

AGED CARE FOR ALL

High quality, safe and timely care

Currently, there's not enough care for older people in our community. We have an ageing population, big corporations are making millions, and the treatment isn't good enough. Aged care should not be run for profit.

The Greens will provide older people with the level of care they need. We will increase hours of care, improve the pay and conditions of staff, clear the waiting lists and keep them clear.

Respecting our older people benefits our whole community.

THE GREENS WILL:

▲ Provide \$6 billion per year to:

- Increase hours of care to 4 hours 18 minutes per resident per day
- Introduce staff-to-resident ratios to ensure the best quality care
- Increase wages for aged care workers by 25% and improve conditions and training
- Phase out for-profit providers
- Guarantee a human rights based approach to aged care and end physical and chemical restraints

▲ Invest \$260 million to keep the home care package waiting list clear

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.

INCREASING HOURS OF CARE

Insufficient care in residential facilities directly contributes to the neglect and abuse of older people. On average, aged care residents are only provided with 2 hours and 50 minutes of care per resident per day¹, this is inadequate. Our plan will increase hours of care to the recommended 4 hours and 18 minutes of care per resident per day. This is the minimum amount of care that must be provided to provide a safe environment and prevent premature deaths².

It is estimated that more than half of aged care residents are living in facilities with

unacceptable levels of staffing³. Under-staffing is contributing to substandard care. The Greens will introduce staff-to-resident ratios that enable high quality care, including a minimum of one Registered Nurse rostered on 24/7 in all residential aged facilities, and allow more staff to be employed.

BETTER CONDITIONS FOR AGED CARE WORKERS

Aged care workers are the backbone of a good aged care system. Yet our aged care workforce is underpaid, under-trained, overworked and insecure. Our aged care workers deserve better.

To immediately address workforce challenges, the Greens will increase pay for aged care

¹ Willis, E et al., 2016, 'National Aged Care Staffing and Skills Mix Project Report 2016', Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation, p15.

² Willis, E et al., 2016, 'National Aged Care Staffing and Skills Mix Project Report 2016', Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation, p9.

³ Aged Care Royal Commission Final Report page 8
https://agedcare.royalcommission.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-03/final-report-volume-1_0.pdf

workers by 25%. We will also introduce minimum training requirements, including dementia training, alongside a national registration scheme for all personal care workers.

PHASE OUT FOR-PROFIT PROVIDERS

Aged care should not be run for profit. As the Royal Commission showed, privatisation has been a disaster for older people and their families who need aged care.

Looking after our older citizens is a public service, not an opportunity for billionaires and big corporations to make super-profits.

The Greens are committed to phasing out for-profit providers and ensuring aged care is provided on a not-for-profit basis.

A HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH TO AGED CARE

For too long, aged care services have been rationed in this country resulting in the neglect and abuse of older people. The decisions of successive governments have cut more than \$9.8 billion per year from the aged care budget.

The Greens will guarantee a human rights based approach to aged care, underpinned by a new Aged Care Act that enshrines the rights of older people who are receiving aged care. Under a rights-based approach, older people will be guaranteed universal access to the level of care and support they are assessed as needing.

At a global level, the Greens will continue to advocate for a United Nations International Convention on the Rights of Older Persons.

ENDING PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL RESTRAINTS

The use of physical and chemical restraints in aged care are harmful. They rob older people of their dignity and autonomy and can result in serious physical and psychological harm.

We will end the use of physical and chemical restraints in aged care, except in cases where there is a genuine therapeutic purpose, through stronger regulations.

IMPROVED TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Our aged care system has been underpinned by a lack of transparency and accountability and a culture of secrecy. We don't know how much aged care providers spend on food or care, but we do know that private companies are making billions from the provision of aged care. We need a system that holds providers to account.

The Greens will fight to improve governance, transparency and accountability in the aged care sector, starting with mandatory public reporting on how providers are spending Government funds. We will ensure the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commissioner acts as an independent, strong regulator that resolves complaints in a timely manner.

NO ONE WAITS FOR HOME CARE

Many people want to receive care at home and don't want to be forced into residential aged care prematurely. Too many people continue to experience unacceptable wait times for home care at their approved level.

The Greens will invest \$260 million over the forward estimates to ensure no one waits more than 30 days to receive their approved home care packages.

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