

LABOR'S PLAN MULTICULTURAL AUSTRALIA



Labor



A Fair Go
For Australia

MESSAGE FROM BILL SHORTEN



Australia is a nation of 25 million stories from all corners of the globe and our diversity makes us one of the most multicultural countries on earth.

Immigration has made us a diverse, competitive and innovative nation – and contributes significantly to Australia's economy.

Labor is committed to greater inclusion and ensuring that all Australians know they are valued for their contribution.

But I know that for many Australians from multicultural backgrounds, the economy just isn't working, and the Liberals have neglected migrants and their families.

We have a plan to restore the fair go for Australia – and all Australians.

New migrants can face unique challenges in re-establishing their lives in Australia and Labor is committed to providing them with the support and resources they need to become fully engaged and connected members of society.

We are committed to making sure the richness and diversity of languages and cultures of Australia are nourished and celebrated.

Labor is committed to delivering a fair go for multicultural communities, and we have the policies that will do just that.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Shorten". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Bill Shorten

EASING PRESSURE ON FAMILY BUDGETS

The cost of living keeps increasing, but wages just aren't keeping up. Only Labor has a plan to help families with the cost of living.

Higher Wages

Labor will reverse the cuts to penalty rates in our first 100 days of government, ensure the minimum wage is a living wage, end the use of so-called 'permanent casuals' and address the gender pay gap.

Lower Power Prices

Labor will help households and businesses get a better deal on their power prices by overhauling electricity offers so that Australians pay less for their power.

Fairer Tax Cuts

Under Labor, 10 million low and middle-income Australians will get a fairer tax cut from 1 July 2019.

Cheaper Child Care

Labor will put more money back into working parents' pockets for 887,000 Australian families earning up to \$174,000, slashing up to \$2,100 per child off their annual childcare bill.

Free Dental for Pensioners

Labor will give three million older Australians access to free dental care. If you receive the Age Pension or hold a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card, Labor will ensure you can access \$1,000 worth of free essential dental care, covered by Medicare, every two years.

Cap on Private Health Insurance

Labor will cap private health insurance premium increases at 2 per cent for two years, to improve affordability for families.

Protecting the Pension

The Liberals want to make it harder for people born overseas to get a pension, by increasing the residency requirements for the pension from 10 to 15 years.

They also want to make it harder for pensioners to travel by cutting the Pension Supplement after six weeks overseas. This would hurt hard-working migrant pensioners and make it harder for them to visit family overseas.

Labor opposes these cuts. They would not proceed under a Labor Government.

Overseas Money Transfers

Labor will make it cheaper for Australians to send money overseas to loved ones by driving down international remittance and transfer fees.

BETTER HEALTH AND HOSPITALS

Your health care should depend on your Medicare card, not your credit card. Labor created Medicare and we will always protect it.

Better Hospitals

Labor will invest an additional \$2.8 billion in hospitals to reduce waiting times and improve services around the country. Labor's investment means more doctors, more nurses, more hospital staff and more hospital beds.

Cheaper Cancer Treatments

Labor's \$2.3 billion Medicare Cancer Plan will mean millions of free scans, millions of free consultations and cheaper medicines for cancer patients. The funding will slash waiting times for cancer patients in public hospitals, eliminate all out-of-pocket costs for diagnostic imaging, and fund three million free consultations with oncologists and surgeons.

End the Medicare Freeze

Labor will end the Liberals' freeze on Medicare rebates to help people visiting the doctor meet rising out-of-pocket costs and keep health care more affordable.

Tackling Heart Disease

Labor will tackle one of the country's biggest killers - heart disease - with a new investment in Medicare for comprehensive heart health checks that will save lives and improve the health of families.



QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL

Labor believes all children should get a quality school education that prepares them for the future.

Preschool for every child

Labor will provide universal access to preschool for all three and four-year-olds. This means 15 hours of quality early learning per week for every child in the two years before they start school, ensuring they get the best start to their education.

Funding for Schools

Labor will provide an extra \$14 billion over 10 years to deliver the biggest school investment in Australian history, ensuring every child in every school gets the funding they need to succeed.

More University Places

A Shorten Labor Government will end the Liberals' cap on Commonwealth supported university places and help 200,000 more young Australians attend university over the next decade.

TAFE and Apprentices

Labor will provide more opportunities for young people to go to TAFE or do an apprenticeship, by waiving upfront fees for 100,000 TAFE students and boosting apprenticeship numbers by 150,000 with incentives of up to \$8,000 for employers and \$2,000 for apprentices.

MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Labor will help more Australian families with the cost of rent and turbocharge construction in Australia with a ten-year national plan to build 250,000 houses – Australia's biggest ever investment in affordable housing.

MORE SUPPORT FOR SMALL BUSINESS

A Shorten Labor Government will reduce the company tax rate for businesses with a turnover of less than \$50 million to 25 per cent.

We will also increase the instant asset write-off threshold from \$25,000 to \$30,000 and provide an Australian Investment Guarantee (AIG) for all businesses. The AIG will allow businesses to immediately deduct 20 per cent of any new eligible assets worth more than \$20,000, such as machinery and vehicles.

TACKLING FAMILY VIOLENCE

A Shorten Labor Government will make tackling family violence a national priority. As part of a new National Plan to reduce violence against women and their children, Labor will develop a dedicated strategy to reduce family violence including improved services for multicultural communities.

Labor will:

- ✓ **Provide dedicated funding for women** from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds as part of our \$62 million grants to support community organisations and frontline services in their efforts to prevent violence.
- ✓ **Provide 20,000 Flexible Support Packages** of up to \$10,000 to provide practical financial support for people escaping violence – and make these packages available to vulnerable women on temporary visas.
- ✓ **Invest in a new \$90 million Family Violence Justice Fund** to make sure victims and survivors of family violence have access to lawyers.
- ✓ **Invest an extra \$60 million** to build more emergency accommodation.
- ✓ **Legislate for 10 days paid domestic violence leave** for all full-time workers.
- ✓ **Make sure women and children** who are victims of violence while on temporary visas can access support services with an investment of \$5 million in services and interpreters.

