



2 May 2019

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Dear Mr Moses

Thank you for writing to the Australian Labor Party (ALP), providing your 2019 Federal Election Call to Parties roadmap and requesting our response to the issues raised.

We commend the Law Council of Australia on the comprehensive and thoughtful nature of the Call to Parties. Please find below the ALP's response under each of the broad themes you have identified. This is not all inclusive, and Labor looks forward to continuing to work closely with the Law Council on law reform.

Labor has long considered many of the issues identified in the Call to Parties, and we have given attention to many in our National Platform, and in our election commitments to date, the detail of which are incorporated into this response.

Access to Justice

Labor believes that for Australia to remain a fair and democratic nation, justice must be accessible to all Australians, rather than only to wealthy individuals and companies who can afford to hire lawyers. Labor believes that all Australians, not just the wealthy, should have the right to a fair go under the law.

Providing access to justice for all Australians has been a Labor priority for over a generation, when the Whitlam Government established Legal Aid. Since that time, Labor has championed and strengthened the legal assistance sector.

Our priority is to strengthen the legal assistance sector, ensuring that all Australians, not just the wealthy, have access to justice. Our policies in this area include:

- Expanding the financial rights legal assistance sector from 40 lawyers to 240 lawyers across Australia, using \$120 million from the Banking Fairness Fund. This will give the victims of the banks and other large financial institutions a chance to seek compensation

for the harm they suffered which was revealed in the Banking Royal Commission that the Liberals fought so hard against.

- Strengthening legal assistance services through a new \$90 million Preventing Family Violence Legal Service Fund. This fund would include:
 - \$42.5 million extra for Community Legal Centres – sufficient to provide vital legal assistance to approximately 115,000 additional women and their families suffering from family violence.
 - \$21.5 million in additional funding to Family Violence Prevention Legal Services, providing dedicated legal support to First Nations women and their families.
 - \$21 million to double the number of Specialist Domestic Violence Units and Health Justice partnerships – providing specialist support to women in hospitals, health services and in the community.
- Providing an additional \$20 million over four years to the base funding of Community Legal Centres (CLCs) in order to support the general services that CLCs provide to communities across Australia. Community Legal Centres provide free legal assistance to hundreds of thousands of everyday Australians, as well as to vulnerable and disadvantaged members of the community every year. Labor recognises that CLCs play a crucial and effective role in assisting people to resolve their legal problems at an early stage, before they escalate to become far more complex and expensive matters. As front-line services, CLCs also contribute to systemic legal reform through policy advocacy. This \$20 million commitment is in addition to the substantial commitments noted above to expand the work of CLCs in domestic violence and financial advice work.
- Labor will also provide \$4 million over four years to support the National Association of Community Legal Centres (NACLC) in fulfilling its important sector leadership role, which includes:
 - Building the capacity of its state members and individual CLCs.
 - Building relationships to leverage combined resources, expertise and knowledge for the benefit of the organisations and communities.
 - Developing and supporting high standards and quality in our own work and across the sector.

- Labor will strengthen access to justice for Indigenous Australians by providing \$40 million over four years to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services (ATSILS). This will greatly enhance the ability of ATSILS to fulfil their three critical functions:
 - Improving access to justice for Indigenous Australians.
 - Reducing the disproportionate disadvantage experienced by Indigenous people in the justice system.
 - Providing cost effective legal assistance.
- Labor will also provide \$4 million over four years to the ATSILS peak body, the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services (NATSILS), to build its capacity to lead the sector and to support its strategic plan to improve justice outcomes based on community, culture and empowerment.
- A Shorten Labor Government has also committed to maintain the independence of the Indigenous Legal Assistance Program, which gives effect to the fundamental principle of self-determination for First Nations by funding ATSILS as the community-controlled providers of culturally safe legal services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. This is vital to ensure effective access to justice for Indigenous Australians and will reverse the Morrison Liberal Government’s decision to roll ATSILS into the general funding stream for Commonwealth legal assistance, announced in the 2019-20 Budget in April.
- Restoring Commonwealth funding to Environment Defenders Offices (EDOs) across Australia, with \$14 million to flow over the coming four years. EDOs are responsible, independent, not-for-profit, and non-partisan legal organisations. They are staffed by dedicated professionals that act for all kinds of Australians, from farmers, to Indigenous Australians, to community and environmental groups who want to uphold our laws, to enforce their legal rights, and to protect Australia’s precious natural assets.
- Recognising the important role of the legal assistance sector in advocacy and law reform, and the particular expertise that many of these organisations have in their areas of practice, a Labor Government will immediately remove all gag clauses from Commonwealth funding agreements with legal assistance services, that were put in place and maintained by the Liberal Government. Labor believes that governments should welcome policy advocacy from organisations with expert knowledge acquired from practical experience, rather than trying to silence them.

