

## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

**For First Nations people, 'health' refers to the social, emotional and cultural wellbeing of the whole community and the environment, not just the physical person.**

Whether you've been here for 5 years, 5 generations or 5 000 generations, everyone should enjoy the same access to healthcare in this country. Decisions made by successive governments have resulted in health inequality. COVID-19 has shown that many First Nations health centres need better resources to empower First Nations people to get what they need to be and stay well.

The Greens have a plan to balance the scales, so everyone can enjoy the same quality of care, treatment, and respect they need to live a good life.

### THE GREENS WILL:

- ▲ **Provide \$371m to self-determined, community-led First Nations health services to increase their capacity to care for their own communities**
- ▲ **Ensure people have early access to preventative programs and provide funding of \$1.07b to build First Nations owned healing places**
- ▲ **Expand Gold Card access to First Nations Elders aged 60 and above, costing \$5.06b**
- ▲ **Grow the First Nations health and wellbeing workforce to provide culturally appropriate care to their communities**

## PAYING FOR OUR PLAN

By making billionaires and big corporations pay their fair share of tax and winding back handouts to big polluters, we can build a better life for all of us.

1 in 3 big corporations pays no tax and many big corporations and billionaires send their profits offshore tax free.

The Greens will tax billionaires with a new 'billionaires tax', require big corporations making excessive profits to pay a 'corporate super-profits tax' and axe billions of dollars in handouts to the coal, oil and gas giants that are driving the climate crisis.

These measures have all been costed by the independent Parliamentary Budget Office.

When big corporations and billionaires pay their fair share, everyone can have the services they need for a better life.

## BOOSTING COMMUNITY-LED HEALTH SERVICES

50 years ago, when government health services were failing First Nations people so badly, First Nations people took the driver's seat and set up Australia's first community health centres. Today, First Nations services are some of the best community services in the country and many mainstream health, legal assistance and childcare services are modelled on First Nations services.

Successive governments have blocked First Nations people from accessing the services and resources they need to be healthy. A lack of infrastructure, transport and culturally safe services have created poor health and wellbeing outcomes.

The Greens will provide \$371m to community-led health organisations to boost

their capacity to care for First Nations people and their communities.

This will include specialist services to address intersectional health needs, such as those of First Nations LGBTIQ+ people and those with disabilities. When First Nations people are free to choose their own path, their physical and mental health improves.

## PREVENTATIVE FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

The Greens will ensure that all First Nations people have early access to culturally safe preventative programs, like community-led health promotion, vaccines, early health screening, accessible and culturally safe primary care, maternal and child health services, suicide prevention, early mental health care and traditional healing practices.

We will also provide \$1.07b to build a network of First Nations-owned and led healing places. Healing places are dedicated First Nations community hubs for First Nations people to gather, connect, and heal from the ongoing trauma of colonisation and access culturally safe support and practice traditional healing methods.

The Greens will provide \$5.06b to expand access to the Gold Card to First Nations Elders aged 60 and above. The Gold Card provides people with the treatment they need for all medical conditions as well as providing access to a range of services and support. Including First Nations Elders in the Gold Card will ensure that they can access the healthcare, treatment, and services that they deserve as they age.

First Nations Elders are the keepers of knowledge, tradition, and culture so it is critical to make sure that they have the culturally safe care that they need, when they need it.

## **GROWING THE FIRST NATIONS HEALTH WORKFORCE**

First Nations people are better off when they are free to set their own course. In line with the right to health and to self-determination in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples we will resource, train and further develop the First Nations health workforce of the future.

We will resource the training of doctors, nurses, allied health and other health and community wellbeing professionals to provide culturally

appropriate care to their communities in a safe and supportive way.

**FIND ALL OUR POLICIES:**

[greens.org.au/platform](https://greens.org.au/platform)