

Democratic Labour Review

Labour as it should be.

Issue 3 - December 2020



The State and Federal Executives would like to wish all our members and supporters a

Happy and Holy Christmas

Image from *The golden staircase: poems and verses for children,* 1907 (1900s); Chisholm, Louey, comp Spooner, M. Dibdin (Wikimedia Commons)

State Registration

The Party is making good progress towards being registered in South Australia and Tasmania in time to contest the next elections in 2022, including the Tasmanian upper house elections in May 2021.

Annual Membership due 1 January 2021

A reminder to members that a fee of \$20 is due at the start of the calendar year.

NSW Anti-Discrimination Amendment (Religious Freedoms and Equality) Bill 2020

With close to 20,000 submissions made to the inquiry, the overwhelming majority – 13,200 – were in favour of the bill to support extending anti-discrimination laws to protect religious believers and organisations.

The Parliamentary Committee will provide its final report by March 2021.

DLP in the ACT

Last month we saw the DLP's policies, including policies developed in conjunction with the Victorian branch Policy Development Committees, put to the people of the Australian Capital Territory for the first time. With limited resources or time, the DLP candidates managed to get the DLP message out successfully. In the seat of Ginninderra, DLP candidates Ian and Helen McClure received 2.4% of the vote and a swing against the ALP that saw the Attorney General ousted from his seat. The Yerrabi candidates Olivia Helmore and Bernie Strang received 4.7% of the vote which was, far and away, the best vote received by any minor party. We commend these four candidates for their outstanding efforts.

The main thrust of the DLP policies coming from our recent policy development were to make housing affordable for low income families and to put ownership within reach through housing cooperatives. Other issues included ensuring discounted rates for low income earners and a cooperative government/private approach to a second hospital through an upgraded and modernised Calvary Hospital, strengthening the family unit, ensuring fairness and more parental control over education funding and improving disability support.

Ian McClure



Until the Covid-19 downturn, lan was the Operations Manager of the Greenhills Community Centre in Stromlo and prior to that was Pastor of the Hope Christian Church, located in the old naval station barracks, in Lawson.

He spent many years advocating for treatment and rehabilitation to help drug affected individuals (and their families), by facilitating

pathways for their effective treatment and by envisioning a more hopeful and productive future.

He is married to Helen; his wife of 28 years and they have raised 3 children in Canberra and have been foster parents to other children over many years.

Helen McClure

Along with husband lan, Helen raised 3 children, and have also helped to provide nurturing care and support to a number of children, as foster parents over many years.

After completing a Degree in Linguistics and a Graduate Diploma in East Asian Studies, Helen worked for some time in the federal public service before devoting herself to the raising of her children.



Helen wants to work on the implementation of the recommendations of the 'Our Booris, Our Way' Review, which aims at giving the Aboriginal community organisations, the ability to determine how Aboriginal children are cared for in their communities.

Olivia Helmore



Olivia is passionate about improving the policy process for the voices of vulnerable Yerrabi community members, such as single parent and low-income families, people with a disability and cultural minorities. Having had considerable experience living with a disability, accessing social services and dealing with the cost of living pressures

on a low income, Olivia believes she can be a true and worthy representative for the disabled members of our community and low-income families, who struggle to make ends meet every day.

Olivia conducted field research with the International Alliance of Research Universities alongside Indigenous community members in the Pilbara, WA, which highlighted the importance of developing economy and community together.

Bernie Strang

Bernie has qualifications in Aged Care and Nursing and have over 25 years' experience in areas dealing with some of our most vulnerable community members.

For almost 30 years he has worked in the ACT as a Disability Support worker and Nursing Assistant caring for those with physical and



mental disabilities as well as with the elderly. He also worked extensively as a Community Support worker and has had many years' experience as a volunteer Family Support worker as well as several years as a Lifeline counsellor.

As a married man, with 4 lovely daughters and two beautiful grandchildren, Bernie has a good idea what's important in our day to day lives. It takes so little to change the lives of those around us.

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NEW ACT Executive

The Australian Capital Territory held its annual Conference on Saturday 5th December and elected the new Territory Executive. It was a positive conference with lots of enthusiasm for the future development of the ACT Branch and an intention to work with other states on issues such as Policy Development and Membership.

The Federal Executive and other State Executives are looking forward to working with our newest registered branch. A sign of great things for the future of the DLP.



