11/2024	Reply

C. POLICY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

1. Policy Committee organisation

Subcommittees
Early childhood education – overall policy review
Schools - school funding, African-Australian student drop-out rate, direct election of teachers to the VIT council, teacher shortage, school council cleaner employment
Post-compulsory education – accord, course costs, TAFE EBA
Youth affairs – bridging young people from school to civic society, the relationship of young people with the legal system in Victoria, broader issues of youth disengagement, a university in the west and policy around the standard of evidence for concession myki cards

2. Key policy Issues - a brief summary of the work the committee plans to undertake,

including an outline of policy problems, possible solutions and actions the committee will take to address them.

Policy Issues under consideration
<p>a) The policy problem The growing social stratification in education produced by poor funding policies, including that the public education system receives less than the minimum schooling resource standard</p> <p>b) Possible solutions basing the school funding formula on an explicit staffing ratio, allocating funds to non-government schools according to their fees and other income instead of parental income and requiring non-government schools to take more costlier-to-educate students, lifting the public education system to 100 per cent of the schooling resource standard</p> <p>Pros explicit staffing ratio will increase staffing in government schools; allocating funds based on fees and requiring non-government schools to take more costlier-to-educate students will reduce the current social stratification and thus increase overall educational achievement</p> <p>Cons none from a policy point-of-view though all good policy creates political opposition</p> <p>c) Alternative solutions - pros & cons None</p> <p>Action - Schools subcommittee in consultation with teachers, academics, party members</p>
<p>a) The policy problem The unnecessary and excessive time required of teachers by the Victorian institute of Teaching for teacher registration</p> <p>b) Possible solutions – Restoring directly elected teachers as half the members of the VIT council</p> <p>Pros making the VIT more-in-touch with classroom reality and treating the teaching profession with respect</p> <p>Cons cost of elections</p> <p>c) Alternative solutions - pros & cons None</p> <p>Action - Schools subcommittee in consultation with teachers, academics, party members</p>
<p>a) The policy problem Exploitation of school cleaners</p> <p>b) Possible solutions Direct employment of school cleaners</p> <p>Pros will make cleaners part of the school family again with with appropriate pay and conditions.</p> <p>Cons None</p> <p>c) alternative solutions - pros & cons None</p> <p>Action -Schools subcommittee in consultation with teachers, academics, party members, UWU</p>

Policy Issues under consideration

a) The policy problem

Widespread teacher shortages

b) Possible solutions

Better teaching conditions, early offers of ongoing employment, additional support staffs

Pros

Will make teaching more attractive

Cons

cost

c) Alternative solutions - pros & cons

many

Action - Schools subcommittee has prepared a paper for consultation with teachers, academics, party members and the Minister.

3. Policy Forums held or planned

Date	Location	Key Topics	Guest Speakers	No. of Attendees
		To be decided - possibly social media and bullying		

D. ANY OTHER ITEMS

National Platform

The committee contacted the National Policy Forum in 2023 and then all Victorian delegates to the national conference to seek improvements to the national platform on education as follows:

Labor supports educational excellence and high achievement for all. It is unacceptable for anyone to miss out on developing their potential because of class, geography, disability or poor-quality schooling.

We believe every Australian child in every community should have access to high-quality, universal, free, secular government schooling. We see our public schools as among our nation's most important institutions and accept the responsibility of resourcing them to deliver an excellent quality education that meets the needs of every child.

Labor will implement a properly funded, needs-based national funding model. This model will, in partnership with the states and territories, ensure that:

- a. schools have sufficient teachers and other resources to undertake their educational role;
- b. government schools reach full schooling resource standard funding by 2027;
- c. schools, government and non-government, are funded to meet the specific needs of the students and with non-government school funding to be adjusted according to the school's assets and income;
- d. schools are socially inclusive and support a diverse society;
- e. disadvantaged students and schools get the biggest funding increases in the shortest time;
- f. schools and teachers have the resources necessary to give students with disability the same education and vocational opportunities as other students;
- g. the gaps between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students are closed in all areas of schooling, including early childhood education, school attendance, reading, writing, numeracy and year-12 completion by supporting the innovative work towards embedding a narrative of high expectations and a strength-based approach in the education of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children; and

- h. the 12-month gap between the achievements of students in metropolitan schools and rural schools is reduced.

