



# STANDING UP FOR LGBTIQ CANBERRANS

## Against the Plebiscite

The Greens will keep standing up for the rights of LGBTIQ Canberrans

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Canberra is a vibrant and diverse city, and we are richer because of our diversity. Sadly, there is still bigotry and intolerance in our community and in our laws. The ACT Greens believe that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual, intersex and queer people should be treated equally under our laws and in our community.

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The ACT Greens believe that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual, intersex and queer people should be treated equally under our laws and in our community.

We understand that Canberra is a vibrant and diverse city, and we are richer because of our diversity. But sadly, there is still bigotry and intolerance in our community and in our laws. That's why the ACT Greens will keep fighting for LGBTIQ rights.

### > **Standing Up Against the Plebiscite**

The ACT Greens do not support the divisive, wasteful plebiscite on same-sex marriage.

However, should the Federal Government's plebiscite go ahead, the ACT Greens will stand with the LGBTIQ\* community against the damaging "no" campaign by:

» Supporting a public "yes" campaign in the ACT if the Federal Government's plebiscite goes ahead;

» Dedicating up to \$500,000 of additional funding to LGBTIQ support services (above and beyond any other funding increases) for the purpose of supporting LGBTIQ people who are subjected to discrimination or harassment as a result of the "no" campaign; and

» Establishing a new ACT Commissioner for LGBTIQ people to hear and help resolve complaints about discrimination and vilification faced by LGBTIQ people in the ACT.

Canberra was the first place in the country to legalise same sex marriage - and while it was quashed by the High Court, the fight is not over.

The Greens will always support marriage equality – every vote, every MP, every time. However, marriage equality is not the only challenge that young LGBTIQ people are facing.

Disappointingly, prejudice still exists within our homes, schools, universities and workplaces; and LGBTIQ youth disproportionately suffer from mental illness and are at risk of suicide and self-harm.

The wasteful, damaging plebiscite; and the Turnbull Government's reckless willingness to expose LGBTIQ people to a harmful "no" campaign poses a real threat to our LGBTIQ community. The ACT Greens will stand with the LGBTIQ community against this threat.



# #BRINGTHEMHERE TO CANBERRA

## A Compassionate Canberra

The Greens want to welcome those who seek our help.

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Canberrans are compassionate, generous people who want to welcome those seeking help. That's why the ACT Greens are calling on the Federal Government to close the camps on Manus Island and Nauru.

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Successive Liberal and Labor governments have locked up men, women and children seeking our help in cruel and inhumane detention centres. Last week, Immigration Minister Peter Dutton conceded that the detention centre on Manus Island must close.

The ACT Greens call on the Federal Government to close the camps. Canberrans are compassionate, generous people. The ACT Greens commit to:

» Welcoming 100 of the 800 people currently in detention on Manus Island to live here in Canberra.

» Working with Migrant and Refugee Settlement Services, the Red Cross, Multicultural Youth Services and other community and specialist services to ensure that these new arrivals are suitably accommodated here in Canberra with access to the services they need to start new lives and become valued members of our community.

» Continuing to call for all offshore detention centres to be closed - including the detention centre on Nauru.

The ACT was declared a 'refugee welcome zone' last year and committed to resettling people fleeing the devastating conflict in Syria. Sadly, many of those people are yet to be resettled in Canberra because of delays in processing.

The ACT Greens call on the Federal Government to end the prolonged suffering of all refugees in Australian detention centres and process them immediately.

Resettling 100 people seeking asylum will cost the ACT Government approximately \$2.5 million over four years – substantially less than the \$1 million per person the Federal Government spends to lock people up in conditions the United Nations has described as torture.



# TACKLING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The Greens have a plan to tackle violence against women

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Violence against women is unacceptable. The Greens understand that promoting gender equality and changing the underlying attitudes that are held about women's role in society is a critical part of reducing rates of domestic violence and sexual assault.

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Violence against women is unacceptable. It is already well established that domestic and family violence and sexual assault occur largely as a result of society's attitudes towards women.

While men can be victims of domestic and family violence, it is overwhelmingly perpetrated by men against women. Promoting gender equality and changing the underlying attitudes that are held about women's role in society is a critical part of reducing rates of domestic violence and sexual assault.

## > A Gender Equity Plan

In 2016, it's hard to believe that we are still having conversations about the role of women in our society, and the impact that gender attitudes have on employment, housing, financial security and personal safety for women.

The ACT Greens support the 2016-26 ACT Women's Plan but believe that we can do more to show leadership and achieve gender equality in our community.

The Greens will develop a gender equity action plan to:

- » Guide actions and priorities for government, and the community, to ensure equal participation, treatment and recognition of and for women.

- » Require all government legislation, policy and programs to undertake a triple bottom line analysis - including a gender analysis and impact assessment. Where this does not occur, clear and justifying statements must be made as to why not.

- » Include stronger adherence to the existing target of 50/50 gender representation on government appointed boards, committees and other statutory positions and mandate that appointments will not be passed unless the gender balance exists - or sufficient explanation is given as to why this was not achievable.

As well as workforce participation and economic security, a gender equity strategy would also address issues such as women's development and leadership, health and wellbeing, violence against women and girls, and education and employment opportunities (including in science, technology, engineering and maths).

## **> Respectful Relationships Programs for All Schools**

Research shows that the incidence and rate of domestic violence occurring in a society is directly linked to the underlying cultural attitudes towards women. Even just recently we have seen examples of young women in our schools being targeted in online forums in a disrespectful and abusive fashion by their own peers.

These negative attitudes start young, and by intervening in the early years through programs that teach respectful relationships and that value the role of women in our society, we can start to build community values that reject demeaning attitudes towards women - attitudes that are the foundation on which violent and abusive behaviour is built.

That's why the ACT Greens will provide \$2m funding over 4 years to implement primary prevention programs across all primary and secondary schools in Canberra.

Safe and supportive learning environments should also teach children and young people personal skills that enhance an inclusive and caring society.

The ACT Greens believe that there is an obligation for us to intervene with our children

and young people to provide evidence-based and age-appropriate primary prevention programs. The educational setting offers a unique opportunity to intervene when attitudes and values are still being developed. Delivering respectful relationships programs in all schools across the ACT will lay a solid foundation for our young people.

## **> Supporting Women Escaping Violence**

Women's crisis accommodation services are a crucial part of our support to women who have suffered domestic and family violence. And, providing women with legal support ensures that women who are escaping violence have access to justice.

In recent years, ACT service providers have shown incredible resilience in the face of a series of funding cuts by the Federal Liberal Party, and uncertainty since the 2014 Federal Budget. However, these cuts have impacted on the services that can be delivered to clients, the morale of staff and the viability of the sector. Similarly, funding to Community Legal Services has been significantly cut by the Federal Government - and the ACT Government has failed to adequately protect them.

That's why the ACT Greens will:

- » Significantly increase the funding for women's crisis accommodation services by \$2m over 4 years; and

- » Provide an additional \$150,000 a year in additional funding to the Women's Legal Centre.

Funding cuts have occurred against a backdrop of increased pressure on frontline support services as referral rates have continued to grow. The number of women who have escaped DV being supported by one agency has increased from 35% to 65% in the last 18 months. The ACT Greens believe that is unacceptable that any woman fleeing violence and abuse should be turned away, and we are committed to ensuring that women escaping violence get the support they need.

