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Dear Professor Maher,

Thank you for your letter to Mr Albanese seeking Labor's response to eight issues of concern to Australians today.

Please find Labor's responses below.

### **Affordable Housing**

We want every Australian to know the security of having a roof over their head. Labor will create the \$10 billion Housing Australia Future Fund which will build 30,000 new social and affordable housing properties in its first five years, and create thousands of jobs.

Over the first 5 years the investment returns will build around:

- 20,000 social housing properties – 4,000 of which will be allocated for women and children fleeing domestic and family violence and older women on low incomes who are at risk of homelessness.
- 10,000 affordable homes for the frontline workers like police, nurses and cleaners who kept us safe during the pandemic. This will mean they can live closer to where they work, and it will mean better services for everyday Australians.

This housing will be constructed in accordance with principles of universal design which enable access for people with disability.

### **Aged care**

An Albanese Labor Government will take practical measures to ensure older Australians receive the aged care they deserve:

- Registered nurses on site 24/7: Under a Labor Government, every aged care facility will be required to have a registered, qualified nurse on site, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- More carers with more time to care: Labor will raise the standard of aged care across the board – by ensuring there are more carers, who have more time to care. We will mandate that every Australian living in aged care receives an average of 215 minutes of care per day, as recommended by the Royal Commission.
- A pay rise for aged care workers: Labor will back a real pay rise for aged care workers. Labor will support workers' calls for better pay at the Fair Work Commission. And a Labor

Government will fund the outcome of this case. Because if we want higher standards of care – we need to support higher wages for our carers.

- Better food for residents: Labor will ensure that there is better food for residents of aged care homes. A Labor Government will work with the sector to develop and implement mandatory nutrition standards for aged care homes to ensure every resident gets good food.
- Dollars going to care: Labor will make residential care providers report – in public and in detail – what they are spending money on. And we will give the Aged Care Safety Commissioner new powers to ensure there is accountability and integrity.

Labor has a plan to put security, dignity, quality and humanity back into aged care.

### **Climate change**

An Albanese Labor Government will deliver Powering Australia – Labor’s plan to create jobs, cut power bills and reduce emissions by boosting renewable energy.

Independent modelling shows that Powering Australia will create more than 600,000 jobs and spur \$76 billion in investment.

It will increase the share of renewables to 82% by 2030, cutting power bills for families and businesses.

And alongside the economic benefits, Powering Australia will reduce emissions by 43% by 2030 – keeping us on track for net zero by 2050, compared to the Morrison Government’s 26-28% target, which was set back when Tony Abbott was Prime Minister.

Powering Australia is squarely focussed on the economic interests of Australian families and businesses. It is a plan that is both ambitious and achievable.

Under Powering Australia, Labor will:

- Invest \$20 billion for the urgent upgrade of the electricity grid so it can handle more renewable power, working with the private sector to create thousands of jobs across the regions and deliver cheaper, more reliable electricity to homes and businesses.
- Co-invest \$100 million for 85 solar banks across the country – providing cheaper electricity for more than 25,000 households that are locked out of rooftop solar, like renters and low-income households.
- Install 400 community batteries across the country with an investment of \$200 million to maximise the benefits of Australia’s rooftop solar transformation, support the grid and provide shared storage for up to 100,000 households.
- Adopt the Business Council of Australia’s recommendation for facilities already covered by the Government’s Safeguard Mechanism that emissions be reduced gradually and predictably over time, to support international competitiveness and economic growth – consistent with industry’s own commitment to net zero by 2050.

## **First Nations**

Starting with our commitment to implement the Uluru Statement from the Heart in full, an Albanese Labor Government will renew our national commitment to Reconciliation and work in genuine partnership with First Nations people for better outcomes.

A Labor Government will:

- Implement the Uluru Statement in full – Voice, Treaty and Truth.
- Work towards Closing the Gap.
- Turn the tide on incarceration and deaths in custody through landmark justice reinvestment funding.
- Improve housing in remote Indigenous communities.
- Invest in First Nations management of land and waters.
- Strengthen First Nations economic and job opportunities.
- Scrap the privatised Cashless Debit Card.

The Uluru Statement from the Heart was generous offer of a genuine partnership, and a real chance for us to create a reconciled Australia. It calls for Voice, Treaty and Truth. Labor is the only party to support it in full.

We will progress a referendum to constitutionally enshrine a Voice to Parliament in the Constitution as a matter of priority. We will also establish a Makarrata Commission to work with the Voice to Parliament on a national process for Treaty and Truth-telling.

## **Poverty and Exclusion**

The 2022 election is an opportunity for Australia to build back as a stronger country. The past decade has been a missed opportunity to build a fairer society that values social services. An Albanese Labor Government will work towards a better future where no one is held back, and no one is left behind.