Labor supports targeted needs-based investments to overcome disadvantage, including a commitment to support students with mental health issues, students experiencing alienation from schooling and those in juvenile justice settings.

Labor is committed to implementing strategies to address recent increases in the frequency of anti-Semitic bullying and racial vilification in schools, such strategies being those developed in consultation with relevant ethnic and religious communities together with education professionals.

Labor will ensure that there is no discrimination against sexuality and gender diverse students and teachers.

Labor will work to lift the status of the teaching profession, support improved practice and continued professional development and recognise the knowledge and insights of classroom teachers by providing for elected teacher representatives on the AITSL board.

Labor will ensure school funding is linked to evidence-based reforms and practices that lead to higher academic achievement and better teaching and learning. All schools in all sectors will be required to meet national standards in curriculum, teaching and learning.

Labor will oversee a national curriculum and national student assessment and reporting framework that is free from political or commercial influence and developed in collaboration with teachers and school communities. Among other aims, the curriculum must:

- a. ensure Australian children master the basics early in their schooling, such as reading, writing, and maths;
- b. lift student results across the board, including for students who are struggling, and students who are gifted and talented;
- c. support quality vocational education and training in schools; and
- d. include civics and citizenship education to develop in students a deep knowledge of their rights and freedoms and equip them with the ability to play an active role in our democracy.

We received replies from Josh Burns, Raff Ciccone, Michael Donovan, Cassandra Fernando, Rob Mitchell, Tony Piccolo, Bill Shorten and Daniel White.

We were unsuccessful in persuading the national conference to make the improvements we argued for.

'Full and fair funding'

The committee emailed all Victorian Labor members of the House of Representatives and all Labor members of the Victorian Legislative Assembly seeking their support for 100 per cent funding of the schooling resource standard of the public education system. We received replies from or on behalf of Jordan Crugnale, Maree Edwards, Luba Grigorovitch, Katie Hall, Lauren Kathage, Alison Marchant, John Mullahy, Gabrielle Williams, Julian Hill and Kate Thwaites

School funding

That, given it is now 12 years from the release of the Gonski report and the public education system is still substantially underfunded, conference calls on the Commonwealth government to work with the Victorian government to:

1. immediately increase all disadvantage loadings to the 100 per cent level;
2. increase the schooling resource standard for the public education system to 100 per cent by the second year of the next National School Reform Agreement;
3. revise the MySchool website to show separate amounts for SRS funding and disadvantage funding for each school and separate amounts for in-school and out-of-school funding attributed to each school.

Direct local employment of school cleaners

The committee re-endorsed its long-term policy of school council direct employment of school

cleaners. Until the 1990s, cleaners were directly employed and very much a part of the school community. In the 1990s, Jeff Kennett forced all cleaners to become contractors.

The Education & Youth Affairs Policy Committee worked with James Merlino to develop policy on school cleaners to return cleaners to directly employed staff again, but other influences supported the NSW system of major contractors.

Since 2018 there have been discussions to return school cleaners to direct employment and the Education & Youth Affairs Policy Committee thought that there was agreement to wind back contracts and return to direct employment as the then contracts expired. Instead these contracts are being extended to the detriment of cleaners and schools as contractors are cutting hours and cleaners are losing hundreds of dollars in pay, with a dramatic flow-on to a reduction in cleaning standards.

The cleaning contracts should not proceed.