Labor acknowledges there are significant problems with the current family law system, which have led to unacceptable delays for vulnerable families and children. There are many

factors that have contributed to this, including the Liberal Government's failure to reappoint judges in a timely manner, funding shortages in legal assistance services, and some inefficiencies in the family law system.

Labor believes that law reform is an ongoing process. Labor also agrees that reform of family law and to the family courts is required. But Labor's priority is to make sure that reform is undertaken in a careful and measured way, on the basis of rigorous design and thorough consultation. In contrast, the Morrison Government sought to push radical reforms to the family law system through the parliament based on a cursory desk top survey by an accounting firm, and in the absence of meaningful consultation with the sector. If elected, reform of the family law system will be a high priority for a Labor Government. Any reforms that Labor does introduce will be informed by the Australian Law Reform Commission Review of the family law system, and by comprehensive consultation with the sector.

Strengthening Integrity

Labor stands for integrity, accountability and transparency in government. We have no tolerance for corruption and will work to stamp it out in the public, private and not-for-profit sector.

In January 2018, Labor announced that legislation to establish a National Integrity Commission would be introduced in the first 12 months of a Shorten Labor Government. Labor also said we would be willing to work with the Government to establish a National Integrity Commission during *this* term of parliament.

After spending almost a year rejecting these calls, the Morrison Government finally announced that it would move to establish a "federal anti-corruption commission".

Unfortunately, the model proposed by the Liberals is inadequate. It has been roundly criticised by experts for its limited scope, limited powers and lack of transparency. Unlike Scott Morrison, Labor will establish a tough anti-corruption watchdog with teeth.

A Shorten Labor Government will:

- Establish a National Integrity Commission that will be given all the resources and powers of a permanent Royal Commission into corruption, and the independence to fearlessly pursue corruption in the federal public sphere
- Restore integrity and accountability to the process for appointing judges to the federal judiciary by reinstating the rigorous, merits-based appointments process Labor adopted

and maintained when last in government. Labor will implement a similar process for appointments to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal

- Commit \$25 million to establish a Corporate Crime Taskforce, to equip the Commonwealth Public Prosecutor to crack down on corporate criminals, and in particular to respond to recommendations for criminal prosecution which stem from the final report of the Financial Services Royal Commission
- Harmonise whistleblowing laws across all sectors through the establishment of a single Australian Whistleblowing Act, which would contain a public sector and a private sector whistleblowing regime. As part of this new harmonised structure, Labor will establish for the first time a Whistleblower Protection Authority, dedicated to protecting whistleblowers from adverse actions and assisting whistleblowers through the disclosure process. Labor will also set up a Whistleblower Rewards Scheme for whistleblowers who come forward
- Strengthen our Freedom of Information (Fol) framework by ensuring that Fol laws are respected and complied with by the Australian Government, and that adequate resources are provided to ensure that this important transparency mechanism works as it is designed to.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

Nowhere is the story of unfairness and diminished opportunity more clearly defined than in the justice gap experienced by First Nations peoples.

For too long, our justice system has failed First Nations people. It has been 28 years since the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody and yet the vicious cycle that drives the unacceptable over-representation of Indigenous Australians in our justice system continues.

Labor believes that in tackling the entrenched disadvantages faced by First Nations people in the justice system, we must be guided by those who live the reality of the justice gap – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their community-controlled, representative organisations.

As noted above, if elected A Shorten Labor Government will:

- Strengthen access to justice for First Nations peoples by providing \$40 million over four years to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services. This will greatly enhance its ability to fulfil its critical functions.

- Provide \$4 million over four years to the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services, to build its capacity to lead the sector and to improve justice outcomes based on community, culture and empowerment.

