

Australian Labor Party.



POLICY STATEMENT

BY

THE PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA

THE HON. R. J. L. HAWKE

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LET'S STICK TOGETHER. LET'S SEE IT THROUGH.

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The Australian nation is undergoing its most sweeping modernisation and reform since World War Two.

Under the policies of the Hawke Government, Australia is throwing off the lethargy of the last three decades, striving to regain the ground that we lost because of our inability to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing world.

All aspects of our national life - our economic institutions, our workplace attitudes, our view of our place in the world - are being reshaped to meet the challenges of the 1990s and beyond.

All sections of the Australian community are being called upon to play a role.

All parts of the community have had their sacrifices to make - and the whole community will share the benefits of those sacrifices in the years to come.

As we prepare to celebrate next year the first two hundred years of European settlement, we will need all our resources of energy and imagination to build our prosperity for our third century.

That is why in this election campaign the Hawke Government is urging Australians to renew its mandate - so that the nation can continue to move forward with purpose.

The Hawke Government is saying: don't change horses in mid-stream. Don't risk wasting the ultimate recompense for which all our sacrifices have been made along the way.

This policy statement sets out the achievements we have made together as a nation over the past four years and the prospects awaiting us.

It shows the progress the nation has made and, just as important, it describes the policies necessary to continue that progress over the next few years - policies that a Labor Government will implement.

Look at the progress we have made so far.

In 1983 Labor promised to end the worst recession in 50 years, heal the divisions which were sapping the country of its energy and begin the long term task of economic reconstruction.

On each count Labor has delivered,

But national economic reconstruction became even more urgent when, through the course of 1985 and 1986, a collapse in the prices of our major primary exports inflicted on Australia a massive national loss of some \$9 billion.

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In 1985 Australia was running an unsustainably large current account deficit, leading to too rapid a build up of foreign debt. Australia had no option but to face facts and take the necessary decisions to rebuild our national prosperity through trade and gradually reduce the current account deficit.

The Hawke Government is taking those decisions. As a result, progress is being made. But it is going to be a long haul. Labor has never pretended otherwise.

This document spells out in three sections the policies we will bring to bear to ensure the momentum of progress is maintained.

Working Together for the Future of the Australian Economy

- Labor's approach to economic management will continue to promote investment in export and import-replacing industries, preserve our international competitiveness, reduce both inflation and interest rates and create permanent jobs;
- Labor's approach to education, training and industry policy will continue to help Australia build on our strengths and move progressively to capture a larger share of the newer, more dynamic areas of world trade.

Building a Caring Community, a More Democratic Society and a Better Quality of Life

- Labor's approach to social issues will continue to promote fairness and justice: because Australians believe in a fair go and a helping hand for those in need; and because national attitudes and practices can only be reformed adequately if the need for change is well understood and both the costs and benefits of change are shared fairly;
- Labor is committed to constitutional, legislative and administrative reform to build a more democratic and efficient government;
- Labor will ensure that Australians continue to enjoy their natural environment, their cultural pursuits and their sporting activities.

Enhancing Australia's Role in the world

- Just as Labor is committed to building a society based on tolerance and fairness at home, so we will continue to use our influence to promote justice and peace in the rest of the world. Labor is committed to the cause of nuclear disarmament, without which there can be no security and no permanent prosperity.

Labor offers the united team and the proven policies to build a better Australia.

Let's stick together. Let's see it through.

I. WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE FUTURE OF THE AUSTRALIAN ECONOMY

The first task of economic management Labor faced in 1983 was to rescue Australia from its **worst** recession-in fifty years. That has been achieved:

- . Almost 800,000 jobs have been created, predominantly in the private sector
 - the average annual rate of increase has been four times that of our predecessors and twice that of the western industrialised countries;
- . The unemployment rate is now just over 8 per cent compared to 10.5 per cent at about the time when Labor took office.

Those achievements are even more remarkable in the context of the massive 16 per cent decline in Australia's terms of trade since late 1984.

The traditional conservative response has been to shut the economy down and force economic adjustment through unemployment.

Labor did not choose that barren path: rather Labor has met the challenge with the far sighted policies which the people of Australia have come to expect from us. These policies are working:

- . The current account deficit has declined substantially this year and is expected to improve further next year;
- . Even though it was necessary to slow the growth of domestic demand a little in 1986 to support that adjustment, jobs growth has remained strong
 - 100,000 new jobs were created in the last 6 months;
- . --Moreover the signs are now unmistakable that growth is picking up, in line with the improvement in the current account;
- . Most importantly the external sector has accounted for virtually all of economic growth in 1986-87 - it is also expected to contribute substantially next year; and
- . Investment, so necessary to sustain future living standards, *is* increasing.

The task of economic management in the third Hawke Government will be to build upon the progress made to date and bring to fruition Labor's efforts to reconstruct the economy.

FISCAL POLICY

Labor has consistently pursued a responsible fiscal policy attuned to the needs of the economy. We inherited a Budget deficit which was an irresponsibly large 5 per cent of GDP. As a result of unprecedented fiscal restraint this has been reduced to 1 1/2 per cent.

Labor will bring in a Budget deficit of less than 1 per cent of GDP in 1987-88. Because of the substantial savings measures already announced in the May Statement, that goal will be achieved without new taxes and without discretionary increases in taxes. Labor will not increase the share of GDP taken as tax revenue over the life of our next term.

Labor will continue to seek out and close off tax rorts. As part of its efforts to make the taxation system fairer and more efficient, Labor has conducted the most systematic crackdown on tax avoidance and welfare cheating ever attempted. Those efforts will be maintained, not least by the reintroduction of the Australia Card legislation. When fully operational, that single piece of legislation will yield some \$900m from tax evaders and welfare cheats.

Labor recognises that continued fiscal restraint is essential to reducing Australia's dependence on external financing. Labor will progressively reduce the Budget deficit as a share of GDP for as long as economic conditions require it.

Accordingly, Labor does not enter this election campaign with an irresponsible package of unaffordable promises. Our new commitments are carefully crafted so as to target substantial benefits on those most in need. Labor's new policy commitments in this election campaign amount to \$303m in 1987-88, \$469m in a full year. The details of these costings are at page 16. Labor will finance these commitments while achieving its stated fiscal objectives. The commitments costed on page 16 are the only undertakings given in the campaign which require additional Budgetary resources. Any new policy introduced in future Budgets will be funded in the same responsible way that we have approached fiscal policy for our entire period in office.

Labor will not be returning to the major spending areas - health, social security, housing, education and defence - for new savings of any magnitude in the coming Budget. The bulk of the necessary savings will be achieved from a range of smaller departments, from further Block scrutinies of public sector administration and from greater than expected savings from discretionary measures already taken to crack down on welfare cheating and tighten eligibility rules,

In particular, the number of unemployment beneficiaries has fallen sharply in recent weeks (each 5,000 reduction saves \$30m in a full year).

Savings from these quarters could be expected to flow over into 1987-88 when, in addition, the Budget will benefit from the full **year** effect of measures already announced in the May Statement (of the order of \$300m).

Although new policy will not be funded in this way, the fall in interest rates since the May Statement will also assist in reducing Budget outlays.

Labor has demonstrated our ability to take the decisions necessary to deliver an appropriate Budget. Unlike the Opposition, which is seeking spending cuts in the order of \$10 billion, Labor can finance its new policy commitments without recourse to horror measures, without recourse to new taxes and without jeopardising the economic strategy necessary to secure Australia's future prosperity.

INCOMES AND PRICES POLICIES

Labor has successfully ended the confrontation and division which tore at the national fabric under the last Liberal government - and would again if the Liberals were returned to office.

The result has been a massive 60 per cent decline in industrial disputation and an eight per cent fall in real unit labour costs.

These achievements have underpinned the remarkable growth in employment which has occurred under the Hawke Government. They have also facilitated the major progress to date in reconstructing the Australian economy to make it more competitive and more attuned to the changing pattern of world trade.

Under Labor the inflation rate was halved within two years from the double digit level we inherited. It has recently accelerated as the economy has absorbed the inflationary surge induced by higher import prices following the depreciation of the currency.

