Ben Carroll & Labor

17 November 2026

Jacinta Masters
Campaign Manager
Fair Agenda
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Dear Ms Masters,

Thank you for your work towards a safer, more equal Victoria.

Labor has strengthened women's rights, made healthcare more accessible, and invested in services that promote gender equality.

We believe every woman and girl deserves to be safe, respected, financially secure and in control of her future. Women make up more than half of Victorian Labor's Caucus and Cabinet, and we will keep backing women's rights.

Our priorities are clear:

- **Make abortion care free and protect women's right to choose.** A re-elected Labor Government will invest $30 million to make medical and surgical abortion free up to 16 weeks, with no fees for consultations, scans or medication.
- **Support the community services sector.** A re-elected Labor Government will introduce new funding arrangements for the social services sector, including family violence organisations, so that as many services as possible are on four-year funding agreements. This commitment is informed by the sector and will ensure staff can concentrate more on their important work than paperwork.
- **Justice and dignity for victim-survivors.** We will allow victim-survivors to pre-record their testimony and protect sexual assault victim-survivors' confidential counselling and therapy notes from being routinely subpoenaed and used against them in court.
- **Value women's work and support the care people need.** We will uphold, resource and expand nurse and midwife patient ratios, and keep addressing historical undervaluation of women's work, including responding to the Fair Work Commission's findings on the Social, Community, Home Care and Disability Services Award.
- **Deliver safe, secure and affordable homes.** Labor is investing $6.3 billion through the Big Housing Build and Regional Housing Fund to deliver more than 13,300 social and affordable homes. We will also defend the rental protections that help women establish secure tenancies after family violence.

Labor removed abortion from the Crimes Act in 2008 and legislated safe access zones. But women still face costs exceeding $1,000, and regional women often travel long distances for care.

Fighting *for* working people.

Victorian Labor

Authorised by Steve Staikos, Australian Labor Party (Victorian Branch), 438 Docklands Drive, Docklands.

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Alongside making abortion free, we will extend the medical abortion window to ten weeks, expand regional travel assistance, and train more nurses and midwives to prescribe medical abortion closer to home.

Our network of 20 Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health Hubs provides abortion, contraception and other reproductive healthcare across Victoria. We are determined to end the postcode lottery in women's healthcare. Only Labor will protect a woman's right to choose.

Labor established the Royal Commission into Family Violence, implemented its 227 recommendations and invested more than $3.7 billion in prevention and response. Victim-survivors and advocates, including Rosie Batty, demanded change, and Labor answered that call.

Through The Orange Door, the MARAM Framework, information sharing and Respect Victoria, we have led the nation in reform. We have also introduced non-fatal strangulation offences and passed laws to criminalise coercive control.

Services are stretched. Building on this work requires sustained investment and a strong partnership with the Federal Government. We will keep listening to victim-survivors, services and experts, and considering your proposals.

We have expanded women's healthcare. Our women's pain survey has put women's experiences on the agenda, and nurses' 28 per cent pay rise recognises the value of their work. Labor will always defend our public health system against Americanisation and cuts.

Safe housing is equally essential to women's independence. Since 2020, we have built or purchased more than 11,700 social homes, nearly 2,000 a year.

The 2026–27 Budget delivered $47 million to tackle homelessness, including $26 million for assertive outreach and additional emergency accommodation.

Our 155 rental reforms include removing remaining 'no reason' notices to vacate, banning rental bidding, extending notice periods for rent increases and notices to vacate from 60 to 90 days. We have also banned discrimination against victim-survivors in the rental system.

Labor delivered Australia's first Treaty with First Peoples. The Liberals and One Nation have committed to repealing Treaty. A re-elected Carroll Labor Government will always protect Treaty and the interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

We will defend these protections against a Liberal-One Nation Coalition that will wind back rights.

Across healthcare, housing, work and justice, we will keep making women's rights meaningful in everyday life, guided by women's lived experience and the services supporting them.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Staikos
State Secretary

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