

Nominations now closed

Nominations for the position of National President of the Australia Labor Party have now closed.

Ballot papers will be issued to party members via post from Monday 11 May 2015. Guidelines for the ballot process can be found [here](#).

If you have any questions, [please get in touch here](#).

CANDIDATES



HENRY PINSKIER

I am not an MP, I am not an ex MP. I am not seeking public office either now or in the future. I am a member. I have been a member for 32 years and have voluntarily served the ALP in many capacities from branch member, branch secretary, branch treasurer, FEA delegate, Victorian policy committee member, chair, National Policy committee and Senior Vice President of the Victorian ALP. Throughout the 32 years I have as a member like all members worked to ensure Labor governments are elected and members of parliament supported.

I am the son of refugees from World War 2 and Australia under the Whitlam government gave me opportunities for education a working class boy could only have ever dreamed of. My father worked as a coal miner, an electrician, a shopkeeper and on the market, my mother as a seamstress.

Whilst I trained and practiced as a Doctor, I am now in business. My family has a four generation history of trade union involvement from my grandfather, a union official in the Shoe Makers union of Poland, cousins as officials in the International Ladies Garment union of America and to today my daughter working in the renewed Health Workers Union. The trade union movement remains integral to the Labor Party now and in the future.

I seek the nomination of ALP President without any endorsement of the factions. In the mid 2000's I campaigned successfully to reverse rules that the left and some in the right had

introduced to restrict voting rights to members. These rules against member's rights were reversed by the national executive.

I am a strong advocate of social policies such as Medicare and the National Disability Insurance Scheme and have sought to protect the integrity of Medicare from the assault on its principals by the Abbott government. My work in December last year and January this year assisting in the campaign to stop the disastrous changes with Bill Shorten and many members of his team across the country via Federal front benchers is testament to that.

The Labor rank and file make a wonderful contribution to the Australian Labor party. The party needs to continue to modernise, to grow its base, to broaden its support and if I am fortunate enough to become national ALP President I will be a strong advocate for members within the Party and with the aim and objective of seeing a Federal Labor government elected and Bill Shorten as Prime Minister.



MARK BUTLER

I believe Labor faces two great challenges: maintaining a unity of purpose in defeating the Abbott government; and building a stronger movement for change in this country.

I am seeking your support to become Labor's next President because I am deeply committed to achieving both these objectives – and because I have the experience, responsibilities and capacity to make a difference by working with caucus colleagues, members and affiliates.

I joined the Party more than 25 years ago and have been Labor's Member for Port Adelaide since 2007. In the Gillard and Rudd Governments, I held various Ministerial portfolios, and now serve as Labor's spokesperson for the Environment, Climate Change and Water.

Before entering Parliament, I worked for 15 years with United Voice, including 11 years as South Australian State Secretary. During that time, I was involved in campaigns in industries as diverse as child care, aged care, automotive components and wine. I was an active supporter of the *Unions @Work* reforms led by Greg Combet and led a successful campaign to allow workplace agreements to include provisions requiring non-union members to pay a "bargaining fee".

I have been a consistent supporter of reform in our Party that delivers more influence to Party members. At the 2002 Special Labor Conference, I moved a motion that members have a direct say in electing delegates to National Conference

Despite the recent - incredibly important - change to electing our leader, Labor provides members with less direct input to important decisions than pretty much any other labour or social-democratic party in the world. Members should have more of a say – over delegates to the National Conference and candidates for the Senate, Legislative Councils and more. These issues have been talked about for too long – it's time National Conference finally made a decision about reforms that have been recommended by Bob Hawke, Neville Wran, John Faulkner, Bob Carr and Steve Bracks.

These reforms needn't and shouldn't diminish our Party's links to trade unions. Those links are a mighty strength. Unions give the Party a deep connection to working families and their priorities. I worked in unions as they refined their campaigning skills under Greg Combet's leadership and John Howard's attacks. Five state elections in the past 15 months have reminded us how effective that campaigning can be.

I cherish the union link. The challenge is to ensure it is fit for purpose: to look at ways of broadening participation in our Party.

Let me be clear in saying that reforming our Party is not a distraction from our task of electing a Shorten Labor Government. Far from it.

I want to be Labor's President to champion our greatest strength - our membership, as together we campaign to change our country for the better.



LOUISE PRATT

The Australian Labor Party is the best vehicle our nation has for the creation of a fairer, just and more sustainable Australia. As a member of more than 20 years I have experienced both our successes, and our failings. I know that our capacity to deliver on our mission cannot be taken for granted. Our party's destiny is in our collective hands, we must forge a path towards a modern party that strengthens our capacity to deliver for all those Australians who depend on us.

It is time for our party to change. Together, there are a number of things we must do.

We must give members direct access to decision making. Too many party members are alienated by our archaic structures. They worked well last century, but now don't serve us well. I have worked to change this – driving the creation of Rainbow Labor and advocating for the democratization of our party. The leadership, and this presidential ballot, are only a beginning. Members want direct democracy over candidate selection, our platform, policies and the way our party operates.

We need to be a truly national Labor Party. We need to be a modern mass party, much bigger than we are, and with a properly national membership. I have experienced how hard it is to recruit and retain members, and to campaign for what matters while every state has a totally different structure. We must fix this, or jeopardise electoral success.

