

## The Greens (WA) 2017 policy

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### Seniors

The Greens (WA) vision is of a Western Australia where seniors<sup>1</sup> are healthier, feel secure, and are valued active participants in all aspects of community life.

*The Greens (WA) believe that:*

- a positive approach to the ageing of our population is needed
- the participation of seniors in our community life should be maximised and the contribution of their knowledge and experience should be valued
- supporting seniors to maintain their mobility and their participation in our economic and community life which improves their health, well-being and quality of life and benefits the whole community
- seniors have the right to live with dignity
- the skills, experiences, wisdom and memories of older Australians are assets which benefit the whole community
- seniors have equal rights to participate in the social, economic and political aspects of life
- there should be no discrimination against seniors entering or remaining in the workforce
- seniors have the right to maintain their independence to the extent and for as long as they are able to do so
- seniors are entitled to an adequate income
- the State government must play a central role in the provision, regulation and support of services for older Australians, such as housing, transport and care services
- a focus on preventative health and early intervention can help older Australians maintain their mobility, well-being and participation and reduce the demand for chronic health services. (see also The Greens (WA) [Health](#) policy)

### **Aims**

*The Greens (WA) want:*

- to promote interdependence and respect for seniors across generations
- to protect and extend services and programs that are used and valued by seniors
- a cabinet position to manage the portfolio for seniors
- the establishment of a Policy Unit for Ageing to develop and implement policies for seniors across the whole of government
- a recognition of the links between disability and ageing and the needs of carers (see also The Greens (WA) [Disability](#) policy)
- “age-friendly” towns and cities in Western Australia to facilitate older Australians’ mobility and access to exercise, social activities and emotional support (see also The Greens (WA) [Sustainable Settlements](#) policy)
- all seniors to have an adequate income

- to promote the financial independence of seniors by providing assistance in understanding their financial needs and managing money
- seniors to be consulted on legislative and procedural changes that affect them
- funded programs that meet the mobility needs of seniors, including local and regional public transport and community bus services (see also The Greens (WA) [Transport](#) policy)
- suitable accommodation including affordable, quality public and social housing for seniors, including those in regional and rural Western Australia (see also The Greens (WA) [Housing](#) policy)
- quality and affordable early intervention, health, pharmaceutical and community support services for seniors including dental treatment and preventative health services
- seniors to be protected from crime, elder abuse and discrimination
- appropriate support services for seniors who choose to remain in their own homes
- increased funding for community organisations representing and servicing seniors and their carers to provide free information, advice and advocacy services
- continued improvement of remuneration, conditions of employment and career pathways for people who work in the aged care sector
- to provide more age friendly workplaces that give seniors the choice to stay engaged with work in line with their capacity to do so (see also The Greens (WA) [Workplace Relations](#) policy)

## **Measures**

*The Greens (WA) will initiate and support legislation and actions that:*

- work with the building industry to adopt the standards of universal design for accessibility, adaptability and environmental sustainability for all residential construction (see also The Greens (WA) [Housing](#) policy)
- allocate Royalties for Regions funding to increase the availability of housing for seniors in the regions
- increase the number of rehabilitation facilities linked to hospitals to reduce the pressure on acute care beds
- fund positive ageing centres to cater to the physical, social and mental well-being of seniors and their carers
- work in partnership with all levels of government and seniors' organisations, service providers and academia, to develop research, policy and programs that enhance the health, participation and community engagement of older Australians
- increase the awareness of grandparents as carers and encourage support services for grandparents who are raising their grandchildren
- celebrate achievement of seniors through events and awards
- enhance the benefits of the Seniors Card targeted to older Australians on low incomes

See also [the Australian Greens Older Peoples](#) policy)

## **Glossary**

1. Seniors are defined here as citizens who are over the age of 61.

**Seniors policy ratified by The Greens (WA) in 2017**