WESTERN AUSTRALIA
LABOR'S POSITIVE POLICIES
WE'LL PUT PEOPLE FIRST
A MESSAGE FROM BILL SHORTEN

I believe Labor’s positive plan is the right one for Western Australia.
I believe that when middle and working class Western Australians succeed, the whole of Western Australia will prosper.
That’s why I will work every day to deliver for middle and working class families in Western Australia.

Western Australia’s economy is going through a difficult transition.
As Western Australian families feel the impact of the end of the mining investment boom, Western Australians deserve a Federal Government with a clear plan to transition the economy in a way that protects jobs and improves living standards.

Labor has developed more than 100 positive policies to achieve just that.

Labor’s plan will build the infrastructure that Western Australia needs to create jobs and drive growth.

“Labor will build the Perth METRONET, creating 4,000 jobs for Western Australians.”

It includes protecting Medicare, keeping medicine affordable and investing in hospitals.

It includes record investment in schools, scrapping the Liberals’ plans for $100,000 degrees and reforming TAFE.

Labor’s plan includes protecting penalty rates, scrapping the Liberals’ harsh and unfair cuts to Paid Parental Leave and Family Tax Benefits and giving families immediate child care relief.

On 2 July, Western Australians will have a choice between Labor’s positive plan and the Liberals’ plan for another round of harsh and unfair cuts – all so Malcolm Turnbull can give a tax cut to big business.

My commitment to Western Australia at this election is that a Shorten Labor Government will always put people first.

I invite you to read more about Labor’s positive policies at www.100positivepolicies.org.au

Bill Shorten
Western Australia’s economy is in transition. As the mining investment boom declines, Labor is investing in the job-creating infrastructure that will create jobs and drive Western Australia’s economy for the next generation.

**BUILDING THE INFRASTRUCTURE WESTERN AUSTRALIA NEEDS**

Labor is building the infrastructure that Western Australia needs. Labor will contribute:

- $1 billion to plan and build Perth’s METRONET, which will create 4,000 jobs for Western Australia.
- $80 million to build the North Lake Bridge.
- $45 million for the Wanneroo Road upgrade, which will create around 230 jobs for Western Australia.
- $59 million for the High Street Fremantle upgrade, creating around 150 jobs in Western Australia.
- $25 million for Denny Avenue grade separation project.
- $3 million for roadworks at Scarborough Beach Road.
- $1 million for Bayswater Train Station.
- $2 million for Kwinana Outer Harbour logistics planning.

Labor is committed to ensuring one in ten jobs on our priority projects will be filled by new apprentices – so young Western Australians can learn the skills they need for the jobs of the future.
**PROTECTING PENALTY RATES**

It is clear that the Liberals want to see weekend penalty rates reduced. Labor does not want some of our lowest paid workers to be forced to take a pay cut. Labor will intervene in proceedings in the Fair Work Commission to protect weekend penalty rates.

**COMPLETING THE NBN**

Labor will fix Malcolm Turnbull’s NBN mess and build the NBN Western Australia needs to create the jobs of the future. Under Labor, more than 133,000 more WA households will get fibre-to-the-premises than they will under the Liberals.

**DRIVING INNOVATION IN OUR REGIONS**

Currently, around two-thirds of Australia’s startup activity takes place in just one city: Sydney. Labor will create a Regional Innovation Fund, which will kick-start a range of initiatives to expand the role of Australia’s regions in contributing to the national innovation effort. Labor will fund the establishment of up to 20 new accelerators in universities or TAFEs in regions around the country. This means students that live outside Perth will get access to resources often limited to people living in the big cities.

**NORTHERN AUSTRALIA TOURISM FUND**

Labor’s Northern Australia Tourism fund will help build the tourism infrastructure that northern Western Australia needs to grow the sector and create jobs.

**INDIGENOUS RANGERS**

Labor will double the number of Indigenous Rangers working under the Working on Country Program. This means more Indigenous Australians in Western Australia will have the opportunity to have their work on country recognised as paid employment, whilst at the same time protecting the natural and cultural treasures of Western Australia.
First they tried to introduce a GP Tax, then they tried to introduce a GP Tax by stealth by freezing the Medicare Benefits Schedule.

The Liberals have done all they can to destroy Medicare.

