

Dear National Policy Forum,

Thank you for opening this forum to submissions from Australian Labor Party members.

I am writing in support of Labor for Choice's proposed changes to the consultation draft of the National Platform.

Labor for Choice is a pro-choice action network working within the Australian Labor Party membership to advance legal, safe, accessible and affordable abortion in Australia, primarily through campaigning for changes to the existing ALP National Platform.

While Labor asserts itself to be the leading party for reproductive healthcare in Australia, unfortunately the existing platform does not adequately address the inequities of abortion access in Australia. If this remains unaddressed by Labor, Australians will continue to face the serious social and economic consequences associated with inaccessible abortion.

Labor for Choice is proposing two changes to the consultation draft of the National Platform:

1. Changing 4.21 to read:

Chapter 4: A Strong and Healthy Society

Health: equity, access and reform

Access: helping Australians access affordable care when and where they need it

17. Labor is a pro-choice political party that believes abortion should be legal, safe, affordable and accessible. Labor will work to improve sexual and reproductive healthcare for all Australians by making services free and accessible across the country.

2. Changing the "Statements in detail" section on sexual and reproductive health to read:

Statements in detail

Sexual and reproductive health

1. Labor recognises that there are specific barriers to accessing sexual and reproductive health services, including:
 - a. Legal barriers in some states and territories;
 - b. Financial barriers;
 - c. Discrimination and reproductive coercion from others, including partners, family members, carers, medical practitioners, religious and political groups and peers;
 - d. Limited availability of services lack of culturally appropriate health services for culturally and linguistically diverse and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
1. In response to these barriers, Labor will:
 - a. Make reproductive and sexual healthcare free;
 - b. Fund culturally sensitive and accessible sexual and reproductive health services;
 - c. Fund the expansion or creation of sexual and reproductive health services in rural, regional and remote areas; and
 - d. Work with the states and territories to ensure all reproductive health services, including medical and surgical terminations are legal and that other legal protections are enacted, including legislated safe access zones around clinics and legal protections for individuals against reproductive coercion.

We thank you for taking our proposal into consideration. If you wish to contact Labor for Choice, please e-mail laborforchoice@gmail.com.