

A FAIR GO FOR FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE

LABOR'S PLAN



Labor



A Fair Go

For First Australians

A MESSAGE FROM BILL SHORTEN AND PATRICK DODSON



When Labor governments and First Nations People work together in genuine partnership, we can close the gap and create a more reconciled Australia. And if Labor has the privilege of forming the next government of Australia, we are committed to a new partnership to deliver a fair go for First Nations' people.



With this plan we commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation and recognition by:

- ✓ Enshrining a Voice for First Nations' people in the Constitution.
- ✓ Establishing a Makarrata Commission, for truth-telling and treaty.

We recommit ourselves to Closing the Gap and achieving genuine equality for First Nations people, including:

- ✓ The equal right to a great education and a good job.
- ✓ The equal right to be healthy and happy.
- ✓ The equal right to be safe in their home and their community, and an equal right to justice in the courts of the land.

And we pledge ourselves to work with First Nations people to care for country and protect art and culture.

In everything we do, we will apply the principles of honour, equality, respect and recognition to our relationship with First Nations' peoples.

- ✓ **Honour** - Labor will work with First Nations' peoples to bring honour and pride to our mutual relationship in our Nation.
- ✓ **Equality** - Labor acknowledges the uniqueness of First Nations' peoples and will work with them to ensure that the opportunities, benefits and obligations of all Australians are equally shared.
- ✓ **Respect** - Labor respects the prior occupation and possession of the lands of First Nations' peoples and commits to ensure their ongoing engagement on policies, legislation and practices that affect them.
- ✓ **Recognition** - Labor will work with First Nations' peoples, to seek their free prior and informed consent and to co-design policies and programs that impact them.

This is Labor's Plan for a Fair Go For First Nations people.

Bill Shorten
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Patrick Dodson
SENATOR FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA



TRUTH, RECONCILIATION AND RECOGNITION

Resetting The Relationship With First Nations People

In the first week of a Shorten Labor Government, we will convene a meeting of First Nations' Leaders to meet with the Prime Minister to reset the relationship between First Nations people and our national Government.

Together, we will outline a national policy approach that reflects shared priorities and the actions needed to create tangible and lasting outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This will be the start of a new partnership between the Labor Government and First Nations people.

A Constitutionally Enshrined Voice For First Nations People

Labor will establish a Voice for First Nations people and seek the support of the Australian people for that Voice to be enshrined in the Constitution.

When 250 First Nations' Leaders convened at Uluru in 2017 and called for a Voice to Parliament, Labor heard that call. In government, we will work with First Nations people to make it a reality. We will move quickly following the election to agree on a process with First Nations people - including a clear pathway to a referendum.

This will be a genuine process of Government and First Nations people working together to achieve lasting and powerful change.

“Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own Indigenous decision-making institutions.”

UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Regional Decision-making

While a permanent Voice is co-designed with First Nations people, Labor will establish transitional Regional Assemblies to ensure local and regional input and engagement on place-based solutions for important policy issues.

A Makarrata Commission For Agreement Making And Truth Telling

Labor commits to establishing and implementing a Makarrata Commission, through a process of co-design with First Nations' peoples and organisations. As called for in the Uluru Statement from the Heart, the Commission will work to facilitate a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations' peoples and truth-telling about our history.

Local Truth-Telling Initiatives

Labor will partner with Reconciliation Australia and the Healing Foundation to provide \$9 million to support community truth-telling initiatives, through the development of resources and tools for community engagement and healing, including a community grants and research program.

A Resting Place In The Parliamentary Triangle

Labor will support the Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies to develop the concept of a National Resting Place in the Parliamentary triangle for First Nation's human remains which cannot, for cultural and historic reasons, be immediately returned to their ancestral lands. The Tomb of the Unknown Warrior, like the Australian War Memorial's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, will be a place for respectful memory of Australia's shared frontier past.

Stolen Generations Compensation

Labor will deliver justice and compensation for the remaining survivors of the Stolen Generations, by establishing a compensation scheme for members of the Stolen Generations in Commonwealth jurisdictions - the Northern Territory and Jervis Bay. The compensation scheme will provide ex-gratia payments of \$75,000 to Stolen Generations survivors who were removed from their families. Labor will also establish a Funeral Assistance Fund to provide one-off payments of \$7,000 to Stolen Generations members to assist with the cost of their funerals.

