

## PLATFORM FOREWORD

1. This National Platform draws on our enduring Labor values, speaks for our Government's vision for the future and reflects our determination to serve the aspirations of all Australians.
2. At the 2022 election, Australia voted for change. From day one, we have worked hard to be worthy of the trust Australians have placed in us. The Australian people deserve nothing less than a government of integrity, transparency and accountability. Leaders that govern for every Australian, wherever they live in our extraordinary continent.
3. That is what we have already delivered. And as the Platform makes clear, that is what we will keep delivering as our nation faces up to the challenges and the great opportunities of the future.
4. During the past several years, Australians have shown the great strength of our national character. In the face of Covid, bushfires, flood and drought, we have seen time and time again how the worst of times brings out the best in Australians. But under the previous Government, the strength of the Australian people was not matched by the leadership.
5. In contrast, Labor understands that the best way we can serve the people of Australia is by striving to match those qualities that they themselves have shown: courage in the work of change, care for those in need, and resolve as we face the challenges ahead. With new ideas, with new energy and with new purpose, we have taken up this great task of creating a better future for this country.
6. When the country was debating our future during the federal election just over a year ago, we knew that Australia was facing a period of economic uncertainty.
7. We knew that events beyond our shores and outside our control would bring significant and complex and unpredictable challenges.
8. We also knew there was a shocking legacy of waste and neglect we would have to deal with after nearly a decade of the Coalition's mismanagement and monumental self-interest.
9. The extraordinary truth about their time in power is that the more we learn, the worse it gets.
10. Whether it was the denial and complacency leading into the Black Summer bushfires, mismanagement during the pandemic, Sports Rorts, or the litany of wrongdoing laid bare during the royal commissions into aged care and Robodebt, their legacy is one of neglect with often disastrous consequences.
11. We knew we would have a lot of repair work to do.
12. But we sought the privilege and the opportunity of government to take up these challenges. To bring the country together, to look after Australians doing it tough, to help people under pressure here and now, all the while keeping an eye firmly on our future agenda.

13. While we always understood the world would present us with challenges, we also held to the belief that it would offer us great opportunities. And we are determined to seize those opportunities, and to shape our own future.
14. We are working every day to make a real difference in people's lives. Whether it's ensuring Australians have access to cheaper medicines, creating fee-free TAFE places, the National Reconstruction Fund or cheaper child care, our government is making life easier for Australians in the present while laying the foundations for a better future
15. Our record so far includes the most jobs created in the first year of any Australian government; record levels of workforce participation, including a record number of women in full-time work; inflation heading in the right direction; and wages growing at the fastest rate in a decade, with real wages forecast to grow next year.
16. It's a record that reflects our belief in an economy that works for people, not the other way around. By engaging with business leaders, the trade union movement and civil society, we have worked to revitalise bargaining, encouraging employers and employees to negotiate improvements in productivity and pay. By making the full, equal and overdue participation of women in the economy a national priority, we have brought the gender pay gap to a record low.
17. Our work to reduce emissions and build a Net Zero economy is positioning Australia for our rightful future as a renewable energy superpower, making the most of our abundant sunshine, wind and rare earths such as lithium. Renewable energy will power our industries and propel a new era in Australian manufacturing and trade. And our investments in skills and training will ensure Australians are ready to take up the secure jobs this creates.
18. The promised National Anti-Corruption Commission is already up and running, helping to restore to government the honesty, integrity and accountability that are the lifeblood of the trust upon which our democracy is built.
19. While much of our focus is at home, we are also looking beyond our own borders to secure Australia's place in the world.
20. We are working hard at restoring and strengthening our relations with our friends and neighbours in the Pacific, knowing that a peaceful, stable and prosperous region benefits all of us.
21. We are ensuring Australia is a serious player on the world stage by engaging meaningfully with multilateral bodies including ASEAN, the G20, and the Quad.
22. And we are taking carefully thought-out steps forward with AUKUS to strengthen Australia's sovereignty and our region's security.
23. Amid it all, we have delivered the first Budget surplus in 15 years – the result of responsible financial decisions in the face of \$1 trillion of debt inherited from the previous government with nothing to show for it.

24. These are strong foundations for the better future we are creating. We know there is much more work to do and we will continue in the same spirit in which we began: showing up, taking responsibility, and working with people to fix problems and unlock opportunities.
25. The promises we have delivered so far are only the beginning of our agenda – taking pressure off families, tackling the cost of living, investing in affordable housing, strengthening Medicare, opening the doors of opportunity through education and training and creating more secure jobs.
26. All the while, we will be guided by the fair go and the knowledge that our diversity as a nation is such a great source of our strength. Regardless of who you pray to, who you love and where you come from, we don't content ourselves with the low bar of tolerance. Instead, we aim higher – for inclusion, equality, respect, and celebration of Australia's rich tapestry.
27. We will continue advancing the cause of reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australia, reaching for a sense of national cohesion built on the recognition of 65,000 years of culture, and a full acknowledgment of our history that lets us embrace the future.
28. So much of what we do is driven by the understanding that we are stronger and more united when all of our people are embraced equally and able to access the same opportunities. This is something I have always held in my heart, not least because I have lived the sort of life that Labor governments make possible.
29. Labor governments that give people security when they need it, and the capacity to fulfil their aspirations when they are ready for it. Labor governments that work instinctively to ensure that no-one is limited by the circumstances of their birth. That no-one is held back and no-one is left behind.
30. I'm proud of what we have achieved together so far, but it is just the beginning. Maintaining the momentum we have built is an important part of the responsibility and privilege of forming Government.
31. It is my deep hope that this is a long-term Labor government because real, enduring reforms that change a country for the better take time.
32. We may be Australia's oldest political party but as Labor people we have always mapped our history in achievements, not years. We look with pride on a rich legacy of reforms that have improved the lives of Australians to such a profound extent they have become part of the national story: Medicare, the NDIS, accessible education, universal superannuation, the Sex Discrimination Act, the Racial Discrimination Act, Native Title, the Apology to the Stolen Generations, and saving the Franklin River.
33. We look to our history as a party, not out of nostalgia but because it reminds us what is possible when we have the discipline, courage, vision and ambition for our nation to persuade the Australian people that we are worthy of staying the course.

34. It is a record that energises us and lets us look more clearly to better future that we want to create with the Australian people, who gave us the privilege of being in government and serving them. This is a journey we travel together.
35. Before last year's election, we shared our plans for a better future with the nation. From the moment the Australian people entrusted us with the privilege of forming Government, we have been repaying that trust by getting the job done.
36. This is what Labor does. When we promise, we deliver. Our ambition for our nation is matched by our sense of responsibility. We are working for Australia – that's why we're here. That's why we're Labor.
37. We've been powered every step of the way by the same instinct that drives all Labor governments. The instinct to improve the lives of our fellow Australians. To make a positive difference that lasts. To shape the future so that our great country can become even greater. And, above all, to bring Australians closer together in a stronger, fairer and more unified nation.  
  
On election night, I repeated Labor's vow: That we would be a government as courageous and hardworking and caring as the Australian people are themselves.
38. This is the commitment drives and inspires our movement, our party and our Government.
39. Working for Australia, every day, every week, every month, every year.

**Moved Hon Anthony Albanese MP**  
**Seconded Hon Richard Marles MP**