

Palliative Care Australia

Additional funding for aged 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. 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.

Greater care and more registered nurses in aged care facilities

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 day - 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 deaths.

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

Palliative care training for registered nurses in residential aged care facilities

The Australian Greens recognise the importance of palliative care training for registered nurses, particularly as the number of registered nurses in residential aged care facilities increase. The Australian Greens support the work of Palliative Care Australia in providing training across Australia, and would provide \$36 million over four years to support that training, ensuring better care for older Australians, in line with the recommendations of the Royal Commission.

Collaboration projects

The Australian Greens support the important work of Palliative Care Australia as a peak body, and its role in improving coordination and collaboration across care settings. The Australian Greens would provide capped funding for the following projects:

- \$2.5m over two years to develop a national palliative care workforce plan with all sector stakeholders;
- \$8.7 million over 18 months for a project to trial palliative care registered nurses in residential aged care facilities (100 full time equivalent palliative care nurses);
- \$1.5 million over one year for a project to review and analyse current palliative care programs that provide support for people with complex needs who are palliative, to allow them to remain in their home.