The new ACT Executive Office Bearers were elected at the ACT Conference on 5th December 2020.

At the far left are two of the candidates from the recent elections Ian McClure and Olivia Helmore

Policy Development Committees



The DLP is constantly reviewing and developing our policies to ensure they stay clear, relevant and functional. All members are encouraged to take part in Policy Development by joining one of our Policy Development Committees. These committees include members from across Australia and meet via Video Conference. Members who wish to join one of the following Committees should email the Secretary at Policy@dlp.org.au providing your name, contact details and areas of interest.

There are 13 Policy Committees, with new Committees added as the need arises. The current committees are:

Housing Agriculture & Water
Energy Economics & Taxation
Education Industry & Manufacturing
Defence Workplace Relations
Environment Indigenous Affairs
Human Rights Foreign Affairs & Trade

Health & Life

Federal Policies to Support the Family

Income tax splitting

Changes to the income tax system should allow couples to choose whether to be assessed as individuals for tax purposes or whether to split their income between both and lessen their tax bill. Current government policy taxes parents as if kids didn't exist.

Family Wage

Support for the minimum wage to return to the original concept of a family wage which recognizes the responsibility of wage earners to provide adequately for dependents. For almost 80 years, the rate was set at the amount necessary for an unskilled worker to support a partner and three children and to meet their basic needs including food, clothing and housing.

National Student Credit Scheme

Give families control of a funding credit to be transferred to the school of their choice on the enrolment of their child. This provides parents with the right of fair choice and acknowledges parental control. Home schooled children would receive a pro-rata student credit.

National Public Housing Scheme

Bring all public housing under permanent Federal control with national low-income rental rates set at 25% of earnings and 15% for occupants with a disability. No future selling off of public housing should be permitted.

National Housing Affordability Scheme

The purchase of residential land should be limited to Australian citizens and permanent residents. Current foreign owners will have up to 10 years to sell their Australian properties.

Negative gearing arrangements should remain as is for the first investment property. A sliding scale should then reduce ongoing tax benefits by 10% on the 2nd property, 25% on the 3rd, 50% on the 4th, 75% on the 5th and 100% on all further properties.

National Addiction Taskforce

A nation-wide taskforce to address the growing problem of access and addiction to drugs, gambling, internet pornography and other harmful addictions that lead to family breakdown, gang violence, anti-social behaviour and violence against women.

Cooperative Child Care

A program in which parents and carers are trained to be certified "child carers" in their local neighbourhood and community.

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Ethical Health Care

We oppose the ALP's policy of withholding funding from hospitals that refuse to perform abortions. Taxpayer funds should not be used as blackmail.

National Dental Scheme

Children under 16 and pensions to receive free dental care.

National Sports Insurance Scheme

A national scheme to cover sports injury insurance for children and students under 19 who participate in a regulated sporting activity

Federal Policies to Support the Nation

National Development Bank

Too often States do not have the funds to carry out longterm projects and are forced to borrow money from Foreign Markets. A Development Bank would be Australian owned and operated, separate to the Reserve Bank of Australia and external to the Treasury and ongoing budget requirements. It would fund major infrastructure projects through voluntary deposits from Superannuation funds instead of overseas borrowings.

Not only would it provide safe investment, but it would build ongoing revenue for future infrastructure projects.

It would reduce foreign debt, fund long term projects and buy strategic industries. Instead of selling off our national assets, it could buy into strategic businesses such as electricity and farms.

National Fuel Reserve

To guarantee a 12 month supply for all emergency services, defence and public transport requirements and a 6 month supply for the general public. We concur with the NT government welcome to the United States' plan to construct a military fuel reserve facility in Darwin Harbour as part of a joint military defence strategy.

National Food Security

No majority foreign ownership of Australian agricultural land. Foreign leasing of Australian agricultural land will be allowed for a maximum of 30 years but must comply with all Australian standards and 90% of those employed must come from Australia's workforce. A 10 year sunset clause will be provided for foreign owners to sell back their Australian properties.

Construct Cleaner High Efficiency Low Emission (HELE)

Build clean coal fired power stations while investigating the economic viability and capabilities of new Renewable Energy Sources.

No Taxpayer Subsidies as Profits to Private Energy Companies

No subsidies should be paid to any private energy provider – if it is not economically viable, we should not be supplying profits to private owners. Redirect all subsidies to Health and Education funding and reduce overall taxation.

