

For  
the  
Future

Tarrkarri-ana



South  
Australian  
**Labor**





Acknowledgment of country.

We acknowledge and respect the Traditional Custodians whose ancestral lands we live and work upon and we pay our respects to their Elders past and present. We acknowledge and respect their deep spiritual connection and the relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have to Country. We also pay our respects to the cultural authority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their nations in South Australia, as well as those across Australia.

# Foreword

In 2019, I committed that a Labor Government would implement a state-based version of the Uluru Statement from the Heart – Voice, Treaty and Truth.

This was in stark contrast to Steven Marshall who described Treaty as a “cruel hoax” and then cancelled the Treaty process as one of his first acts as Premier.

We believe in Aboriginal self-determination to guide and protect the oldest living culture on our planet.

We have committed to Aboriginal statues and monuments to remember the great people of our past and educate future generations.

We have committed to transferring Tauondi College to Aboriginal control and ownership to help secure its future after the Liberals cut its funding.

To better care for our Country, we will establish a First Nations Advisory Group to speak directly to the Minister for the Environment and employ 15 extra Aboriginal Rangers. We will ensure that Aboriginal voices are heard on the future of our River Murray.

Together with federal Labor, we will provide more than \$15 million to give Yadu Health in Ceduna a new home.

We will provide the required funding to Nganampa Health to implement Gayle’s Law to help keep nurses and patients safe in remote communities.

And we will legislate to enshrine the Nunga Court as part of our justice system, ensuring that Aboriginal Elders have a voice in sentencing offenders and the healing of victims.



Peter Malinauskas MP  
SA Labor Leader



# LABOR'S RECORD ON ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

Then Labor Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Don Dunstan, introduced the first Aboriginal land rights legislation in Australia to establish the Aboriginal Lands Trust.

SA passes lands right legislation for the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands - built on the work of Labor under Don Dunstan.

Labor Prime Minister Paul Keating delivers the Redfern Speech. He outlined the injustices committed against Aboriginal people since colonisation and asked us all to imagine if it was us.

1966

1981

1992

1975

Labor Prime Minister Gough Whitlam famously poured a handful of red soil into the hand of Vincent Lingiari. This symbolised the legal transfer of Wave Hill station back to the Gurindji people. It also meant the Gurindji became the first Aboriginal community to have land returned to them by the Commonwealth Government.

Gough said:

*"Vincent Lingiari, I solemnly hand to you these deeds as proof, in Australian law, that these lands belong to the Gurindji people and I put into your hands part of the earth itself as a sign that this land will be the possession of you and your children forever"*

Vincent responded:

*"Let us live happily together as mates, let us not make it hard for each other... We want to live in a better way together, Aboriginals and white men, let us not fight over anything, let us be mates."*

*"it might help us if we non-Aboriginal Australians imagined ourselves dispossessed of land we had lived on for fifty thousand years - and then imagined ourselves told that it had never been ours."*

*Imagine if ours was the oldest culture in the world and we were told that it was worthless.*

*Imagine if we had resisted this settlement, suffered and died in the defence of our land, and then were told in history books that we had given up without a fight.*

*Imagine if non-Aboriginal Australians had served their country in peace and war and were then ignored in history books. Imagine if our feats on sporting fields had inspired admiration and patriotism and yet did nothing to diminish prejudice. Imagine if our spiritual life was denied and ridiculed.*

*Imagine if we had suffered the injustice and then were blamed for it.*

*It seems to me that if we can imagine the injustice we can imagine its opposite. And we can have justice."*



Photo: ABC News



Federal Labor Attorney-General Michael Lavarch instigated the Bringing them Home Report. The report was delivered under the Liberals but some findings were rejected and John Howard refused to say sorry.

1995



SA became the first mainland state to introduce a Stolen Generations reparations scheme under Labor Aboriginal Affairs Minister Kyam Maher.

2015

Indigenous leaders welcome SA Labor's vow to take Uluru statement to polls

Exclusive: Peter Malinauskas says party will establish a voice to parliament if it wins next election



Aboriginal leaders have welcomed South Australian Labor's election promise of a state-based voice to parliament, saying it is necessary for true reconciliation. Photograph: Carly Earl/The Guardian

The South Australian Labor party has pledged to introduce a state-based version of the Uluru statement, including establishing a representative body to act as a voice to parliament, if it wins the next election.

