

Colour Code Federal Election 2019 Survey

Federal Labor Response

1. Will you commit to yourself and candidates from your party not associating with extreme racist groups such as Antipodean Resistance, True Blue Crew, Reclaim Australia, or United Patriots Front?

YES.

2. Will you commit to yourself and members of your party not singling out or vilifying communities on the basis of race, culture, religion, or language?

Yes. Labor believes all politicians have a responsibility to behave in a respectful manner when discussing issues of race and ethnicity. We condemn the reprehensible comments made by those parliamentarians who have sought to stoke racism and other forms of bigotry for political ends.

Every member of the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party has signed a *Federal Parliamentarians' Code of Race and Cultural Ethics*, which commits us:

1. To act in a manner which upholds the honour of public office in the Parliament;
2. To respect the religious and cultural beliefs of all groups living within Australia in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
3. To uphold principles of justice and tolerance within our multicultural society making efforts to generate understanding of all minority groups;
4. To recognise and value diversity as an integral part of Australia's social and economic future;
5. To help without discrimination all persons seeking assistance;
6. To speak and write in a manner which provides factual commentary on a foundation of truth about all issues being debated in the community and the Parliament;
7. To encourage the partnership of government and non-government organisations in leading constructive and informed debate in the community; and
8. To recognise the significance of Indigenous culture and to promote reconciliation with and constitutional recognition of Indigenous Australians.

Labor is also a strong supporter of Australia's legal protections against hate speech and racial vilification.

For over 20 years, since it was enacted by the Labor Government of Paul Keating, section 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act has drawn the line against racial vilification and protected our citizens and our society from the poisonous effects of hate speech. At the same time its companion provision, section 18D, has operated to provide extensive protections for freedom of speech.

The Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government has launched two separate attacks on section 18C, which former Attorney-General George Brandis infamously declared to the Senate was a Liberal Government priority because 'people have a right to be bigots, you know'. It is astonishing that any Australian government would work to give a green light to racist hate speech in support of an imagined 'right to be bigots', rather than working to defend the right to dignity and safety for all Australians.

Labor was appalled by the actions of the Liberals in attacking section 18C, and we stood with thousands of individuals, legal experts and organisations, as well as community groups from across our nation, to successfully defend section 18C from these reckless, ideological attacks by the Liberals.

Labor believes that this arrogant Liberal Government should accept that Australians do not want more racism and more bigotry in our community, and commit to never seeking to water down our race hate protections again.

In contrast to the Morrison Government's glaring weakness on the issue of racism, it is Labor's unequivocal view that racism has no place in modern Australia. Labor believes that the Australian Government should be setting an example by standing up against bigotry, rather than fighting for the rights of bigots and doing dirty deals with racist parties like One Nation, as the Liberals have been doing.

3. Will you end the Northern Territory Intervention?

In 2011, Labor effectively ended the Northern Territory Intervention and implemented a ten-year plan for improving the lives of First Nations People in the Northern Territory, called Stronger Futures. This saw record investment in initiatives to improve community safety, school attendance, child protection, food security and housing reform and addressing alcohol abuse, unemployment and family violence. Should we be successful at the next election, Labor looks forward to working with communities in the Northern Territory on further initiatives that close the gap and create opportunity for First Nations people in the NT.

4. Will you implement programs that will ensure fair representation of people from non-English speaking backgrounds in parliament, government, and the media?

Labor has a proud record of supporting people from CALD communities and we have led the way in establishing effective and inclusive pathways to leadership and representation among people from diverse backgrounds. A Shorten Labor government will work with our migrant and CALD communities to ensure their voices are heard on the issues that matter to them and we will invest in the promotion of our successful multiculturalism. Labor will have more to say about our policies in this area in the lead up to the election.

5. Will you reject attempts to introduce or strengthen rules in the Migration Act which will see one punishment applied to those who were born in Australia, and tougher punishments applied to both kids and adults born outside of Australia who have made this country their home?

Australia is a multicultural society, built on migration. We are more socially, culturally and economically diverse thanks to our migration program. Labor believes one of the keys to the strength of our multicultural society is Australia's non-discriminatory migration program.

Labor supports the refusal or cancellation of visas of non-citizens on character or criminal grounds and the removal of criminals from Australia under Section 501 of the Migration Act.

Under these powers, the Immigration Minister already has the power to refuse visas for individuals if there is a significant risk the individual would incite discord in the Australian community or represent a danger to the Australian community or to a segment of that community.

Instead of running scare campaigns the Morrison Government should focus on ensuring our committed and highly-skilled Australian Federal Police Officers have the resources they need to keep Australians safe right across the country.

6. Will you ensure that family reunion is possible for everyone and not just for the very wealthy?

All Australians – the 25 million people who call Australia home – should celebrate the strong, vibrant and multicultural society we have today.

We are a nation built on migration. Nearly half of all Australians are either born overseas or have at least one parent born overseas, and we have welcomed 7.5 million migrants since World War II.

Australia's migrant and multicultural communities face many challenges when settling and establishing their lives in Australia. One of the most significant is the ability for families to reunite with parents and grandparents who still live overseas.

Under the Liberals, people from Australia's migrant and multicultural communities have to pay \$20,000 to be temporarily reunited with one of their loved ones – or \$40,000 to be reunited with a set of parents.

A fairer Long Stay Parent visa will mean children living in Australia can be reunited with their parents who live overseas for an extended period of time. It means grandparents can meet, and have quality time with their grandchildren.

This should be fair and affordable for Australians from all backgrounds.

Labor's commitment to increase the Government funded humanitarian intake and reform the Community Sponsored Refugee Program will also allow for more people – some of the most

vulnerable who face persecution and are in need of protection – being able to reunite with their loved ones in Australia.

7. Will you work to end the exploitative temporary migration program that leaves migrants bouncing from visa to visa, highly vulnerable to unscrupulous employers, underpaid, and unable to reunite with their families - and instead re-introduce the permanent migration program on which Australia's national reputation was built?

Labor believes migrants enrich this country and that there must be integrity in Australia's migration program and visa system to ensure the protection of all migrants in Australia. This is essential for both migrant and local workers alike.

Australia's migration program should always aim to deliver better outcomes for new arrivals and ensure that pathways to permanency are available – allowing people to become part of the Australian community.

The Liberals have failed for close to six years to ensure unscrupulous employers do not take advantage of vulnerable migrant workers.

A Shorten Labor Government Labor will improve protections for migrant workers by ensuring greater visibility, education and enforcement is there to protect them at work. We will also increase the fees business has to pay to bring in temporary workers and invest that money in skills and training. We do not believe business should be bringing in workers to undercut wages and conditions where there are skilled Australians who can do the same work.