

## Report on Review Recommendation Outcomes – 3 December 2012

The 2011 National Conference rejected in whole, or in part, the vast majority of the Faulkner / Bracks / Carr recommendations to increase the role, influence and say of the membership in Party affairs. These recommendations if adopted, would have restrained some of the power of those currently in control of the Party.

### In summary:

- Many of the review's recommendations were adopted, in whole or in part – 13 (42%) directly and completely, 10 (30%) in part or weakly, and 8 (26%) were rejected
- Key proposals rejected were:
  - Establishment of National Director of Organising
  - Extending the membership amnesty
  - Mandating direct election of State Presidents
  - Protecting the integrity of the 50/50 rule
  - Prohibiting dual voting
  - Strengthening the National Appeals Tribunal
  - Reducing preselection intervention
  - Welcoming affiliation of like-minded organisations
- Of those proposals partly or inadequately adopted:
  - Extend voting rights on National Executive to those elected directly by members – the National President and Vice-Presidents
  - Party building activities and community organising won't happen effectively in some Branches
  - Direct election of National Conference delegates remains unfinished business
  - A very weak commitment organisationally to properly look at primaries

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<u>Faulkner / Bracks / Carr Recommendations</u>	<u>Conference Outcomes</u>
<p>Recommendation 1: That these recommendations be forwarded directly to the National Conference of the ALP, as resolutions, rule changes, and amendments to the National Principles of Organisation (NPOs) for debate and determination by delegates.</p>	<p>All recommendations were reflected in proposed amendments and resolutions</p>
<p>Recommendation 2: That, as a first step towards re-engaging with Party members, the National Secretariat conduct the first national survey of Party members to seek their views, expectations and attitudes to the Party. Suggestions about improving Party organisation should also be sought. That the results of the survey be published in summary form to members.</p>	<p>Adopted – resolution 013R</p>
<p>Recommendation 3: That the National Executive discuss and determine a membership growth target for increasing membership over the next five years, with progress targets set for each year. That membership numbers achieved be reported on an annual basis to the membership.</p>	<p>Adopted – resolution 014R and 474R (as per the Prime Minister’s proposal regarding membership targets 8,000 new members in 2012)</p>
<p>Recommendation 4: That the National Secretariat and state branches dedicate an adequate and meaningful budget allocation to new party-building activities. That state and territory branches of the Party report to the National Executive on their budget allocations and activities annually.</p>	<p>Adopted in part – resolution 474R addresses an inadequate range of party-building activities, and lacks mandating of adequate resourcing, and the far more comprehensive plan in resolution 523A, setting out an organising plan, was rejected</p>
<p>Recommendation 5: That the Party explicitly adopt a community-organising model which aims to empower and equip members to work in their local communities on campaigns, to build stronger community connections and to recruit members.</p>	<p>Adopted inadequately – resolution 474R does not mandate a community organising model, which means some Branches will not implement this model, and the far more comprehensive plan in resolution 523A, setting out an organising plan, was rejected</p>

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<p>Recommendation 6: That the Party appoint a National Director of Organising as a standalone position to grow membership and to assist the building of better branches. That the National Organising Director report growth activities to the National Executive.</p>	<p>Rejected</p>
<p>Recommendation 7: That the Party establish a cost-effective national campaigning organising and training academy to boost the skills, awareness and knowledge of members to allow them to better participate in party-building and recruitment activities.</p>	<p>Adopted – 016R</p>
<p>Recommendation 8: That the Party grant an amnesty to former members who have left the Party over the past five years, but who are willing to rejoin. That the amnesty include the restoration of full membership rights; but that this amnesty not be extended to any former member who has brought discredit on the Party or its representatives.</p>	<p>Rejected</p>
<p>Recommendation 9: That a system of small, annual grants be established at national level to assist with party-building activities. That local branches be encouraged to apply for grants and the scheme be overseen by a panel of senior Labor Party members, removed from the day-to-day affairs of the Party.</p>	<p>Adopted – resolution 017R</p>
<p>Recommendation 10: That branch correspondence to parliamentary representatives and state and territory branches should be responded to promptly to ensure branch members are aware their contribution has been considered. That Party units be permitted to have correspondence not responded to within three months brought to the attention of National Executive members by automatic inclusion in the agenda papers of National Executive.</p>	<p>Adopted in a weaker form – resolution 472A – Local Branch Members denied an avenue for redress, and no-one takes responsibility for making sure correspondence is appropriately considered</p>
<p>Recommendation 11: That the structure of the ALP National Conference be changed to enable the increased participation of rank and file members through the direct election of a component of the National Conference.</p>	<p>Adopted in principle via resolution 602A. A new Implementation Committee is to bring recommendations back – the commitment is weak, it may never be implemented, and implementation may be partisan and ineffective – left in the hands of sometimes unenthusiastic and uncommitted State Branches</p>

