

PRINCIPLES

The Victorian Greens believe that:

1. That people who experience mental illness should live free from stigma and discrimination, with maximum opportunities for inclusion in society.
2. In developing social environments that promote mental health.
3. That public mental health services must be fully funded, enabling timely high-quality intervention in mental illness in people of all ages.
4. That mental health therapies should be evidence-based and cost-effective. The government should encourage the development of the evidence-base across the range of psychological, social and biological interventions and support ongoing evaluation of established services.

AIMS

The Australian Greens Victoria will work towards:

1. Increased resources and protected funding, resulting in improved access and reduced waiting times for community mental health programs and clinical services.
2. Increased availability of mental health beds across Victoria, including respite and Prevention and Recovery Care Service beds.
3. Improved admission processes for the mentally ill within emergency departments.
4. Greater equality of service provision between geographical areas and planning to meet need in areas where the population is growing.
5. Improved mental health services for groups with special needs including new parents, families, adolescents, elderly, intellectually disabled and people with drug or alcohol dependence.
6. Measures to increase recruitment and retention of the mental health workforce.
7. Improved mental health education for staff and access to clinical services for education facilities, prisons, police stations and immigration detention centres.
8. Training for police and correctional officers in mental health crisis intervention techniques.
9. Use of Community Treatment Orders as an alternative to episodic hospitalisation, where less restrictive measures are likely to be ineffective.
10. Protection of the human/civil rights of people experiencing mental illness including protection of inpatients from physical and sexual abuse.
11. Affordable accommodation solutions for people with ongoing mental illness, to address their high rate of homelessness and incarceration, and supported accommodation for those requiring ongoing supervision.
12. Employment programs and job opportunities for people with a history of mental illness and an end to the requirement that job applicants disclose current or past mental illness unless it can be demonstrated to be relevant to the position.
13. Improved communication between mental health services and other members of the healthcare team.
14. More government support for carers of people with a mental illness, including respite programs, supporting ageing carers and improving funding for care packages.