The Women's Legal Centre is one of the Community Legal Centres in Canberra which provides critical community services, improving access to justice for women. Their frontline service delivery and advocacy save costs further down the line. An independent economic cost-benefit analysis of Community Legal Centres determined that, as well as removing pressure on the court system, every \$1 the Government spends on CLCs returns \$18 of economic benefits accrued to society, including financial, social and health benefits.

## **> Legal Reform to Identify, and Respond to, Violence Against Women**

The ACT Greens understand that one of the greatest challenges in addressing violence against women is recognising it. Devastatingly, recent surveys still show that large sections of the population do not understand what constitutes violence, sexual assault or abuse.

While the ACT has extended the definition of emotional and psychological abuse into the Domestic Violence ACT, this is not yet included as a definition under the Crimes Act. We will also strengthen ACT criminal laws to

specifically address the issue non-consensual sharing of intimate images (revenge porn).

Further, the ACT Greens are committed to implementing the recommendations in the Australian Law Reform Commission report "Family violence - A national legal response" to ensure we support women who have survived family violence.

The ACT Greens will:

- » Amend the Crimes Act in consultation with the community to ensure the definition of domestic violence includes psychological and emotional abuse;
- » Strengthen ACT criminal laws to specifically address the issue non-consensual sharing of intimate images by creating offences for knowingly or recklessly recording an intimate image without consent; knowingly or recklessly sharing intimate images without consent; and threatening to take and/or share intimate images without consent, irrespective of whether or not those images exist; and
- » Prioritise the implementation of the recommendations in the Australian Law Reform Commission report to ensure that law reform in regards to sexual assault is progressed.

Emotional and psychological abuse can be as damaging as physical violence, and often is a precursor or accompanies physical violence. Emotional violence can look remarkably similar to other crimes. For example, if someone took your mobile phone at the supermarket they may have committed the crime of theft.

However, if your partner took your phone in an effort to restrict your access to family and friends, to isolate and disempower you, currently that may still only constitute a minor theft, rather than a more serious offence that is occurring in a context of abuse and control. The ACT Greens would look to Tasmania where emotional abuse has been included as a criminal offence in Tasmania, and has been used in limited circumstances, for guidance. It would be important to ensure that any new laws would be effective in being able to bring about prosecutions.

Further, while it has been encouraging to see increased public policy and legal responses focussed on domestic and family violence over the past two years, it is important the responses to sexual assault crimes are not deprioritized. Only 34% of sexual assault occurs in a domestic violence context and reforms are still need to address the remaining 66%. The ACT Greens are committed to implementing the reforms put forward by the Australian Law Reform Commission in 2010 to ensure women are given justice through the legal system.

## **> Preventing Violence Against Women**

Stopping men committing violence is the number one way that we will stop violence against women. That starts with cultural and attitudinal change that we will see through initiatives like teaching respectful relationships at school.

However, there is a current service gap in programs for with men who are at risk of committing violence, or men who have committed violence, and who have not been convicted or come before the courts.

That's why the ACT Greens will:

» Provide \$150,000 per annum in additional funding for early intervention perpetrator programs.

Long-term behavioural change and a reduction in perpetration of violence against women should be a central goal to addressing domestic and family violence. The ACT Greens believe that working with violent or potentially violent men in an early intervention context is a vital part of our response to domestic and family violence.



# BELCONNEN ARTS CENTRE

## Building the Next Stage

The Greens will build Stage 2 of the Belconnen Arts Centre

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The Greens understand that a vibrant arts culture needs spaces for artists and performers to meet, create, display, practice and perform. That's why we are committed to building the next stage of the Belconnen Arts Centre.

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Belconnen Arts Centre has been a fantastic arts and community hub for the Belconnen Community since it opened in 2009. It has become a key cultural and community hub for both the Belconnen region and Canberra more broadly.

Belconnen Arts Centre has successfully empowered the community's creative ambitions enjoying up to 40,000 visits last year to 41 exhibitions, 120 workshops and countless community events.

However, the Belconnen Arts Centre was always intended to be a two stage project. And, with the Belconnen Arts Centre reaching its limits, it is time to commit to completing stage two. **That's why the ACT Greens will commit \$15 million to build Belconnen Arts Centre Stage 2.**

The Belconnen Arts Centre is capacity and is turning artists and exhibitions away. All resident artist studios are fully occupied, and its key disability arts program Ignite has a waiting list. Building stage two will continue to drive and support Belconnen burgeoning arts and cultural scene.

The recently released Belconnen Town Centre Master Plan identifies the Belconnen Arts Centre as a major driver of urban renewal along the Emu Bank Precinct.

The Emu Bank foreshore was always intended to be a busy entertainment area and completing stage two will help revitalise that vision for the area, catalysing new businesses and completing the missing link in the foreshore promenade. Stage two will deliver high quality external spaces to extend the range of community and cultural activities into the public domain.

Already home to nationally significant music and dance companies, the Belconnen Arts Centre has untapped potential to develop into something even greater.

The ACT Greens are committed to completing this invaluable facility and deliver a project that the community can be proud of and enjoy for decades to come.





# PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

## Independence, Self-Determination & Choice

The Greens want a Canberra that is accessible and inclusive

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The ACT Greens believe that all people have a right to independence, self-determination, choice & freedom from discrimination. We want people with disabilities to be able to participate fully in all aspects of life.

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The ACT Greens believe that all people have a right to independence, self-determination, choice and freedom from discrimination in their lives. We want people with disabilities to be able to participate fully in all aspects of life, and to be able to access facilities and support personnel in order to be able to undertake their chosen activities. People with disabilities should be able to engage in all levels of decision and policy making, and be adequately supported to engage in the justice system.

The ACT Greens believe people with disabilities should have equal access to secure housing; education, training and employment; disability support services that meet service standards; and support to advocate for their own needs both inside and outside the NDIS. While the NDIS is an important shift for the delivery of services to people with disabilities, The Greens want the ACT Government to continue an active role in the inclusion of people with a disability into our community.

### > NDIS and Beyond

The ACT Greens support the full implementation of the National Disability Strategy, and remain committed to the full rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme. However, the NDIS implementation has revealed specific gaps around the provision of collective services for those with a disability; such as advocacy and consumer information services, and other linking and capacity building services.

That's why the ACT Greens will:

- » Support the continuation of a Minister for Disability to progress negotiations with the NDIA and the Federal Government on disability issues, and advocate for additional supports for information, linkages and capacity building (ILC), and to promote the implementation of the National Disability Strategy;
- » Maintain the ACT Disability Expert Panel made up of consumers of disability services to advise on the continued implementation of the NDIS; and

- » Support an ongoing commitment to deliver a whole of government Disability Policy in the ACT through the continuation of disability policy within Government;
- » Implement Disability Impact Statements for Cabinet submissions as part of the triple bottom line reporting framework;
- » Provide an additional \$100,000 per annum for peak disability rights advocacy organisations to undertake policy development and advocacy.

## **> Implementation of the National Disability Strategy**

The National Disability Strategy 2010-2020 is being implemented across jurisdictions. In the ACT, the ACT Disability Expert Panel provides advice on implementation, and projects are undertaken by InvolveCBR.

But the ACT Greens know that this work can't happen without funding and that we need to resource projects being run under InvolveCBR to ensure that they are able to meet the strategic priorities of building inclusive and accessible communities, health and wellbeing, jobs and skills development and housing, amongst other things.