However inflation is now headed downwards again and is expected to fall to 7 per cent by the end of 1987 and to about 6 per cent by mid-1988. As inflation is rising abroad the gap between Australia and our trading partners is closing rapidly.

The third Hawke Government will continue to pursue wage policies consistent with sustained competitiveness and lower inflation. Under our policies Australian workers will continue to receive wage increases as large and as prompt as economic circumstances can afford.

Labor believes that a wage freeze is neither necessary nor desirable to achieve the goals of economic policy.

Labor has encouraged the restoration of profitability as the necessary condition for jobs growth and investment. But, consistent with the overall need for restraint, Labor has also taken active steps to contain excessive price rises.

Labor established the Prices Surveillance Authority - its work is now being expanded. Labor has established a national Price Watch network, a system of community based committees to monitor and report on local supermarket prices.

MONETARY POLICY

High interest rates have been required for some time, first, to attract the savings necessary to fund the current account deficit and second, to moderate domestic demand so as to ease the transition to a more trade-oriented economy.

Interest rates have fallen substantially over recent months. This reflects: declining inflation and inflationary expectations; the progress made in reducing the current account deficit; and the steps taken to support longer term adjustment through sustained fiscal restraint, wage moderation and reform of Australia's infrastructure.

Labor will not ease monetary policy prematurely - that would only put recovery at risk. But interest rates will not remain a single point higher than they need to be for a single day longer than necessary. Labor will continue to pursue policies which will allow interest rates to fall further. We note that representatives of the major banks expect the 15.5 per cent mortgage rate to fall in such a climate before the end of the year.

Taken together, Labor's fiscal, incomes, prices and monetary policies will maintain a climate which will foster economic reconstruction.

But Labor's approach is broader.

More than any previous Government, the broad macro-economic targets of the Hawke Government have been co-ordinated with the thrust of policies directed to rebuilding specific parts of the economy. We have replaced ad hoc and sectional policies with a clear strategy for the whole economy.

Trade, education, training and infrastructure policies have all been tied to the overall task of national reconstruction.

The result is that in an uncertain world, Australia now stands ready to meet the challenges being placed before us. We are capable at last of saying that we are on the right path to securing jobs and prosperity for all Australians,

INDUSTRY POLICY

Labor recognised, long before the recent disastrous fall in our terms of trade, that Australia's long term prosperity was at risk because of the inadequacies of our manufacturing and service industries.

The Labor Government's industry and technology strategy is aimed at revitalising Australian industry and setting it on a new path of internationally-oriented growth.

Over the past four years Labor has:

- . Begun to eliminate unnecessary regulation;
- . Set about gradually reducing protection in our most insulated, least efficient industries;
- . Reformed the taxation, education, training and financial systems; and
- . Provided incentives to encourage innovation and competitive strength.

Already, substantial progress has been achieved. Employment in manufacturing has stabilised after years of decline. Real investment in industry has recovered from its slump of the early **1980s** and is now growing. Manufactured exports are growing rapidly, while imports are slowing. Industrial research and development in **1986-87** is expected to be three times its **1983-84** level.

Australian industries are starting to exploit the real opportunities flowing from the depreciation of the Australian dollar.

In its next three years in Government, Labor will build on the solid progress already made.

We will continue to encourage the emergence and development of new industries.

We will assist Australia's information industries to develop export strategies and we will promote international research co-operation and joint ventures.

We will continue to provide the 150 percent tax concession for research and development, as well as Grants for Industry Research and Development. These incentives are a major investment in the future world competitiveness of Australian industry.

Our defence industry will facilitate industrial and technological advances with spinoffs in many other industries, such as electronics, aerospace, software and vehicles. The building of the navy's six new submarines in Australia will bring major new technologies to Australian manufacturing industry, provide thousands of jobs, and save Australia billions in foreign exchange.

The light patrol frigate program will transform the Australian shipbuilding industry. With eight ships to be built for our navy, and the prospect of at least four more for export to New Zealand, this project will give Australian shipbuilders the steady workload they need.

Labor will create an Australian Research Council to further enhance the excellence and relevance of Australian research work. It will promote greater concentration and selectivity in new areas, and promote an intellectual skills base for new industries. The new Council will absorb a number of existing research bodies, including the Australian Research Grants Committee.

Labor introduced the Management-Investment Companies program. This has contributed to the rapid growth of a venture capital market in Australia, thereby supporting innovative, technology-based firms to start up, expand and export. Labor is reviewing the current operation of the scheme to ensure it remains relevant to business needs.

During our third term, the Australian Industry Development Corporation will continue to give priority to assisting the transformation of Australian industry. Equipped with a larger capital base and fewer investment restrictions, the AIDC has emerged as an innovative corporate financier providing long-term debt and equity finance to Australian businesses, both large and small.

TRADE POLICY

As industry strives for world competitiveness, the Government's trade policy will increasingly centre on policies to support Australian firms wishing to link into world markets, and so further strengthen our industrial and export base.

Australia's trade opportunities have been constrained by limits placed on access to markets by some of our trading partners and by corrupted markets in agricultural commodities.

Labor's relentless trade oriented diplomacy is helping to overcome these problems and to open up new markets for our exports in the rapidly growing markets of our region.

Labor will continue to lead international efforts to reform world trading conditions, particularly those which govern agricultural trade. We will be building on the successes of the Cairns Group, a coalition of 14 fair trading agricultural exporting countries formed last year at Australia's instigation. The Cairns Group has become a vital third force in world agricultural trade negotiations.

Labor recognises the special difficulties faced by new or small exporters or those seeking to break into new product lines or markets overseas. Labor will retain the Export Marketing Development Grants Scheme and the highly successful AUSTRADE.

PRIMARY INDUSTRY

Labor's policies for agriculture must be seen within our overall policy framework of enabling all Australian industries, including agriculture, to become internationally competitive.

With the dollar no longer held artificially high, with containment of farm costs, and with streamlining of the marketing of farm produce, the competitiveness of Australian agriculture is now at an all-time high.

Labor will continue to pursue policies to maintain this newfound competitiveness. Our policies will also produce lower interest rates - a one percent fall in interest rates saves farmers \$85 million per year.

But that competitiveness can be exploited to the full only if there is a reversal of the corruption of international agricultural trade. The Prime Minister has put a plan of action to the leaders of the world's major producers. Labor will build on this initiative and the momentum generated by our establishing the Cairns group, to press for early multilateral negotiations on the dismantling of agricultural trade barriers.

Labor will continue to develop and administer a range of special agricultural policies which are innovative, fair and stable. These include action:

- . To contain and, where possible, reduce farm input costs;
- . To improve agricultural marketing;
- . To work with the fishing and forest industries to develop and implement plans for the sustainable management of fish and timber resources; and
- . To work to improve the quality of life of all rural people.

The detail of Labor's Rural Policy will be released later this week.

RESOURCES AND ENERGY

Labor will continue to promote vigorous and balanced development of Australia's resources. Although competitive, export-oriented manufacturing and service industries must be encouraged, mining and agriculture will remain the backbone of our export effort for many years to come.

We will maintain taxation arrangements which promote industry efficiency, competitiveness and profitability and ensure that the benefits of national resource exploitation are shared by all Australians. The Government will proceed with the profits based Resource Rent Tax for new offshore oil fields.

Labor will continue to promote an efficient and active petroleum exploration, production and refining industry, building on initiatives such as the recent crude oil excise changes. These are resulting in significantly greater levels of petroleum exploration and development than were forecast earlier this year.

The Labor Government has decided to deregulate crude **oil** marketing completely from 1 January **1988**. Refiners and all crude oil producers will be free to negotiate the quantities and prices of crude oil they buy and sell, without Government involvement. The introduction of a free market is expected to result in a fall in petrol prices in the order of 1.3 cents per litre.

Wherever feasible, we will encourage the rapid expansion of minerals processing in Australia. This is a key ingredient in meeting Australia's long-term need to reduce our reliance on commodity exports. It will maximise value added to Australia's exports, boost employment opportunities, and provide a foundation for other new downstream industries.

