

# FREE EMERGENCY AMBULANCES

## ON THE WORST DAY OF YOUR LIFE, YOU SHOULDN'T BE WORRYING ABOUT THE COST

When you're in an emergency and calling for an ambulance, you're calling for an essential service. A responsible government does everything it can to support people who seek life-saving assistance.

Unfortunately, calling an ambulance for emergency treatment currently comes with a thousand-dollar price tag.

That's why the Greens will make ambulances free in the ACT.

### THE ACT GREENS WILL:

- ▲ Abolish the fees charged by the ACT Ambulance Service for emergency call-outs
- ▲ Support the Ambulance Service to focus on quality care, not debt collection

# DON'T HESITATE, MAKE THE CALL

## EMERGENCY SERVICES THAT PROVIDE PEACE OF MIND

No matter your income or financial position, you shouldn't have to hesitate before using a government-funded essential service in a medical emergency.

Right now, people who know about the fee for using an ambulance may hesitate to make the call, which can mean the difference between tragedy and survival, or impact their health and wellbeing for years to come.

People who don't know about the fee for service are in for a big shock.

Especially in this cost of living crisis that impacts some people much worse than others, the Greens want to take bill-shock and money worries out of the equation when you need emergency help.

No one should be stressing about out-of-pocket costs when they need emergency medical assistance.

## LET OUR AMBOS FOCUS ON QUALITY CARE

The ACT Ambulance Service shouldn't have to spend time and money chasing debts from people who can't afford to pay ambulance fees.

Abolishing the fees will be a significant relief for people already having to cope

with the fallout of a medical emergency, and will allow the Ambulance Service focus on providing great care.

## WHAT'S THE INVESTMENT?

Currently, the ACT Government charges about \$7.5 million each year in ambulance fees. Of this, about \$1.5 million gets written off as bad debt, and that's before considering the cost of chasing the debt.

Making emergency ambulances free will see the ACT Government forgo about \$6 million of revenue per year.

## WHAT COMES NEXT

The Greens want Canberra to be a place where everyone can live their lives to the fullest. That means ensuring everyone has access to the care they need to stay healthy and well.

Our plans, including free GP clinics and a Centre for Neurodivergence, focus on prevention, primary care and early intervention, to help people before they reach crisis point and end up in hospital.

Our goal is to provide a genuinely free universal healthcare system, because you shouldn't need more than a Medicare card to get the care you need.