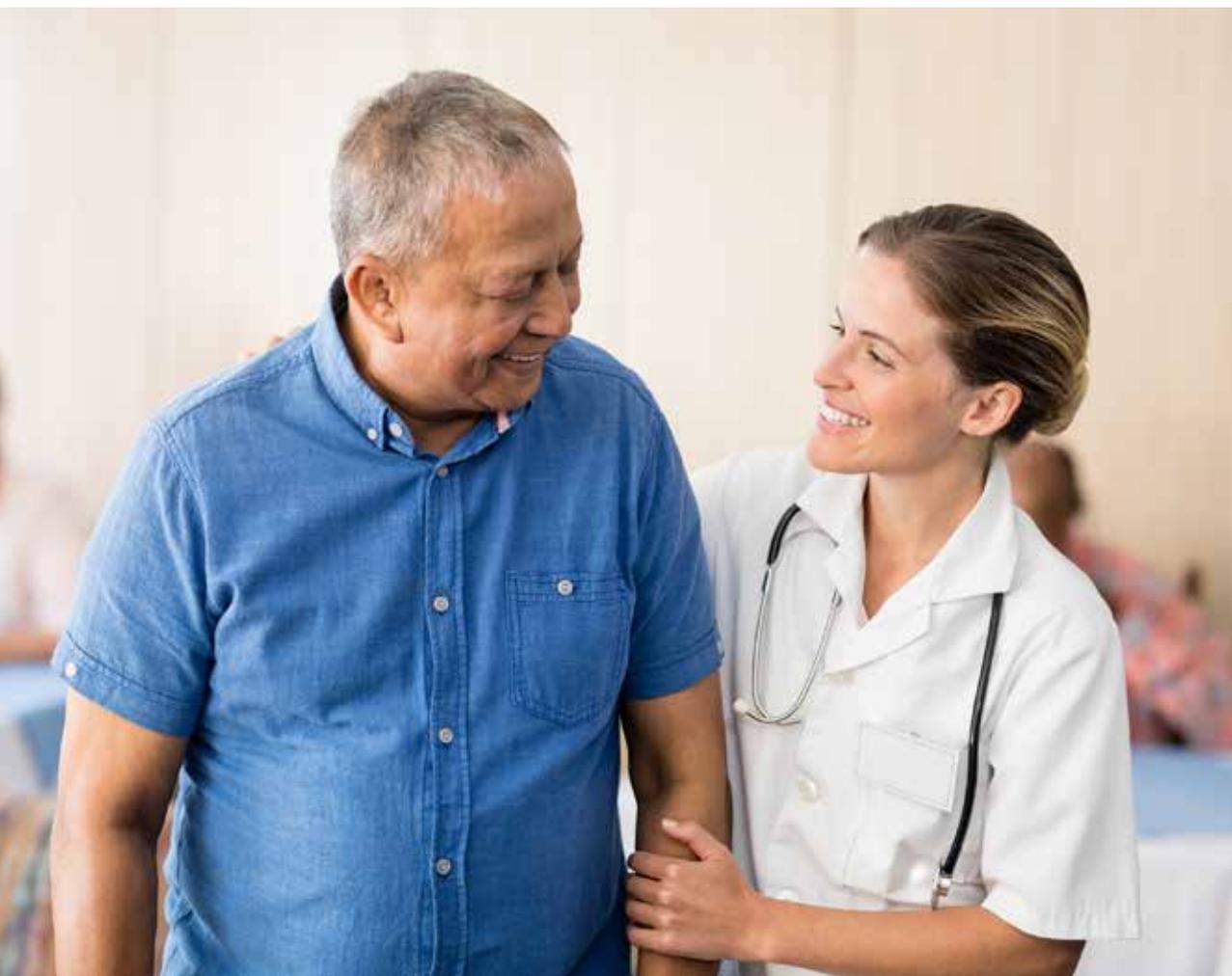
BETTER AGED CARE FACILITIES

A Shorten Labor Government will invest \$100 million to expand access to culturally appropriate aged care facilities throughout Australia.

The Multicultural Aged Care Fund will provide funding towards new facilities, and for upgrades and improvements to existing facilities that service ethnic communities throughout Australia.

This Fund will support aged care facilities which ensure older Australians from CALD backgrounds are in an environment where the language, food and surroundings are familiar.

This policy is part of ensuring that every Australian, no matter their background, can age with dignity.



CELEBRATING MULTICULTURAL AUSTRALIA

Long Stay Parent Visa

The Liberals' unfair Temporary Sponsored Parent visa has unfair conditions, high fees for families wanting to reunite, and forces families to choose between which parents or in-laws they reunite with by limiting the visa to one set of parents per household.

A Shorten Labor Government will deliver a fairer Long Stay Parent visa so that Australian families from migrant and multicultural backgrounds can reunite with their loved ones and so grandparents can have quality time with their grandchildren.

Labor's visa will be uncapped, available for both sets of parents and is one quarter of the cost of the Liberals' visa.

LABOR'S FAIRER LONG STAY PARENT VISA	THE LIBERALS' UNFAIR TEMPORARY SPONSORED PARENT VISA
Uncapped	Visas capped to 15,000 places
Families can reunite with both sets of parents	Limited to one set of parents per household
\$2,500 for a 5-year visa	\$10,000 for a 5-year visa
\$1,250 for a 3-year visa	\$5,000 for a 3-year visa
Renew in Australia	Can't be renewed in Australia

Labor knows that modern Australia and multicultural Australia are the same thing - which is why we value families being able to spend time together and help each other.

Community Language Schools

A Shorten Labor Government will invest an extra \$8 million in community language schools so more Australian children get the chance to learn other languages.

Grants of up to \$25,000 per school will allow language programs to be expanded to preschool children. The grants could also go towards the costs of setting up a new school, better teacher training, or classroom resources.

Improving the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP)

Labor will invest an additional \$15 million in the AMEP to increase the number of service locations, expand access for more migrants and improve training quality.

Multicultural Australia

Labor will establish a dedicated body, Multicultural Australia, to:

- ✓ Drive the economic, social, and cultural integration of newly arrived migrants and culturally and linguistically diverse communities.
- ✓ Assist Australians to preserve, enhance and share their cultures, languages and group identities.
- ✓ Improve the responsiveness of all institutions to meet the needs of a diverse population.

Citizenship Commissioners

Labor will establish up to 12 full-time and part-time Citizenship Commissioners to work with communities to promote social cohesion and multiculturalism.

Community Connections Grants

Labor will provide \$3 million to community groups and centres to deliver activities that support and facilitate resettlement, such as language classes, parent support groups and health services.

Community Connections Grants will be open to all community groups and centres. The program will include small grants for new and emerging communities to expand services and improve governance of organisations.

Improving citizenship ceremonies

Labor will update citizenship ceremonies and provide additional funding for MPs to host ceremonies to ensure they continue to be a celebration of modern multicultural Australia. Labor will also seek to address the backlog of citizenship applications that has blown out under the Liberals.

Multicultural Arts and Festivals

Labor will commit \$3.5 million towards a *Multicultural Arts and Festivals Program* to stimulate cross-generational collaborations within and across cultural groups. Grants awarded under the program will give communities the chance to share their stories through art and festivals.

Building Multicultural Communities Program

A Shorten Labor Government will provide \$4.5 million for a Building Multicultural Communities Program. The program will give communities the chance to upgrade or replace broken infrastructure and equipment, expand, and invest in larger capital works.

Security at places of worship

Labor will commit \$55 million in community grants to improve security at religious schools and places of worship.



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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