Projects that can support improving the access of health facilities for people with disability or building pathways to employment are crucial in meeting the needs of people with disabilities and help fulfil the ACT's commitment to implement that national strategy.

The ACT Greens will:

- » Provide additional funding of \$300,000 to implement the National Disability Strategy through the work of InvolveCBR.

## **> Access Advisory Committee**

Universal access in urban areas enables all people to get where they need to, regardless of their age, gender or ability. It is about ensuring that people can move about the city freely and with independence.

This includes use of the bus and light rail network, as well as other transport services. Those who struggle to get around our city are the people who can offer the best insights into how to make it better.

The ACT Greens will:

- » Invest \$200,000 per annum to establish an Access Advisory Council to provide strategic advice about how to improve our urban spaces and ensure our new developments and transport meet the necessary standards to ensure our city is accessible for people with a disability and who are ageing.

The Access Advisory Council would provide advice to Government about improving access across the city, and on the development of a Universal Design Charter for Canberra.

It would be supported by someone with expertise in the field of disability access as well as representatives of people with a range of disabilities including cognitive, physical and sensory.

## **> Disability-Friendly Buses**

Getting around Canberra using public transport can be difficult if you have a disability. Currently approximately 75% of the ACT's buses meet the standards set out in the Disability Discrimination Act. That means that people with disabilities have to plan their days and journeys around the accessibility of buses. The ACT Greens do not think that is acceptable.

The ACT Greens believe that we need to lay out a clear path to all of Canberra's buses being accessible for those with a disability.

The ACT Greens will:

- » Commit to 100% of Canberra's buses being DDA compliant by 2020.

## **> Disability Justice Strategy**

People with a disability are often more negatively impacted by the justice system when they are a victim of crime, as well when accusations have been made against them.

Their credibility as witnesses can be called into question or they can struggle to convey their version of a situation they have been involved in. This can result in inappropriate, inadequate protection of their rights and lack of access to justice. Equally, people with disabilities who are accused of crimes are disproportionately incarcerated and have an increased likelihood of repeated contact with the criminal justice system.

In some instances, legal decisions around competency do not take supported decision-making processes into account. This can add to the disadvantage experienced by people with disabilities in regards to decisions about their own lives. Decision-making Acts in other jurisdictions have addressed these concerns and should be part of a modern statutory framework to support decision making for people with a disability.

People with disabilities can also be affected by interpersonal/domestic violence while in residential care situations; yet domestic violence law in the ACT doesn't apply to these circumstances.

The ACT Greens will:

- » Develop and implement a Disability Justice Strategy that will address the systemic disadvantage that people with disabilities experience in our justice system.

We will work in collaboration with the community sector and with representation across government.

## **> Supporting Parents With a Disability**

People with disabilities have the right to be parents. And, supporting them to be the best parents they can be is something that our community should be doing. Yet people with disabilities are often unfairly disadvantaged by the systems that seek to protect children and under supported to be the best parents they can be.

While the new Out of Home Care Strategy speeds up the processes for children to be placed into a stable care environment, safeguards need to be put in place to ensure that children of parents with disabilities are not removed from their families purely because there has been a lack of appropriate disability parenting support. This may include advocacy services or parenting support services, especially in the early years of parenting.

The ACT Greens will:

- » Invest \$185,000 in an independent review of how the child protection system is working for families with parents with disabilities.

### **> Better Access to Secure Housing**

People with disabilities often have less options when it comes to securing housing, whether that be through private rental or sale, or public or community housing. Accessing secure and appropriate housing can be difficult due to the cost of housing or the lack of appropriate, adapted or supported accommodation.

Ultimately, people with disabilities need a range of options to be available to suit their different needs.

The ACT Greens believe that we need to increase both the supply and the affordability of housing to enable people with disabilities to better access secure housing.

The ACT Greens are committed to implementing a range of measures to improve housing affordability and reduce homelessness, including for people with disabilities.

In addition the ACT Greens will:

- » Provide \$50,000 per annum to support professional housing advocacy for people living with a disability;

- » Ensure mainstream housing and homelessness programs are accessible to people with a disability; and

- » Ensure that all accommodation proposals are compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act and have had human rights assessment undertaken.

### **> Developing a Carer's Strategy**

The ACT Greens support the development of a Carer's Strategy and will ensure that the incredible contribution carers make to our community is recognised. We believe that the strategy to focus on the key areas outlined by Carers ACT and will work to ensure that the voices of the community are reflected in government policy and initiatives. We support comprehensive engagement with the carer community in the development of the Carers Strategy to ensure that it is informed by those who would be most affected by it and is based on the lived experience of carers.

An ACT Carers Strategy will provide a better understanding of the issues, and more coordinated and cohesive responses.

It will ensure that carers are supported so that they are able to sustainably provide care, in a way that supports their own mental health and the health of those who they are caring for.

The ACT Greens will:

» Invest \$250,000 into the development of a Carers Strategy.

In the longer term, we need more than a strategy - we need real commitment to adequate resources to support the strategy. That is what the Greens will push for if elected to the Assembly. This will ensure that we truly recognise and value the role of carers in our community.



# MARRIAGE AND MORE

## Standing Up for Full Equality

The Greens will continue to fight for LGBTIQ rights – every MP, every vote, every time.

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The ACT Greens believe in a Canberra that recognises and celebrates diversity. We understand that acceptance, celebration and representation of diversity are essential for genuine social justice and equality.

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The ACT Greens believe that freedom of sexual orientation and gender identity are fundamental human rights. We understand that acceptance, celebration and representation of diversity are essential for genuine social justice and equality; and we believe in a Canberra that recognises and celebrates diversity.

Canberra is a vibrant and diverse city, and we are richer because of our diversity. Sadly, there is still bigotry and intolerance in our community and in our laws. The ACT Greens believe that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer people should be treated equally under our laws and in our community.

### > Recognising Love

The ACT Greens will continue to fight for marriage equality under Australian law and stand with the LGBTI community against the damaging and divisive plebiscite. As we continue to campaign and advocate to end discrimination under our laws, we will introduce legislation to the Legislative Assembly to allow formal recognition of same sex couples who were married overseas. The change will allow married same sex couples to formally reflect their marital status in various ways – such as on official forms and documents.

Same-sex couples who are married will no longer have to declare that they are not married, ensuring a greater level of recognition for many in our community.

### > Banning Dangerous ‘Conversion’ Therapy

Reparative Therapy, or ‘Conversion’ Therapy as it is often referred to, is a dangerous tactic that often leads to anxiety, depression, substance abuse and suicide among LGBTI people. The ACT Greens will legislate to ensure that Reparative Therapy is banned in the Territory.

### > A Gender Health Clinic

The ACT Greens celebrate diversity, and recognise that a social inclusive society must also support diverse responses to unique issues.

We understand that some members of the broad LGBTI community face stigma and barriers to accessing certain health services, and that in particular, the intersex community often struggle to find appropriate specialist medical and psychosocial support services in Canberra.

That is why the ACT Greens will:

- » Create a new “Gender Health Centre” that brings together specialists and services across different medical areas, including primary health and mental health, and takes a lead advocacy role in the development of training of health professionals and creating enhanced supportive trans-sexual health pathways; and
- » Increase funding to expand the reach of LGBTI generalist health services and ensure access to long term and affordable specialist health and counselling services. The ACT Greens will invest in increased access to community based rapid testing and work to ensure that the ACT is able to take advantage of any new technologies such as PrEP as they become available.

