

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health

- **What policies or investments in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health is your party proposing?**

The Greens will provide \$371m to community-led health organisations to boost their capacity to care for First Nations people and their communities and will increase the First Nations health workforce. This will include specialist services to address intersectional health needs, such as those of First Nations LGBTIQ+ people and those with disabilities and early access to culturally safe preventative programs, like community-led health promotion, vaccines, early health screening, accessible and culturally safe primary care, maternal and child health services, suicide prevention, early mental health care and traditional healing practices.

We will also provide \$1.07b to build a network of First Nations-owned and led healing places as well as \$5.06b to expand access to the Gold Card to First Nations Elders aged 60 and above. The Gold Card provides people with the treatment they need for all medical conditions as well as providing access to a range of services and support.

- **What is your party's position on empowering Community Controlled Health Organisations in terms of both policy leadership and funding for service delivery sufficient to 'close the gaps'?**

When First Nations people are free to choose their own path, their physical and mental health improves. First Nations services are some of the best community services in the country and many mainstream health, legal assistance and childcare services are modelled on First Nations services.

The Greens will provide \$371m to community-led health organisations and resource the training of doctors, nurses, allied health and other health and community wellbeing professionals to provide culturally appropriate care to their communities in a safe and supportive way.

- **What is your party's commitment to implementing the Uluru Statement from The Heart?**

The Greens support the Uluru statement's elements Truth, Treaty, and Voice.

It's because we want these critically important things to succeed that the timing and the sequence of these actions matter.

No matter who we are, or where we come from we know that truth is always the best policy. Sharing the truth and listening to the truth of our colonial beginnings and its impact on First Nations people means exploring, understanding, and reckoning with our painful past. Until the injustice of invasion is resolved, none of the other elements can be properly addressed.

This is why so many grassroots First Nations people are calling for agreement making to be the second part of the Uluru Statement to be implemented. Negotiating an agreement or a Treaty (or Treaties) would be an opportunity for us to tell the story of who we want to be as a country. It would allow us to create a unified national identity that celebrates what binds us, protects the rights of our people and our cultures while also acknowledging the ongoing and historical injustices of colonisation.

Treaty is about bringing justice and peace to our home.

We all want to live in a country where we are protected by the law, but our Constitution does not do that, it's racist, and when it was first written it deliberately excluded us. There are also very few human rights protections in our Constitution. We deserve better.

Having constitutional recognition discussed as part of a national Truth and Treaty process would make it more likely to succeed.

A national Truth and Treaty process could even inform how our people are represented to Parliament, or in Parliament, and how our views, experiences, and histories could be considered in all policy and decision making about us.

Invest in preventive health

- **Does your party support the target, stated in the National Preventive Health Strategy, that investment of preventive health should make up 5% of total health expenditure by no later than the year 2030?**

The Australian Greens support the target set in the National Preventive Health Strategy. The Greens will invest \$275 million to establish a National Preventative Health Commission to support research into prevention and roll out evidence-based prevention programs.

Invest in the national public health workforce

- **What commitments does your party make to urgently growing the nation's public health workforce to meet the challenges of chronic diseases of all kinds (not merely pandemic control)?**

The Australian Greens are committed to wiping existing student debt and making school, university and TAFE free for all those wanting to attend. This will allow more people to enter the health workforce to meet the demands posed by chronic diseases and other conditions.

We are also proposing CPI + 0.5% lift in wages each year for ten years for public health workers employed under national awards.

Establish a Centre for Disease Control and Prevention

- **Does your party support the establishment of a national Center for Disease Control and Prevention?**

The Greens will Establish a National Center for Disease Control with \$246 million of funding. The CDC would be responsible for overseeing infectious disease policy and coordinating rapid responses to outbreaks like Covid-19. It would also be established as a fully independent body at arm's length from the government, ensuring our future responses to pandemics are based on science – not politics.

Protect against unhealthy products

- **What policies does your party have to strengthen regulatory protections against the marketing of unhealthy products, especially children?**
- **Does your party support making taxation of alcohol products equal across all alcohol products by alcohol volume?**
- **Will you support a levy on sugar-sweetened products?**

The Australian Greens are committed to the promotion of healthy choices, including a ban on the advertising of junk food and other ultra-processed foods, on media platforms and content aimed at children.

The Greens support all alcoholic beverages being taxed based on alcohol content rather than value.

While we support a tax on sugar-sweetened products, it is not a policy that we are taking to this election. One of the recommendations from the Senate Inquiry into the Obesity Epidemic in Australia established by the Greens is the introduction of a health levy on sugar-sweetened beverages.

Climate and health

- **What commitments and targets does your party commit to in regard to reducing pollution, climate emissions and slowing climate change?**

The Greens have committed to an emissions reduction target of 75% by 2030 and net zero by 2035. To achieve this, the Greens will immediately ban the construction of new coal, oil and gas infrastructure, and phase out the mining, burning and export of thermal coal by 2030. Our plan also includes Large-scale public investment in renewable energy and storage so we can transition to 100% renewable energy.

- **What commitments does your party have to bring about a switch in energy technologies away from fossil-fuel powered systems and towards renewable energy?**

Renewable energy is the way forward if we are to avoid climate collapse. The Greens support a structural and systematic transition to renewable energy which targets the largest emitters, including mining, oiling and gas sectors. The Greens support the growth and deployment of alternatives to fossil-fuel based energy, with a goal of negative greenhouse gas emissions

achieved through renewable alternatives. As a country, we are fortunate to have extensive renewable resources that should be utilised to benefit all Australians.

To tackle the climate crisis, the Greens' plan includes

- Large-scale public investment in renewable energy and storage, to replace every coal-fired power plant in the country by 2030, ensuring we deal with the climate emergency in time.
- Upgrading the electricity transmission and distribution grid, integrating more wind and solar energy while ensuring we keep the lights on.
- Support households and small businesses to get off gas and move to electric alternatives, that are better for our health and the environment through, grants of up to \$25k and loans up to \$100k
- Kickstart a household battery boom, with grants of up to \$10k and loans up to \$50k

Healthy democracy and public policy-making

- **Will your party commit to strong regulation of the activities of lobbyists in meeting with ministers and government officials?**
- **Does your party support banning of political donations from unhealthy industry sectors, such as tobacco, alcohol, sugar, gambling and fossil fuels?**

The Greens will strengthen the Lobbying Code of Conduct, ensure that in-house lobbyists are regulated, and publish Ministerial diaries so the public can see who has been meeting with Ministers and influencing policy decisions. We will also prevent Ministers and assistant Ministers from taking on industry lobbying roles within 5 years of leaving parliament.

The Greens recognise that political donors can have an undue influence on Ministerial decision making and undermine evidence-based policy. We will ban all political donations from the tobacco, alcohol, gambling and fossil fuel industries. While our current policy would not explicitly ban donations from the sugar industry, it would limit any donation to \$1,000 per year and require it to be immediately disclosed.