Restore Public Ownership of the Public Utilities

Despite promises of cheaper power, gas, transport etc., the costs to Australian households have escalated with profits flowing overseas. Power, gas, water and public transport infrastructure must return to public hands and the profits should go to consolidated revenue to reduce taxes and rates.

Protect Public Assets

No future selling off of Public Assets. All public assets were built and funded by generations of hard working Australians. These public assets must be protected from future sell off by making each one an Australian Cooperative in which every Australian on the Electoral Roll become the legal shareholders and owners.

Restore Manufacturing

Withdraw from the 1975 Lima Declaration that has forced Australian companies offshore at the cost of hundreds of thousands of Australian based jobs.

Control Foreign Investment

Restrict foreign governments, companies and entities from gaining a controlling interest in any Australian enterprise. Current foreign owners with a controlling interest will be required to reduce their holding to a non-controlling interest within 10 years. More than a tenth of the Murray Darling Basin (Australia's largest river system) is foreignowned, according to a recent foreign ownership on water entitlements report.

National Employee Ownership Scheme

A scheme to assist employees in purchasing their employer's business when it is put up for sale, rather than losing the business and jobs overseas. This would give employees a first choice to purchase the business they are employed with if that business is being sold. The scheme would provide business and financial advice and establish an employee ownership share market allowing easy access for community funding from Australian investors.

Community Cooperative Scheme

To encourage and assist community cooperatives establish local ownership of regional businesses including community post offices and credit unions. The scheme will also support long term stability in regional areas.

Victorian State President's remarks

This year has been a most unusual year with the onset of the corona virus and the control and restrictions that came along with it. Families have been separated, jobs have been lost and people, in general, became confused about what was possible and what was not. For some, the year was quiet with not much to do, for others it was a very busy year with fundraising and caring for the sick and elderly, visiting the destitute, providing food and social support for the needy.

Churches were closed and life changed for all of us. Meetings were held online and yet here we are in December, facing the coming of Christmas with hope and joy. The weather has improved and the roses are blooming so let us all look forward to happier times.

The Democratic Labour Party of Victoria held its Annual State Conference on November 28, 2020 online for the first time. The online voting system was put in place and tested prior to the Conference. The results were as follows:

President: Carmel Kavanagh Vice President 1:Terri Kelleher Vice President 2: Chris McCormack Secretary: Joel van der Horst

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Assistant Secretary: Fi Fraser Treasurer: Daniel Kelly

Congratulations to all new members of the State Executive and may this be a very rewarding year for all as we work together to increase our membership and ensure our policies, built on Judeo Christian principles, are widely known.

Many thanks to Jen Bowden, our outgoing State Secretary, and Elena Perrotta, outgoing State Vice President and current member of our Federal Executive, for their work on the State Executive, and for the guidance of our Federal Secretary, Steve Campbell who assisted with financial and secretarial matters when needed.

The mother of Elena Perrotta, and grandmother of Vincent, long time DLP member and past State Executive member, passed to her eternal reward. Regina died at home, as was her wish. May she rest in peace. We pass on our prayers and sympathy to Elena, Vincent and Cathy.

In the words of the "Workers Prayer" let me finish with, Lord Jesus Christ our King

Help us now come together in Your name

Help us to make You better known and loved and served in all Australia.

May we remain in Your grace today to face and fight Your enemies with cheerfulness and courage. Amen.

Have a Happy and Holy Christmas.

Conversion Therapy Ban Bill

The Victorian government bill to ban "conversion practices" has now been made available. The Change and Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Bill states among its purposes not to just prohibit change or suppression practices, but to "denounce" them and to "eliminate" them. This is ominous – like a star chamber or Inquisition.

The bill makes it an offence to engage in a "change or suppression practice" "whether with or without the person's consent. So a psychiatrist or psychologist, counsellor or any person can be guilty of "conversion practices" even if the person seeking help consents. Gender identity and same sex attraction are fluid or changing over time. Why should anyone be permanently locked into a particular gender identity or orientation? The DLP says don't take away their ability to explore all the options, including not transitioning, de-transitioning or exiting same sex attraction, if they so wish.

Parents could be guilty if they do not support their child's gender transition. Religious counselling, even prayer, is prohibited.

