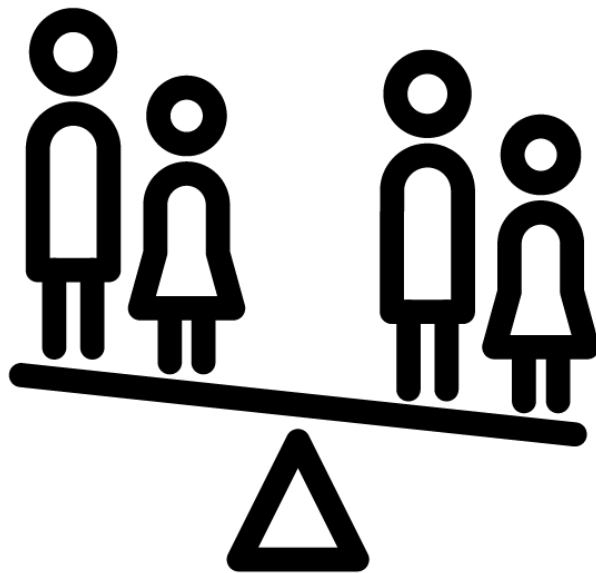


HEALTH AND SOCIAL EQUITY



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ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND OTHER DRUGS

The current punitive approach to drug use has failed to stop illicit drug use and its harms. Harm minimisation policies are those directed towards reducing the adverse health, social and economic consequences of drug and substance use.

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. the use of any drug, including alcohol, tobacco and pharmaceuticals, has the potential to be of harm to the person and their community
2. the ACT should prioritise a non-judgemental public health approach and social framework to addressing drug-related harms
3. social and economic inequality contribute to the harms caused by drugs
4. criminal sanctions for the personal possession or use of illicit drugs are not appropriate or effective, and service systems should prioritise a public health approach
5. there should be greater resourcing for demand reduction and harm minimisation
6. prevention of, and voluntary early intervention in, drug use are the most effective ways to minimise harms
7. policies and programs concerning drugs and people who use drugs and their families should be evidence-driven, have input from people who use or have used drugs, and be subject to continual evaluation
8. understanding the effects of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs and having access to evidence-based information can help empower people to respond to, and reduce, the impacts of drugs on the community
9. the prohibition of drugs is a causal factor in organised crime.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. increased government funding for drug treatment, harm reduction and rehabilitation programs and infrastructure
2. coordinated inter-agency and cross-sectoral approaches to minimise harms from drug use
3. targeted health promotion strategies to promote healthier behaviours towards drinking, smoking and other drug use
4. public information, education and safety programs to enable informed choice and safer drug use
5. public information and education programs to eliminate the stigma of drug use and promote evidence-based discussions in the community
6. improved training for first responders to engage with people who are drug affected
7. evidence-based and age-appropriate drug education programs in schools
8. increased support for programs to address the social determinants of drug use, such as poverty, family and domestic violence, sexual assault and trauma, including childhood trauma

9. increased effectiveness in the treatment and care of people experiencing comorbidity, also understood as substance use combined with mental ill-health, intellectual disability, acquired brain injury and/or other relevant diagnoses, and improved long-term care options for high risk groups with complex needs
10. targeted strategies to reduce alcohol, tobacco and other drug harms among high risk groups that have high rates of use
11. increased government engagement with First Nations communities on the impacts of drug use on First Nations people and families, and increased First Nations community control over drug policies, laws and programs that affect First Nations communities
12. initiatives to reduce high rates of blood-borne disease transmission resulting from drug use in places of detention
13. increased support and services for families and communities adversely affected by the use of alcohol, tobacco and/or other drugs
14. decriminalisation of possession and non-commercial sale of drugs
15. a review of the ACT Spent Convictions Scheme to consider pathways for expungement of criminal records related to personal possession, use and cultivation of cannabis
16. increased availability of currently illicit substances for regulated medical or therapeutic purposes and associated research
17. implementation of harm reduction drug testing, such as static and mobile pill testing, into the normal operations of public health activities
18. provision of free and reliable testing for legislated road safety intoxication levels of substance use, including alcohol, at major community events, festivals and licensed venues.

CARERS

Carers provide essential paid and unpaid care and support to family members, partners and friends who have needs associated with disability, ageing, physical health, mental health and/or substance use.

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. carers, paid and unpaid, make a substantial social and economic contribution to the ACT community
2. caring is a potentially rewarding role that should be undertaken by choice, not because of inadequate social or health services
3. relationships involving the provision of care are a partnership in which both parties have a right to quality of life
4. carers have a right to equity in opportunity, particularly in relation to participation in education, employment and community activities
5. carers should be involved in decisions that have an impact on them as people
6. carers' knowledge and experience should be recognised
7. respite can be necessary for the health and wellbeing of carers and the person/s in their care
8. there are a wide variety of carers who each have different needs
9. a lack of secure, long-term supported accommodation for people with disability impacts adversely on carers, and older carers in particular
10. because of their caring role, carers are often not in the full-time workforce and have lower income and retirement savings. The majority of carers are female, and many carers of older people are themselves older.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. increased recognition of carers' knowledge and experience in the workforce
2. increased community awareness and respect for carers as an essential part of the care team
3. support for the health and wellbeing of carers to consider the diversity of carers and caring roles
4. carers to receive adequate support before crises occur
5. carers to be involved in the development of carer-related policies to ensure strategies align with carers' needs
6. stronger rights for carers, including the right to make choices and optimise their own quality of life
7. a person-centred response to carers' needs
8. clear and up-to-date information to be available to carers about services that could be suitable for them and the person/s in their care