'TRANSPORT

Reflecting their importance to our national competitiveness, Labor has begun a major overhaul of land and air transport in Australia. The major measures include the following:

- . The two airline agreement will be replaced with a less regulated regime which will allow greater competition, better service, lower fares and access to more Australians;
- . Labor will continue its road upgrading program and will review the efficiency of program management and investment priorities - and we will complete the National Highway to a good all-weather standard;
- . Labor will investigate, in consultation with the States, the viability of establishing a national inter-capital rail freight network;
- . We will take further steps on the waterfront to improve the reliability and efficiency of labour, management, port administration and communication linkages with importers and exporters;
- . Labor will pursue its policies of introducing modern vessels to the Australian flag that are efficient and competitive by world standards.

TOURISM

An essential part of economic reconstruction is the growth of service industries such as tourism.

As a result of Labor's policies, tourism is now our fastest growing industry. We now earn more from foreign tourists visiting Australia than Australian tourists spend abroad.

Labor's policies have included the establishment of the Tourism Overseas Promotion Scheme (which allows operators to claim a rebate on promotional expenditure), the relaxation of Foreign Investment Review Board guidelines on tourist developments, an increase in the depreciation rate on tourism-related construction and the decision to float the dollar.

Our goal is to attract five million international visitors in the year *2000*, up from the *2.2* million expected in *1988*.

Labor will make sure that our schools and institutions of higher learning produce the number of trained staff required in the years ahead.

Labor will continue to pursue policies which maintain the competitiveness of our tourism-based industries - while also promoting Australia abroad as an unrivalled tourist destination.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The telecommunications sector has a critical role to play in Australia's future - not just in the provision of basic domestic telephone services as efficiently and cheaply as possible, but increasingly in state-of-the-art specialised services to business.

Labor is committed to continued public ownership in the communications network and to ensuring that the network is responsive to the needs of users.

Under Labor, telecommunications has *seen* the introduction of the most advanced technical improvements. Above us, for example, two Australian owned and operated satellites are already in orbit, and a third is to be launched later this year. Below our feet, Telecom has commenced laying optical fibre cable, which promises to bring staggering increases in service capability as well as massive cost efficiencies.

However, Labor will not rest on our laurels. In order that Australia achieve and maintain world competitiveness, the telecommunications system must provide the lowest possible tariffs. Also, business must have available to it, and the **Australian** telecommunications equipment industry must provide, the most up-to-date and capable technology.

HUMAN RESOURCES

As well as continuing the reconstruction of the nation's industries and economic institutions, the third Hawke Government will build on its achievements in bringing out the best in the nation's greatest resource - its people. Labor's policies on education and training are designed to ensure each individual has satisfying and productive life choices.

. EDUCATION

Over the past four years the Labor Government has put in place education policies that will profoundly improve the future life chances of young Australians.

Improvements in the range and quality of courses offered **a t** schools have encouraged young people to stay longer in our schools. Just over a third of our young people completed Year 12 when Labor came to office. By the end of this year we will have boosted that to half. And by the early 1990s we aim to have two-thirds of our young people staying on to Year 12.

The State aid debate has been buried by the Labor Government with the implementation of an eight year recurrent funding plan for schools. Recurrent funding per student for government and non-government schools has increased on average by 5.2 per cent a year in real terms between 1983 and 1987.

By next year, recurrent funding per student will have been increased by nearly 30 per cent in real terms since Labor came to office. Labor remains committed to providing assured levels of funding **over** the full eight years of the present scheme. The twelve category classification of non-government schools will be retained.

We have removed the financial incentive which tempted too many young people - especially those from poor families - to go on the dole rather than stay at school, go into training or get a job.

Labor has reformed the income support arrangements for students to simplify procedures and clarify entitlements. Most importantly, however, education allowances have been increased and will reach parity with the unemployment benefit for all young people as of 1 January 1988. Indeed this has already been achieved for people under 18 living at home. By 1988, student assistance for 16-17 year olds in low-and moderate income families will have been more than doubled under Labor, from about \$23 a week to \$50 a week.

Labor has massively expanded the number of student places in higher education to cater for the increasing numbers of school leavers wishing to pursue university and college courses. We have created 36,800 extra tertiary places in four years, compared with just 8,100 new places under the last four years of the previous Government.

An information campaign in 1987 and 1988 will emphasise the value to the student and the community of completing secondary education.

Curriculum reform to make higher secondary education more relevant to the world of work will be a high priority for Labor over the next term.

We are determined to retain a substantial capital funding program, to improve school facilities in disadvantaged areas and to upgrade the standard of schooling available to all Australian children.

We will maintain Special Purpose Programs for schools, These have established the Commonwealth at the leading edge of education innovation and reform.

Labor will seek to minimise the paper work burden on schools.

We will ensure an orderly growth in new schools, to make sure both that growing areas are adequately served with schools and to avoid unnecessary and expensive duplication of facilities.

We will continue to encourage movement towards a core curriculum, in which all students learn basic skills at primary school and follow a set of essential studies at secondary school.

Labor will continue to give high priority to students from ethnic communities through the National Language Policy.

Within the life of the next Hawke Government, we intend doubling the number of Aboriginal students who complete Year 12.

We are opposed to tertiary tuition fees.

Labor aims to develop links between industry and the higher education sector.

We will continue to encourage tertiary institutions to market their services overseas on a full cost recovery basis.

. TRAINING

Labor has taken major steps to ensure that skills training does not stop at the school gate.

Accordingly, our labour market policies have increasingly focused on Australia's need for a skilled and trained workforce.

In particular we are providing training opportunities for disadvantaged jobseekers and young school leavers.

Labor introduced the Australian Traineeship System in late 1985. It provides new vocational training opportunities for young school leavers in areas of the workforce not covered by apprenticeships. It is now firmly established: some 10,500 traineeship positions have been created in a wide range of industries and occupations. Further substantial development of traineeships is expected as the benefits of the **n e w** system become more widely **recognised**.

- . We are establishing a national network of Youth Access Centres (YAC's) to provide young people with a comprehensive information, counselling and referral service at the local level. The initial pilot scheme of 37 YAC's in 1986 will be extended to a national network of 100 by the end of 1987.
- . The expansion of training opportunities is also occurring in apprenticeships. There are now 16,000 more apprentices being taken on each year than in 1983, an increase of 50 per cent.

However Labor is going further:

- . Vocational training opportunities for young people will be expanded through continued support for apprenticeships, and the introduction of a new Youth Training Program for long-term and disadvantaged young people aged 15-20. The new program will double by mid 1989 the number of young unemployed people currently assisted through formal training places.
- . Labor will restructure and expand the Adult Training Program to concentrate on short-term vocational courses for unemployed adults. The proposals will mean a 50 per cent increase in numbers assisted next year under this program.
- . A new Skills Training Program will be introduced to enable the Government to make a significant response to the increasing requirements for upgrading the skills of Australia's workforce at both occupational and industry levels.

Details are being announced separately by the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Ralph Willis. The new programs will be funded from within existing allocations, including additional resources earmarked for this purpose in the May Statement. In conjunction with earlier initiatives this will mean that funds devoted to training by this Government will have doubled by 1987-88 compared to our first year in office.

. --INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

The Hawke Labor Government has achieved remarkable success in the field of industrial relations.

Time lost in industrial disputes has fallen by 60 per cent under Labor. At the same time real unit labour costs have fallen and jobs have increased rapidly.

This dramatic improvement in industrial relations has been the product of a marked attitudinal change by the industrial relations parties - especially through the Prices and Incomes Accord. The next Hawke Labor Government Will continue to promote co-operation and consultation in industrial relations rather than confrontation and provocation.

Labor will continue to pursue a realistic and responsible wages policy within the framework of the centralised wage fixing system.

Labor has given particular emphasis to the need for productivity improvements at the workplace.

The Prime Minister convened a meeting of the peak employer and union groups last September at which it was agreed that each party should encourage the elimination of restrictive work and management practices.

Labor will pursue this objective as forcefully as possible.

Similarly at an industry level, Labor has already ensured that the various industry packages - such as steel, motor vehicles and heavy engineering - focus attention on the need to address changes in work practices which can assist industry development and restructuring.