We must value ourselves as a party of organised labour. It's time to deepen and broaden our relationship with the movement that speaks for millions of working Australians. Only with unions at the heart of our party can we be a successful counter weight to the forces in our nation that privilege profits over people.

We are strongest when we act together. We have delivered a great deal to our nation through our collective action. Solidarity is a fundamental principle of how we organise. Therefore, it's time to bind on marriage equality. Marriage equality is not a matter of conscience, but of equality and an overwhelming majority of Australians expect us to deliver on our platform. By sticking together we can.

I lost a difficult Senate election last year. Through it all I was proud to stand with Labor's thousands of loyal members, volunteers and voters. To stand for the party I believe in and will continue to fight for.

This election is our chance to make a statement not just about our commitment to changing the government, but to changing our politics while we're at it. To being bold, and trusting in our members.

I have been an activist all of my life, I am full of passion for our cause. My experiences, my determination to achieve progressive change and my capacity to bring people together are the reason I am seeking your support.

Together we can build a stronger and healthier Labor Party that can continue to be the successful agent of the change our country needs.



TIM HAMMOND

My name is Tim Hammond. I am a local branch activist. I'm running for ALP National President because I want to rebuild the ALP membership and help elect a Shorten Labor government.

I am a Western Australian. My mum was the daughter of a wharfie; my dad the son of an asbestos miner from Wittenoom.

I am a lawyer. I fight for victims of asbestos disease in the courts; people like my Grandfather. My job means I see firsthand the difference Labor values like justice, equality, and compassion make in the lives of ordinary Australians.

It also means I see the people who need Labor to become stronger. People whose chance for a better life depends on the solidarity and commitment of others. People who need Labor in Government.

My plan is simple. Change the Party so the Party can change Australia.

I stand for a Party of ideas. Being prepared to fight for the hard but necessary reforms. Reforms that reward work, contribution, equality and compassion. That's why I favour deepening the role of members in working up our Labor Platform.

I stand for a Party with a culture that welcomes the contribution of its members. Honouring their commitment to the cause by offering them a bigger say in how the Party is run. That starts by extending the model of the Federal Leadership election to every State and Territory.

I stand for a modern Labor Party, with the most innovative methods to select candidates, run branch meetings and make policy. Methods like the community preselection model trialled in NSW. Methods that maximise the Labor advantage of being the most open, inclusive and transparent political party in Australia.

I stand for an organising Party. Learning from the experience of building the Community Action Network in Victoria. With every member equipped with the skills, networks, training and support they to reach out to their neighbours, inviting them to join the Labor cause.

And I stand for a deep and enduring partnership with the industrial wing of our Movement. A partnership that delivers the 21st Century equivalent of Superannuation and Medicare. A strong partnership that should not be compromised just because we want to rebuild. Making new friends is no excuse to treat old friends poorly.

This platform will make our Party larger, more democratic and more inclusive. It will help us to grow popular support for Labor' programme in Government. It will better equip us to overcome the powerful forces of Conservatism and reaction the next Labor Administration will inevitably face in Government.

My commitment is make the delivery of this platform the sole focus of my activism.

Because I am not an MP, a Senator, a Minister or a Shadow Frontbencher, all my time will be spent on being a force for organisational renewal.

I will be the rank-and file's Ambassador to the Parliamentary Party. Not the Parliamentary's Party Ambassador to the rank-and-file.

I seek your support to become the next National President of our great Party. Thank you.



JANE GARRETT

The Labor Party is the only party that can build a fair Australia.

Together, we face two critical challenges:

The first is to mobilise the largest community campaign in our political history, to defeat the most conservative Liberal Party our nation has ever seen.

Their agenda strikes at the heart of a generation of hard fought and well-loved progressive reforms that have allowed our nation to prosper, while protecting those most in need.

The recent state elections were inspiring. They demonstrated that Labor is part of a movement and our movement is strong.

Together we have defeated first term Liberal Governments.

These elections demonstrated that Labor, working in solidarity with unions, is a powerful force.

Our second challenge is to give our members a meaningful say in running our party.

We joined the Labor Party because we want to make a difference.

We want to build a progressive Australia.

We want to make change.

For too long these ideas have been stymied by bureaucratic processes.

I want to make sure that no matter where you live, work, or come from, that you will have a say in our Labor family. Our rules should reflect that. Party reform will only work if every party member rolls up their sleeves and has their say.

As President I am committed to ensure that your voice will be heard.

When I was elected to the Victorian Parliament, I made a commitment to Labor members that I would always fight for the rights of working people, defend the disadvantaged, and stand for a strong social safety net.

I learnt this from my mother who was a teacher. I grew up in a household that passionately believes in the power of public education.

It's those rights and traditions that all Labor Party members hold in common: the promise that we, as a collective – nurses, teachers, construction workers, students, childcare workers, pensioners, and many more – will build a progressive, secure and equitable Australia.

To do this, we must campaign and defy the conservative pundits and the powers-that-be.

We must expand beyond our party heartland.

We must be broad, inclusive and stand by our commitments to justice, solidarity and unionism.

To get this done, I need more than your support.

I need you to join me as we take this message to our neighbours, workplaces and communities.

That's why I am standing to be your President. We are strongest when we are united. In solidarity we can reform our party and campaign to take our nation back.