9. carers to receive adequate advice and assistance about how to best care for their family members, partners and friends
10. carers to be able to access advocacy support, respite services, physical and mental support and other supports, including assistance to coordinate support for the person/s in their care
11. a coordinated, well-resourced and strategic response to meet the needs of carers and the person/s in their care
12. better information on the needs of young carers and research-based specific responses
13. increased opportunities and support for young carers to complete formal schooling, further education and training.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. we must provide a healthy, safe and sustainable environment for children and young people to live and thrive in
2. children and young people must be respected and valued for who they are now, as well as who they may become in the future
3. children and young people are entitled to express their opinions and to have their opinions taken into account by decision-makers
4. decisions that affect children and young people must be in children and young people's best interests and be guided by their opinions
5. the rights of children and young people in the ACT must be protected and promoted, including the right to education and safety, consistent with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
6. children and young people have a right to relax, play and join in on a wide range of cultural, artistic and recreational activities
7. children and young people have a right to live free of physical and emotional abuse, neglect, exploitation and discrimination
8. foster carers and kinship carers play an important role in the child and youth protection system. Children and young people benefit from having stable, long-term carers
9. children and young people who are unable, for their best interests, to stay in their family¹ are entitled to care and protection that respects their individual rights, needs, beliefs, cultures, languages, sexuality and gender identity
10. a child's right to be safe overrides a parent's right to have contact with their child
11. children and young people who do not live with their parents have a right to know and maintain meaningful relationships with their non-resident parent and extended family, where this is practicable and safe
12. supports to prevent and reduce harms in the early stages of life (generally, for children aged between 0–8 years) can have profound effects in terms of reducing harms, and the impact of harms, later in life.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. children and young people to be valued as active ACT community members
2. elimination of neglect, abuse and disadvantage among children and young people in the ACT
3. continual review of ACT legislation to strengthen the human rights of children and young people

¹ The ACT Greens recognise that families come in many forms and that parenthood can exist outside of biological reproductive processes.

4. effective mechanisms for children and young people to express their needs, opinions and aspirations to the ACT Government, including through collaboration with representative and advocacy organisations and the broader community
5. people aged 16 and 17 years to have the option to vote in ACT elections
6. continual enhancement of the ACT's urban and non-urban environment as a child-friendly and young person-friendly Territory
7. children and young people to have improved access to, and feel welcome and safe in, public spaces and community facilities throughout the ACT
8. children and young people to have safe and accessible transport options to meet their needs, developed through effective engagement with government
9. provision of appropriate and accessible youth services in the ACT, including mental health services for people aged 12–25 years and for people aged 12–16 years in particular
10. provision of appropriate and accessible child health services in the ACT, including mental health services for children aged 8–12 years
11. enhanced early intervention and prevention services and resources for children and young people at risk
12. children and young people to have access to safe and affordable housing through public housing, community housing and supported accommodation
13. First Nations-led solutions and initiatives to address the over-representation of First Nations children in ACT Child and Youth Protection Services (CYPS)
14. programs that identify and assist children and young people who are at risk of leaving the education system, with a focus on enhanced outcomes for First Nations students
15. provision of adequate funding and support for kinship carers
16. high-quality and well-funded services for children and young people who have suffered or are at risk of suffering abuse and neglect, including the provision of adequate funding for CYPS and the out-of-home care system
17. services that recognise the importance of maintaining positive relationships between children and their birth parents, and that seek to support reunification, where possible and appropriate
18. clear targets to drive improved outcomes for young people making the transition from out-of-home care to independent living, including support for people aged 18–25 years
19. the age of criminal responsibility to be raised to 14 years old
20. families and children who have contact with CYPS to have full access to information held about them.

DISABILITY

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. everyone has a right to independence, self-determination, choice and freedom from discrimination in their lives
2. governments hold primary responsibility for ongoing leadership in fulfilling obligations set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
3. people's individual abilities differ for a variety of medical, societal and environmental reasons; all barriers to equitable access and full participation in society should be removed
4. people with disability, and their families and carers, should be supported to actively participate in disability policy development, service planning and delivery
5. people with disability should be at the centre of decision-making regarding the services they access
6. accessible education, training and employment for people with disability are key to positive social inclusion and wellbeing
7. people with disability should have access to a range of secure and affordable housing options
8. adequate provision of transport options for people with disability is necessary for full participation in society
9. people with disability are entitled to protection from abuse and neglect
10. the health and wellbeing of carers of people with disability is important
11. service providers' sustainability needs to be considered, to ensure the needs of people with disability and systemic issues are addressed
12. early access to appropriate care for children and young people with disability can prevent longer term significant health costs
13. disagreements about whether a person's issues are defined as health related or disability related should not prevent that person from receiving adequate and appropriate care.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. people with disability to be able to participate fully in all aspects of life, including in education, training and employment
2. people with disability to have access to facilities and support personnel to undertake their chosen activities
3. people with disability to be involved in all levels of decision-making and policymaking, including in their own service development and delivery
4. scrutiny of disability support services to meet service standards, to ensure the provision of quality services
5. improvements to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) to fully meet its potential to provide adequate funding for people, including funding for respite services and individual and systemic advocacy services

6. people with disability to have access to a range of secure, affordable housing options that meet their needs
7. ongoing support to be provided for people with disability who are not covered by the NDIS but who still require assistance to fully participate in the community, including people aged over 65 years
8. equal access to education, training, adult education and lifelong learning
9. better pathways for school leavers with disability to make the transition from school into meaningful employment, educational and vocational programs and other community-based activities
10. support for social enterprises operating in the ACT to employ people with disability, and an increase in social procurement from the ACT Government
11. improved employment opportunities and practices for people with disability, including for employers to adhere to employment and wage standards and to support the adaptation of workplaces for accessibility
12. elimination of barriers for people with disability to access ACT community and public transport systems, information and communication technologies, and public facilities and services
13. elimination of interpersonal and sexual violence against people with disability, particularly women, and appropriate responses to any residual incidences
14. an increased range of services that support carers of people with disability
15. improvements in pay, conditions and career structures for providers of disability services
16. important community announcements to be made in Australian Sign Language (Auslan).