In addition to these two important measures, if elected a Shorten Labor Government will also:

- Work with the states and territories to adopt justice targets under the Closing the Gap framework.
- Work with state and territory governments to grow and sustain alternative sentencing mechanisms such as Koori Courts and mediation forums to reduce pressure on the overburdened justice system.
- Invest \$21.7 million over four years into progressing justice reinvestment. Extend the justice reinvestment project currently underway in Bourke, New South Wales, and introduce the trial to sites in Western Australia, Queensland and the Northern Territory. Establish three new launch sites in a major city, regional town and remote community that build on existing community-led initiatives to explore the role of justice reinvestment in preventing crime and reducing incarceration.
- Through COAG, establish a national coordinating body, as recommended by the Australian Law Reform Commission, to build the evidence base, collect data and measure progress as the new targets are implemented, and to monitor the effectiveness of justice reinvestment in the Australian context.
- Work in partnership with First Nations women to address unacceptably high rates of violence against Indigenous women. Labor will provide a dedicated First Nations' stream of the \$60 million Community Prevention & Frontline Service Grants program to support community-led and culturally appropriate prevention programs.
- Invest in Aboriginal controlled frontline services, including at least \$20 million for refuges and safe houses and a \$21.5 million boost to Family Violence Prevention Legal Services over four years.

Labor supports the recognition of First Nations people in the Australian Constitution. This will be an important step towards a more reconciled nation based on strong relationships of mutual respect.

A Labor Government will implement the Uluru Statement from the Heart's sole proposal for constitutional recognition – a First Nations' Voice to Parliament – in genuine partnership with First Nations people as well as building public support for change. Labor, if elected, has

committed to holding a referendum to enshrine a First Nations' Voice to Parliament in the Constitution.

Criminal Justice

The Australian Labor Party has a proud record of criminal justice reform. While in opposition, Labor has been fighting to prevent the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government undermining the basic principles of criminal justice system.

For example, Labor's National Platform states our support for appropriate use of noncustodial sentencing options for offenders. This principle is particularly important for young people, and Labor holds that all effort should be made to divert children from long-term involvement in the criminal justice system. It is for this reason that Labor is committed to supporting the justice reinvestment initiative in Burke, and if elected, will provide \$21.7 million to continue and expand justice reinvestment initiatives across Australia.

Labor also believes that mandatory sentencing and detention regimes are often discriminatory in practice, conflict with the role of the judiciary as an independent arm of government and have not proved effective in reducing crime or criminality. Labor opposes mandatory sentencing for these reasons, and over the last six years Labor has successfully fought off multiple attempts by the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government to introduce mandatory sentencing for certain criminal offences.

Labor also respects the doctrine of separation of powers, enshrined in the Australian Constitution. It is for this reason that Labor Members of Parliament are always careful to avoid commenting on matters that are before the courts, in particular criminal matters.

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said of the Liberal Party, including its ministers. For example, Labor was deeply concerned when three Liberal ministers from Victoria, Greg Hunt, Alan Tudge and Michael Sukkar, engaged in contemptuous comments about a sentencing appeal being heard before the Victorian Court of Criminal Appeal. These gratuitous comments had nothing to do with their portfolio responsibilities, and prima facie amounted to contempt of court. All three of those then ministers have law degrees, and all would have known how their comments would undermine the proper administration of criminal justice. But even after the contemptuous nature of their comments was made clear, all three refused to apologise and withdraw until a court hearing for contempt was underway, at which point they belatedly issued grovelling apologies. To add insult to their appalling conduct, none of the three ministers bothered to show up for the court hearing, and it was subsequently revealed in Senate Estimates that then Attorney-General George Brandis personally authorised the use of taxpayer's funds for the Solicitor-General to defend them in court at no personal cost to the offending ministers.

In addition to the egregious example above, the Minister for Home Affairs, Mr Dutton, has frequently attacked the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) for overturning his decisions. While the AAT is not a court, attacks from a petulant Minister who believes that his decisions are beyond question can only undermine public confidence in the AAT and its important role as one of the checks on the exercise of executive power.

The Law and People Experiencing Disadvantage

The Whitlam Government established the Family Court of Australia over 40 years ago. Labor continues to recognise the importance of a specialist family court system at the federal level, presided over by judges with the appropriate training, experience and personality to deal with the complex cases they hear, to develop family law jurisprudence, and to administer a properly functioning family court system.