*The ACT Greens have already committed to:*

- » Support a public “yes” campaign in the ACT if the Federal Government’s plebiscite goes ahead;
- » Dedicate up to \$500,000 of additional funding to LGBTI support services (above and beyond any other funding increases) for the purpose of supporting LGBTI people who are subjected to discrimination or harassment as a result of the “no” campaign; and
- » Establish a new ACT Commissioner for LGBTI people to hear and help resolve complaints about discrimination and vilification faced by LGBTI people in the ACT.

Canberra was the first place in the country to legalise same sex marriage - and while it was quashed by the High Court, the fight is not over. The Greens will always support marriage equality - every vote, every MP, every time.

However, marriage equality is not the only challenge that young LGBTI people are facing.

Disappointingly, prejudice still exists within our homes, schools, universities and workplaces; and LGBTI youth disproportionately suffer from mental illness and are at risk of suicide and self-harm.

The wasteful, damaging plebiscite; and the Turnbull Government’s reckless willingness to expose LGBTI people to a harmful “no” campaign poses a real threat to our LGBTI community. The ACT Greens will stand with the LGBTI community against this threat.



# OUR DIVERSE COMMUNITY

## Diversity and equality for everyone

Investing in our multicultural community and a more equal, accepting Canberra

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Our plan to invest in Canberra's multicultural communities and ensure that all Canberrans have equal rights & opportunities

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All people, regardless of their ethnicity, culture, religion, language or place of birth, have equal rights in our society. Our diversity is a source of our strength and a key part of what makes the ACT such a vibrant place to live.

The ACT Greens want support our multicultural communities to connect with their language and culture, and to build relationships with each other and the broader Canberra community. Recent public attacks on religious and ethnic groups highlights have shown that need to continue to educate our community about diversity and the rights of all people to live without being discriminated or vilified on the basis of their faith, race or ethnicity.

The ACT Greens will:

- » Increase funding for advocacy and representation, and establishing a multicultural advisory body
- » Improve community facilities for multicultural communities
- » Conduct a feasibility study for a new Multicultural Centre in Gungahlin
- » Instruct the ACT Human Rights Commission to combat racial and religious vilification
- » Provide increased funding for community language schools

### > Multicultural Advisory Body

Multicultural communities are supported by small voluntary groups and organisations who work tirelessly to advocate for the needs of their diverse communities. Unfortunately these communities are locked out of decision making through lack of resource and opportunities to make their voices heard.

The ACT Greens will put the multicultural community first by:

- » Establishing an Multicultural Advisory Board
- » Empowering the Multicultural Advisory Board to give an ongoing voice to multicultural communities in government decision making; and
- » Convening a Multicultural summit
- » Assisting with the implementation of an ACT Multicultural Policy; and
- » Providing increased funding for community sector advocacy and representation

### > More community facilities

The ACT Greens understand the need for communities to have places where they can come together, meet, celebrate and support each other.

While some of our more established multicultural communities have their own premises, many of our new and emerging communities are left waiting for access to existing facilities, or for land to build their own community centres.



We understand that there are many government facilities that are under utilised, and that parts of Canberra with growing multicultural communities lack the facilities of other parts of Canberra.

The ACT Greens will put the multicultural community first by:

- » Implementing a program to increase community access to government facilities such as school halls, building on the success of a similar program for local sporting groups; and
- » Conducting a feasibility study to examine the establishment of a multicultural community centre in Gungahlin, including needs analysis and community consultation.

## **> Combatting racial and religious vilification**

The vilification of certain religious minority groups, in particular Muslim Australians, is increasingly becoming a problem – both nationally and in the ACT. The ACT Greens recently introduced legislation to ensure that individuals could not be vilified, based on their religion. Vilification is not the same thing as engaging in genuine discussion and debate on issues of culture and religion.

The ACT Greens will instruct the ACT Human Rights Commission to:

- » Help educate our community about what religious vilification is (and isn't);
- » Respond to and address complaints of religious vilification; and
- » Support delivery of the national anti-racism campaign.

## **> Funding community language schools**

The ACT Greens understand the value of our community language schools in helping people to connect to their cultural background, and that bilingualism and multilingualism are important ways to strengthen inter-cultural understanding in our community.

Currently funding for ACT community language schools is not being increased to meet increasing numbers of students and rising costs.

The ACT Greens will:

- » Boost annual funding by 20% for the Community Language Schools Association, and to tie future funding increases to both CPI and student numbers.



# INVESTING IN OUR ARTS

## Supporting Canberra's Artists

Our \$19 million plan to invest in Canberra's creative arts and artistic community.

The ACT Greens value the role of arts in our society. We understand that a vibrant, diverse and innovative arts sector is at the heart of any thriving society.

Our artists and creative industries not only enrich our community and our lives, they also contribute to our economy and local employment.

Putting the community first means funding and supporting our creative organisations and artists who enrich so many aspects of our lives. It means standing up to the Liberals' attacks on our national institutions and keeping politicians' personal preferences out of artistic funding decisions.

The ACT Greens will:

1. Invest \$1.2 million over 4 years for cultural and events-based tourism grants to promote and support Canberra's artists
2. Invest \$100,000 to establish entertainment precincts throughout the ACT
3. Provide \$500,000 per year for a Curator for the City
4. Invest \$250,000 per year for the Urban and Street Art Coordinator
5. Create a \$50,000 per year night time diversity micro-grants scheme to support the introduction of alcohol-free entertainment options
6. Commit \$15 million to Belconnen Arts Centre Stage 2
7. Reinstate developer incentives for public art
8. 10 x \$10,000 commissions in an expansion of the funky bike racks scheme

The Greens support a thriving live music and events scene in Canberra, grow our night time economy and enhance our arts tourism. We want to promote creativity and a greater level of excitement and social interaction.

### > Promoting and supporting Canberra's arts & events

Canberra's unique lifestyle and cultural scene has so much to offer to attract visitors to our city.

The ACT Greens will develop a program to promote Canberra as an arts and events destination by:

- » Investing an additional \$300,000 per year for arts and events grants programs to assist local artists to showcase the local arts and entertainment in Canberra and interstate. This will help local artists to be competitive with interstate artists and performers who receive state based funding.
- » Set minimum local content percentages for major events such as Enlighten, Floriade and the annual Multicultural Festival;
- » Ensure payment of local artists for their work;
- » Providing funding pathways for local companies to make major works for flagship festivals;
- » Providing seed funding for local arts based festivals such as Design Canberra, Art Not Apart, You Are Here and other music festivals and arts and cultural activities;
- » Extending the Artist-in residence program to

Government huts in Namadgi and rural villages, and provide for an indigenous artist in residence program;

- » Further develop and implement an ACT Events Strategy that showcases Canberra's local talent and feature major arts and music events of regional and cultural importance;

- » Nurture partnerships between government, local business, and artists, including minimum percentage of local artist content in events such as Enlighten and Floriade;

- » Fight for funding for the national cultural institutions, and encourage them to work together to promote events building on the success of events such as Enlighten and the National Writers Festival; and

- » Support Canberra to become an Australian City of Design under the UNESCO creative cities network.

## **> Entertainment Precincts**

Canberra's music and events culture has evolved organically with entertainment venues popping up everywhere from the city to town centres and at local shops.