Labor will also provide \$4.5 million for the establishment of the Carrolup Research, Education and Engagement Centre at Curtin University. The Centre will be dedicated to truth telling and supporting survivors of the Stolen Generations through sharing the stories of the Herbert Mayer Collection of Carrolup Art.

A National Healing Fund

Labor will establish a \$10 million Healing Fund to invest in programs that support healing for Stolen Generations and their families. The Fund will be delivered by the Healing Foundation and will support programs including:

- ✓ Family reunion and return to country.
- ✓ The needs of ageing members of the Stolen Generation.
- ✓ Intergenerational healing for the descendants of members of the Stolen Generations.

Australian Languages

In recognition of the International Year of Indigenous Languages, Labor will allocate \$4 million to community organisations to support the recording, maintenance, and development of materials in First Nations' languages.

Supporting The National Congress Of Australia's First Peoples

Labor will provide \$1 million to the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples to assist them to participate in the consultations on the establishment of a Voice for First Nations People. Future funding arrangements will be determined following that consultation period and the outcomes of that process.



Fairer Funding For First Nations Services

A Shorter Labor Government will:

- ✓ Remove the centralised, ad-hoc and non-transparent funding processes of the Indigenous Advancement Strategy.
- ✓ Facilitate local and regional decision making.
- ✓ Require mainstream departments and agencies to deliver on, and be accountable for, improving outcomes for First Nations' peoples.
- ✓ Engage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and organisations in the development and delivery of new funding guidelines.
- ✓ Ensure that First Nations people have a strong voice in selecting, managing and evaluating the services and programs delivered in their communities.
- ✓ Replace blanket competitive tendering with consultative, community needs-based processes.
- ✓ Ensure longer term funding certainty for organisations.
- ✓ Prioritise investment in capacity building and support for smaller, Indigenous community-controlled organisations.
- ✓ Ensure that where it is appropriate for a mainstream service to receive funding to deliver an Indigenous program or service, demonstration of cross-cultural competency is required as a key selection criterion.



PRACTICAL POLICIES TO CLOSE THE GAP EDUCATION

National Pre-School And Kindy Program

Ninety per cent of a child's brain development occurs before the age of five. That is why Labor will ensure every Australian child has access to a quality early education. Under Labor, every Australian child will receive 15 hours a week of subsidised early learning in the two years before they start school. This will help ensure all children – but particularly children from disadvantaged background, including many First Nations' children – get benefit from quality early learning.

National Summit On First Nations' Children

In recent years, the number of First Nations' children removed from their families has risen rapidly. Similarly, the rates of incarceration of First Nations children remains too high. To respond to these issues – and other issues that affect First Nations children – Labor will convene a national summit on First Nations Children in our first 100 days of government. The summit will bring together governments, community members and experts.

First Nations Early Childhood Educators

Labor will provide a pay rise for Early Childhood Educators, some of the lowest paid workers in Australia.

We will also provide 200 fee-free places for Indigenous people to study Early Childhood Education at TAFE.

Fairer Funding For Schools

Currently, the gap between outcomes for Indigenous and non-Indigenous students is unacceptably high. Indigenous students are still:

- ✓ Twice as likely to be developmentally vulnerable in their first year of school.
- ✓ Up to two years behind at school.
- ✓ Behind non-Indigenous students' NAPLAN results.
- ✓ Less likely to complete Year 12.

Labor will ensure that schools are supported with a loading for First Nations' students. Labor will invest an additional \$14 billion in public schools all around the country to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children can reach their full potential and get the best start in life through a great education.

Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience

Labor will provide \$9 million for the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME) to continue their program that supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students transition from high school to university.

Empowering Indigenous Girls Through Education

Right now, less than six out of 10 Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islander female students complete secondary school as opposed to eight out of 10 non-Indigenous students. To address this issue, Labor will provide \$19.5 million on top of existing investments to create almost 8,000 new places in the Stars Foundation's successful programs to tackle educational disadvantage faced by First Nations' girls and young women – tripling the number of girls supported each year.

Improving Participation In Higher Education

Labor will develop a new closing the gap target aimed at increasing First Nations' people's participation in higher and further education, ensuring greater opportunity for First Nations' peoples to continue their learning in the fields of their choice.

Labor will also help double the number of First Nations' students at the University of Technology Sydney by investing \$20 million towards a new landmark Indigenous Residential College.