University Accord

The committee warmly welcomes the Universities Accord handed down by Jason Clare. It is bold, innovative and tackles the structural funding problems of universities that are placing many institutions at risk. We support the vision of a bigger, better articulated and more flexible system that strengthens the TAFE sector as well as all universities, urban and regional, and offers education and training throughout the life cycle. We applaud the commitment to overcoming regional and social inequality and to making the HECS-HELP system more affordable. Finally, the promise of a better partnership with the private sector and government to fund research and research infrastructure will release universities from funding the full costs of research from their own earnings, liberating our system from its dependence on international student fees. The Accord is the roadmap we need to meet the challenges that await us.

Policy communication

We emailed Natalie Hutchins re school libraries.

We emailed new ministers and parliamentary secretaries with

- * Victorian ALP Education Policy,
- * Summary of Policy for New Ministers,
- * Submission on amendments to the national platform.

We emailed Ben Carroll re proposals to deal with mathematics and chemistry exams errors, the wonderful school construction progress in Wyndham, school cleaner employment and the Mooroopna High School site,

We emailed Jason Clare re “full and fair funding” and indexation of HELP loans.

We received several emails from branch members and referred them to the appropriate sub-committee to form part of the policy development process.

President: Marg Lewis

Secretary: Chris Curtis

Health, Community Services and Senior Victorians Policy Committee

State Conference Report

May 2024

A. MEETING ATTENDANCE REPORT

1. Elected Policy Committee members

Member	Attendance	LOA /Apology	Total Possible
Ali Al Lawati	3	2	5
Lisa Brophy	5		5
Cameron Granger	4	1	5
Matt Hammond	4	1	5
Paul Healey	4	1	5
Damien Hurrell	4	1	5
Indah Johannes	4	1	5
Ravinder Kaur	4	1	5
Jean-Marc Kurban	5		5
Cheuk Lee	2	3	5
Graham Meadows	5		5
Anne Mijch	5		5
Maree Overall	4	1	5
Corey Perkins	4	1	5
Helen Said	5		5
Anthony Singh	4	1	5
Debra Thorpe	5		5
Stephanie Thuesen	5		5
Leon Wiegard	4	1	5

2. Minister, Parliamentary Secretaries & Caucus Representative

Minister/Parliamentary Secretary/Caucus Representatives	Attendance	Total Possible
Maryanne Thomas MP	Invited, No Response	1
Ingrid Stitt MP	Invited, No Response	1
Harriet Shing MP	Invited, No Response	1
Lizzie Blandthorn MP	Invited, Declined to participate	1
Natalie Hutchins MP	Invited, No Response	1
Christine Couzens MP	12 th March 2024	1

Iwan Walters MP	10 th April 2024	1
Tim Richardson MP	Invited, No Response	
Kat Theophanous MP	Invited, No Response	1

3. Associate Policy Committee Members

Name	Attendance	Total Possible
Christine Wilson	5	5
Robyn Williams	5	5
Marcus Wigan	4	5
Matthew Tyler	3	5
Becky Taylor	3	5
Del Stitz	3	5
Brett Osler	5	5
Tiny Mclean	3	5
Janette Langly	3	5
Charmain Gaud	5	5
Peter Fitzgerald	5	5
Stella Michael	0	5
Melba Marginson	1	5
Rachel Tian	0	5
Robert Thompson	0	5
Christopher Runciman	1	5
Tan Nguyen	1	5
Hasan Naim	0	5
Stephanie Morgan	0	5
Mark Morante	0	5
Caitlin McLoughlin	0	5
Anthony Luca	0	5
Piper Horvat	1	5
Phillip Gluyas	3	5
Jameson Dalton	0	5
Stanley Chiang	0	5
Elizabeth Barton	5	5

B. CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

Received From Constituent Units	Subject	Date Received	Action
None			

C. POLICY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

1. **Policy Committee organisation**

Subcommittees
Health
Senior Victorians
Disability
Community Services

2. Key policy Issues - a brief summary of the work the committee plans to undertake, including an outline of policy problems, possible solutions and actions the committee will take to address them.

Work to End Elder Abuse

Policy Problem

Elder abuse represents a prevalent and distinct issue within the context of family violence, necessitating focused policy and intervention strategies.