By contrast, Labor has a positive plan to protect Medicare and ensure our world class universal health care system continues to deliver good health outcomes for every Australian into the future.

**PROTECTING MEDICARE**

Labor built Medicare and we will fight to protect it. Labor will reverse the Government’s freeze on the Medicare Benefits Schedule. This means an average family in Western Australia with two children will be around $400 better off under Labor.

**Labor will fight the Liberals’ attempts to privatise Medicare.**

**SCRAPPING THE MEDICINE PRICE HIKE**

Labor will scrap the Liberal’s medicine price hike and ensure medicine remains affordable for middle and working class families. Under the Liberals, medicine will go up by as much as $5 per script. This means that under Labor, medicines will be more affordable than under Malcolm Turnbull.

**INVESTING IN HOSPITALS**

Labor will increase funding for Western Australian hospitals over the next four years. This will reduce waiting times for elective surgery and in emergency departments. Under Labor, hospitals in Western Australia can expect to receive around $220 million more than they would under the Liberals.

**INNOVATION IN HEALTH CARE**

Because of Labor, Australia has one of the best healthcare systems in the world. But Australia’s health care system continues to face significant challenges. An ageing population, growing health inequality among many groups, as well as locations of disadvantage, mean that Australia requires new approaches to care.

If elected, a Shorten Labor Government will provide an additional $100 million over two years to develop, pilot and roll out new models of primary care around Australia.
LIFE SAVING MEDICAL RESEARCH AND CARE

Labor will invest in life saving research and care for those Western Australians suffering from chronic disease. These commitments include:

- $10.6 million to increase the number of prostate cancer nurses.
- $8 million for ovarian cancer research.
- $7 million to assist women with breast cancer in rural areas and with secondary breast cancer.
- $1.1 million to assist people managing allergic diseases.
- $4 million to improve care and support for people suffering from Motor Neurone Disease.
With an economy in transition, Western Australia’s future prosperity depends more than ever on the quality of our education system.

Australia can’t be an innovation nation without a world class education system. Labor will make the targeted, needs-based investments we need to give every Western Australian child the chance to reach their potential and get ahead in the knowledge economy.

**IMPROVING WESTERN AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS - YOUR CHILD. OUR FUTURE**

Labor’s Your Child. Our Future plan aims to put Australia’s schools back among the very best in the world. Every student in every school will be supported to achieve their best through investment in:

- More one-on-one support.
- Better remedial literacy and numeracy programs - and more extension options.
- Early intervention programs in every school.
- Improved Year 12 retention – supported by more vocational pathways.
- Better access to allied health support – like speech and occupational therapists.

Labor’s investment is targeted to improve the results of those students who need it most, including students with disability, Indigenous students, students in regional and rural areas, and students from low socio-economic backgrounds.

Labor’s policy is a $36 billion investment in our nation’s schools over the next decade, including $330 million more in targeted, needs-based funding for Western Australian schools in 2018 and 2019 alone, compared to the Liberals.

Labor will also support the Stars Foundation to increase the number of young Indigenous women completing Year 12.

**KEEPING OUR UNIVERSITIES OPEN TO ALL**

Western Australia won’t have a strong economy if students are forced to pay for $100,000 degrees. Under the Liberals, many students will be priced out of university – no matter how bright they are.

Labor will deliver a Student Funding Guarantee - removing the need for higher fees. With Labor, students will be able to study at the University of Western Australia, Edith Cowan University and Curtin University based on good marks and hard work, not their bank balance.
PROTECTING TAFE - STRENGTHENING VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

Labor will protect TAFE by introducing a TAFE Funding Guarantee that will ensure a minimum proportion of vocational education funding stays with TAFE.

Labor will also undertake a comprehensive National Vocational Education and Training Sector Review to make sure the system is meeting the needs of students and employers, weed out dodgy providers and enforce strong standards.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS

Seventy-five per cent of the fastest growing occupations will require skills in science, technology, engineering and maths – STEM. Nationally, Labor will provide 25,000 teaching scholarships for recent STEM graduates and support 25,000 existing teachers to up-skill. This will mean around 5,000 new or up-skilled STEM teachers for Western Australian schools. Labor will also provide 100,000 STEM Award Degrees – meaning students who graduate from certain STEM courses will do so without a HECS debt.

