



TACKLING RACISM AND FAR RIGHT EXTREMISM

Stopping hate speech

In the wake of the Christchurch massacre we must act to stem the rising tide of Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, racism and bigotry in Australia.

White supremacy and the emerging neo-nazi movement are taking a foothold right around the world, emboldened and encouraged by political leaders here in Australia and globally. These leaders have nurtured, encouraged and legitimised hate. Enough is enough.

The Greens stand with the overwhelming majority of Australians, united against hatred and against the hate-speech that has dominated our politics and our public spaces for far too long. This hatred has not just targeted our migrant and refugee communities, but also First Nations peoples, women and our LGBTIQ+ community. It has to stop.

The Greens have a plan for a united, respectful and decent society that welcomes and celebrates difference, and recognises that we are one common humanity.



THE GREENS WILL:

- Stop **politicians speaking hate**
- Lead a national strategy to **counter violent extremism**
- Make **hate speech illegal**
- **Strengthen gun control**

STOP POLITICIANS SPEAKING HATE

Politicians hold a privileged position of power and influence. Too often this position is abused by those who seek to attack and dehumanise minority communities, migrants, refugees, First Nations peoples, women and our LGBTIQ+ community.

It has to stop.

The Greens have introduced a Federal Parliamentary Code of Conduct to establish a set of rules governing our federal politicians with regard to discrimination and hate speech.

The Code would ensure that Members of Parliament represent public office in a manner that is consistent with the values of respect and inclusion.

It would bind Members to recognise the value and contribution of the First Nations peoples, to recognise and value diversity and to reject discriminatory or exclusionary statements.



NATIONAL STRATEGY ON COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Australia needs a new, coordinated national strategy to counter violent extremism. Tackling racism and violent extremism requires a combination of approaches from Federal and State and Territory Governments, Federal Agencies, NGOs and community organisations.

Law and order responses, intelligence work and prevention strategies are all vital parts of the puzzle but must go hand in hand with community level programs, education and coordinated research.

FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY-LEVEL PROGRAMS

In Europe and the UK, programs such as Germany's Exit program¹ or the UK's Channel program² have supported individuals to leave or avoid returning to extremist groups, including those on the far right.

The UK's Channel program has seen a 36% increase in referrals in relation to far right extremism in the last year.³

In addition to these government-led programs, community-led programs such as those run by Hope Not Hate⁴ in the UK have successfully countered right wing extremism and fascism through organising in communities, exposing extremist views amongst those seeking elected office, and working to combat online recruitment.

Federal funding for similar community-led countering violent extremism (CVE) programs in Australia is often short term, making it harder for organisations to get results. What's more, funding for these programs has been cut in recent years.

In 2010, the Rudd Government announced \$9.6 million over the forward estimates for a community grants program.⁵ But by 2017, it was confirmed⁶ that funding of \$1.9m for the Coalition's Living Safe Together program

1 <https://www.exit-deutschland.de/english/>

2 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/channel-guidance>

3 <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-46556447>

4 <https://www.hopenothate.org.uk/about-us/>

5 <https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;query%3DId%3A%22media%2Fpressrel%2FL4PW6%22>

6 <https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;query=Id:%22committees/estimate/807f7b9c-c877-4635-9061-8a8a4cff2c82/0003%22>

was one-off funding and that there would be no future funds of this type.

Experience from Europe makes clear that long term, sustained grant funding for community-led programs delivers positive results in countering violent extremism. Such programs must be designed, led and delivered by communities in order to build relationships and trust with those at risk of extremism.

The Greens will commit \$10 million per year for a grant funding program to support community-led programs to counter violent extremism.