Characterized by the exploitation of trust in relationships, elder abuse spans financial, physical, emotional, and other forms, affecting older adults and often perpetrated by close relatives or family members. Despite growing awareness, elder abuse remains underreported and insufficiently addressed, exacerbated by ageism and societal attitudes towards aging. Current family violence frameworks often overlook the unique dynamics and needs associated with elder abuse, leading to a gap in support services and interventions tailored to older individuals. The complexity of elder abuse, coupled with the challenges in detection and reporting, underscores the urgent need for specialized awareness, education, and support mechanisms.

Action is needed to integrate elder abuse more effectively into family violence responses, ensuring comprehensive strategies that respect the dignity and rights of older adults and promote their safety and well-being.

Solution

1. Revise family violence policies to account for the nuances of elder abuse, recognizing its unique characteristics and dynamics.
2. Increase public and professional awareness about elder abuse through education campaigns, emphasizing its prevalence, signs, and the importance of reporting.
3. Enhance training for professionals in contact with older adults, including healthcare workers, social service providers, and law enforcement, to better identify and respond to elder abuse.
4. Expand and fund dedicated support services for elder abuse victims, including legal aid, counseling, supports and mediation, tailored to the needs of older adults.
5. Facilitate the involvement of older individuals in the development and evaluation of policies and services aimed at preventing and addressing elder abuse.
6. Strengthen legal frameworks to protect older adults from abuse, including measures for holding perpetrators accountable and ensuring victims' rights and safety.
7. Promote interagency collaboration to ensure a cohesive and comprehensive approach to preventing and responding to elder abuse across health, social services, and justice sectors.

Action

- Key policy of the subcommittee
- Work with relevant industrial partners and advocates to step out a policy proposal.

Raising the Age of Criminal Responsibility

Policy Problem

Our Policy Committee was successful at 2023 Conference in increasing the age of criminal responsibility to 14 years, without exception, for First Nations young, currently incarcerated, to reform Victorian's bail provisions. Unfortunately this has not been adopted by the Parliamentary wing.

Solution

Policy development process/ consultations :

- Conference must re-endorse its 2023 decision and note that on-going trauma and suicide/ attempted suicide following release from incarceration, continues at completely unacceptably rates, for Victorian youth, and particularly our Indigenous young.
- We continue to negotiate with Jill Gallagher, CEO Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO).
- Consult with the Allen government to secure its acknowledgement of current (2023) policy in regard to Age of Criminal Responsibility.
- Broadened engagement with all stakeholders incl. organisations representing arginalized groups, police , Corrections officers etc
- social media and Facebook campaigning targeting the young and community groups
- letters to the Editor in The Age, Herald Sun and local newspapers, etc.
- HCSSV support at ATSIPC Fringe Event at conference

Action

- Key policy of the subcommittee
- Work with relevant industrial partners and advocates to step out a policy proposal.

Mental Health Reform

Problem

Mental Health RCVMHS is not delivering outcomes as projected. The sector has had a 12% overall cut since the Commission report - implementation of RCVMHS recommendations is not being properly reported.

- Old beds have bed day rate of approx. \$860 per day while new beds in safer facilities have bed day rate of approx \$1650. Bed day rate should be at \$1850.
 - Enterprise agreement not costed so key interventions have not been actioned.
 - The RCVMHS recommendation of an equitable area funding formula has not been actioned.
 - New positions were not costed for full three year term meaning hospitals cannot afford them and therefore don't take them or take them for a 12 month contract.
 - Allied health pay parity is bleeding occupational therapists and social workers to disability and private sector.
 - Staffing profiles across in-patient and community teams do not exist.
 - Brokerage funds have been cut.
 - All community teams funded via activity-based funding – every team is understaffed meaning KPIs are not met resulting in hospitals losing funding.
- The Local Mental Health Services rollout needs formative evaluation to inform further planning
- Emergency Department fines are resulting in patients being admitted to mental health wards who shouldn't be so hospitals avoid the fines.
 - Unions are actively locked out of new buildings – most have dangerous aspects that are in breach of the OHS Act and EA.