While this is a demonstration of our creative and lively city, to address the growing conflict between residents and entertainment venues the ACT Greens will establish designated Entertainment Precincts where music and events will be encouraged.

This will include:

- » Investing \$100,000 to consult with the community to define entertainment precincts in the Territory Plan (for example in the City, Phillip, Belconnen, Mitchell and EPIC) over the next 12 months;

- » Providing information to people moving into these areas about the higher noise levels they should expect at night-time;

- » Requiring buildings in the precinct to meet higher acoustic standards. This could include co-funding for noise attenuation as in Melbourne;

- » Applying principles for open window measurement at affected premises; and

- » Applying the principle of order of occupancy to protect existing venues from complaints that may arise from subsequent residential developments.

We would also pursue further measures to prevent alcohol-related violence in entertainment precincts including stronger penalties for breaching 'responsible service of alcohol' laws, better enforcement of these laws and an improved approach to risk-based licensing.

## **> Night time entertainment diversity micro-fund**

The ACT Greens want to see a greater diversity of night time events that aren't reliant on alcohol. We know that many venues derive a significant portion of their revenue from alcohol consumption.

We also know that entertainers who choose to put on events away from licensed venues struggle to cover their set-up, transport or marketing costs.

Many of us enjoy a drink, but the Greens believe it is important to provide a variety of night time entertainment options so that people who don't want to be in alcohol-related/focused environments can go out and have a good time too.

The ACT Greens will:

- » Invest \$150,000 to establish an entertainment diversity micro-grants fund to help artists and community groups hold events where alcohol is not served or consumed.

These will be delivered through rounds of competitive grants where applicants will be eligible for small grants of up to \$2,000 to cover costs relating to set up, transport and marketing costs.

## **> Commit \$15 million to build Belconnen Arts Centre Stage 2**

Belconnen Arts Centre has been a fantastic hub for the Belconnen Community since it opened in 2009. It was always intended to be a 2 stage project and with BAC reaching its limits, it is time to commit to completing stage 2.

Stage 2 will double the capacity of the Belconnen Arts Centre, adding a major multi purpose space, foyer, rehearsal room and supporting utilities. It will allow for minor rectifications of Stage 1 to better leverage the existing dance studios and workshops. Stage 2 will complete the missing landscaping around the building, linking the the lake foreshore with Emu Bank.

## **> Curator for the City**

We all know that our city centre needs a bit of love. We need to put energy and creativity into activating the street life in our city, so it can realise its potential as the focal point for entertainment in Canberra.

This would include curating a calendar of cultural events throughout the year that builds on successful examples like Floriade in Spring, Enlighten in Autumn, the Design Canberra Festival and the National Folk Festival at Easter;

### **The ACT Greens will invest \$1.75 million to create a new role of Curator for the City to:**

- » Improve programming of events throughout the year for local artists and musicians
- » Enhance “place-making” by co-ordinating projects to improve the public domain
- » Provide a 24 hour presence or “eyes on the street” in collaboration with social service providers, youth workers and ACT policing
- » Encourage a more diverse range of night-time activities available in the city thus creating a more people-friendly night-time culture

- » Negotiate with building owners to improve street level activation and to facilitate affordable arts spaces
- » Coordinate with City Services maintenance of the public domain, including pavement repair and street tree replacement
- » Work with City Services to establish an activity node in Haig Park at the end of Lonsdale Street
- » Participate in the industry / government co-regulatory roundtable.

## **> Reinstate incentives for public art in new developments**

The Greens want to see art integrated with new developments, to ensure that the private sector is also contributing to public art in our community. The ACT Greens will ensure that the Lease Variation Charge remissions scheme includes public art.

## **> 10 x \$10,000 commissions to expand funky bike racks**

Sparked by Minister for TAMS, Shane Rattenbury, the ACT Government rolled out a small scale funky bike rack program last Assembly, whereby four local ACT artists were commissioned \$10,000 to deliver artistic bike racks for installation around Canberra. The program attracted strong support from the community, and the bike racks are helping make Canberra just a bit more fun.

The ACT Greens will:

- » Roll out two more \$50,000 tranches of the program over the next 4 years of government.

## **> Urban and Street Art Coordinator**

Street or urban art is a growing cultural movement and has so much potential to invigorate to our urban public

spaces. At the same time, we are seeing that illegal graffiti can greatly reduce the amenity of our suburban landscape.

That's why the ACT Greens will continue to fund the Urban and Street Art Coordinator to:

- » Continue to engage with urban and street artists, businesses and government to identify potential sites and opportunities for commissioned work;
- » Work to increase the number of legal graffiti sites for street artists
- » Work with graffiti artists to direct illegal graffiti art to legal sites
- » Commission several murals from a grants fund.



# CLUBS FOR PEOPLE

## Not For Pokies

The Greens will put people before pokies and reduce gambling harm

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Putting the community first means standing up to the gambling lobby and those who profit from pokies and demanding that they take harm minimisation seriously.

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Putting the community first means standing up to the gambling lobby and those who profit from pokies and demanding that they take harm minimisation seriously if they want to be a part of our community. The Greens believe that a business model that relies on revenue from problem gambling is a broken business model - and we want to support clubs and our community to move away from pokies machines and start taking problem gambling seriously.

Pokie machines are designed to be highly addictive and distort a player's perception of winning. In the ACT the gambling industry has long fought a long battle against effective harm minimisation. The ACT currently has more pokies per capita than any other state or territory, and the suffering they cause through problem gambling, to families and our community is real. The time has come for the ACT to take gambling harm seriously and to introduce effective measures to minimise gambling harm in our community.

### **> Introduce \$1 maximum bets and mandatory pre-commitment on all EGMs**

Pokies are addictive and manipulative and can do huge damage to individuals, families and our community.

While counselling and support is often a crucial part of addressing addiction, no amount of post-crisis counselling is going to be as effective as reducing the amount of money someone can pump through a machine. That's why the ACT Greens will work with the clubs industry to:

» Introduce \$1 maximum bets, \$120 per hour maximum losses and mandatory pre-commitment technology in the next term of the Assembly.

Introducing mandatory precommitment allows people to decide how much they are willing to lose before pushing that first button. The Productivity Commission advises that these measures are the most effective way to tackle problem gambling without unduly impacting on recreational gamblers.

### **> Decrease the total number of pokies by 30% over 10 years**

Pokies are addictive and manipulative and can do huge damage to individuals, families and our community.

The ACT currently has the highest rate of pokies per capita of any Australian State or Territory at 16.5 EGMS per 1000 adults.

While some of these machines are in storage, the ACT Greens believe that taking harm minimisation seriously means reducing the total number of pokies machines that could be used both now and in the future.

The ACT Greens will:

- » Lower the number of EGMs from 16.5 EGMs per 1000 adults to 10 EGMs per 1000 adults over 10 years, to bring us in line with the national average.

### **> Complimentary harm minimisation**

Harm minimisation is most effective when delivered in a complementary suite of measures that reach gamblers at multiple times and locations. This is why the ACT Greens will introduce a package of harm minimisation measures with a focus on:

- » Limits on ATM and Eftpos withdrawals at all gambling venues,
- » Restrictions on how jackpots are paid,
- » Increased funding for education, research and counselling,
- » Increased signage in venues, and
- » Restrictions on loyalty programs.

A strong public health approach to harm minimisation requires a combination of different measures to deliver an effective response to a dangerous problem that overwhelmingly impacts the most vulnerable in our community.