Labor will finalise its policy on Industrial Democracy and Employee Participation for implementation next year. The objective will be to facilitate better industrial relations, easier introduction of new technology, development of a more skilled and adaptable workforce, enhanced operational flexibility, and increased opportunity for employees to have more satisfying work.

Labor's National Occupational Health and Safety Commission will play an important role in creating a safer working environment through the provision of widespread access to comprehensive occupational health and safety information and to adequate training.

The Government will introduce a revised Industrial Relations Bill. This will contain a package of legislative reforms designed to improve the effective operation of the federal industrial system for all parties. Existing legislation in respect of secondary boycotts, access to common law and the scale of monetary penalties will be retained.

NEW POLICY COSTINGS

	1987-88	Full Year
<u>FAMILY PACKAGE</u>		
1. Family Allowance Supplement . basic rate of \$22 per week from 1 November	156	234
. teenage supplement of \$6 per week from 24 December	37	69
2. Ease means test for Family Allowance Supplement from 1 November	39	65
3. Introduce uniform rent assistance (\$15 per week maximum) from 1 November	10	15
4. Child Disability Allowance of \$112 per month (non means tested) from 1 November	14	22
SUB-TOTAL	<u>256</u>	<u>405</u>
<u>OTHER MEASURES</u>		
5. Hospital waiting lists	25	25
6. National Language Policy	15	28
7. Women's initiatives . cancer screening	1.1	2
. education of girls	0.5	0.5
. domestic violence	0.2	0.7
8. Pensioner Earnings Credit	2.4	4.2
9. Introduce 3 months grace before cessation of entitlement to pensioner fringe benefits	0.3	0.6
10. Migrant settlement services	2.2	3
	<u>302.7</u>	<u>469</u>

II. A CARING COMMUNITY, A MORE DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY AND A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE

The next Hawke Government will continue to ensure that the benefits of economic growth are shared fairly throughout the community - just as it has ensured that the burden of sacrifice has been shared fairly in the past.

The necessity of the task of reconstructing the Australian economy was dramatically underlined in 1985-86 by the collapse in our export prices. Australia's national income - and thus our living standards - were forced down.

But it is one of the proudest achievements of the Hawke Government that the burden of that decline in living standards has been borne fairly.

In making the necessary reductions in Government spending we have not reduced our commitment to the underprivileged - indeed at a time of unprecedented fiscal restraint we have been able to achieve real increases in the resources available to meet pressing social needs, through a crackdown on welfare fraud and more effective targeting of Government spending.

Labor's new package of measures to begin eliminating child poverty is proof that the next Hawke Government will maintain its commitment to fairness and to extending with compassion special help to those most in need.

Labor has done more than any other Government to protect our natural heritage. We have enhanced our culture, boosted the resources and facilities available to the sports men and women of Australia and are providing more equal access to the electronic media for all Australians.

At the same time, Labor is committed to constitutional, legislative and administrative reforms to achieve democratic and efficient government, a responsive national Parliament, strong effective criminal law, accessible and efficient administration of justice and an adequate and flexible division of powers between Commonwealth, State, Territory and local governments.

The next Hawke Government will have the honour of organising Australia's bicentennial celebrations. The event will offer us not just an opportunity to celebrate our achievements as a nation but also the responsibility to reflect on how we can build an even better future.

SOCIAL SECURITY

The Labor Government seeks an efficient income security system which does not stifle initiative, does not promote apathy or greed, but rather gives adequate and well merited payments to the less well off members of our society.

Labor has fairly and responsibly protected the living standards of pensioners, the unemployed, children and others in need. These policies are being progressively integrated with our employment, training, taxation and housing measures.

The social security system we inherited was weighed down by record levels of unemployment and entrenched poverty.

Labor has concentrated on needs-based welfare and has made real progress in reversing the neglect of the poor which characterised the previous seven years of conservative government.

Some examples of changes in real disposable incomes of needy groups over the two periods are:

	<u>Coalition Government 1975-1983</u>	<u>Labor Government 1983-1987</u>
Sole parent with 2 children	-4%	+10%
Married pensioner couple with 2 children	-2%	+8%
Long-term unemployed single adult		
Not renting privately	-19%	+21%
Renting privately	-19%	+33%

PENSIONERS

When Labor came to office the pension was 22.7 per cent of average weekly earnings. We have lifted it to about 24.4 per cent of average weekly earnings.

The standard pension has increased by 8.1 per cent in real terms under Labor, compared with a fall of 2.5 per cent over the seven years of the previous Government.

Pensioners have already made their contribution to the national task of restraint by accepting a deferral of the indexation of their pension last year. Accordingly, despite the need to prune spending heavily in the May Statement, the Government decided that the standard pension will be increased fully in line with price rises. And there will be no cuts to the pension in the next Budget.

A series of measures to address the problems of "poverty traps" will be introduced on 1 July 1987. These changes will mean that pensioners will be able to earn more private income each week before the pension is reduced. The income test free area will be increased from \$30 to \$40 for single pensioners and from \$50 to \$70 for married couples; and the additional free area for each dependent child will be raised from \$6 to \$12 per week. Separate income test arrangements for rent assistance will be abolished, giving about 300,000 pensioners up to \$15 extra assistance per week.

Labor will continue to promote financial security and dignity for elderly and invalid pensioners. We will continue to maintain the standard of living of pensioners by preserving the real value of pension payments. The target of 25 per cent of average weekly earnings remains our goal.

The next Labor Government will take two further initiatives to prevent sudden loss of benefits when pensioners' circumstances change:

- . Labor will postpone the cancellation of fringe benefits until three months after pension entitlements end. This will assist pensioners who join the workforce for short periods or receive payments which change because of currency fluctuations or superannuation adjustments.
- . Labor will introduce a system of earnings credit for pensioners. This will allow all pensioners to take casual employment without an automatic reduction in pension. The credit will accrue until a maximum of \$1000 is reached in each year.

Together these initiatives will cost \$2.7m in 1987-88 and \$4.8m in a full year.

. FAMILIES

Labor in Government has already taken major steps to tackle the great problem of children in poverty. We have already increased family payments to children in need by up to 70 per cent. However today Labor is going further. Labor is proposing major reform of the income support regime for low income families. We pledge that by 1990 no-child will need to live in poverty.

As a first substantial step Labor has today announced the introduction of a new Family Allowance Supplement. This will simplify and integrate existing programs, significantly increase payments available, and introduce a new allowance for teenage children.

The maximum rates for assistance will be:

- . \$22 per child per week (an increase of \$5 over the highest payment available under the current Additional Pension and Benefit and Family Income Supplement which it replaces);
- . An additional payment of \$6 per week for children between 13 and 15 years old.

Payments will normally be directed to mothers.

Full payment will be made where family income is below \$300 a week (plus \$12 per child), reducing with higher incomes. A family with three children under 13 will continue to receive some Family Allowance Supplement until family income exceeds \$456 per week. For families renting privately benefit will not cease until income levels are \$30 per week higher.

20.

Rent assistance of **\$15 per** week will be extended to all eligible families renting privately on the basis of the same income test. This will provide an increase of up to \$5 per week in rent assistance paid to unemployment beneficiaries.

Some 510,000 families and over 1 million children will benefit from the new Family Assistance Supplement. This includes 65,000 in private rental accommodation who will receive increased rent assistance⁷

In recognition of the special costs of families with disabled children, Labor will introduce a Child Disability Allowance of \$112 per month, to which no means test will apply. This will replace the present Handicapped Child Allowance, which required arbitrary and inefficient distinctions to be made between levels of disability.

The details of the costings of these measures is on page 16.

During Labor's third term an adequate living standard for children will be achieved by:

- Raising child payments to ensure that total assistance per child moves from its current level of 11 per cent to at least 15 per cent of the combined married rate of pension; and
- Ensuring that the aggregate payments for older children attain a benchmark of 20 per cent of the combined married rate.

Labor intends, over the life of its-next term, to amalgamate the Family Allowance Supplement with the existing Family Allowance system.

• SOLE PARENTS

Labor has initiated a number of measures which more specifically address the special problems of sole parents and -their children.