FAMILIES

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. families, in their diversity, are essential to the wellbeing and strength of our community
2. supportive relationships enhance people's wellbeing and resilience
3. family structures are increasingly diverse and should be valued in all their forms
4. long-term public investment in health, education and family support services, particularly in the early years of childhood (0–8 years), is a sound investment in our society's future
5. parents and carers are entitled to choice and support to balance family commitments with their involvement in the workforce and community life
6. some families may require additional support to build skills, develop resilience, realise their potential and reduce the risks of harm.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. meaningful engagement with families and local communities to evaluate and develop ACT Government policies and services
2. targeted initiatives to ameliorate living costs for low-income families and families that are at-risk and facing disadvantage
3. policies to support and acknowledge the specific needs of separated families, sole-parent families, step families, blended families, families with parents with disability, families with adolescent parents, First Nations families, families with same-sex and gender diverse parents, and families in which children are cared for by grandparents or extended family or who are carers themselves
4. effective, responsive, accountable, transparent, safe and high-quality services for all families in the ACT
5. accessible and affordable high-quality early education services for all families in the ACT
6. family-friendly work policies, including parental leave and flexible working arrangements, for all parents and carers
7. increased investment from both the ACT Government and the Australian Government in family support services, including intensive and coordinated support
8. family-centred services to ensure the safety of families, and prevent and respond to serious issues of abuse, neglect and domestic violence
9. at risk families to have access to food relief, meal services and practical assistance
10. families that have contact with child and youth protection systems to have full access to information held about them.

FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. everyone must be able to live their lives free from violence and fear of violence
2. violence in family and domestic settings takes many forms, and can include physical, emotional, sexual and financial abuse
3. gender inequality, stereotyping and discrimination can lead to violence and is a whole-of-community issue
4. while anyone can be subjected to violence and abuse in family and domestic settings, statistics show that women are much more likely than men to experience family and domestic violence (Our Watch, 2020) and this is likely to be an underestimate²
5. significant long-term cultural and social change around respectful relationships is required to create respectful relationships and end the systemic disadvantage currently faced by women and girls. This disadvantage can put women and girls at greater risk of violence and abuse in family and domestic settings
6. the legal system must prioritise the safety of vulnerable people before any other consideration
7. the responsibility for violence always rests with the person using violence.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. a coordinated and comprehensive ACT-wide response to the family and domestic violence crisis and the elimination of violence against women and children. This response must be evidence-based and well-resourced to address primary prevention action, crisis response, overlapping vulnerability, intersectionality, justice response, housing and long-term support
2. ACT Government to play a leadership role in ongoing national work to reduce family and domestic violence, including promoting and funding coordinated national and local responses
3. nationally consistent implementation of, and adequate funding for, primary prevention of violence strategies, including support for respectful relationship education for people throughout their lives
4. to address the negative effects of family and domestic violence—physical, emotional and economic—through adequately funded, culturally responsible, accessible, women-led and women-directed health and education programs
5. further development of, and support for, national anti-violence campaigns and programs, including family and domestic violence, primary prevention and early intervention programs

² The ACT Greens Family and Domestic Violence Policy focuses primarily on women and children to reflect these statistics. In focusing on women and children, the ACT Greens do not wish to minimise the significance of violence experienced by many other people in family and domestic settings.

6. measures to address sexism in the media to contribute to efforts to eradicate negative portrayals of women, cybersexism, online abuse and rape culture
7. increased, high-quality training for first responders and mainstream organisations to ensure appropriate and timely responses to family and domestic violence, including ACT Policing and health services
8. adequate, coordinated and well-resourced community services and advocacy groups to provide care and support for people who are impacted by family and domestic violence, recognising the gendered nature of violence and the need to have gendered responses to ensure people's immediate safety and long-term security
9. well-funded individual and systemic advocacy and legal support services to support people who experience domestic and family violence, including community legal centres and resource centres
10. people experiencing domestic violence to receive the necessary social and professional support to facilitate their recovery
11. programs to support workplaces, businesses and the community as a whole to recognise its role in eliminating violence against women and children, and to support people who are experiencing family and domestic violence.

FIRST NATIONS PEOPLES

The ACT Greens acknowledge that First Nations' sovereignty has never been ceded. We recognise the Ngunnawal Traditional Custodians of this country and their unique cultural and spiritual relationship with land, water and sky. We also recognise and respect the many other First Nations communities and people that reside in the ACT region.

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. Australians have a moral obligation to recognise and enact the principles outlined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
2. recognition of First Nations sovereignty is important in increasing the health and wellbeing of the Traditional Custodians of the ACT and surrounding regions
3. First Nations peoples have the same rights and obligations as all other people in Australia
4. the quality of the relationship between First Nations communities and government bodies has a crucial impact on the effectiveness of First Nations-focused government programs, as well as for the capacity of First Nations peoples to practice self-determination and achieve equality
5. recognition of First Nations knowledges, cultures and heritage contributes to sustainable and equitable development and management of the environment
6. First Nations peoples should be celebrated for their positive contributions to, and impacts on, the ACT community
7. the Australian First Nations community has the right to seek truth, Treaties and a Voice to Parliament, if that is what First Nations communities expressly state to governments
8. the local First Nations community must be supported in their self-determined aspirations.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. a legislative and regulatory framework to value the roles, contributions and cultures of Ngunnawal Traditional Custodians and other First Nations peoples in the ACT region
2. to ensure all First Nations peoples have the opportunity for meaningful participation in all government decision-making processes
3. provision of more accessible and culturally responsible avenues to increase the participation of First Nations peoples in local politics and government processes
4. an ongoing commitment to fund the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement 2019–2028, including appropriate funding to be provided to the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body (ATSIEB)
5. greater recognition of and respect for the skills and knowledge of First Nations peoples
6. to ensure that Representative Aboriginal Organisations, ATSIEB and the United Ngunnawal Elders Council (UNEC) continue to be consulted on relevant issues and are adequately remunerated for their time