The Guardian, 6 July 2019

SA Labor Leader Peter Malinauskas commits to a state-based implementation of the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

2019

2008

Labor Prime Minister Kevin Rudd made a formal apology to the Stolen Generations whose lives had been blighted by past government policies of forced child removal and assimilation.

Kevin Rudd said:

*"We apologise for the laws and policies of successive Parliaments and governments that have inflicted profound grief, suffering and loss on these our fellow Australians. We apologise especially for the removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families, their communities and their country."*

2017

Under Labor in SA, the first agreement in a Treaty process was signed anywhere in Australia.



The Australian, 27 May 2019

# ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART

In 2017, Aboriginal people gathered in central Australia to speak both from their hearts and the heart of Australia. They called for Voice, Treaty and Truth.

In 2019, SA Labor committed to a state-based implementation of the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

Labor supports greater respect and protection for the oldest living culture on our planet.

Labor supports a Voice to Parliament and a Voice to Government for Aboriginal people.

## A Malinauskas Labor Government will:

- ✓ Over our first four years, invest more than \$2 million to restart the Treaty Process.
- ✓ Properly and respectfully consult with Aboriginal People about a genuine Aboriginal Voice before our first Aboriginal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs brings legislation to Parliament.
- ✓ Establish a truth-telling process in South Australia that recognises all aspects of our past – including the most difficult chapters.



Photo: fromtheheart.com.au





# NUNGA COURTS

South Australia established the very first Aboriginal Sentencing Court in Australia – the Nunga Court – and now they operate in almost every Australian jurisdiction.

These Courts combine tens of thousands of years of Aboriginal knowledge and customs with our common law system to deliver better outcomes for offenders and victims.

A 2020 evaluation found that, in Aboriginal Sentencing Courts:

*“offenders were less likely to receive a prison sentence, less likely to reoffend within 12 months and took longer to reoffend if and when they did.”*

Operating alongside the Magistrates Court, the Nunga Court uses Sentencing Circles – including Aboriginal elders and victims where appropriate – to decide on punishments for lower-level offences.

While they have been effective, the Aboriginal Sentencing Courts have operated under policy and not law.

## A Malinauskas Labor Government will:

- ✔ Legislate to protect and strengthen our Nunga Courts so that they have a formal and recognised place in our justice system.

# CARING FOR COUNTRY

Aboriginal people lived and thrived in this land for 60,000 years – more than 2,000 generations – before colonisation.

But after just six generations of colonial rule, our land, air and water face some of the greatest challenges in history.

Our Country’s future depends on recognising the knowledge and wisdom of the oldest living culture on the planet and linking this to caring for our Country.

## A Malinauskas Labor Government will:

- ✔ Establish a First Nations Ministerial Advisory Group to talk directly to the Minister for the Environment.
- ✔ Employ 15 extra Aboriginal Rangers in South Australia’s National Parks and Wildlife Service.
- ✔ Ensure that Aboriginal people have a voice in the future of the River Murray.







## YADU HEALTH

Yadu is a non-profit community controlled Aboriginal health service, established in 1978, located on land owned by the Government of South Australia. The organisation provides health services to thousands of Aboriginal people across vast areas of western South Australia including Ceduna, Koonibba and Scotdesco.

The Yadu Health clinic includes ceilings and walls made from asbestos with large sections of the building now unsafe for human use due to crumbling asbestos, black mould and water leaking around live electrical cabling. A third of the building is formally condemned and is not even safe for storage.

Aboriginal people – especially those in regional and remote areas - have some of the shortest life expectancies and worst health outcomes of any Australians. The first target of the national Closing the Gap Agreement is to increase Aboriginal life expectancy.

Despite a commitment to Closing the Gap and multiple desperate pleas for help, state and federal Liberal governments have failed to act and left Aboriginal staff and patients on the far West Coast to suffer.

In contrast, state and federal Labor have listened and now we're acting. Labor's commitment will ensure First

Nations people and the wider community on South Australia's Far West Coast get the health care they deserve in facilities that are safe for them and staff.

### A Malinauskas Labor Government will:

- ✓ Work with an Albanese Federal Labor Government that will provide \$13.35m for new health facilities for Yadu Health in Ceduna.
- ✓ Provide an additional \$2.5 million to support the construction of additional accommodation for additional health services, including dental and other allied health.
- ✓ Ensure that patients have a place to come for help that doesn't place their health and life at risk.
- ✓ Give Aboriginal health workers the respect they deserve



## GAYLE'S LAW

Gayle Woodford, a nurse in Fregon on the APY Lands, was tragically murdered in March 2016. The horrific incident led to the passing of 'Gayle's Law' under the former Labor Government in 2017.



