

ACCESSIBLE WA

A FUTURE
FOR ALL OF US



ACCESSIBLE WA▲

Our plan for an inclusive Western Australia

Disabled people continue to be locked out of the community and denied the same rights as other Australians.

Inaccessible public buildings and infrastructure, a chronic shortage of accessible housing, high rates of poverty and a lack of funding for communications and healthcare services are perpetuating this discrimination.

We must do better.

The Greens will ensure that the rights of disabled Western Australians are upheld so that they can enjoy full and active lives, through greater investment and regulatory changes to our infrastructure, education, employment, and service delivery.

The Greens will:

- ▲ **Make our healthcare system more accessible**
- ▲ **Invest \$140 million to improve the accessibility of our public transport system**
- ▲ **Invest \$100 million to increase access to public spaces and nature for disabled people**
- ▲ **Build 15,000 new fully accessible social houses** and require livable housing design principles in all new homes
- ▲ **Champion inclusive education and employment**
- ▲ **Train more Auslan interpreters**
- ▲ **Increase funding to disability advocacy** bodies by \$1.6 million

INVEST IN A MORE ACCESSIBLE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

Disabled people experience higher rates of avoidable deaths, emergency department visits and hospital admissions compared to the general population¹. They can also experience difficulties accessing mainstream health services due to lengthy wait times, cost, inaccessibility of buildings, and discrimination by health professionals.

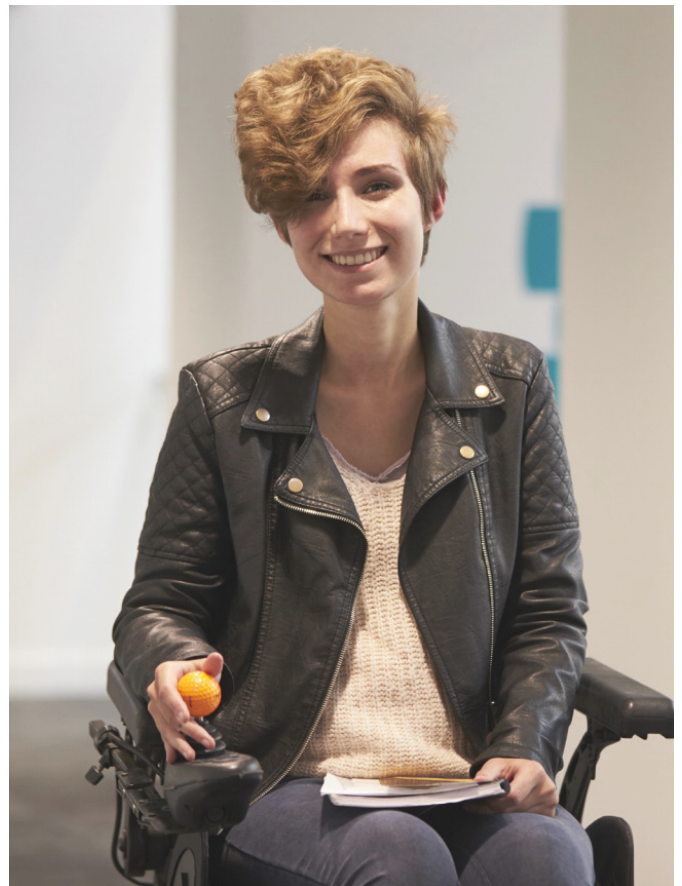
Western Australians pride ourselves on a world class, affordable healthcare system but we need to make sure this service is accessible to everyone.

The Greens will invest in a healthcare system that is accessible for everyone through equipment upgrades, improved communications and staff training.

Improving primary care and investing in a more accessible healthcare system not only ensures greater wellbeing for patients but also reduces pressure and costs on the hospital system in the long run - particularly from treatment of avoidable chronic and acute conditions.

The Greens will:

- ▲ **Invest in accessible hospital equipment** such as hoists and accessible communications, including access to Auslan interpreters and advocacy liaisons
- ▲ **Provide accessibility training** for doctors and medical professionals
- ▲ **Better integrate the care disabled patients can access in hospital with their NDIS supports** to ensure greater interoperability and benefits for all



ENSURE OUR COMMUNITIES ARE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL

Inaccessible public transport, buildings and infrastructure, a chronic shortage of accessible housing and lack of funding for communications support are locking disabled people out of their communities.

We need greater investment and regulatory change to ensure our communities are truly inclusive.

The Greens will:

- ▲ **Invest \$140 million to improve the accessibility of our public transport system.**
- ▲ **Increase access to public buildings and nature** for disabled peoples through a \$100 million infrastructure investment
- ▲ **Build 15,000 new fully accessible social houses** and require liveable housing design principles in all new homes.
- ▲ **Address the shortage of interpreters in WA** by providing fee-free and improved quality of training for the TAFE Diploma in Auslan interpreting, and work with the industry to improve pay and work conditions for interpreters



CHAMPION INCLUSIVE EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT

Every West Australian child should be welcomed at their local school and provided with a high quality education alongside their peers. Evidence tells us that inclusive education leads to better education outcomes for all students, disabled and non-disabled alike². Unfortunately though for many disabled students discrimination and segregation continue to impact their education experience³.

The Greens will support schools to develop inclusive education practices and better direct funding in line with existing human rights commitments with a goal of eliminating segregated education by 2030.

Every West Australian also has the right to meaningful employment. Nearly half of all disabled Australians are unemployed, and the current representation of people with a disability in the WA public sector is a shocking 1.5%⁴.

All Australians have the right to inclusive education and meaningful employment, and both play an important role in lifting people out of poverty.

The Greens will:

- ▲ **Provide funding for inclusive education training**, and classroom supports for principals, teachers and university lecturers
- ▲ **Set a 20% quota for full employment representation** of employees with a disability in the WA public sector by 2030, and support inclusive work environments



INCREASE ADVOCACY FUNDING

Too often the decisions that profoundly shape the lives of disabled people are being made without their genuine involvement⁵ whilst funding for advocacy bodies has been stagnant for years and dependent on short term funding applications.

The sector needs certainty and the ability to plan for the long term so that they can adequately support disabled Australians and their families.

The Greens will:

- ▲ **Increase funding to WA disability advocacy bodies by \$1.6 million over four years**, with funding period guarantees of 5 years minimum

1. Council for Intellectual Disability & Inclusion Australia. 2019. 'The Health of People with Intellectual Disability: Budget and Federal Election 2019'. https://cid.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Intellectual_disability_health_bid_200219.pdf

2. Australian Coalition for Inclusive Education. 2020. 'Driving change: A roadmap for achieving inclusive education in Australia'. <https://acie105204494.files.wordpress.com/2020/07/acie-roadmap-final-october-2020.pdf>

3. Senate Education and Employment References Committee, Access to real learning: the impact of policy, funding and culture on students with disability, January 2016.

4. Public Sector Commission. 2020. 'People with Disability: Action Plan to Improve WA Public Sector Employment Outcomes 2020–2025'. <https://www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/people-disability-action-plan-improve-wa-public-sector-employment-outcomes-2020-2025>

5. Disabled Peoples Organisation of Australia (DPOA) AHRC, AFDO, PWD WA, and ALGA in submissions to the Senate Community Affairs References Committee, Delivery of outcomes under the National Disability Strategy 2010-2020 to build inclusive and accessible communities, November 2017