Labor will invest \$2 million over four years to boost the number of Indigenous PhD and postdoctoral students in health, in partnership with the Poche Centre.

First Nations' Apprentices

Labor will provide more opportunities for First Nations people to go to TAFE or do an apprenticeship. We will waive upfront fees for 100,000 TAFE students and provide additional support for 150,000 Australians to do an apprenticeship.

We will also deliver funding for the University of Sydney's Poche Centre to coordinate delivery of 1,300 TAFE qualifications and 1,000 jobs across regional and rural Australia for First Nations people at risk of long-term unemployment.

Youth Foyers

To assist more young Indigenous people to go to TAFE or do an apprenticeship, Labor will provide \$20 million for two Indigenous Education First Youth Foyers, in Cairns and Alice Springs, that will provide up to two years' accommodation and support for at-risk young people so they have the support they need to properly engage in education and employment.

Investing In First Nations Teachers

Labor will restore the More Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Teachers Initiative, which was introduced by the Gillard Government and scrapped by the Liberals. Labor would provide \$8 million over four years to increase the number, retention and professional and leadership capacity of Indigenous teachers.

Labor will also provide \$14 million for establishment of a world class teaching hub at Charles Darwin University's Palmerston campus. The hub will lead research and deliver teaching designed to lift student achievement in outback areas and Indigenous communities.

HEALTH AND HOSPITALS

Better Hospitals

Labor will reverse the Liberals' \$2.8 billion cuts to hospitals, improving services and reducing wait times. This will help ensure First Nations people have access to quality hospitals, no matter where they live.

Medicare Cancer Plan

Labor will deliver the biggest cancer care package in Australian history, with a \$2.3 billion investment to dramatically slash out-of-pocket costs for cancer patients, including First Nations people battling cancer.

First Nations Child And Maternal Health

Labor will continue to prioritise programs such as the Nurse Family Partnership Program (NFPP) and the New Direction Mothers and Babies program. Labor will continue the expansion of the NFPP from eight to 19 sites, to ensure better access to quality antenatal and postpartum care, resulting in improved health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers and babies.

Healthy Choices

Labor will invest \$5.5 million per year to roll out a national Deadly Choices campaign to promote positive health and lifestyle choices. Deadly Choices is a proven health promotion campaign empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to make their own healthy life choices as the first and most important step to improving health outcomes.

National Aboriginal And Torres Strait Islander Health Plan

Labor will continue to work in partnership with First Nations' peoples and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations to progress the third iteration of the Implementation Plan for the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan 2013-23.

Labor will develop and co-design with First Nations' peoples and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations, a National Workforce Implementation Plan to parallel the third iteration of the Implementation Plan for the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan 2013-23.



An Indigenous Health Peak Body

Labor will reinstate the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Equality Council (NATSIHEC), abolished in 2014 by the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government.

Prioritising Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations

Labor is committed to ensuring Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations have the primary role in delivering culturally appropriate and regionally specific Primary Health Care Services to First Australians.

Labor understands that specialised health services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are essential in order to Close the Gap.

Labor will commit to reviewing the new Commonwealth funding agreement with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations so decisions going forward are made with a genuine commitment to co-design.

Labor will also work towards increasing the appointment of Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations staff or community representatives on Primary Health Network boards, this will be an important measure in ensuring First Nations people have an active role in decision making that impacts them.

Ending Rheumatic Heart Disease

Rheumatic heart disease is a preventable cause of heart failure, death and disability, but it is sadly still common in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Labor will invest \$33 million across 25 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities for on-the-ground action to prevent and eliminate rheumatic heart disease, including education and awareness campaigns, improved health hygiene programs and school-based health promotion.

Sexual Health

Labor will invest \$20 million in sexual health promotion and make it a health priority in Northern Australia. Labor will restore funding to the Northern Territory Aids and Hepatitis Council, which has suffered savage cuts under the Liberals, and put in place a workforce plan to make sure there are resources to deal with sexual health issues, including the syphilis outbreak across Northern Australia.

Closing The Gap In Vision Loss

Labor will invest \$13 million to finally close the gap in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander vision loss. This will include \$8.5 million in funding for national implementation of regional eye health coordinators, improved case-management and population-based outreach services.

Labor will also provide \$4.5 million for the establishment of an eye health centre that will provide a place-based facility to meet the eye health needs of the North West of Western Australia.