Under the law, health practitioners in remote areas of South Australia must be accompanied by a second responder when attending an out of hours or unscheduled callout.

Labor committed to fully implementing the law after it was passed but the Liberals have failed to provide additional funding for four years.

The Nganampa Health Council, that provides clinical services on the APY Lands, wrote to Steven Marshall, Vickie Chapman and Stephen Wade – along with federal Liberal Ministers – in June last year with a desperate plea for help:

*We seek the assistance of the Government of South Australia and of the Commonwealth Government to address this urgent resourcing issue which goes to the very sustainability of Nganampa Health Council and the services it provides to the residents of the APY Lands.*

In September last year, a delegation of Labor MPs visited the APY Lands and met with the Board of Nganampa Health in Umuwa and heard first-hand accounts of how the Liberal Party's failure to act was placing all remote health care at risk.

Board members of Nganampa Health broke down in tears as they spoke about the need for better care and improved worker safety on the APY Lands.

Labor made a commitment then and there to ensure Nganampa Health got the funding it needed to better support their nurses.

### A Malinauskas Labor Government will:

- ✔ Commit \$5.2 million over four years to ensure that nurses are safe and that quality clinical services are maintained.





## TAUONDI COLLEGE

**Tauondi College was the first place in South Australia – and only the third in Australia – to deliver Aboriginal controlled education for Aboriginal people. It opened in 1973 – the same year as the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement (ALRM) in South Australia.**

For almost half a century, Tauondi has educated, influenced and inspired thousands of students, staff and community members from around Australia. It has become more than a college. It is a community hub, a meeting place and safe space for Aboriginal people.

Having fought and won many battles for its survival, Tauondi is now facing another threat to its survival after the Steven Marshall Liberal Government slashed its recurrent funding. SA Labor joined the community to protest this outrageous decision.

A new Aboriginal ownership structure will allow greater flexibility, leveraging the use of the site to support the future of Tauondi. It will mean complete Aboriginal control over both the organisation and its home.

### **A Malinauskas Labor Government will:**

- ✓ Ensure that Tauondi College is owned by Aboriginal people, for Aboriginal people and give it a permanent foundation in the community on Kurna land.
- ✓ Work with Tauondi, the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation and Aboriginal community organisations to transfer ownership of the College's land and buildings – worth more than \$4 million - from the State Government.



# MONUMENTS

**Our land is home to the oldest living culture on the planet with tens of thousands of years - and thousands of generations - of strong and resilient culture and connection to country.**

Australia's unique history is something that we can all take great pride in but, in years gone by, the ancient and proud people of this nation have not been recognised as they should.

The statues and monuments at the centre of our towns and cities are almost exclusively about the history of those who colonised Australia.

It's time for our statues and monuments to celebrate those whose history dates from tens of thousands of years in the past and lives on today. Aboriginal history and heritage are often associated with remote areas but all of our towns and cities are built on the traditional lands and homes of Aboriginal people.

Development over the past two centuries has destroyed much of the natural heritage in our urban areas and harsh laws sought to break Aboriginal people's connection with culture and country. We can change this one step at a time.

A key part of truth is understanding and recognising our history. Statues and monuments that recognise great South Australian Aboriginal leaders and heroes will help current and future generations to understand the value and contribution of our Aboriginal community.

It's time that leaders like David Unaipon, Lowitja O'Donoghue (pictured), Yami Lester, Gladys Elphick and many others were recognised for their outstanding contributions.

It's time for young and emerging Aboriginal leaders to know that in, decades and centuries to come, future generations will walk past their legacy and likeness and remember them.



## A Malinauskas Labor Government will:

- ✓ Commit \$1 million to the design and delivery of new statues and monuments.
- ✓ Consult with South Australians to identify the first six Aboriginal leaders to be commemorated in the first term of a Malinauskas Labor government.
- ✓ Work with local councils on co-funding and finding prominent homes for these new artworks.
- ✓ Develop online virtual histories about each subject to be included on the Premier's website.
- ✓ Seek ideas for further monuments and statues to be delivered in the second term of a Malinauskas Labor government.

