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Associate Professor Kate McBride,
PHAA NSW Branch President

RE: Cancer Council NSW's 2023 Election Priorities

Dear Prof McBride,

Thank you for contacting me regarding the Cancer Council NSW's 2023 election priorities. I also understand you had a productive meeting with our Greens upper house candidate Dr Amanda Cohn.

1. Protect Young People from the Harms of Vaping

The Greens NSW support reducing the harms caused by tobacco and nicotine through regulation and the provision of education and harm reduction services.

However the Greens NSW do not support the prohibition of e-cigarette products but instead have outlined a position of regulating e-cigarette products (nicotine and non-nicotine) in the same way that other tobacco products are regulated.

This would include:

- Regulating vaping (nicotine and non-nicotine) and legalising nicotine vapes to reduce harms and provide a pathway to quitting smoking.
- Placing limits on nicotine levels and prohibiting the use of harmful chemicals.
- Requiring health warnings on all vaping products.
- Regulating vaping products so that vapes are only available to over 18s.
- Funding education programs targeted at teenagers to warn them of the dangers of vaping
- Introduce heavy penalties for retailers that sell unauthorised vape products

You can read the Greens NSW full plan to regulate e-cigarettes here:

https://www.catefaehrmann.org/vape_regulation

The Greens NSW support your policy ask to remove all unhealthy good advertising from state owned property and to invest \$8 million each year to deliver a healthy eating campaign.



2. Promote Healthy Weight Among Children

The Greens NSW support the PHAA's policy asks to promote healthy weight among children.

We believe in banning junk food ads. Junk food ads are having a devastating impact on young people. Cancer council research found that kids travelling to school in Sydney were exposed to up to 2,800 unhealthy food ads each year on public transport.

This problem is getting even more out of control online. Research from the University of Wollongong has found that kids are exposed to more than more than 17 food and drink promotions for every hour they are online – almost nine times higher than their exposure to marketing via television advertising.

Over a week, children were exposed to an average of 168 online food and drink promotions, contrasted with an average of 19 a week when watching television.

We will push the next Government to ban junk food ads on Government property and public transport. This is the bare minimum that needs to be done to protect our children.

3. Minimise Harms of Gambling

The Greens NSW support the PHAA's asks to minimise the harms caused by gambling.

The Greens NSW have released a policy platform to reduce the harms caused by poker machines which you [can find here](#). The plan includes:

- Create a pokies 'super tax' and reparation fund for affected communities.
- Phase out poker machines from pubs in 5 years and clubs in 10 years
- Introduce a mandatory cashless gambling card
- Reduce gambling harms with \$1 bet limits, midnight to midday pokies curfews and prohibiting addictive features and advertising
- Reduce the social costs of pokies to NSW by \$87 billion over ten years
- End the grip of the gambling industry on our democracy by prohibiting gambling donations

The Greens will also shortly be releasing a policy platform for dealing with the harms caused by online gambling that will:

- Establish a National Independent Gambling Regulator.
- Regulate online gambling to reduce gambling harms with mandatory pre-commitment and a universal exclusion scheme across all platforms.
- Ban all gambling advertising including TV, radio and online ads.
- Regulate gambling in video games and prohibit 'loot boxes' being accessible by people under 18.
- End the grip of the gambling industry on politics by banning political donations from the gambling industry restricting politicians and public servants from working for the gambling industry.

4. Act boldly on Climate Change

The Greens support your policy asks to act boldly on climate change. You can read the full Greens policy platform on [climate change here](#).

The plan includes:

- Phase out coal and gas by 2030
- Transition NSW to 100% renewable energy
- Make fossil fuel companies pay their fair share of tax
- Prepare communities to better withstand the climate crisis.
- Provide a just transition for workers

5. Make prevention a health system priority

The Greens support your policy asks to make prevention a health system priority.

A third of chronic disease is preventable and yet we spend such a small portion of the health budget on preventative health. This is despite preventative health returning \$14 in benefits for every \$1 invested.

The Greens support greater investment in preventative health to reduce chronic disease and relieve the pressure on our strained public hospital system.

Warm regards,

Cate Faehrmann,

Greens MP and health spokesperson.