

Greens response to the AMA(SA)'s *People-First Health Strategy for South Australia: Election Priorities 2018*

Further to the response sent to the AMA on Wednesday 21st February, below is a specific discussion of the AMA document, '*A People-First Health Strategy for South Australia: Election Priorities 2018*', sent on behalf of the Greens (SA):

CLINICIAN-LED DECISION MAKING

- *An independent Clinical Data Analytics Unit and a new Clinical Senate to advise on health strategy.*
- *Expanded medical and surgical service at the Modbury Hospital, with a high-ratio nursing observation unit and priority patient transfers to the Lyell McEwin Hospital (LMH), with six additional intensive care beds for the LMH.*
- *A co-located Women's and Children's Hospital.*
- *A clinician-led Child Health Plan.*

AGREE

The Greens strongly support evidence-based health policy and see great value establishing a Clinical Data Analytics Unit and a Clinical Senate as pathways to greater transparency in the operation of our health system, where evidence and clinical expertise drive decision making rather than political agenda and spin. We support the AMA's call for an expansion of Modbury Hospital services (including additional resources for the LMH) as a response to the failures of the new centralised model of emergency care, and in the interests of improving outcomes for patients and staff.

The Greens also support the call for independent, evidence-based reviews of child health, the RAH facilities and EPAS, with a focus on clinical expertise and knowledge. Please refer to our previous response for further discussion. We also support the AMA ask regarding the co-location of the WCH.

INTEGRATED HOSPITAL AND GP SERVICES

- *Collaborative team-based models of care, and funding for GP-led stepdown/outpatients.*

AGREE

The AMA's proposals represent practical measures that will address some of the current failures of the South Australian health system.

RESOURCES FOR RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH CARE

- *Increased scope of clinical services in larger case-mix funded hospitals.*
- *A hybrid model of care including specialists, rural GPs and medical trainees.*
- *Improved access to mental health care.*

AGREE

The Greens believe rural and remote health care must be better resourced and support the AMA in their requests. I refer you to my previous letter for further details on our policies in this space.

COMMITMENT TO TRAINING AND RESEARCH

- *A strategic plan for training, clinical research funding and collaborative workforce planning. Network training models and increased training places, including in suitable rural locations.*

AGREE

The Greens support a better plan for training and research. We recognise the concerns of the AMA regarding the failure of Transforming Health to address the training pipeline for future medical practitioners and support investment in strategic training and research. There is scope for much greater co-ordination in planning (including cross-sector and cross-jurisdictional collaboration) and ongoing training in rural and remote areas.

BETTER FACILITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH SEVERE MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

- *Multiple medium-size purpose-built, high dependency accommodation for people with severe behavioural problems associated with dementia, mental illness and impairment.*
- *Specialist training for staff caring for elderly patients with behavioural problems and a dedicated mental health registry to collect data.*

AGREE

The Greens have advocated strongly here, highlighting failures of the current system and advocating for change. There is an urgent need for specialist, stand-alone mental health facilities and a greater investment in specialist training. Please refer to my previous letter for further discussion of our policies.

FUNDING FOR PALLIATIVE CARE

- *\$24 million per annum for a palliative care model that enables GPs and allied health professionals to support people to die at home.*
- *A new 16-bed purpose-built hospice at Modbury Hospital.*
- *Rural outreach palliative care.*

AGREE

The Greens recently announced a commitment to \$24.5m in extra funding for palliative care, pledging ourselves to the request of Palliative Care South Australia. Furthermore, the RDNS service should also be run 24 hours (and not 9 to 5); the Greens are calling for this and other measures that support those who wish to die at home to be able to do so, which will relieve pressures on the hospital system. We support the AMA's call to reinstate funding for outreach palliative care in country SA and a purpose built hospice at the Modbury Hospital.

SUPPORT FOR DOCTORS' WELLBEING

- *Legislative amendment to remove the mandatory reporting provision for doctors treating doctors.*
- *Mentoring, peer-to-peer support networks and commitment to safe working hours.*
- *Zero bullying tolerance across all SA Health.*

AGREE

The Greens are supportive of measures to improve well-being in the workplace. Resourcing peer-to-peer networks, commitments to safe work hours, a mentoring program and a zero tolerance policy on bullying across SA Health are all practical measures that will improve doctors' wellbeing. We also support legislative changes to mandatory reporting for doctors treating doctors as a means to strengthen the mental health of practitioners.

23 February 2018