Investing In Aboriginal And Torres Strait Islander Led Health Research

Labor acknowledges building Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander led health research provides evidence, translation, evaluation and monitoring capability which will result in stronger outcomes for First Nations people.

Like Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations, Labor recognises the need for First Australians to lead and control their research priorities, including the translation into policy and practice.

Labor is committed to maintaining Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health as a research priority through the Medical Research Future Fund.

Youth Suicide And Poor Mental Health

Labor will provide \$30 million to address the national crisis in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth suicide in highly vulnerable communities. Labor will provide approximately \$2 million annually over the forward estimates to three high need regions in the North West of Western Australia, Far North Queensland and Northern Territory to assist Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services to expand their mental health, social and emotional wellbeing and suicide prevention services, using best-practice trauma-informed approaches.



Aboriginal And Torres Strait Islander Mental Health Plan

Labor will task the National Indigenous Health Equality Council to work with the National Mental Health Commission to develop an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health Plan. The Plan will devise strategies to improve the mental health outcomes and prevent suicides of Indigenous peoples.

Through the National Indigenous Health Equality Council, Labor will ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health policy, including mental health and suicide prevention, is informed by evidence and undertaken in partnership with Indigenous people and with the participation of Indigenous health experts.

Encouraging Health Justice Partnerships

Labor will invest \$3 million over four years in Health Justice Partnerships seed grants for Aboriginal Medical Services and Community Legal services.

Health Justice Partnership provide support lawyers in a range of health care settings, via outreach or co-location, to form integrated partnerships aimed at reducing family violence incidents and elder abuse, preventing patient contact with the criminal justice system, and improving overall client mental health.

Access To The NDIS

Labor is committed to ensuring that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have equitable access to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). Labor will ensure the roll out of the NDIS includes adequate resources and supports to increase access to the Scheme and address the complex social circumstances affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with disability.



JOBS AND EMPLOYMENT

Jobs And Housing In Remote Communities

Labor will address overcrowding and create jobs in remote Indigenous communities with a \$1.5 billion, ten-year investment. Housing shortages and chronic overcrowding contribute to poor outcomes in health, education, employment and community safety for residents living in remote communities.

In 2014-15, more than half of Indigenous Australians in very remote areas lived in overcrowded households, and overcrowding is the leading contributor to Indigenous homelessness. We cannot close the gap if people don't have a roof over their heads. Labor will:

- ✓ Provide a decade of funding certainty to the Northern Territory, by committing an additional \$550 million over five years from 2023-24, double the commitment offered by the Liberals.
- ✓ Provide \$251 million in funding across Queensland, Western Australia and South Australia in 2019-20.

Remote Jobs And Employment

Labor will abolish and replace the harmful and ineffective Community Development Program (CDP) and co-design a new community driven program to increase economic opportunities and jobs in remote communities.

The new Remote Development and Jobs Program will increase the number of jobs in remote communities, drive community participation and development, and reduce the role that Centrelink plays in people's lives.

Immediate changes will be made to the CDP so that the harmful and discriminatory impacts are mitigated while the new program is designed with the principle of mutual obligation maintained.

Indigenous Procurement

Labor will continue the successful Indigenous procurement policy, while maintaining vigilance to ensure the risk of fraud or anti-competitive behaviour is mitigated.

From 1 July 2019, to ensure Indigenous businesses win higher value contracts at a level closer to those of non-Indigenous businesses, a target based on the value of contracts awarded will be introduced. The target will be set at 1 per cent in the 2019-20 financial year and will be increased by 0.25 per cent each year until it reaches 3 per cent in 2027.

From 1 July 2020, Indigenous participation targets will be mandatory in high value contracts across more specified industries.

JUSTICE FOR FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE

Justice Targets

Labor will deliver a nationally coordinated approach to close the gap in Indigenous incarceration and victimisation rates. These rates have reached a crisis point:

- ✓ A young Indigenous man is more likely to go to jail than university.
- ✓ An Indigenous man is 15 times more likely to be imprisoned than a non-Indigenous man and an Indigenous woman is 21 times more likely to be in custody than a non-Indigenous woman.
- ✓ An Indigenous child is 24 times more likely to be in detention.
- ✓ And an Indigenous woman is 34 times more likely to be hospitalised as a result of family violence than other women.

Labor will work with all state and territory governments for justice targets to be adopted by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) under the Closing the Gap framework.