Later this year Labor will introduce legislation to **establish** a Child Support Agency to collect maintenance payments from non-custodial parents. We have allocated funds in the **May** Statement to help create greater opportunities for sole parents to participate in training and education.

• UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFICIARIES

Labor introduced indexation of the adult rate of unemployment benefit. Labor will seek to close the gap between the adult rate of unemployment benefit and the pension level.

21.

Labor has taken a number of initiatives to assist young unemployed people. The new Job Search Allowance provides positive incentives to young people either to seek employment or to undertake training.

Funds have been earmarked in the May Statement to provide a structured program of counselling and assistance for those who remain unemployed for an extended period. Details are being announced separately by the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations.

Labor will improve access to the Department of Social Security for isolated and Aboriginal people in rural and remote areas through greater co-ordination of government services in these areas and improved use of new technology.

In addition to improving the real levels of support to the needy, Labor has tightened social security administration against fraud and overpayments and introduced the first major review of social security in over forty years.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

At the time of the last election, Labor set out an agenda for change in the delivery of *services* to some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in our society. The aged, people with disabilities, the homeless, families under stress, had all suffered from many years of neglect and *hockery*.

The second Hawke Government established a new Community Services portfolio with a charter to coordinate and improve services to these groups-. A great deal has already been achieved.

Labor has greatly improved the availability and quality of care for the aged and disabled at home. Funding for this purpose has nearly doubled in real terms.

We will maintain the momentum in our third term of office.

Under the arrangements we have already put in place there will be major advances in our next term, particularly in residential care for the aged:

- . There will be greater financial protection for nursing home residents and the quality of life and care of residents will be improved;
- . There will be a more equitable distribution of nursing home beds and allocation of funds between States and between individual homes in a State;
- . There will be a greater variety in the types of facilities providing residential care; and

- . **Special** services will be developed to meet the needs of particular groups such as people suffering from dementia, Aboriginals, people of non-English speaking background and people in rural areas.

Over the next three years, there will be a further shift in the balance between providing intensive care through nursing homes and providing appropriate home and community care and hostel facilities.

There will also be greater choice of care for younger people with a disability who now live in nursing homes or hostels.

Over the next three years the regional rehabilitation network will be completed. All major cities and provincial centres will be provided with Commonwealth rehabilitation services. Access to services for people with disabilities will be greatly improved.

By 30 June 1989, the cost-shared Supported Accommodation Assistance Program will be providing accommodation or re-establishment assistance each year for some 70-80,000 homeless people or people in crisis.

HEALTH

The Labor Government believes it has a responsibility to achieve better health for all Australians by ensuring universal access to health services and by actively promoting better health throughout the community.

Medicare has provided a better and fairer system of health insurance. Nearly two million Australians who previously had no health insurance cover have received coverage under Medicare. By using a health insurance levy which is related to income - the Medicare levy - Labor's health insurance system is fairer.

Medicare means no Australian need ever fear being unable to afford medical or hospital treatment. It offers protection to pensioners, the chronically ill and the disadvantaged by ensuring access to free public hospital care and by allowing **direct** billing for medical services.

Labor introduced a safety net provision to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. This gives new protection to the chronically ill against the high cost of pharmaceuticals by setting an annual upper limit on expenditure for prescription drugs.

The Government has pursued the promotion of better health through information and education campaigns. We recognise the need to train health professionals better, to promote and fund public health and medical research, and to encourage the development of workplace and community settings which promote improved health.

We have set up the Better Health Commission and established the Australian Institute of Health. We have run education programs such as the "Life Be In It", "AIDS" and "Drug Offensive" campaigns.

We are providing \$41.5 million over the next seven years to fund teaching, training and research in the public health area.

Labor will provide funds to State Governments so they can implement programs which will have a real impact on reducing public hospital waiting lists.

The third Hawke Government will make available \$25 million a year over the two year life of the Hospital Waiting List Assistance Program. This money will be provided to State Governments on a dollar for dollar basis, bringing the total to \$100 million.

The funds will be available to States to increase the number of nurses, thereby increasing their hospitals' capacity to provide surgery. They will be able to increase the number and quality of their day-care surgeries, which are recognised as the most cost-effective way of treating many patients. Or they will be able to create wards or theatres specially dedicated to particular kinds of treatment, which will allow hospitals to provide speedier treatment, and which will thus shorten waiting lists.

IMMIGRATION AND ETHNIC AFFAIRS

Australia has been immeasurably enriched by the contribution of migrants to our national life. It is one of our nation's greatest achievements that people from a diverse range of backgrounds, race, religion and culture have been accepted as full partners in our national life.

The Hawke Government takes pride in the role of Labor Governments in the success of the migration program. The Chifley Labor Government began the migration program just after the War. The Whitlam Labor Government expunged the last traces of discrimination from our migration policy.

The Hawke Government is totally committed to the concept of Australia as a truly multicultural society.

Labor believes all Australians, irrespective of their ethnic or religious backgrounds, their cultural heritage or their linguistic tradition, should be able to exercise their rights and obligations as full and equal members of the community. We believe multiculturalism is central to any commitment to social justice.

The Hawke Government has built an immigration policy which, through community consultation and careful planning, has steadily increased. Priority has been given to family reunion.

Labor has established the Office of Multicultural Affairs and the Advisory Council on Multicultural Affairs to ensure issues of concern to Australia's ethnic communities are understood at the highest level of Government.

The next Hawke Government will concentrate on six major areas of activity:

- . Implementation of the National Policy on Languages. We are already committed to an integrated package of initiatives which double the on-arrival component of the ESL program; provide substantial funding for community, trade and Aboriginal languages; and tackle the problem of adult literacy. To meet the challenge we will spend an additional \$15m next year, and \$28m in a full year.

The Government is also committed to maintaining sufficient levels of funding flows to general ESL programs in recognition of the special needs of people of a non-English speaking background.

- . Production of a Green Paper on Immigration. This will examine all aspects of immigration policy including the points system. The Green Paper will be produced in consultation with the whole community.
- . Extension of the access and equity strategy. All Commonwealth Departments and agencies will now be required to develop three-year plans of action to ensure that all Australians, irrespective of their ethnic origin, enjoy a 'fair go' in access to Commonwealth programs and services.

The Office of Multicultural Affairs will continue its key advisory and consultative roles. The Advisory Council on Multicultural Affairs has been asked by the Prime Minister to translate the principles of multiculturalism into a series of long-term concrete initiatives - a National Agenda for a Multicultural Australia.

- . Cutting the delays and backlogs in the immigration appeals system. We will do this by increasing the Immigration Review Panel from 32 to 137 members and by setting up, for the first time, new Panels in Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth.
- . Finally, we will ensure that with a steadily expanding immigration program priority will be given to the reunion of families.

Labor stands for building a richly diverse but cohesive Australia in which every Australian, whatever his or her background, can enjoy a fair go.

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

We are all conscious of the enormous and continuing debt of gratitude we owe to the veterans' community. These men and women, many of whom sacrificed their health and well-being for this country, or who are the relatives of those who have made the supreme sacrifice, have special needs which the Labor Government has long recognised.

But those needs are changing as the veterans' community ages. This factor is of prime importance in determining Labor's approach to veterans.

The future needs of the veteran community can be met only by a modern and efficient care delivery system.

By the year 2000 the number of veterans [and others] aged over 75 who are in the Government's care will treble. They will comprise the vast majority of our beneficiaries. Our Repatriation hospitals system will therefore have to place greater emphasis on long-term care and treatment, and to continue to make substantial investment in specialised equipment and training. Since 1983 the Labor Government has invested \$70 million in upgrading and expanding Repatriation hospitals to provide for these changes.

Labor is committed to continuing those repatriation hospital services.

One of the most important concerns of veterans has been to understand and have ready access to their entitlements. Labor has rationalised Repatriation legislation in the new Veterans' Entitlements Act. We have established a Monitoring Committee to keep the operation of the Act under scrutiny and to ensure that it continues to provide an appropriate basis for the administration of veterans' programs. We will refer to that Committee the issue of higher compensation to 100 per cent General Rate pensioners whose disabilities have worsened after age 65 on retirement.

