Optional Information
Are you a member of a Trade Union? If so, which one? Do you hold a position in this union?

Are you active in a mass movement or particular area of work? (peace and disarmament, women's movement, environmental movement, gay rights, etc.). Please list groups or organisations in which you are actively involved.

I am interested in presenting a seminar paper at the conference on:

____________________________________________________________________________________

I am interested in giving a short workshop introduction on:

____________________________________________________________________________________

I can help during the conference. (Please list areas of interest/skills, eg typing, facilitating, etc)

____________________________________________________________________________________

Please send this Registration Form to:
Broad Left Conference, PO Box 17, Railway Square, Sydney 2000.
BACKGROUND AND AIMS OF CONFERENCE

Pressing issues of current concern strongly suggest that broad left forces should meet in an open atmosphere to discuss perspectives for the left in Australia. Three hundred representative sponsors have called for a left conference for Easter 1985 in Sydney.

The conference aims to provide a forum for the broad left to discuss effective responses to current Australian political developments and to the vital issues of the 1980s and 1990s.

The aim is to address general strategic questions for the left and to provide an opportunity to discuss a range of particular issues and concerns. The sponsors have nominated two strategic issues faced by the left at present:

1. Firstly, the emergence of a more extreme and ideologically confident right wing, which has launched a new offensive against labor and progressive movements, designed to roll back the gains made by unions, Aboriginals, women, migrants, the gay community and other progressive social forces. This offensive sets the stage for the election of hardline conservative governments.

2. Secondly, the challenge of building effective mass movements for progressive reforms and facing changes in a period of Labor governments, and the relationship of left and progressive forces to the existing Labor government.

At federal, state and local government levels, Labor administrations are retreating in many important policy areas in the face of right wing pressure and economic and financial difficulties. In particular, the Hawke government's performance has raised serious concerns in several areas where it has failed to deliver or Labor's promises and its supporters' expectations. In some key instances, it has bowed before local and foreign pressure from corporations and the money markets, whose aims are to destroy the government eventually and in the meantime get what they can by "boring from within".

The left should respond to this challenge with its own renewed offensive, working to build alliances and to develop a more coherent program for social and economic change.

The central focus of the conference will be to develop strategies, links and communications between issues and movements. Activists from different movements and groups will be encouraged to swap experiences and views.

PARTICIPATION

This will be a conference of individuals, not organisations. It will be based on workshops, seminars and panel discussions. Participation is welcome from anyone in general agreement with the aims of the conference as expressed in this brochure.

However, attendance may be limited by availability of facilities. Should this happen, sponsors from main centres will try to ensure a fair regional distribution of participants and broad representation of left opinion and areas of work.

GETTING TOGETHER CONFERENCE

The Getting Together Conference of social movements will also be held in Sydney at Easter at a nearby venue. Good relations have been developed between the two organising committees. It has been agreed that speakers from each conference will attend some sessions of the other. Each conference will also provide a reportback to the other's final session, and it is hoped that opportunities can be arranged for participants from the two conferences to meet together socially.

PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

The Conference will comprise six half-day sessions. The four half-day sessions on Saturday and Sunday will each be divided into two 1½ hour segments, the first taken up by several parallel panel sessions addressed by two or three speakers, the second consisting of a wide range of workshops on more detailed topics. There will also be the opportunity for self-initiated workshops, and parallel with some workshop sessions there may also be a general forum or seminars. The main conclusions and papers from each workshop will be printed on a central notice board and reported to a group of working committees who will collate and edit them for reporting back to the conference on Monday morning.

MAIN THEMES AND FORMAT

Friday afternoon Registration
Radical film festival.
Friday evening Opening meeting and cultural night.
Theme: Towards 2000: the role of the left in the '80s and '90s.
Saturday morning Stocktake: What's left to do?
Australian realities and the left.
Saturday afternoon Strategic perspectives (1):
Socialism in Australia and how to get there.
Sunday morning Strategic perspectives (II):
Building the base and setting the agenda.
Sunday afternoon Immediate directions:
Working to make the left politically effective.
Monday morning Summary: Reportbacks & concluding remarks.

FRIDAY

12.00 noon Registration opens
Radical film festival
Preliminary meetings of organising and reportback committees
Meetings for panel speakers and workshop facilitators
5.30 p.m. Dinner break
Meeting for women only over dinner (venue to be announced)

7.00 p.m. Opening session and cultural night
Theme: Towards 2000: The role of the left in the '80s and '90s
Chair: Jennie George, President NSW Teachers Federation
ACTU Executive member
Speakers: Brian Howes MP
Marcia Langton Co-ordinator Land Claims, Central Land Council
Jim Falla. Author and activist

The speakers will take about one hour, followed by about 90 minutes of performing artists and groups.
SATURDAY MORNINg
Theme: Stocktake: What's left to do? Australian realities and the left
Panels 9.15 to 10.45 – Workshops 11.15 to 12.45
Panel 1 Conservation and the contemporary right wing offensive
Workshop topics to cover: New Right's program and appeal, organisation of the right, ideologies of women's role and the family, anti-racism, AIDS hysteria.
Panel 2 The economic context
Workshop topics to cover: deregulation, privatisation, the debt crisis, the public sector, wealth distribution, restructuring, and unemployment.
Panel 3 Australia & the world: foreign policy, the Pacific region, peace & disarmament.
Workshop topics to cover: Australia's international record, immigration, peace and disarmament, nuclear-free and independent Pacific, Philippines.
Panel 4 The Accord: successes and failures.
Workshops to cover: the main winners and losers of the Accord.
Panel 5 Social movements, trade unions & Labor governments: how have they related?
Workshops to include: connections and conflicts between class and social movements, and the impact of mass movements on Labor governments.
Forum Achievements and failures of the Australian left.
(The forum will be held parallel with the Workshops, at 11.15.)

