



The Hon Tony Burke MP
Shadow Minister for Environment and Water
Shadow Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Australia
Shadow Minister for the Arts
Manager of Opposition Business
Member for Watson

Labor response - FECCA

1. Will you develop a national legislative framework on multiculturalism? Please describe your plan for this framework or alternative for securing a socially cohesive society.

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. We know that for many Australians from multicultural backgrounds, the economy just isn’t working, and the Liberals have neglected migrants and their families. 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 has a plan to deliver a fair go for multicultural communities, and we have the policies that will do just that.

Our full policy document can be accessed here:

https://www.alp.org.au/media/1868/labors_plan_for_multicultural_communities.pdf

2. Will you commit to update and standardise the definition of CALD and ensure appropriate and adequate data collection? Please detail your plan for CALD data collection.

Labor will establish a dedicated body at the federal level – Multicultural Australia – to achieve coordinated policy on multiculturalism and social cohesion. Its work will include nation-wide consultations to determine the needs of Australia’s diverse communities; producing data-driven and evidence-informed diversity audits to map the characteristics and opportunities to inform policy making across government and developing partnerships with community organisations to ensure the delivery of appropriate settlement support for new migrants.

3. How will you develop social policy to address the specific needs of aged and ageing CALD Australians?

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.

4. How will you ensure the next 10-year plan to address violence against women will focus on intersectionality?

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.

5. Will you commit to addressing the citizenship backlog and ensure the availability of permanent family re-union? Please describe how these will be addressed.

Citizenship backlog

Labor will prioritise clearing the backlog. We fought against Peter Dutton's unfair citizenship changes and won and a Shorten Labor Government will ensure that the resulting citizenship backlog is addressed.

Permanent family visa

Under the Liberals, visa processing times have spiralled out-of-control across most visa classes, not just for citizenship applications. This means people are waiting longer to be reunited with their family members, settle in Australia, or gain permanent residency.

Scott Morrison likes to talk about migration, but ignores the fact there are 188,000 people on bridging visas in Australia – waiting for their visa applications to be processed by the Department of Home Affairs.

Bridging visas are up by 28,000 year on year (31 December 2017 compared to 31 December 2018) as visa processing times have blown out of control, taking years in some cases.

What's more, the Liberals are seeking to privatise Australia's visa processing system, leading to more uncertainty over how this situation will be addressed.

If Labor is elected, we will need to work to fix this mess and get the visa system back under control. We have already ruled out privatising visa processing.

Additional family 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uncapped 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visas capped to 15,000 places
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families can reunite with both sets of parents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited to one set of parents per household
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$2,500 for a five year visa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$10,000 for a five year visa
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1,250 for a three year visa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$5,000 for a three year visa
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renew in Australia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.

6. How will you ensure the needs, challenges and contributions of new and emerging communities are considered in all policy decisions including funding allocation?

Labor has a comprehensive policy package detailed in our [Fair go for Multicultural Communities](#) plan, including provision of funding for language schools, arts and festivals, culturally appropriate aged care services, and additional investment in the adult migrant English program (AMEP).

The new federal body – Multicultural Australia – would review the effectiveness of state and federal community development programs; drive the economic, social and cultural integration of newly arrived migrants; and improve the responsiveness of institutions to meet the needs of a diverse population. It will also be responsible for coordinating citizenship and settlement services that promote and advance multiculturalism.

7. Will you deliver an anti-racism campaign? Will you consult and engage with community groups and faith leaders to improve government service delivery and coordinate against racism? Please detail this campaign.

Labor is proud of Australia’s multicultural society, and believes every Australian deserves the right to live free from racial and ethnic vilification. Section 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act has served Australia well for more than two decades and we have resisted attempts by the conservatives to abolish it. The only outcome from repealing section 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act would be

more hate speech. Labor will continue to fight for important protections against racial hate speech in Australia, including 18C.

8. Does your migration policy include location-based conditions for certain visas? Will you recognise the unique challenges of regional locations for new migrant and refugee people and assure access to the same level of services and opportunities regardless of location? Please describe your policy for migrant and refugee people living in regional locations.

Labor is open to ideas that will take the pressure off our cities, and equally we recognise the many positive contributions made to regional communities by migrants and refugees. We believe we should be encouraging people to live in regional Australia – we offered to work with Morrison last year on this issue and he rejected it.

Unfortunately, the Liberals haven't been able to deliver on current programs such as the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme – a program to encourage regional migration.

Due to the blow out of visa processing times under the Liberals as already mentioned, it can take upwards of two years to have these visas processed. This means people aren't able to settle in regional areas and businesses can't access the skills and talent they might require.

In settling migrants and refugees in rural locations, it is important that this is done in a sustainable way that ensures required services can be provided and infrastructure demands are met. Labor in government will work closely with stakeholders, including migrant groups and regional towns and councils, to ensure any regional migration programs are able to be delivered effectively.

9. Will you commit to reducing barriers to employment for migrants and work towards the eradication of worker exploitation of migrants and CALD peoples? Please detail this commitment.

While Labor believes that both permanent and temporary skilled migration are important to sustainable economic growth, permanent skilled migration is preferred. Permanent migrants have a greater stake in Australia's future and in integrating into all aspects of Australian community life. Permanent migrants are less susceptible to exploitation and are more secure in their jobs, so permanent migration is less likely to generate negative impacts on all workers (whether local or migrant), in terms of wages, employment conditions and job and training opportunities.

Labor's National Platform commits to a number of measures designed to protect migrants against worker exploitation. In government, Labor will require temporary visa holders to be paid wages into an Australian bank account and work to ensure that all workers on temporary visa are paid in accordance with Australian awards or enterprise agreements, and are protected by Australian workplace laws.

In addition, the skilled migration program should provide critical information, including on workplace rights and responsibilities, and ensure skilled migrants are paid genuine market rates and have the same conditions as Australian workers.

A Labor government will also ensure skilled migrants, if dismissed from their employment, can remain in Australia while any legal challenge to the dismissal is considered, and that those who are

exploited have whistleblower status. We will also crack down on sham contracting and unethical labour hire practices.

Labor will also ensure that families who accompany skilled migrants to Australia will be able to fully participate in Australian life, including through access to free public education for children, English language support and work rights for dependents. Labor will align the permanent and temporary migration programs to facilitate the conversion of temporary visa holders to permanent visas and citizenship.

10. Will you commit to an effective English language learning program? Please detail this commitment.

The current AMEP provides 510 hours' worth of free English language tuition to eligible migrants and humanitarian entrants and up to 1,000 hours on application. Research has found that English language skills are highly valuable for newly arrived migrants' settlement into the community and job prospects. Basic English is also required to read and understand the current citizenship test.

Labor will review the effectiveness of current AMEP contracts and contract providers and invest an additional \$15m in to the AMEP with the aim of increasing the number of service locations; including more visa classes; and targeting a higher level of training.