The Australian War Memorial will continue to receive the funds needed to enable it properly to fulfil its essential role of commemorating Australians who served and died in the defence of our country.

In a time of financial restraint, an indication of Labor's commitment to veterans has been the share of Government outlays directed to them. These have continued to increase over the last four years. Labor will maintain this ambitious program. A few examples are:

- . Compensatory disability pensions will remain tax exempt and means test free and they will not be assessed as income in determining service pension entitlements;
- . The Veterans' Childrens Education Scheme will continue to operate without means testing; and

An expanded Repatriation Artificial Limb and Appliance Centre (RALAC) will be established in Albury as part of our continuing national improvement program in this field. (Funds will be provided from the proceeds of sale of land at Kenmore Hospital in Queensland.)

While we are obliged to apply to the DFRB superannuation the discount decision on superannuation paid to former Commonwealth employees on the grounds that all sectors have to share the cost of reducing Government expenditure and maintaining income restraint, the Hawke Government will legislate to restore these pension levels as soon as economic circumstances permit.

Labor will take two further initiatives to assist veterans in the next Budget.

First, Labor has decided to extend full medical and hospital treatment to all returned servicewomen of the Second World War at a net cost of \$0.7m in 1987-88 and \$1.4m in a full year. This will benefit some 939 women not currently eligible.

The extension has been granted at the request of the ex-service community to meet their wish that this group of women be compensated for the special disadvantages which they have suffered as a consequence of their war service. In particular a 1985 DVA study showed that many in this group are now in most difficult financial circumstances resulting in part from discrimination in pay and conditions during their war service. Many are now elderly, alone and in poor health.

The extension has been granted on the understanding that it is to reflect the special circumstances of this group of service women and is not to be taken as a precedent by other groups. Indeed the Government has received assurances to this effect from the RSL on behalf of the ex-service community generally.

Second, Labor will seek to provide special compensation, of \$10,000 per person, to surviving Australian servicemen who were illegally interned in German concentration camps for a protracted period during World War 11. The payment is to reflect the fact that these POW's were detained illegally and subjected to brutal treatment very much harsher than anything permitted under the terms of the Geneva Convention. This will provide special recognition for a group of Australian servicemen not previously acknowledged by Australian Governments. Compensation will be provided on the understanding that it reflects special circumstances and is not to be taken as a precedent.

With the changes already put in place, and the improvements planned for the future, veterans and their dependents will be guaranteed the secure and dignified life they deserve.

We will maintain a separate Department of Veterans' Affairs. The Hawke Government has enjoyed a warm relationship with the veterans' community and is grateful for the constructive approach and close cooperation of the RSL.

HOUSING

Labor recognises that strong employment growth and lower mortgage rates are the greatest assistance we can give to the housing industry, the aspiring home owner and to those in need.

Labor's budgetary and wages policies have created the climate for home interest rates to fall. Recent movements in interest rates indicate that the strategy is working. Banking representatives and the Housing Industry Association have foreshadowed continued falls in the interest rate regime.

The home ownership aspirations of all Australians were under jeopardy when Labor came to power in 1983. The Fraser/Howard years left housing industry activity at a 20 year low.

The prospect for families to own a home is much greater under Labor. Housing commencements have averaged 137,000 a year in Labor's first four years, compared with an average of 130,000 a year under the previous Government and just 105,000 in the last year of that Government.

Labor's widely acclaimed First Home Owners Scheme has assisted 250,000 people to buy their own homes.

Funds available for public housing have been increased by 42 per cent in real terms under Labor, to help provide homes for those who otherwise could not afford them. More than 52,000 new public rental dwellings have been built or purchased, and over 42,000 home loans have been provided to low income households from these funds.

In March 1987, the Government announced a new housing package that involves continued strong support for public housing, increased assistance to first home buyers, maintenance of the 13 1/2 per cent ceiling on pre-April 1986 loans, and changes to savings bank regulations to release up to \$900 million additional funds for home lending.

Labor has a continuing commitment to assisting Australians into their own homes, and to providing assistance to people in need. Housing will continue to be a priority for the third Hawke Labor Government.

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

Labor will maintain a forceful Commonwealth presence in the field of Aboriginal Affairs. The Hawke Government will not abdicate its constitutional responsibilities in this area, but will continue to work with the States on a co-operative basis.

Labor renews its commitment to the unique **culture and** heritage of the original Australians. A special effort will be made to ensure that Commonwealth programs are accessible to Aboriginal women.

Environmental health initiatives, targeted at reducing the inroads of so-called lifestyle diseases, will be given greater emphasis. These programs will be implemented wherever possible through community controlled Aboriginal Medical Services.

In recognition of the crucial importance of education to the future of Aboriginal people, we will aim to double the number of Aboriginal students who complete Year **12 within the term of** the next Government. We will ensure that school curricula continue to be developed which give due recognition to the contribution and role of Aborigines in Australian society.

Consistent with the recommendations of the Miller Report, Labor will continue to give greatest emphasis to programs which facilitate the economic development of Aboriginal communities. A start has already been made through, for example, a major expansion of the Community Development Employment Program and the new Community Employment and Enterprise Development Scheme introduced by Labor in the last Budget.

In the light of statistical evidence which demonstrates the very real shortage of adequate shelter in Aboriginal communities, the Government will continue to develop a range of programs to meet their needs.

In the area of land rights and heritage protection, Labor will continue to facilitate land transfers and land purchases in all States.

Continued support and encouragement for Aboriginal art, culture and heritage will be a prime focus of this Government's agenda in Aboriginal Affairs.

Australia's first Aboriginal owned and controlled commercial television station has been established, and there are now over-30 Aboriginal radio broadcasters. Labor will continue to support the involvement of Aboriginal people in broadcasting.

Labor will initiate a major effort to reduce the over-representation of Aboriginal people in prisons. The conclusions and recommendations of the recently initiated Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission's Inquiry into Aboriginal/Police Relations will be considered, and appropriate action taken at the earliest opportunity.

WOMEN

Throughout our first two terms Labor has worked hard to make sure that all women in Australia have a say, a choice and a fair go.

Nearly 60 per cent of the jobs created under Labor have gone to women and girls.

Labor's child care policies have greatly enhanced the opportunities for women to participate more fully in the community at large. Labor will honour its pledge in the 1984 election to create an additional 20,000 places.

Labor has created more child care places than in the previous history of Federation. Next year we will be funding 106,000 places, compared with just 46,000 when we came to office - an increase of 60,000 or 130 per cent.

Labor will continue to support adequate provision of child care facilities. We will be initiating consultations with interested people and groups to determine whether any changes need to be made to the current mix of places.

Payments under Labor's new package of measures for needy families normally will be received directly by mothers.

Our program of action for women will be informed by the views and aspirations of women across Australia. We are drawing up an Agenda for Women right up to the end of the century. Our objective is to improve the quality of life for women who seek their fulfilment predominantly in the home, and for women who seek greater opportunity in the workforce.

In the comprehensive consultations we undertook in developing our National Agenda some issues were raised so often and with such consistency that they must be addressed immediately.

Domestic violence was the most prominent of those issues. We will mount a campaign over the next three years aimed at reducing the incidence of domestic violence in the community. Labor will fund a \$1.5m education campaign to promote community awareness of the problem, to develop police and other training material and to develop educational aids for use by teachers in schools. We want to see an Australia which is free from violence in the home and we will make this issue a national priority.

The education of girls is also a central issue for women. Over the next two years we will spend \$1 million on a project designed specifically to increase the number of girls taking maths and science subjects at the senior secondary school level. Young girls will have increased opportunities to choose careers in areas where they have not been well represented before.

The Government will strengthen its commitment to preventive health care by funding a feasibility study for national mammographic screening, and a cervical cancer screening service particularly for rural women. These initiatives will cost over \$1 million in 1987-88, and \$2m in the second year.

It is the Government's intention that its Women In Sport policy, when finalised later this year, will provide a dynamic and flexible framework for future action and change.

YOUNG AUSTRALIANS

Major concerns of the youth of Australia are education and training and associated job prospects, peace and disarmament, the environment, the drug problem and culture. Young people are this nation's greatest asset - Australia's future is in their hands.