A NATIONAL ANTI-RACISM CAMPAIGN

Despite anti-discrimination law, racism, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and discrimination remain prevalent within Australian society.⁷

The physical, psychological, social and economic impacts of racism have a profound effect on our community.^{8,9}

Racism deeply affects Australia's First Nations peoples, with 97% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people reporting that they experience racism often, and that this increased psychological distress.¹⁰



7 Markus A., Mapping Social Cohesion: The Scanlon Foundation surveys 2014, 2017.

8 Elias, A., Measuring the economic consequences of racial discrimination in Australia, 2015

9 VicHealth, Mental health impacts of racial discrimination in Victorian culturally and linguistically diverse communities. Experiences of Racism survey: a summary, 2012

10 <http://www.dailylife.com.au/news-and-views/news-features/how-racist-are-you-take-the-test-20140910-3f70l.html>

Australia's Jewish and Muslim communities are often the targets of racist attacks and reports of anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim acts are on the increase.¹¹ The rise of the far right and white nationalist movements in Australia and around the world poses a particular threat to these communities.

Although racism is often fuelled by hatred and bigotry, in many cases, racism is a result of unconscious bias. Whether intentional or unintentional, racist attitudes, systems and attacks have a profoundly damaging effect on our community.

Experience from the Australian Human Rights Commission suggests that attitudes can change and that education is the key.¹²

The Greens will extend the current national anti-racism strategy, delivered by the Australian Human Rights Commission. This would include providing \$12 million each year to community organisations for programs creating awareness of racism and empowering communities to prevent it.

Programs would be delivered in community settings, including schools, workplaces, sporting organisations and media institutions.

We will also work with states and territories to further resource and expand teacher training and education programs in all schools on civics, human rights and respect for diversity, to ensure that these ideals are further embedded in the National Curriculum.

The Greens will support greater community education and awareness raising on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and history.

We support Reconciliation Australia's call¹³ for initiatives to eliminate racism from our health system as well as our education system, and ensure that experiences of individual and systemic racism faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are recognised, measured and addressed within COAG's Closing the Gap Strategy.

This is expected to cost \$39.9 million over the forward estimates.

11 <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-11-26/antisemitism-report-shows-marked-increase-in-incidents-australia/10555264>

12 Australian Human Rights Commission, National Anti-Racism Strategy and Racism. It Stops with Me. Summary Evaluation and Future Direction, 2015

13 https://www.reconciliation.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/ra_2019-barometer-brochure_web.single.page_.pdf

A MULTICULTURAL ACT

Most states have legislation to protect and value multiculturalism, however there are no such laws at a federal level. This has led to multiculturalism being used as a political football on the national stage, promoting fear and dividing communities. The Greens have introduced a Federal Multicultural Act, which will create a framework for multiculturalism and establish clear guiding principles for Australian society to embrace cultural and religious diversity.

Our Federal Multicultural Act will promote full participation by Australia's diverse communities in the social, cultural, economic and political life of Australia.

It includes the establishment of an independent Federal Multicultural Commission, which will provide independent advice to government and undertake evidence-based research on multicultural issues and ongoing community engagement.

The Act will also require government organisations and departments to report annually on action taken to promote multiculturalism, the use of interpreting and translating services, and the extent to which people from diverse backgrounds were represented on boards and committees.

This is expected to cost \$138.2 million over four years.

COORDINATED AND FUNDED RESEARCH

Australia is home to significant expertise on counter terrorism, approaches to countering violent extremism and tackling the far right. However, research funding is

often patchy and short term and there is little national coordination between researchers in these crucial fields.

In countering the rise of the far right, as well as ensuring Australia's communities are protected against all forms of violent extremism, it is vital that Governments at Federal and State and Territory level have access to the most up-to-date research.

The Greens will provide \$98.2m to fund multidisciplinary academic research into domestic extremism.

We will provide the Online Hate Prevention Institute with a \$1.4m grant over five years to continually update, maintain and expand its Fight Against Hate online system, which allows everyday Australians to report online incidents of hate speech and allows the streamlining of reporting to authorities.

The Greens will invest \$6m over the forward estimates in the Australian Intervention Support Hub, which provides advice and support to government agencies, law enforcement and community groups in developing and implementing local, evidence-based anti-violent extremism programs. This funding will support research coordination, best-practice development and program implementation.