### **> Increase the rate of mandatory community contributions and the Problem Gambling Assistance Fund levy**

ACT Clubs are currently required to make community contributions at a minimum rate of 8% of Net Gaming Machine Revenue.

This amounted to \$11 Million last year. 64% of this money went towards sports and recreation. The ACT Greens believe that clubs have a social responsibility to contribute to the broader community, particularly if they are relying on revenue that causes social, financial and health-related harms to Canberrans who struggle with problem gambling.

That's why the ACT Greens will:

- » Increase the minimum rate of community contributions from 8% to 10% and direct the extra 2% into a central fund managed by an independent government appointed board for disbursement. Community groups will be able to apply to the fund for grants, delivering an extra \$1.88 million to community programs.

- » Increase the Problem Gambling Assistance Fund (PGAF) Levy from 0.6% to 1% of the Gross Gaming Machine Revenue and direct the additional revenue into a problem gambling taskforce as recommended by the ANU Centre for Gambling Research during the PAC inquiry.

Increasing the PGAF levy will deliver around \$650,000 of additional revenue to help combat gambling harm through targeted research and service delivery.

### **> Ban gambling donations to political parties**

It's time to make sure our politicians are listening to the community and not the gaming lobby. This year the Clubs industry has taken the radical step of funding a front party to protect their gambling monopoly. The Greens will always put people before pokies - in the Assembly and in the community. That means keeping profits from destructive poker machines out of political parties and out of our democratic processes.



The Canberra Liberals have been channelling political donations from NSW through more lenient ACT laws. The Canberra Labor Club made \$25 million from its poker machines last year and has channeled millions of dollars to an obscure associated entity, the 1973 Foundation, which invests in property and donates to the Labor Party's ACT branch.

It is no longer acceptable for the ACT Labor party to bankroll their campaigns with money extracted from some of our community's most vulnerable members.

## **A TRANSITION PACKAGE FOR CLUBS**

The ACT Greens recognise the role that clubs play in our community, but believe that the social license to profit from pokie machines has expired. That is why we will assist clubs to reduce their reliance on poker machines with the following measures.

### **> Reward harm minimisation measures with tax rebates for leading clubs**

The ACT Greens believe that harm minimisation should be incentivised as part of a raft of measures to encourage clubs to reduce harm and diversify their revenue base.

The ACT Greens will:

- » Investigate differential tax rates for clubs that have better problem gambling measures in place; and
- » Investigate a grant-based scheme to assist smaller clubs with fewer financial resources to implement harm minimisation measures who will then be able to access a lower taxation rate (and continue to diversify their revenue sources).

### **> Water for community clubs**

The Greens recognise the important role that many clubs play in supporting community sports. Given the role of clubs as places of community gathering, recreation and enjoyment. To reduce the financial burden on clubs, the ACT Greens will subsidise water use for community purposes.

The ACT Greens will:

- » Investigate an extension to the community Water Abstraction Charge subsidy for clubs who have a substantial community sporting use of their ovals and greens.

### **> Review liquor licensing laws**

The ACT Greens support the risk-based liquor licensing fee regime in the ACT. However, we recognise that clubs have asserted they have lower risk of alcohol-related harms than is reflected in the regime, which assesses risk based on factors such as trading hours and venue capacity.

Therefore, the ACT Greens will:

- » Conduct a review of the liquor licensing fee regime to ensure clubs and other licensed venues are paying fees that genuinely reflect their risk of alcohol-related harms considering factors such as compliance history, best practice management and number of violent incidents.

### **> Ensure a level playing field**

The ACT Greens have already announced that we will not support the Canberra Casino having poker machines unless they implement the Productivity Commission's recommendations for mandatory pre-commitment and \$1 bet limits per spins. In addition, other regulatory measures should address the Clubs and the Casino in equivalent ways.



## **> Establish a red tape reduction team**

The ACT Greens value the role that clubs play in our community as social and sporting hubs. We want to make it easier for clubs to do business without relying on poker machine revenue.

The ACT Greens will:

- » Establish a red tape reduction team, in partnership with clubs, to work on a series of reforms to make it easier for clubs to do business; and
- » Consult with the Community Clubs Taskforce and with the Canberra Business Council to support a business diversification case manager for clubs to provide advice and assistance as they diversify their business.



## EMPOWERING BUSINESS

# To contribute to a sustainable Canberra

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The ACT Greens believe that when business, government and the community work together we see more innovation and more efficiency.

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Business plays an important role in our community and our economy. The ACT Greens believe that when business, government and the community sector work together we see better outcomes for Canberra, more innovation and more efficiency.

The ACT Greens believe that the government has a role in creating the conditions that empower businesses to achieve positive economic, social and environmental outcomes in the ACT.

The ACT Greens want a city that attracts talent and stems the brain drain that occurs as young innovators move away and take their ideas with them. The ACT Greens will support the establishment of Innovation Districts, building on the connections to Universities and research institutions where start-ups can thrive. This requires a vibrant cultural life, proximity and a walkable cyclable city with good public transport, including light rail.

### > **Supporting social enterprises and local business**

If our community and our economy are going to flourish we must support our local businesses and organisations who are investing in, and contributing to, our community.

The ACT Greens support procurement policies that give more weighting to social enterprises and local businesses, provided that overall value is still assured compared with interstate companies. We want the ACT Government to be viewed as a client of choice by local businesses.

That's why the ACT Greens will:

- » Provide \$150,000 in additional funding support for the ACT Microcredit Program to target identified gaps for young people and people with disabilities to help them establish businesses;
- » Enhance ACT procurement frameworks to increase opportunities for small and local business to win ACT Government work through transparent weighting, including support for social enterprises;
- » Commit to streamlined procurement and regulatory environment, working with industry to identify and remove unnecessary delays in procurement processes.
- » Ensure that the ACT is an ethical purchaser that does not require companies to do unreasonable amounts of unpaid work as part of interactive tendering processes, particularly for small and medium sized projects.

### > **Advance the Australia Forum**

Canberra is a growing city and part of a thriving regional economy with global connections.

We have the potential to be a regional hub for business, industry, diplomats, government and the community sector to meet for conferences and events.

The business events sector is a major economic driver, for tourism, trade, investment and employment. The ACT Greens understand that investing in the Australian Forum, is investing in Canberra's long term future. We already have a potential site on London Circuit near City Hill and a wonderful reference design by Massimiliano Fuksas. Now we need to get to work in making this vision a reality. This iconic building, on such a significant site, has the power to transform the city and anchor this corner of the parliamentary triangle.

The ACT Greens will:

- » Work with the private sector with particular expertise in the business event industry and property development to peer review previous cost benefit analysis and further refine the detailed business case for the Australia Forum. This should be undertaken within the context of the immediate precinct around the site;
- » Work with the local business community to develop potential funding models and to source funds for the the project;
- » Continue to work with the Federal Government to secure Commonwealth funding support;
- » Formally commit the land for the project on site bounded by Constitution Avenue, Vernon Circle Commonwealth Avenue and London Circuit as a major ACT Government contribution. Also ensure that any investment in off site infrastructure works such as roads, services or construction of adjacent buildings is consistent with, and contributes to this project;
- » Rezone the site of the existing National Convention Centre to allow maximum range of uses and commit the proceeds from sale of the facility.