- External factors such as housing, AOD, and justice having a detrimental impact on mental health services.
- Rates of occupational violence have skyrocketed.

Action

- Key policy of the subcommittee
- Work with relevant industrial partners and advocates to step out a policy proposal.

Health Workforce

Problem

Victoria needs over 60,000 healthcare workers in the next three years. At this stage with the pay and conditions of health and the severe OHS issues on site it will not be possible.

Actions

Dealt with in subcommittee.
Consultation with unions.

Reform of the Drugs, Alcohol and Gambling Sector

Problem

The public AOD sector is in crisis. While the Andrews labor government is to be commended for more than doubling the amount of public rehabilitation beds, that still only leaves the State with approximately 532 and only 100 earmarked beds for detox. Over 98% of the Victorian sector is private and unregulated meaning that people are charged upwards of \$30,000.00 per month to go to rehabs that are not up to public standards. To gain access to the public sector beds, you must be very unwell with policy settings essentially condemning working people to get sicker to get help. The services are all underfunded with a bed day rate of approximately \$250 per day with all running at a loss and with no certainty of funding leading to extreme job uncertainty and a bleeding of staff to the public mental health sector.

Solutions

- Implementation of the 2020 Private Sector Rehabilitation Review completed by the Health complaints commissioner.
- Urgent investment in more public rehabilitation beds.
- Shovels the ground to open this election commitment: <https://www.danandrews.com.au/supporting-workers-through-alcohol-and-other-drug-issues>
- Implementation of enterprise agreement for public sector rehabilitation services in line with mental health agreement.
- Introduction of hospital in the home for detox utilizing the 500+ dual diagnosis.

Actions

- Community Services subcommittee to do consultation with relevant industrial partners.

Housing as a Health Issue

Problem

The Big Housing Build is not having the desired impact on many communities with discharge to homelessness from institutional settings such as mental health wards, rehabs and prisons spiraling out of control. Many health workers report that that they work they do isn't as meaningful if you're discharging people to homelessness.

Solutions

Campaign to fund a pilot with Western Health, Hope St and relevant unions to build houses with

wrap-around mental health, social and employment support to halt discharge to homelessness. This is already occurring with the Australian Manufacturing Workers Union, HACSU etc.

Actions

- Community Services subcommittee to do consultation with all industrial partners to create policy.
- Potential that this issue is the policy event (all of government and policy response)

Indigenous Health

Problem

All ACCOs in Victoria require urgent repairs, particularly in Dandenong. We also require better data sharing capabilities across these services.

Actions

Work with the BIG unions and health unions to find creative ways to assist in rebuilds and renovations.

Managing the Covid-19 Pandemic

Problem

The ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic requires a flexible approach across the health system, with a focus on the protection of the most vulnerable. There needs to renewed attention to the accessibility and affordability of next generation vaccination options and therapies, including for example anti-virals and nasal sprays. More information and support needs to be available for those with long-COVID.

In a number of other comparable nations, vaccination strategies against COVID-19 are actively supplemented with promotion of use of specific nasal sprays. These may be offered as preventive actions in context for instance of known exposure or other recognized high-risk situations for contracting the virus. Australian regulators are proving resistive to following a similar path. While human evidence of effectiveness of these preparations is at a developing state the theoretical argument for a number of these preparations is strong and there is good evidence of safety. Substantial numbers of people import these drugs at considerable individual expense. Finding a way to advance release of such preparations into use in Australia would respect patient autonomy and choice while likely not doing harm – and could help reduce the continuing individual, population and economic impact of COVID-19.

Action

TBA

Medical Research Workforce

Problem

There are significant industrial issues for the medical research workforce due to the uncertainty of employers response to the new Fair Work Legislation Amendment (Secure Jobs Better Pay) Act and the disruption this has on their employment model.