7. equity of outcomes for First Nations peoples in comparison with all other people in Australia on all major indicators of health, education, training, justice, housing, employment and living standards
8. evidence-based approaches to addressing the impacts of intergenerational social disadvantage and trauma, including more culturally responsible initiatives to address the over-representation of First Nations peoples in the ACT justice system, the child protection system and homelessness services
9. increased access of First Nations peoples to government and community social services, including education, health and justice services, through a mix of initiatives that are more culturally responsible, better targeted and based on community needs
10. increased understanding and respect for First Nations cultures across all services, to increase access by First Nations peoples
11. to support greater participation of local First Nations communities in the development of policies, allocation of funding, and implementation of programs for First Nations communities
12. to support more First Nations-owned and/or First Nations-led micro and small business and self-employment initiatives in the ACT
13. increased, paid consultation with Traditional Custodians of the ACT and surrounding regions on the care and management of nature parks and other public land in the ACT
14. increased awareness throughout the ACT community of the significant contribution of First Nations communities to the cultural, social and economic life of Canberra
15. First Nations' songlines to be protected before development proposals are considered.

GAMBLING

Gambling can cause serious social and economic impacts on people, families and communities. An evidence-driven public health approach is required to prevent and minimise gambling harm.

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. gambling products can be dangerous and can harm the people who use them, as well as those people's families and communities
2. a public health approach must be used to prevent and minimise gambling harm
3. poker machines are the greatest source of gambling-related harm in the ACT
4. online gambling is emerging as an increasingly significant source of harm
5. government action on gambling must be independent of industry bias; government action must prioritise the health and social wellbeing of people ahead of gambling industry interests and government revenue
6. community organisations and political parties should not depend on gambling as a source of revenue
7. gambling policy must consider equity and avoid concentrating gambling venues in disadvantaged areas
8. gambling products should not be promoted to children
9. gambling venues should be designed to reduce the risk of gambling harm
10. overall, accessibility of gambling opportunities should be reduced, not increased.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. evidence-driven reform to address the psychological design features of electronic gambling machines to make gambling activities less dangerous
2. introduction of bet limits, mandatory pre-commitments and other measures to reduce the harm from electronic gaming machines
3. reductions in access to cash in gambling venues
4. reductions in the number of poker machines and the number of venues hosting poker machines in the ACT, and restrictions on the operating hours of poker machines
5. improved monitoring of gambling venue compliance with codes of conduct and self-exclusion measures, and increased enforcement and size of fines for non-compliance
6. ACT Government to advocate for national action to ban gambling advertisements and sponsorship during sports broadcasts and children's television viewing, and to ban in-game purchasing targeted at children
7. bans on online betting promotions and inducements
8. governments, clubs and community organisations to be supported to phase out their reliance on gambling revenue
9. changes to electoral laws to prevent organisations that are the direct beneficiaries of gambling revenues from giving political donations

10. adequate support and services for people and their families adversely affected by gambling. These supports and services must not further stigmatise those experiencing gambling harm and must be delivered by appropriate organisations
11. independent statutory oversight of gaming and racing
12. policy evaluation and research into gambling to be commissioned and conducted free from industry influence, funded by government or statutory levies over a longer and more stable funding cycle
13. researchers and service providers to have greater access to industry data sets and personnel of the ACT Gambling and Racing Commission, to facilitate greater harm reduction
14. public health messaging to increase the ACT community's understanding of the risks of gambling harm.

HEALTH

Health is a state of physical, mental and social wellbeing, with outcomes influenced by the interrelationship of biological, social, economic and environmental factors. The social determinants of health are the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age, and these circumstances are shaped by money, power and resources.

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. fair, equitable and universal access to quality health services is a basic human right
2. mental health is fundamental to people's wellbeing and should be treated as importantly as any other health condition (see also the ACT Greens Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy)
3. climate change adversely impacts public health
4. an effective health system must be person-centred and provide support across primary health care, preventive health care, disease prevention, early intervention and acute and chronic health concerns
5. access to primary and preventive health care is vital and people should be encouraged to interact with health services before they become unwell
6. the increasing prevalence of chronic disease impacts on people and their families, communities and the health system
7. the social determinants of health must be addressed in government decision-making across all portfolios
8. people have distinct and specific health needs, and healthcare responses should be tailored to meet these needs
9. consumers and representative organisations should play an active role in health care by co-designing policy, providing feedback and participating in other consultative processes
10. strategic decision-making and resource allocation in the health sector should involve collaboration between local and federal governments, community, carers, consumers and service providers, with the aim to deliver long-term sustainable funding for healthcare services
11. a well-resourced public sector is an integral part of the delivery of health services
12. healthcare provision should be evidence-based and responsive to current and emerging research and innovation
13. people have a right to be supported in their health literacy, to be informed about their health concerns and options for treatment, and to participate in decision-making about which treatment to pursue
14. peer support and advocacy programs are a valuable resource to assist people in their recovery
15. the experience, training and skills of all healthcare disciplines are integral to an effective healthcare system
16. all healthcare workers should be able to perform their roles in safety
17. carers play a crucial role in health care