This would be done in a way that would allow funds to flow to the project while ensuring the current facility can be used until the Australia Forum is constructed and fully operational.

We have a vision for a conference centre for Canberra and will take the next steps towards a workable funding model. The Australian Forum has the power to connect the city centre to Parliament House, the national institutions and to the life of the nation and to become a centre for diplomacy and international dialogue.

## **> Committee for Canberra**

The ACT Greens believe that our city, and our economy, thrive when business, government and the community sector work together. That's why the ACT Greens will work with industry groups to establish a Committee for Canberra, an idea from the Canberra Business Chambers *Roadmap to 2030*, to bring these organisations together to champion Canberra.

The ACT Greens will establish a Committee for Canberra to:

- » Bring business, industry, government and community organisations together to provide independent research and expertise about Canberra's economy and liveability;
- » Provide advice and advocacy on the challenges and opportunities that Canberra faces, and the ways in which the government, business and community sectors can respond; and
- » Champion Canberra both within and beyond our region to encourage regional tourism and investment.

## **> Promote recreational tourism**

Canberra is connected with the broader region, and the country, through our world-class universities, cultural facilities, entertainment, music and arts and health care facilities.

The Greens believe that Canberra's international connections including our embassies and international flight will be vital to our economic and cultural future. Our regional links are also important with the Kings, Monaro, Barton and Federal Highways providing links to the snow, the pristine south coast and regional food and wine.

To achieve this, the ACT Greens will:

- » Establish an eco-tourism coordinator to promote Canberra as tourism destination for niche markets like mountain biking, horse riding and nature based tourism and heritage. Attractions that could be included in packed tours include the Arboretum, Stromlo Forest Park, Kowen Forest, Majura Pines, Tidbinbilla, The Botanic Gardens, Mulligans Flat Sanctuary, Jerrabomberra Wetlands and Ginninderra Falls. Targeted promotion would include promotion through social media, specialist magazines and tourism agencies and advertising such as the airport; and
- » Apply the CBR local brand to promote burgeoning local food and wine producers and tap into niche foodie tourism market, with a reputation for clean green regional food. Attractions could include the farmers markets, our great restaurants, and cycle tours to great food outlets eg Pialago, via Kingston foreshore and the Wetlands.

### **> Establish a Canberra Tech partnership**

The digital age presents Canberra with incredible opportunities and challenges. Just as Canberra is leading the nation with our clean energy targets as the world transitions towards a clean-energy economy; the ACT Greens believe that the digital age offers Canberra the opportunity to become a knowledge city and a national leader in the digital economy along with other growth industries such as renewable energy and hi tech waste technologies.

There are great opportunities to foster links and knowledge sharing between our education sector, including our schools, universities and the CIT, and the private and public sectors.

The ACT Greens will establish a Canberra Tech Advisory Body to ensure Canberra can seize the opportunities of the digital age. This could be based on the UK Tech Partnership model. It would:

- » Provide policy advice to ACT Government;
- » Create pathways between education and working life, matching skills with growth industries;
- » Remove barriers to employment of ICT graduates in the sector; and
- » Promote opportunities for international students in the trade of products, ideas and innovation.

### **> Promoting Canberra arts and creative content**

Canberra is full of talent. The ACT Greens believe that the government has a role in showcasing that talent and helping emerging businesses, industries and enterprises to flourish.

That's why the ACT Greens will:

- » Further develop and implement an ACT Events Strategy that showcases Canberra's local talent and feature major arts and music events of regional and national significance. This would include curating a calendar of Cultural events throughout the year that builds on successful examples like Floriade and the Design Canberra Festival in Spring and the National Folk Festival at Easter;
- » Develop a night time economy with defined entertainment precincts. Venues and local performers could be promoted to a wider audience in a more coordinated way, building on facilities such as the Kingston Cultural Precinct, Ainslie Gorman Art Centre, the School of Music and curated spaces like New Acton with the Art not Apart festivals, and other galleries and live music venues;

- » Set a minimum local content percentages for major events such as Enlighten, Floriade and the annual Multicultural Festival;
- » Ensure payment of local artists for their work;
- » Fight for funding for the national cultural institutions, and encourage them to work together to promote events building on the success of events such as Enlighten and the National Writers Festival; and
- » Support Canberra to become an Australian City of Design under the UNESCO creative cities network.

## **> Promote development of Innovation Districts and co-working hubs**

The ACT Greens will support the development of Innovation Districts to help attract creative people to visit and live in Canberra. We want to ensure there are employment opportunities and pathways for young people.

As our economy shifts, and the type of work that people do changes, there has been an increase in the number of people looking for short, medium and long-term co-working spaces. This is particularly the case for sole operators, smaller organisations and micro businesses.

The ACT Greens will support co-working spaces and knowledge hubs that cluster creative people. This will build on our Universities, ICT start ups, the clean energy sector, in locations that have close access to coffee shops, bars and active cultural precincts with arts and live music and public transport.

The ACT Greens believe that these businesses and organisations make valuable contributions to our community and our economy, and are committed to supporting their operation by:

- Funding a “CBRmicro” Coordinator to help coordinate spaces for co-working hubs across the city for emerging businesses

and artists, building on the work of the Canberra Innovation Network;

- » Supporting the establishment of contemporary, collaborative work spaces in priority areas. The coordinator could help identify underutilised ACT Government properties and offer building owners of vacant properties in prime locations in the city and town centres or local shops rate reductions for 12-18 months to establish co-working hubs; and
- » Establishing a network of available co-working spaces, and a register of interested organisations and businesses, to facilitate not only finding organisations a suitable co-working space but to match them with organisations and businesses that are likely to complement their work.





# **STRONG COMMUNITY SECTOR**

## **Valuing & Supporting the Community Sector**

Investing in peak bodies, advocacy and service providers.

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**The ACT Greens greatly value the work of the community sector, and respect the services provided by peak bodies as well as advocacy and service organisations**

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### **> BETTER USING THE FUNDS FROM THE 0.34% LEVY**

The community sector is one of the larger employers in the ACT, and is facing unparalleled challenges in terms of responding to the uncertainty of federal funding, and increasingly complex and growing client needs and client loads.

The ACT Greens are aware that a Community Services Industry Plan is being developed to support the ACT community sector through a period of significant structural adjustment, and that this plan will consider the best use of the existing funds raised by the 0.34% levy that has been imposed on the sector to support a range of work on improving efficiencies.

We will work closely with ACTCOSS and the other peak bodies to establish cross sectoral agreement on what support is needed to ensure meaningful, equitable and efficient outcomes for the sector.

### **> REFINING COMMUNITY GRANTS**

We will work with the sector, and ACT Government

Procurement guidelines to move to longer term and more simple contracts for proven services and programs. Wherever possible, we will provide for at least three months notice of expiry of shorter term funding agreements to prevent uncertainty and allow for adequate planning.

We will also take an innovation approach to support short term grants specifically designed to test, trial and pilot small scale projects that allows services to be more innovative and creative.

### **> FUNDING NEW RESEARCH GRANTS**

In the 2012 Parliamentary Agreement, the ACT Greens secured funding for a cross-sectoral consortium to explore a range of housing and homelessness issues, and saw four peak bodies work together in new and beneficial ways.

We believe that more opportunities for this type of properly resourced collaboration can help broaden the focus of the local research undertaken, and create a

fertile ground for new and emerging issues to be explored, similar to the successful commonwealth ARC linkage grants.

