



# Twelve steps for reform of the Victorian ALP

We believe that Victorian Labor needs deep and far-sighted change in order to effectively play its part in the election of strong Labor governments and implement strong, progressive policies for all Australians.

Labor is nothing without its members – branch members and unionists. Yet most find themselves excluded, as administration and pre-selections are controlled by a few on behalf of their factions. Victorian Labor needs to empower all its members by more direct voting and active participation in policy discussions, using technologies that make wider participation possible. Labor needs to be a party of the 21st century.

We endorse the Administrators work to clean up the members' roll, renew the Disputes Tribunal and amend the rules to require traceable means for membership. We now call on them to recommend Victorian ALP rule changes which advance our:

## Integrity

1. **Clean the party** of branch stackers and members enlisted through branch stacking and put in place processes and rules to detect and prevent future stacking;
2. **Appoint an independent ombudsman** to investigate potential serious rules breaches and take warranted charges to a reformed and impartial Disputes Tribunal;
3. **Guarantee democratic practices**, including the conduct of all elections by secret ballot supported by robust and enforced rules, and the declaration by candidates of their factional and other party affiliations;

## Respectful culture

4. **Show the party respects and values its members** by ensuring that they have input into important decisions and informs them of what has been decided and why;
5. **Support members and branches** by promoting their participation in party activities, openly communicating important and essential information, providing training for key roles and potential public office holders;

## Democracy and good governance

6. **Ensure a real say** for members in ballots for candidates for both houses of State and Federal parliaments;
7. **Prohibit interventions** that remove the voting rights of party members in pre-selections except in unusual circumstances.
8. **Reform the Administrative Committee** so it is representative of the membership, operates democratically and reports and explains its decisions to members;
9. **Ensure State Office** is competent, and run by officials and staff appointed on their merits, who do not engage in factional activity while performing their formal party role; *and*

## Grow the membership

10. **Adopt an inclusive strategy** of supporting the operations of branches and other party bodies (such as LEAN, Young Labor and Rainbow Labor) to welcome, recruit, support and retain genuine members from all parts of the Australian community;
11. **Establish a Membership Unit** within the State Office dedicated to growing Labor's membership and broadening its appeal, especially among groups where membership is low, including traditional Labor voters, young people and minority communities.
12. **Increase the participation of individual affiliated unionists** by giving them a direct say in party activities and votes, including election of the union's State Conference delegates.