The ALP has apparently consulted with survivors of "conversion practices" but did it consult with those who sought and benefitted from assistance to explore their changing feelings about their gender identity or same sex attraction? They do exist. Click here to hear some of their stories https://www.freetochange.org/ex-lgbt-stories-of-change/. These stories could even be banned in future as an offence as "inducing" another person to change or suppress their sexual orientation or gender identity

The desistance rates for children with gender dysphoria

who do not transition, are very high. Offering the option of assistance to "wait and see", rather than supporting a child to transition gender, is fundamental. Even the American Endocrine Society, which actively promotes puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones for pubescent children, counsels against social transition in its practice guidelines because of the high rate of desistance.

Banning 'conversion practices' effectively discriminates against those who would like to have counselling or some kind of support to explore their unwanted feelings or behaviours. It is a lengthy and complex piece of legislation and should at least go to a committee for inquiry so all these sorts of issues can be given full consideration

Maritime Security

Tasmanian State Secretary

The security of Australia has not been under more serious threat since World War II. Maritime supremacy has been the key to America's rise to superpower status and the relative peace of the post war era. The United States combat fleet has dwindled to historic lows and is now the smallest it has been since World War I.

China has increased the size of her navy significantly and at an extraordinary rate. It will be a relatively short time before China will have the ability to deny or substantially curtail the U.S. Navy's ability to operate in the Pacific and to project power in Asia. This will have drastic consequences for Australia and the world economy while the safe passage of Australia's merchant fleet trading through the South China seas would be at risk.

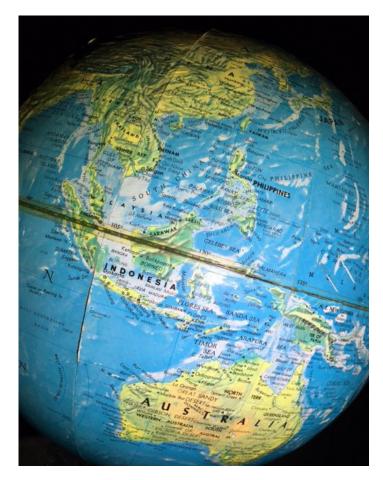
While Australia's alliance with America must be encouraged, there are no absolute guarantees that America will always be able to come to our defence. Added to the mix is the internal cohesion within America which is under serious threat by radical Marxist groups. The future under a Biden presidency coupled with Kamala Harris as Vice President, who is of the radical left, does not augur well for Australia particularly if Harris were to assume the Presidency.

Australia must promote strong defence ties with Japan, India, Singapore and other friendly neighbours in our region. COVID-19 has put intolerable strains on Australia's budget and the temptation to decrease defence expenditure will exist. That temptation must be resisted.

Submarines are a vital to securing freedom of our sea lanes. Australia's contract with the French to build the Short Fin Barracuda submarines should be scuttled. The \$50 billion contract for 12 submarines has now risen to \$89 billion with end of service costs over \$200 billion and an unacceptable delivery time of the first submarine unlikely before 2040. Germany offered to build 12 submarines for Australia at a cost of \$20 billion.

The U.S. Virginia class nuclear powered attack class submarines undoubtedly the best submarine ever built in the United States, particularly the improved version, costs \$ 3.3 billion per vessel. The U.S. is not likely to sell these to Australia in the short term but a solution could be for Australia to request the establishment of a U.S Submarine base possibly sited to the North or West Coast of Australia.

If such a long-term base could be built, it would eliminate the need for nuclear powered submarines to return to the



U.S for servicing meaning Australia could also explore the feasibility of leasing American submarines. The Los Angeles nuclear powered attack class submarine of which there are 49 slowly being replaced by the Virginia Class. The Los Angeles class have a displacement of 6000 tons including a missile armament of Sub-Harpoon tube launched anti-ship missiles, Tomahawk underwater launched land attack missiles.

Some of the maintenance of these submarines would have to be carried out in the U.S until such time as those facilities were constructed in Australia.

One signal benefit particularly during the Cold War was the ability of America's nuclear-powered submarines to have the range stealth and staying power and to remain submerged for months without risk of detection by surfacing. There is no doubt that American submarine technological prowess will continue but China will possess a larger submarine fleet in less than a decade.

If China concentrates its submarine fleet in and around the South China seas and with America's smaller fleet maintaining global commitments, the United States would be seriously out- numbered in a contest where subsurface warfare figures heavily. It is unlikely that the giant American aircraft carriers given their huge capital cost and large crews would be risked given their vulnerability to China's anti-ship ballistic missiles.