Labor's education and training initiatives are outlined on pages 12-13. Our efforts in peace and disarmament are summarised on pages 37-39 and our environmental achievements and objectives on page 32. Labor has launched an offensive on drug abuse with the States.

Labor will continue to enrich the culture of young Australians. Australia has a vibrant and successful contemporary music industry, but there is also an untapped wealth of musical talent in young Australians which fails to gain its just recognition and reward - not from lack of merit but from want of opportunity.

In partnership with the Australian music industry, Labor will set up a non-profit company to provide support for young Australian performers and technicians to develop their talents. This will complement initiatives already taken by the music industry in conjunction with the Australian Trade Commission to encourage the export of Australian music.

FIGHTING CRIME AND INJUSTICE

Australia needs strong and effective laws which provide for the prevention of crime, the protection of personal safety and the security of the community. Labor will also continue to negotiate bilateral treaties to ensure international co-operation in dealing with the investigation of criminal activity.

Labor will continue to develop safeguards for consumers while removing unnecessary constraints on business. Priority will be given to the recently announced initiatives on product safety, food and beverage standards and packaging and labelling.

We will also implement changes to improve the efficiency of the Family Court and to enable matters to be dealt with more expeditiously. These changes will lessen the burdens on judges who have to deal with the complex personal and emotional issues which come before the Court.

It has long been Labor Party policy that protection and enforcement of legal rights depends on ready access to effective remedies. The Labor Government will continue to provide an adequate forum for the review of Government actions by aggrieved citizens. Labor is examining ways to streamline the procedures of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

We recognise that equality before the law is achievable only when all parties have access to an efficient system of legal aid. Labor will continue its efforts to ensure that an efficient system operates throughout Australia.

In the near future the Labor Government will develop new directions in companies and securities arrangements which will best serve business, while protecting the interests of the wider Australian community. These arrangements will be designed to overcome the administrative, jurisdictional and enforcement problems existing under the present system and streamline many of the unnecessary requirements imposed on business.

The Labor Government is committed to continuing its initiatives in the area of law enforcement. We will provide adequate resources, equipment and legislative capacity so that the National Crime Authority, the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and the Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence can continue their important work in tackling serious crime.

We will renew the mandate of the National Crime Authority beyond the June 1989 sunset clause in the legislation which established it.

Since the Hawke Government came to power the AFP's staff resources have been increased by 21 per cent (535 persons). This achievement has fulfilled the Government's 1984 election commitment to spend \$10 million in recruiting a larger force and \$7 million on upgrading the AFP's computer capacity. A further three year resource programme will consolidate the Government's achievements in promoting the AFP as Australia's primary law enforcement agency. The Government will ensure that the AFP is given the facilities to recruit the high quality staff required to carry out its sensitive investigatory tasks.

Labor created a new charter for the AFP to focus as top priorities on drug trafficking, organised crime and major fraud. This charter ensures that the AFP's resources are deployed on the highest priority tasks facing the nation in its continuing campaign against major organised crime.

In its continuing efforts towards closer law enforcement co-operation with the States, Labor will continue to contribute its share to the funding requirements of the National Crime Authority and the national common police services, particularly the Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence.

A coastal Protection Unit established within the AFP has responsibility for the co-ordination and administration of the civil coastal surveillance program. This has led to closer co-ordination with the Australian Customs Service, and better Commonwealth/State consultation to integrate resources for surveillance and response. Labor will be conducting a follow-up review of its Civil Coastal Surveillance Program to ensure that it meets the nation's requirements in this important area.

Labor will investigate the establishment of a National Forensic Science Institute, as called for in the Report of the Morling Royal Commission.

Australia's approach to counter terrorism is now being conducted with unprecedented Commonwealth/State co-operation. Extensive crisis management machinery can now be activated in response to a terrorist incident anywhere in Australia.

The Government will continue to devote the necessary resources and attention to ensure that Australia maintains its-preparedness to deal with terrorist incidents.

ELECTORAL REFORM

Labor has made substantial progress in electoral reform. Labor is committed to ensuring the greatest possible participation by Australian citizens in the political process and the fairest possible electoral system.

THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE ARTS

The task of protecting the environment imposes a heavy responsibility on the whole community. For Australians, that responsibility is a particularly important one since we have the good fortune to live in a country of unsurpassed environmental magnificence.

However, protecting the environment also requires us to find a delicate balance with legitimate economic interests. The **Hawke** Government can point with pride to the progress Australia has made in recent years in striking that balance and in securing our environmental heritage,

The Labor Government stopped the Franklin Dam.

We will save the Daintree. We have decided to proceed immediately towards the nomination of the Wet Tropics of North East Queensland, which includes the Daintree Rainforest, to the world Heritage List.

Labor has extended the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park from 14 per cent to 98 per cent of the Great Barrier Reef Region.

We declared Stage 2 of Kakadu National Park and have nominated it for the world Heritage List. We have made mining in the Park illegal. We are proceeding with declaration of Stage 3 of Kakadu National Park.

The Labor Government has made it illegal to log the Lemonthyme and Southern Forests while a fair and open inquiry is held into whether there are viable alternatives to logging these and other environmentally sensitive areas.

We have saved Shelburne Bay, on the Cape York Peninsula, from sand mining.

The Labor Government will not allow sand mining on Fraser or Moreton Islands.

We have nominated Uluru National Park for the World Heritage List.

The third Hawke Government will further develop environmental protection and understanding within the framework of the National Conservation Strategy for Australia. We will develop a national forest strategy agreed between governments, industry, unions and conservationists.

Labor will complete the zoning plans for all areas of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

And we will introduce a program for the greater protection of endangered species.

Labor will maintain a high level of support for the arts and cultural activities.

Labor will maintain the Australian film industry at a high level of production. We will retain the Australian Film Commission and the Australia Council.

We will rationalise arts funding arrangements within the Commonwealth structure and with State and Local Governments to ensure the most effective and efficient use of government arts funds. And we will review the public library system in Australia with a view to its full integration in a national information network available to all in the community.

BROADCASTING

The--last two years have been perhaps the most important years for commercial broadcasting since the introduction of television. Despite strong opposition in the Parliament, legislation has now been passed which:

- . Accelerates the spread of television services to the five million non-metropolitan Australians denied access to the services now available to the metropolitan counterparts;
- . Ends cross-media monopolisation; and
- . Allows non-metropolitan viewers to see the high quality local drama, sport, news and current affairs which is made-possible by the superior resources of large networks.

We have announced a program to increase substantially the number of FM commercial radio services, predominantly for regional and rural Australians, over the next three years. This is the largest expansion of commercial radio since the Second World War.

Whilst Labor has committed itself to this historic expansion of broadcasting services, the priority task now is implementation of the massive planning, technical and administrative program involved in getting these services to air.

Labor proposes also to reform substantially the Broadcasting Act, rendering this nightmarish piece of legislation simpler, easier to understand and administer and shorn of unnecessary burdens currently suffered by licensees and the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal.

SPORT AND RECREATION

Labor's objective is to offer greater opportunities for more and more Australians of all ages and levels, including those living in rural areas, to get involved in sport and other satisfying recreational activities.

Investment in sport and recreation is an investment both in the well-being of the Australian community and in the nation's elite athletes. Good domestic competition will help them to attain world rankings and success in world class fields.

The Aussie Sports Program which the Government initiated last year is the first fully national developmental sports program for children in primary schools across Australia. This program has already involved over 2,000 primary schools and encourages children to participate in a range of sports. We intend to extend Aussie Sports to secondary schools with a wider curriculum content.

Funds provided for sports development are also used to assist with the conduct of coaching clinics in country areas throughout Australia for a variety of sports.

Many of Australia's elite athletes come from country regions. Through the Australian Institute of Sport and the Sports Talent Encouragement Plan of the Sports Commission our high performance sports people will continue to receive individual and team grants and scholarship assistance to help them achieve sporting excellence and world rankings.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Labor has put the relationship between the Commonwealth and Local Government on an historic new footing.

The Hawke Government is the first to appoint a Minister responsible specifically for the relationship with Australia's Local Government bodies.

