

Resolution

Australian unions – working for a better life

Australian unions aim to make the future better for our children and future generations.

We are committed to the needs and interests of all working Australians and their families.

We believe in fairness, justice, and respect for the rights of all people, here and across the globe.

We seek a society that fosters community and a collective approach, in which everyone is valued and respected for their contribution. Where equality of opportunity and outcomes is achieved irrespective of gender, age, religion, race or sexual preference.

We strive for equitable access to the benefits of society and to safeguard people's democratic right to participate and have their say.

This Congress has endorsed a new union agenda for job security, workers' rights and a better Australia.

This agenda builds on existing policies and the six priorities previously set by ACTU Executive: a voice for working Australians; improving wages and working; creating a fairer Australia; growing union membership; organising our workplaces, industries and sectors; connecting with our communities.

It addresses the following priority areas:

A plan for the future of work that gives workers:

- Safe, secure and rewarding jobs in sustainable industries;
- The right to organise and bargain collectively;
- Fair wages, pay equity for women, and family-friendly working conditions;
- Access to training, skill development and support throughout their careers;
- A rich and rewarding life outside work, including in retirement; and
- Jobs that provide greater security for individuals and for the planet.

An organising and growth strategy that:

- Safeguards and extends the same rights for all workers;
- Builds strong, democratic and growing unions which are effective in representing their members;
- Closely involves the wider community and other organisations on shared issues of concern;
- Is able to influence and achieve lasting political and social change.

A vision for a fairer society where:

- Everyone has access to good healthcare, appropriate housing, quality education and other essential community services;
- The lives of working people are made easier and our communities are strengthened through access to transport, communications, and public services;
- The most vulnerable members of the community are supported to enable their participation in economic and social life;
- Laws are applied equally to all citizens;
- Government plays a positive role in stabilising the business cycle to secure jobs and living standards;
- The economy provides benefits to the whole community;
- There is action to end the disadvantage for Indigenous Australians;
- Australia participates in international arenas to promote peace, security, human rights, labour standards and prosperity through fair trade arrangements; and
- There is strong and urgent action to tackle climate change.

Our immediate priorities are to protect workers from effect of the global financial crisis, to create the highest standard of OHS protections, and secure one set of laws with equal rights for all workers.

To deliver these priorities unions commit to campaign and grow. Unions will campaign in the workplace, the community and politically to improve workers' rights and achieve a fairer society.