HATE CRIMES AND RACISM DATA COLLECTION

To know how effective we are at curtailing racism and other hate crimes such as those perpetrated against the LGBTIQ+ community¹⁴, we need to be able to measure it. Unlike in the United States, Australia does not have a national database on hate crimes. In the wake of the Christchurch massacre, former Deputy Commissioner of the New South Wales Police Nick Kaldas has called for national hate crime data-collection and monitoring mechanisms.¹⁵

The Greens will work with Federal, State and Territory governments and authorities to establish a national database on hate crimes.

We know not all instances of hate crime are reported to the police, so this database could be complemented by a register managed by an organisation such as the Human Rights Commission in consultation with community leaders.

14 <https://lgbtihealth.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/LGBTI-Data-Online-Version-1.pdf>

15 <https://www.smh.com.au/national/australia-has-eight-police-forces-but-none-are-tracking-hate-crimes-20190316-p514tk.html>



INTRODUCE LAWS TO STAMP OUT HATE SPEECH IN AUSTRALIA

Words matter [and] such hateful speech can contribute to violence

- Human Rights Commissioner Ed Santow

Left unchecked, hate speech will often lead to hate crimes.

Currently, the Criminal Code Act 1995 (Cth) merely makes it an offence for a person to intentionally urge another person or group to use force or violence against particular groups or individuals based on their race, religion, nationality, national or ethnic origin, or political opinion.

But there is currently no criminal prohibition at the federal level of hate speech that can and often does lead to extremist criminal behaviour if it doesn't directly incite violence against a particular person/s.

The Racial Discrimination Act 1975 (Cth), prohibits discrimination on the basis of a person's "race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin", but not religious or other beliefs.

Muslims and Christians are therefore not covered by the Racial Discrimination Act, as they cannot be considered a race/ethnicity.

The Australian Greens will add hate speech to the Criminal Code Act, and legislate that where an offence is motivated by hate or prejudice against a particular group, the courts consider that an aggravating circumstance when sentencing, which attracts additional penalty.

CHARTER OF RIGHTS

We believe that Australia needs an effective legal framework to handle hate speech, but one that also allows for a balancing with freedoms of expression.

That is why the Greens have a plan to protect everyone's rights in law by introducing a Charter of Rights.

Australia is the last English-speaking democracy without a judicially-enforceable bill or charter of rights.

A Charter of Rights is essential in Australia to ensure that our broad range of rights are protected, including personal rights and freedoms, digital rights, economic

rights, and conventional civil and legal rights.

Balancing an interest in free speech against the dangers of hate speech is difficult, but necessary.

With hate speech in the Criminal Code Act, and an Australian Charter of Rights, courts will be better equipped to make judgements balanced between a freedom of expression and the protection of vulnerable groups.

STRONGER GUN CONTROL AND A BAN ON DONATIONS FROM THE GUN LOBBY

The Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission estimates there are more than 260,000 firearms in the illicit firearms market¹⁶.

There have been more than 50 breaches of the National Firearms Agreement across Australian states and territories since it was implemented in 1996¹⁷. The presence of these firearms in our communities puts us all at risk.

The gun lobby is becoming increasingly active in Australia in its push to weaken gun laws. In 2017 alone, the gun lobby donated over \$350,000 to political parties.¹⁸

The Greens will:

- ban all political donations from the gun lobby;
- prohibit the possession and use of semi-automatic guns in the community; and
- initiate a review into the Federal Government's response to breaches of the National Firearms Agreement.

16 ACIC https://www.acic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2016/10/illicit_firearms_in_australia_0.pdf?v=1477016769

17 Report finds the national firearms agreement is 'haemorrhaging', with more than 50 breaches of the code by states and territories <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/mar/26/australian-gun-control-advocates-call-for-federal-intervention-as-states-bow-to-firearms-lobby>

18 Groups made contributions at a time of intense focus on firearms regulation in wake of the Sydney siege: <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2017/feb/15/gun-lobby-donated-350000-to-australian-political-parties-in-a-year>