Labor will also make sure all Western Australian students have the opportunity to learn coding – an essential skill for the future workforce.
Labor believes that when middle and working class families are succeeding, Australia succeeds. That is why Labor has a plan to protect the living standards of middle and working class families.

Labor believes in budget repair, but unlike the Liberals we will not be fixing the Malcolm Turnbull’s budget mess by attacking the family budget.

**CHILD CARE**

Every one of the 38,800 families in Western Australia that rely on the Child Care Benefit will be better off under Labor. From 1 January 2017 Labor will increase the Child Care Benefit by 15 per cent. This is an increase of up to $31 per child per week, or up to $1,627 per child per year.

Many of the 61,310 families in Western Australia that rely on the Child Care Rebate will be up to $2,500 better off per child per year with Labor’s plan to increase the Child Care Rebate cap from $7,500 to $10,000 from 1 January 2017.

**PAID PARENTAL LEAVE**

Labor will scrap the Liberals’ plan to cut Paid Parental Leave to around 80,000 new mums each year. Under Labor, parents will be as much as $11,800 better off when they have a baby.

**FAMILY TAX BENEFITS**

Labor will oppose the Government’s harsh cuts to Family Tax Benefits. Under Labor, families earning less than $100,000 will maintain their FTB at current rates. Families earning over $100,000 will have a modest reduction of 50 per cent of their FTB-A end of year supplement.

Under Labor, a couple with a single income of $85,000 and two children in primary school will be around $1,300 better off each year. A sole parent with income of $65,000 and two children in high school will be around $3,000 better off each year under Labor.
Under the Liberals, Western Australians have been through three years of harsh cuts, chaos and broken promises. Cuts to schools and universities, cuts to Medicare, cuts to Family Tax Benefits and cuts to pensions. This is the legacy of the Abbott-Turnbull Government.

RISING UNEMPLOYMENT
Since the Liberals were elected, the unemployment rate has skyrocketed from 4.6 per cent to 5.6 per cent. There are 15,900 more Western Australians lining the unemployment queues since 2013. 29,200 full time jobs have been lost under the Liberals. There are now 700 fewer apprentices in Western Australia than there were in 2013.

CUTS TO SCHOOLS
The Liberals have cut more than $3.1 billion from Western Australian schools. This means larger classes, less personal attention and fewer resources for students. It means Indigenous students, students with disability or additional learning needs and students from low socio-economic backgrounds will miss out on the support they need to achieve their best.

CUTS TO UNIVERSITIES
Since 2013, the Liberals have ripped nearly $600 million from Western Australian universities. If the Liberals get their way, students in Western Australia would be facing fees of up to $100,000 for degrees.

CUTS TO HOSPITALS
The Liberals have made massive cuts to Western Australian hospitals. This will put further pressure on already stretched public hospitals and push up waiting times for elective surgery and emergency department care.

CUTS TO FAMILIES
More than 137,000 families in Western Australia will lose their full Family Tax Benefit A Supplement if the Liberals are re-elected. That’s a cut of $726 per child, per year.

More than 117,000 single parents and single income families will lose their Family Tax Benefit B Supplement if the Liberals are re-elected – a cut of $354 per family per year.

CUTS TO PENSIONS
In 2014, the Liberals tried to cut the indexation arrangement for every one of Western Australia’s 300,000 pensioners. If the Liberals are re-elected, pensioners in Western Australia who are trying to study will lose $1,600 because of the abolition of the Pensioner Education Supplement and $208 from the abolition of the Education Entry Payment.

Age Pensioners who were born overseas and want to spend more time overseas when they retire will have their pension reduced after six weeks under the Liberals.

CUTS TO SCIENCE AND THE CSIRO
The Liberals’ cuts to the CSIRO have resulted in 49 job losses in Western Australia. A further 29 jobs will be lost if Malcolm Turnbull is re-elected.
LABOR’S NEW TEAM FOR WA WILL PUT PEOPLE FIRST

From the day Bill Shorten became Leader, Labor’s team has remained united, with a single-minded commitment to deliver those policies that put people first. A health care system underpinned by Medicare. An education system that gives every child in every school more individual attention – Public, Catholic or Independent. University and TAFE that is accessible for all.

WE HAVE PUT FORWARD OUR POSITIVE PLANS. WE ARE UNITED. WE ARE READY.

WE’LL PUT PEOPLE FIRST