18. people held in correctional facilities must have the same access to health services as all other people.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. our natural and built environment to promote health and wellbeing
2. health services to be adequately prepared for the impacts of climate change
3. increased resources to ensure an efficient, well-funded and responsive public health system
4. high-quality preventative, primary, acute, home, hospital-based, community and end-of-life care
5. a whole-of-government approach to achieve improved physical and mental health outcomes for people and communities
6. recognition that the Canberra Hospital operates as a regional health service, and fair funding arrangements to reflect this important regional role
7. evidence-based and innovative approaches to managing the pressures of emergency, critical and tertiary care
8. planned and adequately resourced services to support people experiencing chronic illness in self-managing their illness, as well as support for their families and communities
9. ACT Interstate Patient Travel Assistance Scheme (IPTAS) to provide adequate support for people who need to access interstate health services
10. timely access to affordable specialist health care across the range of conditions, with a high-quality, professional healthcare workforce that meet the needs of our community
11. the health system to be responsive to feedback from consumers, community and health workers
12. increased accountability from the ACT Government on consumer outcomes
13. increased access to bulk-billing general practitioners and primary dental care, especially for groups in the community that have particular risks and vulnerabilities
14. waiting periods for surgery to be equal to or less than the national benchmarks, including elective surgery
15. ACT community members to have access to reliable, up-to-date and impartial information about health and treatment options, and access to their own records
16. vulnerable and high-risk communities to assist in designing preventative health measures and campaigns that impact their own health
17. everyone to have access to sufficient, affordable, safe and nutritious food (see also the ACT Greens Food Production and Consumption Policy)
18. government policies to reduce the promotion and availability of high sugar foods
19. support for education about sugar consumption and healthy eating behaviours
20. ACT Government to further address the factors driving higher levels of obesity in the community
21. health services designed and led by First Nations peoples to help eliminate health inequities experienced by First Nations communities

22. ACT community members to have access to unbiased, non-judgemental, high-quality information and services in areas of sexual health, reproductive health, pregnancy termination and perinatal care
23. effectively funded peer support and advocacy groups, programs and initiatives to match identified community needs
24. public health initiatives to help normalise death as part of life and acknowledge the cultural and spiritual considerations of each person
25. patients' decisions regarding palliative care, end of life, voluntary assisted dying, treatment refusal and advance care directives to be respected and appropriately legislated
26. an end to deferrable medical interventions that alter the sex characteristics of infants and children without personal consent, including surgical and hormonal interventions.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. mental health and wellbeing are fundamental to how people experience their lives, engage with others and connect to the broader community
2. that understanding and responding to mental health must be guided by the social determinants of health, informed by medical models and stage of life transitions, and be trauma informed, culturally responsible and recovery oriented
3. the ACT should strive for an integrated mental health system that promotes positive mental wellbeing, early intervention, prevention, rehabilitation, suicide prevention and acute care of people affected by mental illness
4. mental illness must be de-stigmatised and responded to without judgment.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. mental health support and education to be available for, and accessible to, all people experiencing the impacts of mental illness, including family, carers and friends; at all stages of life, including throughout primary, secondary and tertiary education; and in all contexts, including in the workplace and during periods of perinatal care, unemployment, underemployment, illness, grief, loss, and other difficult and traumatic events
2. health, community justice and social service systems to be mental health literate and capable of recognising and responding to mental health issues
3. government and community-provided mental health services to be accessible, recovery-oriented and responsive to complex issues
4. human service and justice systems to be responsive to the mental health needs of all people, and to provide holistic mental health support, such as housing, supported accommodation, financial assistance and community engagement programs
5. increased opportunities for people with mental health conditions to participate in and contribute to the economic and social life of the ACT, including the ability to access education, engage in meaningful work and hold valued roles in the community
6. support for people with enduring mental health conditions to manage their mental illness in ways that enable them to live the most independent and meaningful lives possible
7. greater integration between mental health services and drug and alcohol treatment services
8. the mental health workforce to have better access to training, professional development and support
9. all mental healthcare workers to be able to perform their roles in safety, and to have access to support for their own mental health and wellbeing
10. increased opportunities for peer workers to be part of the mental health workforce
11. the mental health service system to inform and appropriately support carers in their role of supporting a person with mental illness, including assistance with system navigation,

provision of opportunities for respite and support for their own mental health and wellbeing

12. to build a kind community that nurtures mental wellbeing by promoting participation, connection and inclusion, and minimises loneliness and isolation
13. to ensure that members of the community have time to undertake activities that nourish their mental wellbeing
14. ACT Government to continue to work with the National Disability Insurance Agency to ensure the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) improves its support for psychosocial disability, and to ensure the NDIS delivers its potential to improve the lives of people with mental illness.

MULTICULTURALISM AND CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY

The ACT is a multicultural community, and this should be fully reflected in our social, business and political institutions. In the 2016 Census, 32% of ACT residents were born overseas, and just under 34% of people had both parents born overseas. Nearly 24% of ACT residents reported speaking a language other than English at home, the most common languages being Mandarin, Vietnamese, Cantonese, Hindi and Spanish (ABS, 2016).

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. cultural and linguistic diversity in the ACT community greatly enriches our community, and multiculturalism should be embraced and celebrated
2. cultural and linguistic diversity should be promoted within the context of respecting democracy and universal human rights
3. people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds have significant contributions to make and should be included and supported to fully participate in the ACT community
4. people from CALD backgrounds should be included and supported to actively engage in democratic processes and government decision-making
5. the ACT should continue to be a safe and welcoming place for asylum seekers, refugees and migrants
6. people from CALD backgrounds should have full and supported access to education, training and economic opportunities
7. stereotyping, discrimination and racism must be eliminated and all barriers to CALD communities' full equality must be removed.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. the ACT community to embrace and celebrate cultural, religious and linguistic diversity
2. the elimination of discrimination and protection of equal opportunities for all people, regardless of cultural, linguistic and religious background
3. to ensure that people from CALD backgrounds have full access to legal support, education and information on their rights and entitlements
4. CALD communities to be included, engaged and connected with the broader ACT community, as well as supported to build networks within and between CALD communities
5. active outreach and engagement to ensure CALD communities can participate fully in ACT Government processes and policy development
6. to strengthen the capacity and ability of government to work with people from CALD backgrounds

7. adequately resourced, responsive and culturally responsible support for humanitarian entrants, asylum seekers, refugees and migrants who settle in the ACT, including trauma-informed services and other support for health, housing, education, life skills and social connections
8. community programs to foster harmony and social cohesion, particularly for new and emerging CALD communities
9. ACT community-based language schools to be supported
10. important community information to be made available in a range of languages, including information about health, education, justice and government services.