Furthermore, Labor is committed to maintaining an adequately resourced and specialised family court system, and will continue to investigate, consult on, and where appropriate, progress, legal and administrative reforms to improve the operation of the Family and Federal Circuit Courts.

Labor stands against family violence. A Labor Government will introduce 10 days paid Domestic Violence leave as a universal workplace right in the National Employment Standards.

In Government, Labor would prioritise the full implementation of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022 and will work with the states and territories to evaluate state-specific progress, and to develop a successor to that National Plan.

National leadership is required to coordinate judicial and social services reform across jurisdictions to better deal with family violence and sexual violence in a new comprehensive national strategy.

A Shorten Labor Government will:

- Support victims and survivors of family violence by resourcing community legal assistance including culturally appropriate support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- Improve the capacity of the judicial system to deal with family violence.
- Deliver more certainty for homelessness services supporting women and children escaping family violence situations.

- Enable women and their children experiencing family violence to remain safely in their current home and community.
- Establish greater perpetrator accountability mechanisms and divert perpetrators from the path to violence.
- Address fragmented responses to family violence.
- Support sound research and ongoing measurement to underpin policy approaches, identify emerging challenges and track progress.
- Deliver primary prevention initiatives by investing in national education campaigns, community programs and early intervention.
- Support victims and survivors of sexual violence through specialist services including targeted prevention of sexual violence.
- Provide culturally competent support.
- Demonstrate national leadership in preventing technology-facilitated abuse.
- Ensure safety planning resources can be used by domestic violence victims facing reproductive coercion.

Labor has committed to consult the many organisations working to address family violence and sexual violence and we will ensure women's voices are heard in the development and delivery of our strategy. We aim to reduce gendered violence by improving how governments work together, increasing support and creating innovative and targeted ways to bring about change, and reduce gender inequality.

A Shorten Labor Government will:

- Create and maintain the national apparatus needed to drive change culture and inform future responses.
- Maintain a strong focus on the prevention of violence, and the reduction of its incidence.
- Help family violence survivors avoid falling into poverty.
- Ensure policies and programs work for victims and survivors with special vulnerabilities (including migrant women, Indigenous women, women with disabilities, and LGBTIQ victims and survivors).

- Support respectful relationships and attitudinal change in our culture, institutions and in individuals, with a focus on young people.
- Deliver innovative services and integrated systems, helping victims to rebuild their lives supported by community-wide responses including specialist services.
- Continue to expand the evidence base.
- Reduce gender inequality, which is at the core of domestic and family violence.
- Implement the recommendations of the Senate inquiry into 1800 RESPECT Domestic and Sexual Violence Counselling Service.
- Support a positive model of consent through research, education and legislative reform.

A Labor Government will address the prevalence of elder abuse. Older Australians should be free from the atrocities of elder abuse and neglect, intentional or unintentional. They should also be free from fear of physical, psychological, emotional, sexual or financial abuse. Labor supports nationally consistent retirement village legislation with stronger consumer protections.

Labor believes Australia has an important role to play in abolishing modern slavery. In Government we will enforce supply chain reporting requirements, including mandatory reporting requirements and penalties for non-compliance. Labor has also committed to establish an Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner to lead our efforts to abolish modern slavery in Australia and abroad.

Additionally, a Labor Government will legislate to ensure Australian enterprises' domestic and global supply chains are transparent and do not breach State and International Labour Organisation labour standards, international human rights, anti-slavery, child labour and human trafficking laws.

Human Rights

Labor believes in the importance of recognising and protecting the democratic rights and freedoms of every individual. This includes recognising, defending and, when necessary, balancing the fundamental rights that generations of Australians have fought to protect, including freedom of speech, freedom of association, freedom from discrimination and freedom of religion.

If elected, a Labor Government will:

- Remove the exemptions from the anti-discrimination provisions in the Sex Discrimination Act that apply to LGBTI+ students and teachers.
- Appoint an LGBTI+ Discrimination Commissioner to the Australian Human Rights Commission.
- Review Australia's Human Rights Framework to ensure it continues to protect our democratic rights and freedoms and consider whether it could be enhanced through a statutory charter of human rights or other similar instrument.
- Continue to defend the protections against racial hate speech in section 18C against any attempts by the Liberals and their allies in the racist right wing of the parliament to weaken those protections.
- Support the important work of the Australian Human Rights Commission in protecting the rights of Australians. The Commission's work includes opposing racism, defending religious freedoms, protecting the rights of children, working to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and fighting discrimination against people with disabilities, sex discrimination, age discrimination, and if Labor is elected, fighting discrimination against LGBTI+ Australians.

