



DR RICHARD DI NATALE

Leader of the Australian Greens

Senator for Victoria

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14/05/2019

Rohan Greenland
CEO
Palliative Care Australia

Dear Mr Greenland,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to Palliative Care Australia's 2019 federal election asks. The Australian Greens are committed to ensuring that all Australians can access high quality, evidence based palliative care at a time and place of their choosing.

The Greens share the concerns of Palliative Care Australia about the lack of access of quality palliative care services in the community, especially for those living in rural, regional and remote area, and First Nations peoples.

We endorse Palliative Care Australia's guiding principles for palliative care. Specifically, we support the following principles as the basis for palliative care in the community and health system:

1. All Australians have a human right to high quality palliative care.
2. Australia will maintain the universal health system, and equity of access remains a priority for all levels of government.
3. Palliative care is highly regarded as person and family centred, where the individual needs of people who are living with a life-limiting illness, their carers and family will determine which services they access at any given time.
4. It is well-accepted that there is benefit in providing palliative care concurrently with disease-modifying therapies in response to changing needs of people living with a life-limiting illness, not only once all treatment aimed at a cure has ceased.
5. Palliative care is available for all ages, encompassing the needs of paediatric populations through to older Australians.
6. Grief and bereavement support is not just an integral component of specialist palliative care but all healthcare.
7. Support and resourcing for the planning and development of culturally safe and culturally aware palliative care services is commonplace to ensure culturally relevant requirements are addressed.
8. When new technologies and advancements in health and care are developed, appropriate privacy provisions are in place that are acceptable in the wider community.

We will actively support the implementation of the National Palliative Care Strategy (2018) and will work with the next government to see it implemented as appropriate.



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We have also made a range of broader aged care and health commitments which will benefit all Australians. Our commitments to improve aged care include:

- Guaranteeing a human rights based approach to aged care
- Providing funding for an additional 50,000 level 3 and 4 Home Care Packages over three years at a cost of \$5.491 billion
- Committing an initial investment of \$3 billion to:
 - Increase hours of care provided to each resident in residential aged care to four hours and eighteen minutes per day
 - Requiring staff-to-resident ratios that ensure an adequate level of care including a minimum of one registered nurse rostered 24/7
 - Increase pay for aged care workers by 15%
- Ending the use of chemical and physical restraints in aged care facilities
- Undertake a full and independent true cost of care study

You can find more about these commitments here: <https://greens.org.au/sites/default/files/2019-03/Greens%202019%20Policy%20Platform-Aged%20Care%20.pdf>

Our commitments for health include:

- Putting prevention at the heart of health
- Reinvesting the private health insurance rebate into public healthcare
- Clearing public hospital surgery waiting lists
- Investing in our public hospitals
- Creating a single funding agency to end cost shifting once and for all
- Implementing team based healthcare for people with chronic conditions
- Providing Medicare funded dental care

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your election priorities. We look forward to continuing to work with you in the next parliament.

Kind regards,

Senator Richard Di Natale

Senator Rachel Siewert

Australian Greens Health Spokesperson

Australian Greens Ageing Spokesperson



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