



**Public Health Association**  
AUSTRALIA

**Public Health Association of Australia**  
*Submission on ALP 2015 National Platform –  
Consultation Draft*

2015 National Platform Consultation  
ALP National Secretariat  
PO Box 6222  
Kingston ACT 2604  
Online submissions:  
[http://www.alp.org.au/2015\\_draft\\_national\\_platform](http://www.alp.org.au/2015_draft_national_platform)

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# Contents

<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>3</b>
Public Health .....	3
The Public Health Association of Australia .....	3
Advocacy and capacity building .....	3
<b>Preamble .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Response to Chapter 3 content.....</b>	<b>4</b>
a) PHAA is greatly concerned that the 2015 ALP Policy Platform:.....	4
b) PHAA would like the 2015 ALP Policy Platform to:.....	4
<b>Conclusion .....</b>	<b>6</b>



## Introduction

The Public Health Association of Australia Incorporated (PHAA) is recognised as the principal non-government organisation for public health in Australia and works to promote the health and well-being of all Australians. The Association seeks better population health outcomes. PHAA has a vision for a healthy region, a healthy nation and healthy people living in a healthy society and a sustaining environment based on prevention, the social determinants of health and equity principles.

### Public Health

Public health seeks equitable health for all and goes beyond the treatment of individuals to encompass health promotion, prevention of disease and disability, recovery and rehabilitation, and disability support.

### The Public Health Association of Australia

PHAA is a national organisation comprising around 1900 individual members and representing over 40 professional groups concerned with the promotion of health at a population level.

Key roles of the organisation include the development of policy, capacity building and advocacy. Core to our work is an evidence base drawn from a wide range of members working in public health practice, research, administration and related fields who volunteer their time to inform policy, support advocacy and assist in capacity building within the sector. PHAA is an active participant in a range of population health alliances including the *Australian Health Care Reform Alliance*, the *Social Determinants of Health Alliance*, the *National Complex Needs Alliance* and the *National Alliance for Action on Alcohol*.

PHAA has Branches in every State and Territory and a wide range of Special Interest Groups. In addition to these groups the PHAA is responsible for an outstanding peer review journal - the *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health* (ANZJPH).

### Advocacy and capacity building

In recent years PHAA has further developed its advocacy role to achieve the best possible health outcomes for the community, both through working with all levels of governments and agencies, and promoting key policies and advocacy goals through the media, public events and by other means.

## Preamble

PHAA welcomes the opportunity to provide input to the ALP's 2015 National Platform Consultation Draft. PHAA is a peak non-government organisation with a sustained record of advocacy relating to the nuclear fuel cycle, and its impacts on public and environmental health. Our submission relates specifically to CHAPTER 3: Building Australia's Future, and the weakening of uranium and nuclear policy.

## Response to Chapter 3 content

### a) PHAA is greatly concerned that the 2015 ALP Policy Platform:

- Removes the references in the current (2011) platform to health, safety and monitoring protections for workers in the uranium industry and public scrutiny of the uranium sector.
- Opens the door to importation of high-level nuclear waste, overturning a long-held and widely supported position to oppose international waste storage/disposal.

This contradicts point 65 in Chapter 4: Building a Clean Energy Future (A Cleaner Environment for Living) that states: *Labor believes nations have a responsibility for the appropriate disposal of hazardous wastes generated within their boundaries. Labor is committed to fulfilling Australia's obligations in the control of trans-boundary movements of hazardous waste.*

- Considers the expansion of Australian involvement in the nuclear chain, including uranium enrichment, fuel fabrication for nuclear power reactors and reprocessing. These processes are prohibited in Australia by federal law and would also undermine efforts stated in Chapter 3 (points 151-153) calling for monitoring and control of materials used for nuclear proliferation.

### b) PHAA would like the 2015 ALP Policy Platform to:

- Reinstate the commitment from the 2011 platform that *Labor will ensure the safety of workers in the uranium industry is given priority* and support public accountability of the uranium sector.
- Maintain the current and long-standing opposition to importation of international nuclear waste under any circumstances .
- Delete the final point in 154- *Seek to fully understand the future role Australia can play in global nuclear safety and sustainability including taking back for storage and management materials generated from Australian exported uranium.*

## *PHAA submission on National Platform – Consultation Draft*

The 2015 Policy Platform is an opportunity to strengthen the case for moving away from high impact and hazardous industries like uranium mining toward a future that creates long term, sustainable and regional job opportunities in the renewable energy sector.

In the shadow of Fukushima the words of Labor stalwart Tom Uren continue to ring true: *Uranium was always guilty until proven innocent, and no one yet has proved uranium innocent.*

At the 2015 National Conference it is important that nuclear protections for the community, workers, health and the environment are strengthened rather than reduced.



## Conclusion

The PHAA appreciates the opportunity to make this submission on the 2015 National Platform Consultation Draft.

Please do not hesitate to contact the PHAA should you require additional information or have any queries in relation to this submission.



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