Our plans will put Australia on the path to genuinely inclusive full employment, create more secure work, deliver more and safer social housing, provide for better aged care and make child care cheaper. We will give more women, people with disability, youth and First Nations Australians opportunities to participate fully in society and the economy.

Labor will tackle job insecurity and low wages head on. There 1.7 million Australians either unemployed or looking for more hours. Many more can't get a home loan, can't get sick leave, and can't get ahead.

An Albanese Labor Government will:

- Enshrine secure work as an objective of the Fair Work Act. This means the Fair Work Commission will have to put job security at the heart of its decision-making.
- Uphold the principle that if you work the same job, you should get the same pay and ensure that workers employed through labour hire companies receive no less than workers employed directly.
- Legislate a fair, objective test to determine when a worker can be classified as casual, so people have clearer pathway to permanent work.

- Legislate to make wage theft a criminal offence.
- Limit the number of consecutive fixed-term contracts an employer can offer for the same role, with an overall cap of 24 months.

Labor will also commission a White Paper on Full Employment which will plot a path for Government to reduce unemployment and underemployment and keep them low.

It will investigate and report back on issues such as how we can best prepare Australians for the jobs of the future; how we can improve the quality of work; how to tackle issues of underemployment, casualisation, job insecurity, long-term unemployment and stagnant wages.

It will also look into current policy settings and how they can be improved, considering the role of education and training, childcare, employment services and concentrated disadvantage, as well as how to best supply labour to fast growing sectors such as the care economy.

The White Paper will be informed by an Australian Jobs Summit that will be convened as one of the first actions of an incoming Labor Government.

### **National Anti-Corruption Commission**

An Albanese Labor Government will legislate a powerful, transparent and independent National Anti-Corruption Commission by the end of 2022.

The National Anti-Corruption Commission established by Labor will operate with all the independence, resources and powers of a standing Royal Commission into serious and systemic corruption in the federal government.

Labor has been working with Australia's preeminent legal and integrity experts to develop design principles that will ensure the Commission is the most effective anti-corruption watchdog in the country.

Under these design principles, the Commission will:

- Have broad jurisdiction to investigate Commonwealth ministers, public servants, statutory office holders, government agencies, parliamentarians, and personal staff of politicians.
- Carry out its functions independently of government, with discretion to commence inquiries into serious and systemic corruption on its own initiative or in response to referrals, including from whistleblowers and complaints from the public. To ensure the Commission's independence, the Commissioner and any Deputy Commissioner would serve for a single fixed term and have security of tenure comparable to that of a federal judge.
- Be overseen by a statutory bipartisan Joint Standing Committee of the Parliament, empowered to require the Commission to provide information about its work. To ensure bipartisan support for the Commission's work, that Committee would be responsible for confirming the Commissioners nominated by the Government.
- Have the power to investigate allegations of serious and systemic corruption that occurred before or after its establishment.
- Have the power to hold public hearings where the Commission determines it is in the public interest to do so.

- Be empowered to make findings of fact, including a finding of corrupt conduct, but not to make determinations of criminal liability. Findings that could constitute criminal conduct would be referred to the Australian Federal Police or the Commonwealth Department of Public Prosecutions for further consideration.
- Operate with procedural fairness and its findings would be subject to judicial review.

Labor's policy to establish a National Anti-Corruption Commission will make a permanent and much needed change to standards of integrity and accountability in the federal government.

### **Asylum Seekers**

Labor believes Australia can have secure borders while being compassionate.

Seeking asylum is a human right that provides persecuted and vulnerable people a route to safety and long-term security to live to their fullest human potential.

Regional offshore processing was never meant to be indefinite detention. For almost a decade, Labor has called on Mr Morrison to act – but only on the eve of an election does he decide to take up the New Zealand offer.

An Albanese Labor Government will maintain our strong border security measures without losing our humanity.

### **Australia's place in the world**

We live in a time of considerable global strategic change, including in our region. Labor has successfully led Australia in such times in the past.

Labor's approach will be grounded in our belief in our country and our determination to safeguard its people, its values and its sovereignty. Labor will protect and promote Australia's national interests and values in a time of change.

We will build on the foreign policy and defence traditions that have underpinned Australia's relations with our region and the world.

Under Labor, Australia will be an enduring ally, a constructive regional partner and a responsible international citizen. Our approach to international affairs will be guided by our interests: national security, economic prosperity, regional stability and co-operation, and adherence to the rules based international order.

It will be informed by our values: our belief in democracy, liberty, the rule of law and human rights.

It will reflect our identity: an independent, inclusive and diverse nation confident of our place in the world, drawing strength and pride from the waves of immigrants and from our First Nations people.

Thank you again for your letter. To read more about Labor's policies please visit [www.alp.org.au/policies](http://www.alp.org.au/policies).

Yours sincerely

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