OLDER PEOPLE

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. a well-functioning society values all its members, recognises the contributions that older people make—including volunteer and family support work—and celebrates intergenerational leadership
2. in a society that maximises the social, economic and political participation of older people, and that recognises older people as an important part of the community in which they live
3. in promoting positive views of ageing, rejecting ageism and challenging negative stereotypes of older people
4. older people have a right to health and aged-care services that meet their needs, regardless of their age, income, health status, able-ness, First Nations identity, race, cultural background, gender identity, sexual orientation, intersex status, religion and geographic location
5. older people have a right to live with dignity, to have their voices heard, to feel safe, and to live without abuse, neglect and violence
6. older people have particular housing needs, and options should be available that suit their circumstances and respect their wishes, including ageing in place
7. in the value of intergenerational activities.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. protection of the rights of older people, including freedom from age-based discrimination, and safety from abuse and neglect
2. older people to be given the opportunity to influence the design and implementation of policies that affect their wellbeing and the community of which they are part
3. provision of accessible information for older people about ACT Government services and community services. The provision of this information should respect different levels of skills in, and exposure to, digital technology, and should take into account diverse social circumstances
4. older people to be supported and encouraged to be part of the ACT community, socially included and involved in community activities, including through the provision of safe and accessible transport
5. to promote 'positive ageing' and to facilitate the ACT community benefiting from older people's wisdom, experience and perspectives
6. acknowledgement of and respect for the diversity of older people
7. policies and strategies to assist older people to determine the timing and pace of their withdrawal from paid employment, including in the public service, and to support older people as they enter retirement, including promoting opportunities for volunteering
8. to end age-based discrimination in the workforce
9. ACT and Australian Governments to assess and respond to current and future demand for aged-care services. These services should focus on person-centred care, which gives older

people more choice and control over the care they receive, including as they move towards end-of-life care

10. more awareness and services to support the growing number of older people affected by dementia, including support for all organisations and the broader community to become dementia friendly
11. ACT Government to respond to the changing needs of older people and the ageing of the ACT community in a coordinated, well-resourced and sustainable way, recognising diverse cultural needs
12. government and community organisations to review and improve the safety of older people in their homes, in service settings and in the broader community, including appropriately funded oversight and advocacy services
13. housing design to meet the needs of older people in all their diversity
14. provision of a range of housing options for older people with low levels of assets or finances and those who have faced lifetime disadvantage, with a particular focus on the growing number of older women at risk of homelessness
15. provision of opportunities for people to 'age in place' where suitable, including downsizing options for older people in their local area and Homeshare arrangements
16. effective schemes to encourage and facilitate advance care planning and enduring power of attorney.

SOCIAL EQUITY

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. a fair and democratic society relies upon equity of opportunity, respect for diversity, equitable access to resources and social inclusion
2. every person makes different social, cultural and economic contributions that benefit our community; inequality deprives our community from receiving these beneficial contributions
3. structural inequity in society detrimentally affects both people and society as a whole with respect to educational achievements, contact with the criminal justice system, social conflict, and physical and mental health outcomes
4. inequality of wealth and income leads to increased aspirational consumerism and environmentally unsustainable consumption
5. people on low incomes or experiencing disadvantage are the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change
6. a just transition to net zero emissions should be well planned and managed to ensure it reduces poverty and inequality
7. systemic poverty, violence and social disadvantage are not inevitable and should be eliminated
8. social services, such as health, education, justice and social care, should be high-quality and universally accessible through government and community service providers
9. poverty, violence and systemic disadvantage disproportionately affect particular groups of people within our community; this can be on the basis of age, able-ness, First Nations identity, race, cultural background, gender identity, sexual orientation, intersex status, religion, socioeconomic status, employment status and/or geographic location
10. growing inequality of wealth and income is a concern for our society and can be addressed through progressive taxation, government charges, government concessions and fair wages
11. for those who seek it, meaningful and appropriately paid work, can promote dignity, mental health and social inclusion.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. an end to structural and systemic discrimination and an inclusive, respectful and compassionate society
2. a society in which people have self-determination and opportunities to contribute, and in which people can live fulfilling lives that enable them to reach their full potential
3. an end to disadvantages stemming from structural inequity
4. commitment to universal service delivery in health and education, and a strong social welfare, justice and housing system
5. provision of community infrastructure to support local communities to be productive and connected

6. coordinated, well-resourced, short-term and long-term government responses to poverty and social disadvantage
7. all government policy to be developed with a focus on alleviating intergenerational social and economic inequalities, including housing, health, environment, justice, taxation, industry and economic policy
8. better-integrated services for people affected by poverty, including people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, and for those who are impacted by intergenerational inequality
9. targeted measures and assistance to address the drivers of poverty and disadvantage
10. respectful partnerships between government, community and business sectors in an effort to prevent and respond to violence, poverty, social exclusion and homelessness
11. long-term, whole-of-community approaches to prevent and alleviate social inequity
12. ACT and Australian Governments to work together to equitably provide meaningful and appropriately paid employment for people who wish to engage in the workforce
13. systems of taxes, government charges, concessions and subsidies to be progressive and reduce income and wealth inequality
14. fines, penalties and administrative systems to consider people's capacity to pay, to ensure these systems do not unfairly increase the hardship experienced by disadvantaged people
15. all ACT Government taxes, charges and subsidies assessed to identify their impact on social equity, prosperity and wellbeing
16. equitable access to clean air, water and public space for everyone in the ACT.

WOMEN

PRINCIPLES

The ACT Greens believe:

1. women are a diverse group, and some women experience multiple intersecting disadvantages, such as First Nations women; women with disability; trans, lesbian and bisexual women; women in prison; and women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. These intersections of disadvantages and increased vulnerabilities require a coordinated and multidisciplinary response
2. the historical and continuing contribution of women to the ACT, Australia and the world should be recognised and celebrated
3. full and supported access to education and economic opportunities for girls and women provides benefits for the whole community
4. gender inequality, gender stereotyping and gender-based discrimination lead to violence against women and girls, and is a whole-of-community issue that must be eliminated
5. the long-term structural and continuing disadvantages experienced by women must be acknowledged and eliminated
6. older women are at greater risk of homelessness due to inadequate retirement savings, systemic and long term pay inequality, relationship breakdowns and violence.