Justice Reinvestment

Labor will invest \$21.7 million to extend the justice reinvestment project currently underway in Bourke, New South Wales, and introduce the trial to sites in regional Western Australia, Queensland, and the Northern Territory.

Labor will establish three new launch sites in a major city, regional town and remote community to build on existing community-led initiatives to expand the role of justice reinvestment in preventing crime and reducing incarceration. These sites will be identified by working with state and territory governments, and with justice reinvestment initiatives currently at various stages of development across Australia.

Through COAG, Labor will establish a national coordinating body, as recommended by the Australian Law Reform Commission, to build the evidence base, collect data and measure progress as the new targets are implemented, and to monitor the effectiveness of justice reinvestment in the Australian context.

More Support For Indigenous Legal Services

Labor will strengthen access to justice for Indigenous Australians by providing \$40 million over four years to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services (ATSILS). This will greatly enhance the ability of ATSILS to fulfil their three critical functions:

- ✓ Improving access to justice for Indigenous Australians.
- ✓ Reducing the disproportionate disadvantage experienced by Indigenous people in the justice system.
- ✓ Providing cost effective legal assistance.

Labor has also committed to maintain the independence of the Indigenous Legal Assistance Program, which gives effect to the fundamental principle of self-determination for First Nations' peoples by funding ATSILS as the community-controlled providers of culturally safe legal services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

In addition, Labor will provide \$4 million over four years to the ATSILS peak body, the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services (NATSILS), to build its capacity to lead the sector and to support its strategic plan to improve justice outcomes based on community, culture and empowerment.

End Violence Against First Nations' Women

Indigenous women are 34 times more likely to be hospitalised as a result of domestic violence than their non-Indigenous counterparts. This is unacceptable.

Labor will work in partnership with First Nations' women to address unacceptably high rates of violence against Indigenous women. Labor will provide a dedicated First Nations stream of the \$60 million Community Prevention & Front-Line Service Grants program to support community-led and culturally-appropriate prevention programs.

We will also invest in Aboriginal-controlled frontline services, including at least \$20 million for refuges and safe houses and a \$21.5 million boost to Family Violence Prevention Legal Services.

First Nations Family Violence Prevention Grants

Labor will provide \$15 million for Indigenous Family Violence Prevention grants to support evidence-based, community-led and culturally appropriate programs in the areas of:

- ✓ Service delivery.
- ✓ Prevention.
- ✓ Attitude change and capacity building.
- ✓ Perpetrator intervention.

CARING FOR COUNTRY

Doubling Indigenous Rangers

Recognising the centrality of First Nations' peoples in land management, Labor will double the number of Indigenous Rangers over five years to over 1,670. Ranger jobs are critical to land and sea protection and provide ongoing employment on country.

Doubling Indigenous Protected Areas

Labor will double the funding available for Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs) over five years and provide ongoing funding in to the future. Labor will provide security for Indigenous Rangers and IPAs by committing to six year contracts and contract extension negotiations beginning in the third year of the contract.

Cape York, Kimberley And Burrup World Heritage Nominations And Cultural Values

A Labor Government will support traditional owners to determine what they believe the appropriate boundaries for World Heritage listings should be. Depending on Traditional Owner consent, Labor will:

- ✓ Progress a World Heritage nomination for Cape York Peninsula.
- ✓ Progress a World Heritage nomination for the West Kimberley.
- ✓ Progress a World Heritage listing for the Murujuga.
- ✓ Expand the listing of the Daintree Rainforest to include Indigenous heritage values.
- ✓ Add cultural values to all World Heritage and National Heritage listings that are not currently listed for these values.

World Indigenous Network

A Labor Government will provide \$4.5 million to reinvigorate the World Indigenous Network (WIN), which brings together Indigenous Rangers from around the world to share knowledge, by hosting its second conference and providing a Secretariat. The first WIN was held in 2012 and approximately 1,200 delegates from more than 50 countries attended the conference. The next WIN will also be open to including knowledge sharing of Indigenous artists and creators.

Turtle And Dugong

A Labor Government will provide \$3 million funding over the forward estimates for Traditional Owners to develop solutions to ensure the sustainability of turtles and dugongs. This will mean expanding the Traditional Use Marine Resource Agreements (TUMRA) model across Northern Australia.