We have increased financial assistance to Local Government by nearly two-thirds. Almost \$640m is being directed to Local Government this year - more than half of it in untied grants.

Under Labor, Local Government is being assisted through innovative and progressive programs in their important task of delivering grass roots services to all Australians.

The Labor Party recognises that Australians expect different levels of government to work in harmony and that they want to have a say in how their local community develops.

We will produce information and analysis for monitoring and anticipating change at the local level so that government programs are appropriate to varying local conditions-. The Office of Local Government will play a vital role in this process.

Within the framework of Labor's rationalisation of the public sector we will develop, in conjunction with the Efficiency Scrutiny Unit, an approach to devolving administrative functions to Local Government, and to developing new inter-government agreements. These will encompass broad program purposes, financial arrangements, needs-based planning processes and performance measures.

The Government has announced the sale of several valuable office buildings in Sydney and Melbourne. Replacement buildings on less valuable sites will give considerable stimulus to the building and construction industry and generate jobs.

TERRITORIES

The inclusion of health matters, schools (to college level), water supply, sewerage, drainage, roads and general works and maintenance responsibilities in the Territories portfolio has resulted in better overall management of ACT affairs. There will be a continued improvement in the co-operative delivery of these services.

Considerable improvements have also been made to assist the ACT economy grow and diversify. A restructured Canberra Development Board has been set up with substantial private sector involvement and impetus.

In placing the ACT on a comparable financial footing with the States and the Northern Territory, we have ensured that the ACT will be treated fairly, while recognising Canberra's role as the National Capital.

We will build on the initiatives taken in the community services area. Our recently established Community Services Council and our proposed Community Services Charter will become a guide to standards of delivery of services.

Continuation of the broad thrust of reform, leading to a better co-ordinated ACT administration, will provide a sound basis for a Labor Government to hand over to the ACT citizens the responsibility to run their own municipal and territorial affairs.

In respect of the external territories, future directions will concentrate on widening their economic base through the establishment of alternative industries and **diversified** developments (eg tourism), and improving financial and management arrangements.

III. ENHANCING AUSTRALIA'S ROLE IN THE WORLD

The next Hawke Government will renew its commitment to seeking a secure and peaceful world.

Our reputation as a society committed to the rule of law and to the democratic process will be steadily built both in our efforts within Australia and in the exercise of our influence abroad.

FOREIGN POLICY

under Labor, the conduct of Australia's international affairs will continue to be marked by credibility, responsibility, self-reliance and self-respect.

whether it is in the United Nations where we recently completed a successful two-year term on the Security Council; in the Middle East, where Australian policy is regarded as honest and fair-minded by Israelis and Arabs alike; in the Human Rights Commission in Geneva, where we continue to speak out against abuses in a number of countries; or in the South Pacific Forum, where we are showing regional leadership in seeking to facilitate a resolution of the crisis- in Fiji, Australia has never stood higher in the councils of the world. Its credit and credibility are unsurpassed in our history.

Our alliance relationship with the United States is, as the talks the Government has had with Secretary Shultz and Secretary Weinberger over the last two days have confirmed, a healthy and constructive partnership of equals.

As befits two great democracies, the friendship and trust which we have built up enables us to differ honestly and without acrimony, as we have, for example, over the Strategic Defense Initiative. Our allies respect this Government, because we respect ourselves. As we approach the 21st Century, the Australian/United State relationship will be a major force for stability in the Pacific.

All Australians can be very proud that the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Disarmament told the Prime Minister in January this year that Australia now plays a leading role for the cause of peace and disarmament and that those causes would be better served if other countries followed Australia's example of strong political commitment and technical expertise.

Under Labor, Australia will sustain the unprecedented priority and effort it is devoting to these vital issues. Australians, particularly our young people, deserve no less. The idealism and enthusiasm shown by Australians during the International Year of Peace last year served as an inspiration to all of us in public life to rededicate ourselves to this great, universal cause.

The prospects for real progress in disarmament between East and West are better now than for years. Australia's voice has been at the forefront of those urging the super-powers towards meaningful negotiations.

Our strong alliance with the United States has given us influence with the Reagan Administration. At the same time, without compromising our Western political values and strategic interests, we have re-established sensible and practical communication with the Soviet Union, without which no Australian Government can claim to have a viable policy on disarmament.

We have taken the initiative to develop the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone. It is a testimony to our determination not to leave the great issues of peace and disarmament to the super-powers but to do what is within our capacity to determine our destiny and to associate ourselves with the aspirations of our South Pacific neighbours.

Under Labor, Australia has been a leader at the United Nations in seeking to outlaw all nuclear testing by all states in all environments for all time through a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. Such a Treaty is the first requisite towards ending the nuclear arms race and ultimately ridding the world of nuclear weapons. The current relaxation in East-West tension will provide new opportunities to promote this important concept.

Under Labor, as Australia continues the historic restructuring of its economy, so our country will quicken the pace of its enmeshment in the economic development of the Asia-Pacific region, the fastest growing economic region in the world.

We will seek to consolidate our co-operation with the great, modernising giant, China, with the economic super-power, Japan, now itself in a process of significant structural change, and with the ASEAN countries, one of the most successful political and economic groupings in the world.

The dynamism of the Western Pacific poses far-reaching challenge and opportunities to Australia. Its emergence as one of the great new engines of the world economy is a reminder to us that we must develop complementary skills and specialisations, and that we must facilitate investment and trade among the members of this vast region. We literally cannot afford to fail.

But the path we have set out upon in four years of Government - through the deregulation of our financial system, the development of such restructuring concepts as the car and steel plans, the dismantling of artificial investment barriers - points the way ahead for Australia into the **1990s** and beyond.

In international, as in domestic affairs, Australia under Labor will continue to take a principled stand against racism, discrimination and oppression.

We will continue to take a leading role in the international community in opposing the evil of apartheid in South Africa. Unless the south African regime is prepared to sit down and negotiate seriously with representatives of the black community, a conflagration will take place there which will overshadow the appalling violence which has occurred over the past two years. These considerations led us to launch the Eminent Persons Group initiative. Tragically, when the Group appeared to be on the verge of a breakthrough, the apartheid regime first subverted then rejected it.

DEFENCE

The Labor Government's policy of defence self-reliance has laid the foundation of Australia's defence strategy through to the end of the century. Over the next three years, Labor will build on those foundations to make self-reliance a reality.

Labor is committed to providing adequate funds for defence. The procurement elements of the Defence White Paper will be met in full.

This Government is undertaking the largest defence investment program in Australia's peacetime history. Over the next ten years, the Labor Government will invest \$24 billion in defence equipment and facilities. Over \$7 billion will be spent in the next three years. This program of investment has been developed to meet the demands of a self-reliant defence posture.

Top priority is given to filling urgent gaps in our defence force structure.

- . More units based in the North and West of Australia, including basing half the fleet in WA;
- . New submarines, to give us long-range striking power to make our oceans secure;
- . A new generation of light, fast, long range warships, to help fulfil our regional responsibilities; and
- . -- A mobile, hard-hitting army equipped with the latest helicopters to meet any incursion.

The Labor Government will maintain and develop our alliances and regional defence relationships.

We will over the next few years make a fuller contribution to our alliances by enhancing our military capabilities. At the same time we will develop our alliances in critical areas like technological exchange into a more mature and equal partnership..

Over the next three years, Labor's emphasis on enhanced defence co-operation with the nations of the South West Pacific will be maintained through the Pacific Patrol Boat program and a range of defence co-operation activities designed to meet their specific security needs.

Commitment to the security of South East Asia, particularly through the Five Power Defence Arrangement, will be reinforced after the phasing out of Mirages by regular rotational deployments of F-18's and F-111's and other aircraft.

We will also continue to safeguard the conditions of employment of our defence force personnel.

Over the next term of Government, we will establish the Defence Housing Authority to improve the management of defence housing and give service families greater choice. And we will undertake a program to spend \$750 million over ten years to build and refurbish defence houses.

We will reform service conditions to alleviate the special pressures that a service career places on families, and provide programs to give service families better educational and job opportunities.
