

## FULLY FUND PUBLIC HOSPITALS

### Investing in a strong public hospital system that provides healthcare for everyone & clearing public hospital waiting lists

A strong public hospital system ensures everyone has access to high-quality care when they need it, whether it's during a pandemic, a major accident, or a life-changing health crisis.

The Liberals have ripped billions from public hospitals, which has meant longer waiting times.

As the country has dealt with the pandemic, surgery waiting lists have grown, but there's no plan to clear the backlog.

The Greens will clear the public hospital waiting lists, reinvest billions into the public system and ensure everyone can get the care they need when they need it.

#### THE GREENS WILL:

- ▲ **Stop the handouts to big private health corporations by abolishing the private health insurance rebate, freeing up \$59.4 billion to reinvest into the public health system, slashing out of pocket costs, and improving public health**
- ▲ **Clear public hospital surgery waiting lists with a one-off \$875 million.**
- ▲ **Invest an extra \$114 million by legislating equal 50/50 funding growth of hospitals between the Commonwealth and states, ensuring faster access and more services.**

## REINVEST PRIVATE PROFITS BACK INTO THE PUBLIC SYSTEM

The public props up the big private health insurance corporations to the tune of \$7 billion every year through the private health insurance rebate. Meanwhile, in 2019, almost a million people in Australia delayed seeing a doctor because of the cost<sup>1</sup>.

The Greens have a plan to stop the handouts to big private health corporations, reinvesting \$59 billion of public money from the private health insurance rebate back into the public health system. This will help reduce out-of-pocket costs, reduce waiting times, invest in a high-quality workforce, and improve access for people living in regional and remote areas.

We will stop public money from being used to subsidise private health insurers' profits. No one should feel like they need to have private health insurance to be able to access top-quality care.

In addition to clearing waiting lists and lifting public hospital funding, this money will go towards getting dental and mental health into Medicare, strengthening the Medicare system generally, and other public health measures. By redirecting the handouts back into the public system, we can build a world-class public health system where private health insurance is a choice rather than a necessity.

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/health/health-services/patient-experiences-australia-summary-findings/latest-release>

## CLEAR PUBLIC HOSPITAL SURGERY WAITING LISTS

In 2013, the Coalition Government ripped billions of dollars out of our public hospitals which have never been returned. This has caused public hospital waiting lists to grow and people needing access to health services to suffer.

The pause on elective surgeries experienced during the Covid pandemic further increased the length of time people wait for healthcare.

Our plan will clear public hospital surgery waiting lists over two years by providing a one-off payment to the states and territories. All people in clinical urgency categories 1, 2, and 3 will be eligible. Our package of healthcare policies will also ensure surgery waiting lists are kept clear in the future and people can get access to surgery as soon as they need it.

## SAFEGUARD FUNDING FOR HOSPITALS

The Greens recognise the need to invest in public hospitals to ensure everyone has access to high-quality care when they need it.

We will boost federal investment in public hospitals, helping to undo years of underfunding by the Coalition Government.

The Greens will invest an extra \$114 million into our public hospitals by legislating for equal (50/50) funding growth of hospitals between

the states and the Commonwealth. People will get faster access to better care when they need

The Greens will also establish an independent Single Funding Agency to stop cost-shifting between the Commonwealth and states and territory governments. The Agency will ensure that all levels of government work together to create a nationally unified but regionally responsive health system, which delivers integrated care and services based on people's needs.

**FIND ALL OUR POLICIES:**

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