

# AGEING IN PLACE

## MORE SUPPORT FOR OLDER PEOPLE TO AGE WELL IN CANBERRA

The ACT Greens want Canberra to be a place where everyone has equal opportunity to feel supported and connected to their community - a place that is accessible to everyone across all stages of their life.

But right now too many older Canberrans don't have the right support to age in their homes and within their community.

The ACT Greens will go further and faster to ensure everyone in Canberra can age well and live a fulsome life, connected to friends, family and services.

### THE ACT GREENS WILL:

- ▲ Deliver the Seniors Art Festival
- ▲ Ensure the dementia-friendly screenings continue
- ▲ Continue to deliver Seniors Grants
- ▲ Recommit to delivering the Neighbourhood Dementia Village
- ▲ Free public transport for seniors and concession card holders
- ▲ Deliver at least 160,000 free GP visits
- ▲ Support GPs provide free appointments for long-term musculoskeletal and mental health conditions
- ▲ Increase the frequency of suburban bus services
- ▲ Inject funding into making paths and bus stops more accessible
- ▲ Build and buy 10,000 new public homes
- ▲ Investigate a publicly funded retirement village
- ▲ Increase funding for environmental volunteers
- ▲ Make emergency ambulances free

## AGEING WITH PRIDE

The ACT Greens re-commit to government funded programs which celebrate ageing and recognise the wealth of knowledge, skills and experience older people bring to our whole community.

We will continue to deliver programs such as the Seniors Arts Festival, dementia-friendly screenings, Seniors Grants and look into what else we can deliver for the community to increase connection with others and value the experience of older Canberrans.

We will also progress the Neighbourhood Dementia Village to ensure people with dementia can live confidently and well-supported with services close to home.

## CONNECTED NEIGHBOURHOODS

The ACT Greens' election platform will benefit many people in our community, especially older people to age well in Canberra and stay connected in their neighbourhoods.

For many suburbs in Canberra there simply is not enough services or programs for people to age well. The ACT Greens have previously announced several policies which ensure you can stay at home, in your community and age with pride in Canberra.

## AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE HOMES

The ACT Greens have put forward a plan to [build and buy 10,000 public homes over the next ten years](#). Older women are increasingly more at risk of experiencing homelessness due to lower levels of lifetime income, lower superannuation, and time out of the workplace due to caring responsibilities. Our plan will ensure everyone has a secure and comfortable place to call home.

The ACT Greens have also committed to support innovative models such as Build-to-Rent-to-Buy schemes that create opportunities for older people, including older women, to live in safe and secure homes. This was announced under [our plan to make homelessness rare, brief and non-recurring](#).

Under this plan, we also committed to investigate opportunities for older people to access supportive housing models, including public and affordable retirement living options. This includes the possibility of a government-owned and operated public retirement village, to allow people to remain in their communities over longer periods of time.

## TRANSPORT AND FOOTPATHS

Many older Canberrans rely on our public transport system to travel around the city. However, Canberra's buses aren't frequent enough to rely on. [Our bus plan](#) will see suburban buses every 20 minutes during weekdays, and every 30 minutes on weekends.

Under our bus plan, public transport will be free for pension and concession card holders: all day, everyday.

We will also build more, and upgrade, bus stops to be truly accessible. Our plan to upgrade bus stops will make them more inviting and comfortable with adequate lighting and seating, shelter at more stops that actually protects you from the rain or blazing sun, and path and kerb upgrades to improve accessibility.

The ACT Greens will also ensure our neighbourhoods are well connected with a reliable and accessible footpath network. Currently there's too many cracked, dangerous, uneven or missing footpaths to get safely from A to B.

[The Greens' footpaths plan](#) will see more pedestrian crossings, a significant increase to improve footpaths and set a new, better standard of what our footpaths should be and reduce maintenance and repair deadlines from 18 months to 6 months.

## COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Older Canberrans are at the heart of our environmental volunteering community, providing countless hours of care to keep Canberra beautiful and resilient in the face of the climate crisis.

The ACT Greens recognise the value of our volunteers and [have announced plans](#) to increase funding to environmental volunteers, and establish a sustainability hub for local environmental champions, educators, artists and enterprises that facilitate

community sustainability and circular economy practices.

Additionally, we will create an ['Adopt a Patch'](#) program for communities to adopt their local laneway, verges, or similar public spaces to spruce them up as native habitat.

We believe this will build stronger connections and recognise the important contribution of older Canberrans in supporting our environment.

## FREE HEALTH SERVICES, CLOSER TO HOME

Every Canberran should be able to see a GP when they need to. People deserve access to reliable healthcare and from the same provider to ensure the best support for them.

The ACT has the lowest rate of bulk billing GPs in Australia and too many people are unable to afford regular health check-ins.

The ACT Greens have announced [a plan to establish four bulk billed GP centres](#), two northside and two southside, to ensure people have access to care close to home with no out of pocket costs.

Under this plan we will also support GPs to provide bulk-billed, specialised care for people with long-term musculoskeletal and mental health conditions.

The ACT Greens have also committed to make [emergency ambulances free](#) so when you need urgent care, you can call for help without worrying about the cost.