

ACCORD MARK 8 RESOLUTION

ACTU Congress 1995

1. ACCORD MARK 8

1.1 In June of this year the ACTU, its affiliates and the Labor Government reached agreement on the eighth ACCORD.

1.2 In the twelve years of office of the Hawke/Keating Labor Governments there has been an unparalleled partnership between the political and industrial wings of the Australian labour movement.

1.3 In contrast to Thatcherism, Reganomics and Rogernomics which, over the last decade, have become the catchcry of conservative politicians and economists worldwide Australia has followed a different path. The Australian Government's policies have :

i] recognised and included the union movement in the policy processes. We have been involved, not attacked and marginalised;

ii] given priority to Labor's goals of employment growth, social justice and national progress; and

iii] led the nation towards a new spirit of self pride, independence and involvement with the countries of our region.

1.4 The ACCORD process and the outcomes achieved have been very beneficial to Australian working people and their families. Benefits such as universal superannuation, family allowances, industry development, OH&S standards, safety net wage increases, the maintenance of the award system, improved social security entitlements and increased funding for vocational training have all been delivered through the ACCORD.

1.5 ACCORD Mark 8 continues the agreements between the Labor Government, the ACTU and its affiliates. It provides specifically for a new target for job creation of 600,000 additional new jobs over the next three years, inflation to be kept low, the maintenance of a comprehensive Award system, the continuation of enterprise bargaining, safety net wage increases of up to \$50 per week over the life of the ACCORD, improved superannuation, and a range of other benefits.

1.6 The ACTU is proud of its involvement in the ACCORD process because of the benefits delivered to working people alongside of the responsible approach to economic management particularly with its focus on a high rate of job creation and low inflation.

1.7 Congress endorses ACCORD 8 and undertakes to continue to work constructively with the Federal Labor Government to deliver social justice, the award safety net and the recognition of rights and improved benefits for unions and working people into the future.