Indigenous Cultural Water

Labor will provide an additional \$50 million for Indigenous communities to access and manage cultural water. This will build on the agreement Labor recently reached to allocate \$40 million for cultural water in the Murray Darling Basin.

As part of this process Labor will seek consent from First Nations' peoples in the Basin regarding governance arrangements and continue to implement arrangements that:

- ✓ Ensure Indigenous cultural objectives are explicitly identified and provided for in water plans, and that progress in achieving Indigenous cultural objectives is regularly monitored and publicly reported on.
- ✓ Publicly report on how Indigenous cultural objectives have been considered in the management of environmental water – both held and planned.
- ✓ Investigate the use of water for Indigenous economic development where water is sourced from existing water entitlement frameworks, such as by purchasing water on the market or as part of transparent processes for releasing unallocated water, ensuring that adequate supporting arrangements (such as training and business development) are in place to enable Indigenous communities to maximise the value of water resources.

First Nations Science And Research

Labor will establish a research hub to improve the understanding and application of First Nations' land management and traditional ecological knowledge. Research will include fire management, conservation and biodiversity outcomes, agriculture and aquaculture. Research will cover both fresh water and salt water country and the work of Indigenous Rangers and programs such as the Indigenous Protected Areas program.

Labor will allocate \$30 million over five years to the research hub. The research of, recording and use of First Nations' ecological knowledge will be in accordance with agreed protocols and based on Traditional Owner consent.

PROTECTING AND PROMOTING FIRST NATIONS ART AND CULTURE

Indigenous Music

Labor's music policy – Soundtrack Australia – aims to promote all kinds of Australian music both domestically and around the world. Sounds Australia will be tasked with promoting Australian songs, musicians and work overseas, this will include First Nations artists.

In addition, \$2.7 million will be provided to establish a new grants program for Indigenous musicians to help artists get started or move along their career path.

National Indigenous Arts And Cultural Authority

Labor will continue to support the First Nations arts and cultural sector to work towards an agreement on a National Indigenous Arts and Cultural Authority. The absence of an effective national representative body has meant that First Nations' artists and cultural organisations have been constrained in developing coordinated, cross-art form and community owned and driven solutions to challenges facing the sector.

Fake Art

Labor supports the rights of Indigenous Australians to protect their cultural and intellectual property and is committed to protecting consumers from false or misleading representations.



Restoring Shortwave Radio To The Northern Territory

Australians living in remote areas already face significant communications challenges and the loss of ABC shortwave radio cuts people off from emergency broadcasting as well as the cultural life of the nation. Labor will provide the ABC with \$2 million to help switch shortwave radio back on across the Northern Territory.

First Nations Media

Labor will progress First Nations Media nine Calls for Action in partnership with the sector. First Nations Media provides First Nations People with a voice, control over their own representation, local employment and services that support social wellbeing in communities. First Nations Media has a strong and proud history, but government policy and funding has not kept up with changes in the sector.

Support For Existing First Nations Theatre And Dance Companies

Recognising the important role that the existing Indigenous dance and theatre companies play, Labor will provide \$3 million to assist existing state based First Nations theatre companies and dance groups to grow, and if possible, apply to become major performing arts organisations. This funding would be made available with the expectation that state governments would also contribute.

National Indigenous Theatre Company

Labor will provide funding to establish Australia's first National Indigenous Theatre Company. The Theatre will be a non 'bricks and mortar' theatre based on coordination, partnerships and co-production. The investment will include funds to increase First Nations' audiences, perform stories on country and to build capacity in the sector through training First Nations' staff, creators and artists.

The Theatre would be established by First Nations people and the governance will be determined by First Nations people.

The initial investment will be \$8 million over four years to establish the Theatre and ongoing funding of \$5 million per year for performance, training and touring.

NAISDA Dance College

A Shorten Labor Government will invest \$5 million to build the NAISDA Dance College, a new centre for National Indigenous creative learning called Naya Wa Yugali ('We Dance' in Darkinjung Language). Labor's investment will expand training and career pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students across creative industry-aligned disciplines.



A UNITED LABOR TEAM WILL PUT PEOPLE FIRST

From the day Bill Shorten became Leader, Labor's team has remained united, with a single-minded commitment to delivering policies that put people first. A healthcare system underpinned by Medicare. An education system that gives every child in every school more individual attention – public, Catholic or independent. University and TAFE that are accessible for all.

**We have put forward our positive plans.
We are united. We are ready.**



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