What will be decisive is that submarine warfare to establish control of the South China Sea and the Malay archipelago's choke point that straddles the sea lines of communication between China and Middle Eastern oilwould be decisive in deterring, or in winning a naval contest between the US and China. Tensions in the Straits of Taiwan, China's aggressive action in Hong Kong and armed conflict

in the Galwan Valley on border between China and India should indicate that China is not intent on peaceful co-existence.

Australia cannot be complacent in an increasingly turbulent region. To ignore China's rise as a major naval power can only be described as a dangerous form of lunacy.

Letters to the Secretary

The "Great" Reset

The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated much of what the World Economic Forum (WEF) want – an economic, societal, geopolitical, environmental and technological "reset".

Klaus Schwab, German engineer and economist, founder of the WEF, and Thierry Malleret, founder of the Global Risk Network at WEF, wrote a book, 'COVID-19: The Great Reset', describing what "changes will be needed to create a more inclusive, resilient and sustainable world going forward." Published in July 2020, it states: "Many of us are pondering when things will return to normal. The short response: never." The "Great Reset" and the "Covidnormal" society are synonymous.

They propose a Fourth Industrial Revolution, the slogan "Building Back Better", as used in Joe Biden's 2020 campaign for the US presidency and by Jacinda Ardern in NZ's recent general election. This catch phrase is used by the Victorian State Government department, Environment Victoria, and in speeches by Justin Trudeau, Boris Johnson, Bill Clinton and Prince Charles, a member of the WEF, and promoted by the UN (infamous for its Sustainable Development Goals which promote abortion).

Klaus Schwab refers to the "post-corona era", and the WEF predicts - and promotes - that by 2030 "You'll own nothing. And you'll be happy." This all sounds like plain of wealth redistribution to me.

The WEF also "predicts" that meat "will be a treat, not a staple. For the good of the environment and our health." Bill Gates is pushing this too. Gates is a member of the WEF, as is Al Gore.

The WEF has many "friends", including Agenda Contributor Alan Joyce, CEO of Qantas, who want to impose a mandatory vaccine in order to fly with the airline. Combine this with the WEF's 'prediction' that entities " ... will have to pay to emit carbon dioxide", we can see that large corporations are pushing for a reset to strategically take the upper hand but at the same time they are gambling with our individual, sovereign freedoms.

Mary, Victoria

A reflection on prolife policy

Being pro-life means so much more than advocating the banning or restricting of abortion. Indeed, a truly authentic and consistent pro-life position requires a comprehensive framework of policies that empower the mother, protect the child and support the family.

Only with a comprehensive pro-life approach can we foster a culture of life and drive social and political reform. A comprehensive approach is focused on building a system that provides the economic, social and practical

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support needed to support life in difficult circumstances and shaping a culture that cherishes the equal dignity of each and every person regardless of age or ability.

For a start, a comprehensive pro-life approach includes:

- Systematically eliminating the root causes that drive women to abortion, such as a lack of practical resources and support, through holistic, women-centred solutions.
- Ensuring every mother has access to a local support networks that offer safe spaces and innovative avenues for vulnerable women to access vital perinatal support.
- Ensuring that workplaces and educational institutions do not force women to choose between their education or career and their children but instead offer supportive arrangements.
- Building a society that values the roles of both motherhood and fatherhood.
- Reforming the tax system to properly recognise that a parent's income supports children rather than setting income tax rates as if kids don't exist.
- Sufficiently resourcing neonatal intensive care so that it is available to all preborn babies diagnosed with a lifeshortening condition and ensuring that parents are fully informed of life-affirming options available like neonatal palliative care.

These are just some examples, but there are many more such initiatives.

I am proud to be part of a political party that has the right set of foundational principles and values to support the 'bigger view' of an authentic pro-life approach. I hope the Party takes this into account as it articulates its life policies ahead of the next elections.

Vince, Victoria

Letters to the Secretary

All members and supporters are encouraged to write in with articles on party or policy matters. We also encourage our older members to write in and recount the stories of the early days of the DLP. Please email democraticlabouraustralia@gmail.com

Newsflash...

High Court, UK Decision re. Tavistock Gender Clinic.