This already vulnerable workforce is mostly employed on rolling contracts due to employers use of uncertainty of grant outcomes to fund positions on a permanent basis. Universities and Medical Research Institutes are yet announcing policies on renewing staff who are on grant funding who might potentially be due a redundancy if future grants are unsuccessful.

There are significant discrepancies in the application of the new legislation based on the source of funding for the individual research projects. Employees are therefore facing different scenarios based on the classification of their funding source within the same workplace.

This is the pipeline for health research and this workforce has been under stress for some time.

Action

TBA

WorkCover, Early-Intervention and Prevention in all Workplaces

Problem

The Health Policy Cte vehemently disagrees with the changes to workcover and now implores the State Labor government to embed prevention and early- intervention strategies as standard within the public service.

Solution

1. First and foremost: The urgent establishment of [The Crossing](#) in partnership with Odyssey House (worker-led drug, alcohol, gambling and suicide prevention service) this was an election commitment and unions are putting members on planes to go to rehab in Sydney because we have no options. It's ridiculous that it's funded, and no being actioned)
2. Urgent establishment of sector specific WorkSafe inspectors - this has been promised in construction and manufacturing and we need it in health; mental health, disability, aged care, drug and alcohol immediately as we actively don't involve inspectors because they don't understand our sectors
3. Genuine consultation with the health, caring and emergency services sectors to implement prevention and early intervention measures inclusive of a worker-led employee assistance program, critical response service (24 hours post a workplace event), general awareness training inclusive of mental health first-aid and Suicide ASIST training for the workforce, employers and government departments responsible for funding our services.
4. A firm commitment to costing all enterprise agreements and memorandums of understanding for the duration of the bargaining process **with proof provided.** We bargain in good faith for interventions that would dramatically decrease the stress and burnout in our sectors, and they cannot be implemented because treasury didn't cost them.
5. Launch an inquiry into public sector culture in the health and care industries.
6. A safe and supported mechanism for workers and unions to whistle blow on poor behaviour within the health and caring sector by bosses.
7. Abolish the Victorian Hospitals Industry Association – they actively get in the way of reforms that would decrease stress and burn out, they stall in bargaining, and it is a part of the department that was implemented by Jeff Kennett. There is not a single health union that supports their continued operation.

Action

TBA

State Jobs Guarantee

Problem

Employment is a key indicator to health outcomes and patients, consumers, carers and participants need to be given the tools and encouragement to enter into employment in key sectors of need such as health, manufacturing and construction.

Solution and Action

Health Policy committee to work with all unions to create a policy platform for presentation to

Ministers and Jobs Victoria to get patients, ex-residents and inmates employed in jobs that Jobs Victoria has highlighted as priority areas (health, manufacturing etc)

Chronic Health Centres, Services and Research

Problem

Chronic Health is increasing and there are a lack of facilities specializing in areas of need.

Solution and Action

1. Health policy committee to write to federal and state counterparts urging critical reform.
2. Committee to investigate progressive industrial clauses that could be rolled out as standard to make reasonable adjustments for people with chronic health conditions.

Health Promotion and Prevention

Problem

10 year health promotion and prevention strategy has come to an end with no clear renewal.

Action

TBA

Reproductive Health and Working People, Particularly Women

Problem

In key areas across the State women are leaving the workforce due to reproductive matters.

Solution

1. Campaign for introduction of reproductive health and wellbeing leave at 12 days including loss of pregnancy leave as a separate entitlement.
2. Reasonable adjustments to work
3. Include workplace aides as part of new infrastructure builds (heating, cooling, etc)
4. Superannuation is paid on the day it is earned immediately in all public sector agreements.

Disability Centre of Excellence

Problem

Due to the NDIS and the way in which the scheme is currently funded, training, supervision, PD etc is not funded. 2023 saw disability providers report their worst financial year yet with the majority running at deficits meaning at present there is no way that providers can provide this to workers. Workers will not stay or be attracted to the sector should this not be funded.