Labor has committed to consolidating federal anti-discrimination laws into a single Act to remove unnecessary regulatory overlap and make the system more user-friendly.

A Labor Government will treat people seeking Australia's protection with dignity and compassion and in accordance with our international obligations, the rule of law and core Australian principles of fairness and humanity. Labor will legislate to enshrine our international obligations into Australian domestic law.

Under the Refugee Convention, asylum seekers have the right to seek protection and asylum and, regardless of the mode of arrival, this is not illegal under Australian or international law. Accordingly, Labor rejects the practice of referring to asylum seekers as 'illegals.'

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) plays a significant role as the international agency dealing with the world's response to the global humanitarian need. Labor, if elected to Government, will ensure Australia is one of the leading contributors to the global work of the UNHCR with a significant increase to funding for UNHCR.

A Labor Government would seek a leading role working with regional partners, in particular with Indonesia to build a regional framework to improve the lives of asylum seekers. In Government we would give appropriate consideration to UNHCR refugee registrations to assist Indonesia and the UNHCR to work through the backlog. Subject to Australian vetting processes and sovereignty concerns, Labor will positively consider such refugees for inclusion within our commitment to an increased humanitarian intake.

Labor has committed to appoint a Special Envoy for Refugee and Asylum Seeker Issues with responsibilities for advancing Australia's interests and ensuring Australia plays a global role in the resettlement of displaced people.

As an element of international engagement, a Labor Government will strongly and clearly oppose the death penalty, whenever and wherever it arises, and advocate its universal abolition, including through strong regional and global representations.

Business Issues and Consumer Rights

Labor called for the Royal Commission into the Banking and Financial Services Industry despite sustained opposition to a Royal Commission from the Liberals. A Labor Government will continue to protect Australians from banking misconduct.

A Labor Government will fully implement 75 recommendations of the Royal Commission, and will go further than the Royal Commission in a number of important areas.

Labor has committed to create a Banking Fairness Fund, with Australia's biggest banks contributing \$160 million to fund important services for victims of banking misconduct and Australians in financial hardship.

The Banking Fairness Fund will:

- Double the number of financial counsellors in Australia from 500 to 1,000, servicing an additional 125,000 Australians.
- Boost the number of financial rights lawyers in community legal centres from 40 to 240, delivering legal advice and representation to an extra 150,000 Australians.
- Deliver 20,000 flexible support packages to survivors of family violence fleeing violent relationships.
- Increase funding for no interest and low interest loan schemes for low-income Australians to combat the damage caused by payday lending.

- Repair cuts the Liberals made to emergency relief grants for Australia's most vulnerable people in severe financial hardships.

A Labor Government will deliver a package of comprehensive reforms to compensation for past and future victims of bank misconduct. Victims of past bank misconduct will be able to apply to Labor's independent retrospective compensation scheme to have their matter heard and decided.

Banks often abused the legal system to bully victims of misconduct. Labor's retrospective compensation scheme will hear applications from victims even where a court decision has been made. Where the victim can show that a manifest injustice has occurred, the bank will be asked to consent to have the matter heard and decided by the retrospective compensation scheme.

A Labor Government will overhaul the compensation caps at the Australian Financial Complaints Authority, quadrupling the caps for consumers from \$500,000 to \$2 million, and doubling the caps for small businesses from \$1 million to \$2 million and for farmers from \$2 million to \$4 million.

Labor will also remove the \$5,000 sub-cap on non-financial loss, so that victims can be properly compensated for the devastating personal impacts of bank misconduct.

Labor's National Platform states we will pursue four essential policies to help small business: tax assistance and simplification, lower regulatory burdens (including national harmonisation), competition laws with tougher penalties and better access to justice, and better access to finance.

Labor has committed to re-establish the Corporations and Markets Advisory Committee (CAMAC) or similar body.