In a unanimous decision in the case of 23 year old Kiera Bell, who claimed she was unable to give informed consent to hormone treatment she received at the Tavistock Gender Clinic, the Court declared, "... given that the treatment is as yet innovative and experimental, we recognise that clinicians may well regard these as cases where the authorisation of the court should be sought prior to commencing the clinical treatment."

The decision is a real game-changer, a clear warning to gender clinics that they should proceed with great caution before treating children or young people with puberty blockers or cross sex hormones and would be advised to have the matter of consent decided by the court before proceeding."

WA State Secretary Report

We will launch a membership drive in 2021. We let our membership dwindle through natural attrition and failing to take advantage of new technologies. But we now have some fine young people on our executive committee, committed to the cause and with the skills to be strategic in gaining new members. It may seem a long term project but we aim to be equipped to field candidates in the 2025 state election.

March 2021 sees our next state election, with the incumbent ALP government looking comfortable with Premier Mark McGowan recently recording an 89% approval rating. The opposition Liberals, holding just 13 of the 59 seats in the lower house, have just elected a new leader, 33 year-old Zak Kirkup, who holds his seat by only 0.7%. Interesting times ahead. We look forward to the DLP becoming a bigger and more significant voice in this political landscape.

Federal President's remarks

It's an honour to be able to represent the DLP as your Federal President. I've been involved in politics and community action groups since I was in my early 20's, having first joined a minor political party at 22 years of age due to my Mother's influence, in which she explained how powerful and important the Senate was in the Australian Government and that an independent balance of power was necessary to ensure that democracy prevailed throughout our political system of government. I still believe in that philosophy to this day. I'm proud to have been a member of the DLP for over 8 years now.

I recently read a book by A.C. Grayling on 'Democracy and its Crisis'. I realised how important it is that a political system is representative of democracy and that the structure of this political system 'should be designed to base sound and stable government on the democratic consent or will of the people'. I personally believe that the DLP's political stance should be on a party platform that is 'Representative Democracy', in that our political party is used as a form of political order 'that is a vehicle used for carrying out a democratic processes of government, that should be, and could be sound, responsible and transparent.

After researching what a modern Democratic party encompasses, in that it should 'emphasise egalitarianism, social equality, protecting the environment, and strengthening the social safety net through liberalism', I tend to agree that we do fall into the parameters of this broad description, however we are a little bit more unique in which we play a more fundamental role within the political sphere of conducting politics, and that is, that we believe in a level of Judeo-Christian values that should be instilled throughout the political process. This is one of the fundamental reasons why I joined the DLP. I think that it is so important to people who voice policy in the community to have a value system in which they truly care about what they are trying to achieve and why they are trying to achieve it: 'For the better good of the community as a whole".

I'm a strong advocate for Community Politics and am committed to focussing on steering the DLP into a successful political position for many years to come.

Our submission to the Queensland Law Reform Commission on 'voluntary assisted dying' legislation review can be read here www.dlpqueensland.org.au. Additional State funding for palliative care, needs to be provided as a 'Palliative Care Program Package'.

The 35th annual Woodford Folk Festival in the Moreton Bay Region of Queensland, has been cancelled for this summer, but any young DLP members wanting to attend next year in 2021/22 can contact the Federal President at **qldsec@dlp.org.au**. More than 100,000 people go to Woodford every year for the six day music and cultural festival.

How to become a Member

Full membership

- Full members pay an annual membership fee of \$20 which is due every 1st January.
- Full membership entitles a member to stand for an office bearer or conference delegate position.

Supporting membership

- Supporting members may join the Democratic Labour Party with no annual fee.
- Supporting members provide support for registration purposes with the electoral Commission.

How to join and renew

The best way is online at www.dlp.org.au/join

Or you can send an email with your name & address to **Memberships@dlp.org.au** Renewal payments and donations can be made online at **www.dlp.org.au** or by one of the following methods.

By Direct Deposit to:

Bendigo Bank

BSB 633 000 **Acct No** 169 328 879

Name Democratic Labour Party

NOTE: If paying by Direct Deposit – please include your name as a reference to ensure a receipt can be issued

By Cheque / Money order to

Democratic Labour Party

GPO Box 1402 Melbourne VIC 3001

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS AND DONORS TO THE VICTORIAN BRANCH

*** Donations made to the Victorian branch prior to the next Federal election will be used exclusively for that election unless the donor stipulates otherwise.

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Northern Territory
In the process of registration
Enquiries: Federal Secretary

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