Solution and Action

1. Work with unions, service delivery providers and the government to establish a way forward to create a Disability Centre of Excellence modelled on the Centre for Mental Health Learning and the Ambulance Centre of Excellence.
2. This center should also embed career progression into the sector to make it a viable career.

Mental Health Research and Innovation

Problem

One of the only RCVMHS recommendations not actioned. Requires urgent investment as anti-State Conference Book 2A

depressants etc are 50+ years out of date.

Solution and Action

Commitment to work with Monash University to establish an MDMA and psilocybin trial owned by the government and not to be sold to private entities (This will mostly target eating disorders and PTSD.)

Health Response in Police Holding Cells

Problem

There is not health response in the 14+ standup police cells in the state. This means that if you are intoxicated and commit a crime (i.e. punch a police officer) you are going to a cell with no health response. This is an urgent and dangerous gap in the reform.

Action

Work with police, ambulance and mental health unions to establish response and pathway forward.

Fixed Site Drug Checking and Mobile Pill Testing

Problem

Too many people are dying due to the inability to test their substances.

Solution

-Establishment of fixed-site drug checking facility as trial with academic independent evaluation.
-Establishment of mobile drug checking at next summer's music festival events with academic independent evaluation.

Continuation of Supported Independent Living Homes and Halting the Abolishment of the Victorian Disability Worker Commission

Problem

SIL housing creates wonderful communities within the disability community.

The abolishment of the VDWC was done without consultation from the relevant unions and is out of step with the views and pathway provided by the Federal government.

Solution and Action

TBA

Aged Care Workforce

Problem

Lack of aged care workers able to deliver for sector.

Solution and Action

Support the recommendations of the final report of the aged care taskforce, which is critical to support an aged care system which is sustainable, fair and facilitates greater innovation in the sector. Find creative ways to do this with community and unions.

Implementation of Care at Home for Senior Victorians

Problem

N/A

Solution and Action

Contribute to the design and implementation of care at home in the future, which embraces the Commonwealth Home Support Program, largely delivered through Local Government in Victoria.

Neurodivergent Students Experiencing School Can't (Formally School Refusal)

Solution

The Senate Inquiry into School Refusal recommended funding a peer support network for families affected by school refusal, but this has not been acted upon. A motion calling for funding is being circulated to branches for their consideration (discussed by this subcommittee under separate item). School Can't Australia has over 11,000 members, with a further 2,500 being inducted into the group and receives over 20 membership applications per day.

Disability Workforce and Training

Problem

Our child and family social workforce are not being prepared for disability support roles. Our TAFE and unis are not developing people's understanding of disability and there needs to be more workforce development and support

Action

Work with relevant industrial partners and policy committees to campaign for the re-introduction of Cert IV and Advanced Dip in Disability.

Disability Access to Public Transport, Especially Trams

Problem

Access severely lacking across the State.

Solution

Work with transport committee to step out a plan to upgrade all public transport facilities.

Additions to Sensitivity Training

Problem, Solution and Action

All training courses for occupations that deal with the public should include a unit on disability awareness, including Autism, it should be incorporated into the curriculum on the same basis as, say, OH&S

There's an obvious need for teachers to be trained in catering to disabled students, in particular neurodivergence. There is reluctance on the part of education authorities to allow all teachers time off to upskill.

South Australia has an Assistant Minister for Autism and an Autism Specialist teacher in every government primary school; this is an example of what can be achieved. There is a need to get government minister Lizzie Blandthorn's response.

3. Policy Forums held or planned

Date	Location	Key Topics	Guest Speakers	No. of Attendees
TBA	TBA	Housing as a Health Issue	TBA	TBA
TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA

D. ANY OTHER ITEMS

We are extremely disappointed in the lack of communication or acknowledgement of invitations by all our relevant ministers. We have been delighted with the response thus far from the parliamentary secretaries.

Secretary: Stephanie Thuesen (AMWU)

President: Jean-Marc Kurban (SDA)