GOALS

The ACT Greens want:

1. respect for the human rights of women and girls locally, nationally and internationally
2. to encourage and facilitate the meaningful participation, engagement and leadership of women and girls in all areas of public and community life
3. educational institutions and workplaces to use affirmative action policies to respond to existing gender inequities
4. to end the gender pay gap and the economic inequalities that accumulate throughout women's lives
5. full and equitable participation of women in public life, leadership and decision-making
6. an end to discrimination, harassment and violence against women and girls, recognising that young women (aged 18–24 years) experience sexual violence at a much higher rate than women in older age groups and men (Our Watch, 2020)
7. whole-of-government strategies to address discrimination against women and girls, recognising that specific groups of women experience multiple disadvantages and an intersectional approach will be needed
8. a comprehensive approach to the elimination of violence against women and girls to be evidence-based and well-resourced. This approach should include primary prevention and crisis response to violence against women and girls, and address overlapping vulnerability and intersectionality, justice responses, housing and long-term support

9. community and school-based education programs that aim to improve attitudes towards women and girls, challenge gender stereotypes and require the use of inclusive language
10. adequate, coordinated and well-resourced community services and advocacy groups to provide care and support for all women and girls impacted by violence, to ensure their immediate safety and long-term security
11. all workplaces to take an active role in eliminating and responding to sexual harassment and other forms of violence against women
12. ACT Government policies, programs and budgeting to be gender transformative, including approaches to urban planning, transport, housing and the economy
13. well-funded systemic women's advocacy groups, including community legal centres, women's legal centres and women's resource centres
14. continued, safe and affordable access to reproductive health services that support women's right to choose
15. an end to medical discrimination towards women on the basis of religious beliefs.

GLOSSARY

ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body (ATSIEB): ATSIEB is a representative body that was established in 2008 to enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT to have a strong democratically elected voice. ATSIEB provides direct advice to the ACT Government with the ambition of improving the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Canberrans (ATSIEB, 2020).

ACT Interstate Patient Travel Assistance Scheme (IPTAS): Subject to meeting eligibility criteria, IPTAS provides financial assistance towards travel and accommodation costs to permanent residents of the ACT who are required to travel interstate for specialist medical treatment that is not currently available in the Territory (ACT Health, 2020).

Affordable housing: Affordable housing is housing that is appropriate for the needs of a range of very low to moderate income households, and priced (whether mortgage repayments or rent) so these households are able to meet their other essential basic living costs. Housing is often defined as affordable when a household spends less than 30% of their income on housing costs, and that household falls within the lowest 40% of household incomes (ACT Homes and Housing, 2020).

Ageing in place: Ageing in place means that as people get older they can remain living in their home rather than entering residential aged care, even when the impacts of old age (e.g. the increasing risk of illness or disability) affect their mobility and mental ability (AHURI, 2019).

Bet limit (gambling): A bet limit is the maximum amount a person can place on any bet.

Community: A community is a network of people and organisations linked together by a web of personal relationships, cultural connections and identities, networks of support, traditions, shared socioeconomic conditions, and common interests. Usually communities are composed of diverse groups, competing interests and rights; but sometimes they may be reasonably homogenous (Wighton and Smith 2017, p. 30).

Community housing: Community housing is housing for people on low incomes provided and/or managed by a not-for-profit organisation. Community housing providers generally provide a mix of rental rates for different tenants - some rents are set at a proportion of the tenant's income (social), others are set at a proportion of market-based rental rates (affordable) (ACT Homes and Housing, 2020).

Crisis accommodation: Crisis accommodation is one form of supported accommodation where people and households experiencing homelessness are provided with safe emergency accommodation for a short period while receiving support to transition to longer term, stable accommodation (ACT Homes and Housing, 2020).

Cultural responsibility: Cultural responsibility means acting in accordance with rules, structures and processes that are informed by the diverse cultural needs, traditions, values and norms of a particular community. These rules, structures and processes are generated in dialogue with each community and therefore have broad support within that community. What counts as culturally responsible is different for each community and can change over time.

Cybersexism: Cybersexism is online participation in sexism.

Darlington Statement: The Darlington Statement, made in March 2017, is a joint consensus statement by Australian and Aotearoa/New Zealand intersex organisations and independent advocates. It sets out the priorities and calls by the intersex human rights movement in Australia and Aotearoa/New Zealand (Black et al., 2017).

Demand reduction: Demand reduction involves preventing the uptake and delaying the onset of use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs; reducing the misuse of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in the community; and supporting people to recover from dependence through evidence-informed treatment (AIHW, 2020).

Domestic violence: Domestic violence refers to violence, abuse and intimidation between people who are currently or have previously been in an intimate relationship. The perpetrator uses violence to control and dominate the other person. This causes fear, physical harm and/or psychological harm. Domestic violence is a violation of human rights (White Ribbon Australia, 2020).

Family violence: Family violence refers to violence between family members (for example children and parents) as well as intimate partners. Some communities prefer the term ‘family violence’ to domestic violence (White Ribbon Australia, 2020).

First Nations peoples: The ACT Greens use the term ‘First Nations peoples’ to refer to all nations and clan groups that occupied the land that would become Australia prior to colonisation. First Nations peoples never ceded their sovereignty and continue their connections with land, water, sky, culture and community. The ACT Greens acknowledge the limitations of any term in accounting for the complexity and diversity of First Nations identities and experiences.

Foster carers: Foster carers provide a safe, stable home environment for children and young people who cannot live with their families. Ideally, foster care continues until children and young people can be reunited with their families. However, sometimes things don’t work out and the child may remain in foster care (ACT Together, 2020a).