A Labor Government will ask such a body to consider and report on whether the Corporations Act should be revised to clarify the extent to which directors may take into account the interests of specific classes of stakeholders or the broader community when making corporate decisions, and whether companies should be required to report on the social and environmental impact of their activities.

A Labor Government will ensure small businesses have appropriate channels to access to justice on the misuse of market power by larger firms. This requires the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission to have an adequate litigation budget, and complementary avenues such as facilitating litigation in the public interest.

Labor will also ensure regulatory oversight to stop pernicious fraudulent phoenix activity to protect small business creditors.

In Government, Labor would increase penalties for employers and related entities who systematically underpay and exploit workers. We will provide the resources necessary to focus on detection and prosecution of serious contraventions of the Fair Work Act by employers.

Labor has committed, if elected, to strengthen the environmental legal framework (currently provided by the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act) and improve the environmental protection policy framework in Australia.

Labor will improve Comcare to ensure it is an effective regulator and injured workers get fair and adequate compensation for their injuries or illness and are rehabilitated and helped to return to work in a suitable role. We will provide Comcare with the resources that it needs, including adequate staffing of the inspectorate and supporting staff, to fulfil its regulatory and compliance role.

Labor supports the work of the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission and will ensure it has the resources and the powers to regulate charities and not-for profits in line with the expectations of the public and the needs of the sector. A Labor Government will remove inconsistencies and overlaps in the reporting obligations of charities, and will develop a single national Associations Act, a consistent national approach to fundraising and other relevant regulatory requirements.

Professional Regulation

Labor supported introduction into parliament of the Migration Amendment (Regulation of Migration Agents) Bill and participated in the inquiry into the proposed Bill conducted by the Senate Standing Committee for Legal and Constitutional Affairs. Labor supported the Committee's conclusion that the Bill should be passed with recommendation for transition measures.

Labor will retain the Fair Work Commission and the Fair Work Ombudsman ensuring understanding of and compliance with workplace laws. Labor will deliver effective, low-cost, informal and prompt resolution of disputes through the Fair Work Commission, the Fair Work Ombudsman and small claims procedures in the courts.

Other Law Reform

If elected, Labor has committed to work with state and territory governments, institutions, Survivors and Victims to address each of the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. This includes:

- Working to implement the National Redress Scheme.
- Working with the states and territories towards a national system of working with children checks.
- Working with the states and territories to ensure institutions that engage in child related work to retain records for at least 45 years to allow for delayed disclosure by abuse victims and limitation periods for civil action.
- Ensuring clear ministerial responsibility for childrens issues, including the National Framework for Child Safety.
- Annual public reporting on the implementation of the recommendations.

As already outlined, a Labor Government will put a high priority on implementing the recommendations of the Banking Royal Commission and will introduce further measures to protect consumers from banking misconduct.

Labor supports the Royal Commission into Aged care Quality and Safety. Labor has been saying for a long time that the aged care system is in a state of national crisis, and we believe aged care reform should not be delayed while the Royal Commission takes place – reform should start now.

Nearly two years ago, in May 2017, Labor announced that in Government, we would hold a Royal Commission into violence and abuse against people with disability. Labor is committed to a fully federally funded Royal Commission that is broad-based and covers incidences of abuse and violence against people with disability in a wide range of sectors and contexts, including in health, mental health, education and the justice system, and historic abuse.

Labor recognises that Australia needs constitutional reform to modernise our democratic structures and make our public administration more effective and efficient to deal with emerging challenges. First and foremost, our Constitution should reflect Australia's status as a parliamentary democracy and an independent nation.

In government Labor substantially updated the Privacy Act 1988 to adopt a risk-based approach to protecting personal information in their possession from misuse, interference or loss, as well as unauthorised access, modification or disclosure.

Our National Platform recognises that an individual's right to privacy is a fundamental political, civil and human right which must be protected. Many services relied on by Australian consumers require them to provide very personal information about themselves to secure those services including employment details, income levels, credit/financial history and circumstances as well as family links.

Labor acknowledges particular community concerns about the offshore storage and access of their personal data. In Government, Labor will continue to review the adequacy of offshore data storage and privacy laws.

Thank you again for writing to Labor on your Call to Parties roadmap. We look forward to continuing our engagement with the Law Council of Australia to progress needed law reforms.

Australian Labor Campaign Headquarters

www.alp.org.au