

# An Accessible Australia

## Our plan for a more inclusive Australia

Disabled people continue to fall through the cracks, to be locked out of the community and denied the same rights as other Australians.

Failings of successive Labor and Coalition governments have perpetuated this discrimination, often denying disabled people access to inclusive education, meaningful employment, adequate services and the support they need.

Disabled people are also shut out of our communities through outdated, discriminatory planning regulations. We must do better.

The Greens will ensure that the rights of the 4 million disabled Australians are upheld so that they can enjoy full and active lives, through our infrastructure, education, employment, and service delivery.



### The Greens will:

- Ensure the NDIS is fully funded, transparent, consultative and accountable.
- Invest in making our physical and digitally connected worlds accessible
- Champion inclusive education and employment
- Empower the disability community

## An NDIS that works

The NDIS has the potential to transform the lives of disabled people, their families and carers. But to do this the scheme needs to work, deliver on its promises, and meet the needs of people. The Greens are committed to creating a fully funded and adequately staffed NDIS that is transparent, consultative and accountable.

### The Greens will:

- Fully fund the NDIS;
- Provide adequate staff training and remove unnecessary staffing caps; and
- Improve IT systems and interfaces for participants and service providers.

## Making our physical and digitally connected worlds accessible

Inaccessible public buildings and infrastructure, a chronic shortage of accessible housing and lack of funding for communications support are locking disabled people out of their communities<sup>1</sup>. We need greater investment and regulatory change to ensure our communities are truly inclusive.

### The Greens will:

- Invest an extra \$400 million to boost accessible public transport across Australia over four years;
- Establish a new \$1 billion Accessible Infrastructure Fund and \$5 million Accessible Nature Fund, available to state, territory and local governments to improve accessibility of existing public places and infrastructure, including increasing access to nature and tourism activities for disabled people;
- Construct 500,000 fully accessible public and community homes under the Federal Housing Trust;
- Invest \$58 million over four years to advance captioning, audio description, relay and translation services, and access to Auslan, as well as pursuing the necessary regulatory amendments; and
- Establish a National Disability Telecommunications Service, providing a national resource for telecommunications products and services information, training, and support at a cost of \$3.5 million over four years.<sup>2</sup>



## Champion inclusive education and employment

Inadequate funding for disability in schools is negatively impacting the education experiences for disabled students and their families, often resulting in segregation and isolation for these students.<sup>3</sup>

Nearly half of all disabled Australians are unemployed, and the current Australian Public Service average for employment of people with disability is a shocking 3%.<sup>4</sup>

All Australians have the right to a good education and meaningful employment, and both play an important role in lifting people out of poverty.

### The Greens will:

- Support schools to develop inclusive education practices in line with existing human rights commitments, as part of our commitment to a well funded world-class education system;<sup>5</sup>

1 Senate Community Affairs References Committee, Delivery of outcomes under the National Disability Strategy 2010-2020 to build inclusive and accessible communities, November 2017

2 Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN), Pre-Budget Submission 2018-2019, 30/1/18

3 Senate Education and Employment References Committee, Access to real learning: the impact of policy, funding and culture on students with disability, January 2016

4 Australian Bureau of Statistics. While this figure cannot be directly compared with representation in the APS, it gives context to the APS representation rate.

5 UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), General comment No. 4 (2016), Article 24: Right to inclusive education



- Develop a new national standard of inclusive education training in alignment with professional standards for teachers and world's best practice;
- Give all pre-service and in-service teachers and principals the opportunity to train, retrain and be regularly upskilled in inclusive education practices, by providing a pool of \$100m per year for four years to universities; and
- Improve Australian Public Service disabled participation rates, setting a full employment representation target for disabled employees of 15% by 2030 and ensuring we meet our international human rights obligations.<sup>6</sup> \$9.7 million would be provided to carry out workplace adjustments for new APS employees with a disability.



Additionally, all too often decisions that profoundly shape the lives of disabled people are being made without their genuine involvement.<sup>7</sup>

#### The Greens will:

- Urgently establish a Royal Commission into the violence, abuse and neglect of disabled people in institutional and residential settings.
- Increase federal advocacy funding to disability advocacy bodies by \$11.3 million over four years so they can adequately support disabled Australians and their families, particularly during this time of transition to the NDIS;
- Establish an Office of Disability Strategy within the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet with the responsibility to coordinate and monitor progress of the National Disability Strategy; and
- Establish a safe, dedicated online platform for the promotion of discussion, debate and cultural development within the disability community (similar to ABC's defunded Ramp Up), costing \$1.1 million over four years.

### Case study: Accessible Homes and Infrastructure

Jenny is a young woman who uses a wheelchair and wants to live independently and close to her part-time job.

The Greens' plan to build 500,000 fully accessible public and community homes means Jenny can finally afford to live in her own place.

Thanks to the Greens boost in Accessible Infrastructure Funding her local train station is also now equipped with a lift and ramp so she can easily get from her home to place of work on public transport.

Jenny is thrilled to finally be able to live an independent life.

## Justice and empowerment for the disability community

Everyday disabled Australians are subjected to violence, abuse and neglect in our homes, in school and in the workplace. There is an urgent need for a national investigation into these abuses expose perpetrators, rectify systems failures give justice to survivors.

<sup>6</sup> UN, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), 2006

<sup>7</sup> Disabled Peoples Organisation of Australia (DPOA) AHRC, AFDO, PWD WA, and ALGA in submissions to the Senate Community Affairs References Committee, Delivery of outcomes under the National Disability Strategy 2010-2020 to build inclusive and accessible communities, November 2017