Gender identity: Gender identity is the gender with which a person identifies internally. Gender identity can refer to appearance, mannerisms or other gender related characteristics of a person, with or without regard to the person’s designated sex at birth (ACT Human Rights Commission, 2020).

Gender transformative: The phrase ‘gender transformative’ describes policies and initiatives that work to change existing gender norms and relations, with the aim of achieving gender equality.

Gillick competence: Gillick competence is a term used in medical law to decide whether a child (under 16 years of age) is able to consent to their own medical treatment, without the need for parental permission or knowledge (AGA, 2020).

Homeshare arrangements: Homeshare arrangements bring together older householders who could benefit from help and companionship at home, with a homesharer who is prepared to lend a hand in return for affordable accommodation. Homeshare arrangements exist to increase the options for older people to remain at home with independence and dignity, while fostering intergenerational understanding and providing a viable housing option for mature people in need (Care Connect, n.d.).

Intersex: Intersex people are born with physical or biological sex characteristics (such as sexual anatomy, reproductive organs, hormonal patterns and/or chromosomal patterns) that are more diverse than stereotypical definitions for male or female bodies. For some people, these traits are apparent prenatally or at birth, while for others they emerge later in life, often at puberty (Black et al. 2017, p. 2). Intersex bodies are healthy bodies that rarely require immediate surgical intervention.

Kinship care: Kinship care is when children who cannot live with their birth parents are placed by Child, Youth and Protection services in the care of relatives or significant people in the child's life (ACT Together, 2020b).

LGBTIQA+: LGBTIQA+ is an umbrella term respectfully used to refer to the diversity of people that are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and/or queer. The term is also intended to capture diverse sexualities and gender identities, including (but not limited to) people who are agender, non-binary, gender fluid, questioning, asexual and pansexual, as well as people who prefer to use specialised personal terms to describe their own body, gender or sexuality.

Local First Nations community: Local First Nations community refers to all First Nations peoples who live, reside and/or work in the ACT community. The ACT Greens use this phrase in its most inclusive sense to include Ngannawal Traditional Custodians as well as other Traditional Custodians in the region—the Ngarigo and Ngambri peoples—and all other First Nations peoples and communities.

Mental health: A broad term referring to the social, psychological and emotional wellbeing of a person (HelpingMinds, 2020).

Mental ill-health: If mental health refers to a balanced state of mind, mental ill-health indicates that something is off-balance, off-centre and it is impacting on someone's ability to live a normal life (HelpingMinds, 2020).

Mental illness: A mental illness or disorder is classified more severe than mental ill-health. When mental health becomes mental ill-health, then mental illness can follow. Mental illness is a clinically diagnosable illness affecting how a person thinks and feels, behaves and interacts with other people and this can range from anxiety or depression, to eating disorders, bipolar or schizophrenia. These illnesses are a result of biological, developmental and/or social factors and can be managed with cognitive and behavioural psychological therapies, psychosocial support and medically in the same manner as a physical disease would be treated (Samaritans, 2020).

Out-of-home care: Out-of-home care refers to alternative accommodation for children and young people who are unable to live with their parents. Out-of-home care includes several

different living arrangements, such as foster care, relative or kinship care, family group homes, residential care and independent living (SNAICC, 2016).

Positive ageing: Positive ageing is a practical way of improving the changes of having a better life as we age. It focuses on the emotional and psychological aspects of ageing and accepts that the mind can have a significant impact on our physical and emotional wellbeing. A positive ageing approach advocates a realistic understanding of ageing that fully recognises its positive aspects as well as the more challenging ones (Coonamble Shire Council, 2020).

Pre-commitment (gambling): Pre-commitment provides a restriction on gaming machine expenditure to prevent players spending more money than they originally intended. This is achieved by fixing a maximum limit on losses before the commencement of play (BetSafe, 2020).

Public housing: Public housing is housing for people on low incomes provided and/or managed by Housing ACT (ACT Homes and Housing, 2020).

Registered Aboriginal Organisations (RAOs): RAOs fulfill an important role in the identification and management of First Nations cultural heritage places and objects in the ACT. As of June 2020, there is no provision for RAOs to be remunerated for consultation under the ACT Heritage Act (*ACT Heritage Act, 2004*).

Self-exclusion (gambling): Self-exclusion operates by self-identified problem gamblers voluntarily surrendering the right to enter the gaming areas of their local venues (Parliament of Australia, n.d.).

Sexual orientation: Sexual orientation refers to a person's sexual and/or romantic attraction to other people (AGA, 2020).

Social housing: Social housing is an umbrella term describing subsidised housing for people on low to moderate incomes including public, supported and community housing. Social housing is provided and/or managed by the government (public housing) or by a not-for-profit organisation (community housing) (ACT Homes and Housing, 2020).

Supported accommodation: Supported accommodation is short, medium and long-term accommodation for people with complex needs who require higher level care and support. Supported accommodation often includes support agencies on-site (ACT Homes and Housing, 2020).

Traditional Custodians: The ACT uses the phrase 'Traditional Custodians' instead of 'Traditional Owners' to refer to the First Nations peoples of this region, due to the land title system in the ACT. In the ACT, land title holders do not own the land, but hold up to 99-year leases on the land. The Ngunnawal Peoples are recognised by the ACT Government as the Traditional Custodians of this land.

Transition (LGBTIQA+ policy): Transition is a process in which a person changes their gender identity from that which was assigned to them at birth. The transition process can, but does not need to, include social and/or medical transition (AGA, 2020).

Underemployment: Underemployed workers are employed persons who want, and are available for, more hours of work than they currently have (ABS, 2007).

United Ngunnawal Elders Council (UNEC): UNEC is a significant Aboriginal body providing advice to the ACT Government and ATSIEB in relation to heritage and connection to land matters for the Ngunnawal people. UNEC is made up of representatives nominated by each of the Ngunnawal family groups and meets up to four times a year in Canberra (ACT Community Services, n.d.).

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