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Recommendation 12: That any rank and file ballot for conference delegates occur at the same time as the ballots for the National President and Vice- Presidents, and that it also occur by postal ballot.	Referred to Implementation Committee via resolution 602A
Recommendation 13: That the National Constitution be amended so that the National President, elected by the membership of the Party, serve a full three year term. That a separate ballot of the membership be held to elect a Senior Vice President and Junior Vice President also to serve a full three year term. That all three members elected be granted full voting rights on the National Executive.	Adopted in part via resolution 472A, namely the three year term. Rejected components include the separate balloting process, and voting rights on National Executive.
Recommendation 14: That the National Principles of Organisation of the Party be amended to provide for the direct election of the Party President and Vice Presidents at state and territory level, based on the model proposed in this Review for the national level.	Rejected
Recommendation 15: That federal, state and territory ministers be required to report back to respective Party conferences on the implementation of platform and policy commitments.	Adopted – resolution 005A
Recommendation 16: That the National Principles of Organisation ensure that state and territory conferences be solely based on the principle of 50 per cent representation for members and 50 per cent representation for affiliates. That the practice of including additional delegates from administrative committees, policy committees, Young Labor, and the parliamentary parties in the members’ component cease. That any affiliation of non-industrial party affiliates in the future (e.g. LEAN or Rainbow Labor) not be included in the affiliates component, which should be quarantined to trade union representation only.	Rejected
Recommendation 17: That ‘batt’ or dual voting — a system which offends the principle of one vote one value — not be permitted under Party Rules in any circumstances.	Rejected- resolution 007A
Recommendation 18: That only financial members of an affiliated trade union be eligible to represent that union at Party conferences.	Adopted – resolution 008A
Recommendation 19: To encourage the participation of more affiliated trade union members in the Party, that affiliated trade unions be requested to ask members to opt in to Party involvement (e.g. primaries, representing the union at Party conferences) on joining or renewing union membership.	Adopted – resolution 009R

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Recommendation 20: That the National Policy Committee be reformed to create a series of national party policy committees that reflect the Caucus committees of the FPLP.	Represented in resolution 010A, however withdrawn in lieu of resolution 472A and adopted in a different form, establishing a National Policy Forum and Labor Policy Action Committees
Recommendation 21: That the national policy committees incorporate into their consultative arrangements a series of workshops and roundtables with key community organisations, academics and researchers working in areas of policy innovation.	Adopted using different language in resolution 474R, relating to the community dialogue program
Recommendation 22: The Review notes that the power to co-opt members to the National Policy Committee has not been utilised. That in future all national policy committees be strongly encouraged to co-opt expert members who are not factional appointees.	Adopted – resolution 472A
Recommendation 23: That NSW Labor’s successful model of a Central Policy Branch be extended to other state and territory capitals and to major regional centres such as Newcastle, Wollongong, Launceston, Townsville, Fremantle, and Bendigo or Ballarat. That a National Policy Branch be established online, which would assist state based Central Policy Branches by providing national lectures, presentations and seminars online for Party members.	Adopted – resolution 011A, but implementation is optional in each State Branch
Recommendation 24: That the decisions of the National Appeals Tribunal (NAT) be binding determinations on the Party. That the membership of the NAT be expanded and that matters be heard by more than one member.	Rejected
Recommendation 25: That intervention in Party preselections by the National Executive and state administrative committees only occur as a last resort, rather than a first resort, and then only in exceptional circumstances.	Rejected in resolution 023A and 105A – no commitment to stop intervening in preselections

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<p>Recommendation 26: That the Party nationally implement a tiered system of Party primaries for the selection of candidates. That this commence in open and non-held lower house seats and be considered for held seats in the future. That a system with three weighted components be established comprising a 60 per cent component drawn from local Party members, 20 per cent from members participating from affiliated trade unions, and 20 per cent from registered Labor supporters in the community. That safeguards to prevent any corruption of this system be put in place such as: ●● the principle of one vote, one value be enshrined to ensure that double or triple-voting not occur ●● there be minimum participation requirements in the union and community components of a primary to ensure that low participation did not distort results ●● that all participants be enrolled to vote for a minimum of three months and have a verifiable address within the electorate.</p>	<p>Adopted in part, but optional for each State Branch, via resolution 472A. Few safeguards were imposed, and no model was suggested.</p>
<p>Recommendation 27: That the Party at a national level create a outreach organisation, which provides the following for progressive Australians: ●● an online presence where they can engage with progressive ideas and policies ●● a place to organise progressive campaigns ●● an opportunity to engage with the Australian Labor Party. That this organisation be governed by a board of independent, senior party people and young activists drawn from the Party, union movement and progressive third party organisations.</p>	<p>Adopted in a very weak form – resolution 474R. Most detail and an Independent Board were rejected in resolution 025A.</p>
<p>Recommendation 28: That the Party at a national level institute a Labor Community Dialogue program as has occurred at state levels of the Party, to facilitate access and discussion between the Party, community organisations and community leaders, and that this be supported by an active series of online engagement opportunities that would connect progressive community organisations with the Party at both a membership and parliamentary level.</p>	<p>Adopted - resolution 474R</p>
<p>Recommendation 29: That the Party's National Principles of Organisation be amended to allow the affiliation of like-minded organisations, in addition to industrial unions. Furthermore, that campaign groups such as the Labor Environment Action Network and Rainbow Labor be granted ex-officio delegate rights at state and territory conferences and policy committees, once they are able to demonstrate and verify membership of a sufficient size.</p>	<p>Rejected – resolution 027A</p>
<p>Recommendation 30: That Labor Connect be expanded as a membership organising and campaigning tool.</p>	<p>Adopted – resolutions 029A and 106A and 474R</p>
<p>Recommendation 31: That ALAC and state-based Labor Advisory Committees be expanded to include a new Campaigns and Growth Forum based on the ACTU model. That this forum be established at national level of the Party to connect affiliated trade unions, the Party and the FPLP into a more meaningful dialogue on shared challenges.</p>	<p>Adopted – resolution 030A</p>

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