

INVEST IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS & FREE TAFE

A FUTURE
FOR ALL OF US



EDUCATION & TAFE▲

The Greens will make public schools genuinely free by abolishing fees, and will make all TAFE courses free.

Everyone has the right to accessible and affordable education regardless of their bank balance or postcode. For too long inequities in funding have undermined our state public education and TAFE systems; children with special education needs are missing out on vital support; and education planning decisions hampered by political influence.

The Greens will:

- ▲ **Make TAFE free**
- ▲ **Abolish all fees for students** in public schools
- ▲ **Ensure state funding to schools is based on the needs of students** by allocating additional funding to address disadvantage and increasing support for vulnerable students
- ▲ **Establish an Independent Schools Commission** to remove politics from school planning decisions

FREE TAFE

Students leaving university or TAFE now face greater pressures than ever before, including high youth unemployment and record high housing and living costs. Being saddled with tens of thousands of dollars in student debt that takes decades to repay is unsustainable and unfair.

We must also be prepared to embrace new and emerging challenges and technologies. The rapidly changing nature of work requires that people of all ages should be able to retrain throughout their lives without accumulating massive debts.

Free TAFE will give everybody a fair go, break the cycle of disadvantage and guarantee access to education. For those who want to study, it's our job to make that possible.

Under the previous Liberal Government, TAFE fees skyrocketed – courses for some fees increased by 300% – and enrolments fell. While WA Labor has frozen fees, this is simply not enough and TAFE is still out of reach for too many. We need a training system that meets students' needs and is accessible to everyone.

The Greens will:

- ▲ **Make all TAFE courses free**



GENUINELY FREE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

For too long, Labor and Liberal Governments have made special deals with private schools that continue to see public schools underfunded.

The Greens are the party of public education and are committed to a public school education system in Western Australia that is genuinely free.

Last year Western Australian parents paid over \$13 million in 'voluntary contributions'.

These 'voluntary' contributions and charges go directly to schools, meaning that schools in wealthier suburbs have more funding, and some students miss out on excursions and other opportunities if their families can't afford to pay.

Parents should not have to make up for government funding shortfalls. All public school funding should come directly from the government so that all students have the same opportunities regardless of family wealth.

The Greens will:

- ▲ **Increase government funding** to public schools
- ▲ **Abolish requirements for parents to pay** so that a public school education in Western Australia is genuinely free
- ▲ **Upgrade facilities and equipment** at WA's most disadvantaged schools



MORE SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

Too many students are falling through the cracks and not getting the help they need at school. For some, this is because they are waiting to receive a formal diagnosis, while others may have learning differences or disorders like Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) that do not meet narrowly defined criteria to access support.

The incidence of mental health issues in children and young people is growing at an alarming rate and schools are simply not being equipped with the skills and resources to support students. Under the WA Labor Government, students with behavioural issues have been suspended and expelled rather than receiving interventions and supports to address the causes of their behaviour.

The Greens will fix these gaps so all students are supported to reach their educational potential.

The Greens will:

- ▲ **Increase support** for students at educational risk
- ▲ **Audit and eliminate the use of restrictive practices** like restraints and isolation in schools
- ▲ **Fix the gaps between the mental health system and the education system** so that students receive seamless care and support

NO POLITICS IN SCHOOL PLANNING

For too long, decisions about the location of new schools and which ones will receive upgrades have been made on political whim.

Decisions about school funding should be in the interests of the children and young people of Western Australia.

The Greens will establish an Independent Schools Commission to determine where new schools should be built, which ones should be upgraded and the location of catchment boundaries - independent of politics.

The Commission's decisions will be based on sound evidence and official population projections.

Communities have a right to be involved and will be properly consulted by the Commission.

The Greens will:

- ▲ **Establish an Independent Schools Commission**
- ▲ **Ensure parents and communities have an opportunity to have their say in school planning decisions**