## > CROSS SECTOR SKILL SHARING

The ACT is extremely lucky to be a small jurisdiction, where longstanding professional relationships can occur over years as people maintain their employment and interest in the community sector. However, there can at times be quite a distinction between Government and non-government understanding of issues and policy needs.

To improve the mutual professional respect and more in-depth understanding of both sector's policy drivers, the ACT Greens will actively pursue opportunities for staff across both sectors to share project work and support short term "community service providers in residence" programs that will break down some of the business as usual barriers.

The Greens will fund a dedicated coordinator to foster linkages between community organisations and government to identify opportunities and facilitate processes and agreements for skills exchange.

## > COMMUNITY PEAKS CABINET

The ACT is home to many professional and well regarded local peak bodies, representing the diverse views of their members and advocating for thousands of Canberrans who are affiliated with these member groups. As such they hold a wealth of information and positive, constructive ideas, and should be respected for their unique perspective on the decisions of government which affect them and the broader community.

The ACT Greens respect and value the role of these sometimes "critical friends" - agencies funded by government to listen to the community, and who are regularly called on to provide advice to Ministers and the Assembly, support consultation mechanisms and

create a fertile ground for new and emerging issues submit territory wide budget submissions.

That is why we would host an annual Community Peaks Cabinet (*all peaks - Cons Council, ACTCOSS, Multi Culti Forum, ATSIEB, Youth Coalition etc, and All Ministers and Head of Service*) to listen to their feedback and engage with them on suggested improvements for interactions with government Directorates.

## > FUNDING ADVOCACY

The broader community sector is generally funded by government to undertake specific functions, such as social support services, and yet are more and more being called to represent their sectors and their clients interests at steering committees, oversight groups and other fora - without these duties being explicitly referenced or resourced in their contracts. Attendance at these engagements necessitates time away from their core funded responsibilities, and the services have historically had to juggle priorities in order to attend and provide their sector knowledge and insight.

The ACT Greens believe that this work should be properly valued and resourced. We will provide a per diem sitting fee for representatives of small community organisations with funding under \$350,000 where their expertise is requested for the purposes of contributing to government policy. This will apply to organisations that are not funded to provide advocacy, but rather are funded to provide direct service to vulnerable people in our community. In this way, the voice of the community becomes recognised as a vital component of government policy development.





# IMPROVING JUSTICE IN THE ACT

## Reducing crime & supporting victims

Our \$11.2 million plan to keep people out of prison and make our community safer.

The ACT Greens believe that if we want safer communities we need to invest in addressing the causes of crime, not just lock people up.

If we want safer communities, it is time for new thinking in Australia. Justice reinvestment is a smarter approach to criminal justice: reducing crime by directing resources into stronger, more caring communities, not just locking people up.

### **The ACT Greens will:**

- » Establish a specialised ACT Drug and Alcohol Court to reduce drug abuse, crime and drug related harms in the ACT
- » Provide \$3million in additional funding for the ACT's Community Legal Centres to improve access to justice – especially for disadvantaged groups – and make the justice system more efficient.
- » Reduce recidivism by 25% by 2025 by investing \$3.5 million in 'justice reinvestment';
- » Improve access to justice by increasing ACT Court funding, including ACAT;
- » Introduce 'right to appeal' laws to ensure people imprisoned for serious crimes can make a new appeal where fresh and compelling evidence emerges that should be examined in the interests of justice;
- » Legislate for a Charter of Victims' Rights to assist victims of crime in the ACT, especially by highlighting their needs and their status in the justice system.

### **> Alcohol and Other Drug Court**

An alcohol and other drug court is a specialist court empowered to direct drug dependent persons charged with certain criminal offences to treatment and rehabilitation programmes, with a view to reducing or eliminating their dependency on or propensity to misuse drugs, and reducing related criminal activities. Alcohol and Other Drug Courts improve communities by addressing addictions, preventing drug-related crime, reducing impaired driving, achieving better social and family outcomes, and saving money for the taxpayer by reducing prison populations.

The ACT Greens will:

- » Establish an AODC which operates to best-practice standards to reduce drug abuse and crime in the ACT;
- » Introduce legislation and guidelines to establish and govern a best practice AODC for the ACT, including key elements such as eligibility and court procedures;
- » Provide resources to establish the new court, including for an additional magistrate and cultural adviser; and

crime, reducing recidivism and better targeting rehabilitation and therapeutic funds.

» Provide an additional \$1 million a year in funding to suitable treatment providers to collaborate with the court and ensure people receive appropriate treatment.

### > **Fund Community Legal Centres**

Canberra's Community Legal Centres improve access to justice, especially for vulnerable Canberrans. Their frontline delivery and advocacy saves costs further down the line. An independent economic cost-benefit analysis of Community Legal Centres determined that every \$1 the Government spends on CLCs returns \$18 of economic benefits accrued to society. These include financial, social and health benefits as well as removing pressure on the court system.

Despite this, CLC funding has been significantly cut by the Federal Government and the ACT Government has failed to adequately protect them.

The ACT Greens will:

» Invest an additional \$3 million to protect ACT Community Legal Centres from cuts and bolster their ability to deliver crucial services.

Funding will go to CLCs including the Women's Legal Centre, Canberra Community Law, Street Law and the Environmental Defenders Office.

### > **Justice Reinvestment**

We know that that more can be done to improve community safety and reduce criminal behaviour. The ACT Greens believe we must invest in preventing

By using Justice Reinvestment principles, and continuing the Justice Reform Strategy, the Greens are aiming for a 25 % reduction in recidivism by 2025.

The ACT Greens will:

» Provide an additional \$3.5 million over three and a half years towards Justice Reinvestment initiatives aimed at preventing and reducing crime;  
» Continue the existing Justice Reinvestment trial working with families of detainees; and  
» Explore a dedicated Indigenous Extended Through Care Unit.

### > **Better Funding for our Courts**

The ACT justice system is facing genuine pressures. Justice delayed is justice denied - for all parties, including victims. The ACT Greens will ensure our courts run effectively and efficiently by improving resourcing for ACT Courts.

The ACT Greens will:

» Provide an additional \$450K for ACT Courts to meet immediate pressures; and  
» Conduct an independent review to explore the resourcing required to run an efficient Supreme Court, ACAT and Magistrates Court - including the Coroner's Court. This review will identify resource requirements in the future as well as efficiency and administration improvements.

## **> Justice for the Innocent**

The ACT lacks appropriate 'right to appeal' laws to help address instances of wrongful conviction. Right to appeal laws allow a person who has been found guilty of a serious crime to make a new appeal where fresh and compelling evidence emerges that should be examined in the interests of justice; for example where new DNA evidence shows that the person convicted did not commit the crime.

The ACT Greens will:

» Introduce legislation to the ACT Assembly to create a 'right to appeal' law in the ACT. The law will establish a simple process for a convicted person to appeal, when fresh and compelling evidence comes to light, that begins with an initial judicial hearing of a single judge.

## **> Charter of Victims' Rights**

Victims of crime and their families and friends often suffer ongoing harm and difficulties as a result of the crime, and as a result of their engagement with the criminal justice system. The ACT Greens will put the community first by introducing an ACT Rights of Victims of Crime Charter.

The Rights of Victims of Crimes Charter will spell out the rights of victims of crime, the obligations that agencies and others have when dealing with victims of crime, and establish a complaints resolution process for situations where the charter is breached.