SATURDAY AFTERNOON
Theme: Strategic perspectives: Building the base and setting the agenda.
Panel 1 Political options for the left: parties and movements.
Mass movements and social change, work for socialist change through the ALP, the role of a left party in Australia today, developing left policies, finding common objectives.
Panel 2 The Accord: building block or obstacle for the future?
Industry development, implementation of the Accord’s social justice promises, role and limits of Accord processes, alternative strategies to the Accord.
Panel 3 Unemployment, under-employment and unpaid work – strategies for down under the poverty line.
Organising the unemployed, job creation and the nature of work, guaranteed minimum income proposals, how to create useful and satisfying jobs.
Panel 4 Responding to racism and the far right: strategies for a multiracial culture.
Workshops to cover: ethnic community politics, immigration policy, migrant women’s perspectives, migrant workers and unions.
Panel 5 The politics of gender.
Workshops are being developed by socialist feminist forums being held in major centres, to include: ideologies of the family, gender, class, and race equality.
Panel 6 Sex, drugs and rock & roll – young people and the left.
Workshops to include: unions and young workers, youth culture, education and training, homelessness, the youth consumer market.
Panel 7 The Aboriginal movement and the left.
Workshops to include: the meaning of Aboriginal self-determination, Aboriginal health, education and employment, Aboriginal women and the women’s movement.
Panel 8 Creating a left political culture.
Art and working life, Australian media, community arts, labour history, do we need left wing “think-tanks”?
Panel 9 Socialist perspectives for education and training.
(Forum will run concurrently with the Workshops, at 11.15.)

SUNDAY MORNINg
Theme: Immediate directions: working to make the left politically effective.
For this session, the conference will break up into about 20 working groups on particular issues. For the first hour, each group will hold a seminar with presentations of analyses of the issue, the current state of left work around it, and proposals for future work. After the break, each group will move into a 2-hour workshop format to come up with proposals for the reportback session morning.
We already have about 25 suggested working groups but these will not be finalised until we have more views from conference participants about issues they would like to see covered. Examples of topics so far proposed are the equal pay and comparable worth campaigns, taxation, international solidarity priorities, occupational health and safety, communication and co-operation across the left; possibilities for alternative and left media; gay community fightback. Participants are asked to send any proposals with their registration forms.
MONDAY MORNING

Summary
9:15 a.m. Reportbacks: "Bringing it all together, taking it all back home". The working groups set up to process and collate the conclusions and proposals from workshops and discussions will each report to the conference under these headings: economic, political, social movements, international issues: social policy: left strategies: women. (This session will run from 9.15 a.m. till 11.00 a.m.)

11:00 a.m. Coffee/Tea Break.

11.30 a.m. Closing addresses.
12.30 p.m. Conference ends.

Note: Those registering will receive a full detailed program just before or at the conference, with details of venues, speakers, etc. for panels and workshops.

NUTS AND BOLTS

Conference Bulletin Pre-conference discussion will be facilitated by the publication of two Bulletins. One has already appeared and the deadline for contributions to the second is March 1. Contributions to the Bulletin are welcome. Substantial pieces should be no more than 1,000 words in length. Shorter articles and letters are also welcome. Contributions should be sent to PO Box 17, Railway Square, Sydney 2000. The Bulletin will be sent to everyone registering for the conference and may also be obtained by payment of a $10 subscription fee.

Pre-Conference activities Discussions on some of the issues to be covered at the conference are currently being organised in some centres. Details of these activities can be obtained by contacting the organisers in your state.

Help There is a lot of work involved in this conference. We need your help before and during the conference. Contact the national conference office and/or your local organising group.

Fees and Donations Organising and running the conference is costly. Registration fees have been set as low as possible and we ask all who can afford to do so to make generous donations on top of these. People in close proximity to Sydney, with small travel costs, are especially asked to do so.

Accommodation Participants are requested to make their own accommodation arrangements, if at all possible. Those travelling from outside Sydney. Those requiring billets must inform the conference organisers of their requirements by March 22.

Travel arrangements Organising committees in most centres are organising group travel to and from Sydney. Please contact the committee in your state as soon as possible for further information. If making your own arrangements, remember places and trains will be heavily booked for these dates, so bookings should be made early.

Food An inexpensive lunch will be available at the Institute on Saturday and Sunday, Morning and afternoon teas will also be available. In addition there are a number of cheap restaurants close to the Institute.

Childcare will be free of charge, provided you let us know your requirements in advance. Please supply food, drink, etc. if your child is likely to need it.

Bookstalls Groups and organisations wishing to sell books or other materials or distribute information at the conference are invited to apply for a book stall. Stalls will cost $30 and will be in limited supply, so please apply early as possible if you wish to have a stall. Materials can only be sold or distributed from bookstalls.

Social Events We want opportunities for people to meet and talk in less formal settings. Various social and cultural events are planned.