



DR RICHARD DI NATALE

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29/04/2019

Ross Joyce
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Federation of Disability Organisations

Dear Mr Joyce,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Australian federation of Disability Organisations' federal election priorities.

1. The Greens have always championed a Royal Commission into violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of disabled people and are proud to have made this commission a reality securing \$525.7 million for this investigation within the last Federal Budget. We will continue to work with the disability community to ensure that the Royal Commission is comprehensive and effective, working alongside advocates to ensure that it fully supports the participation of disabled people. To this end, we have supported the calls of the disability advocacy sector for a revised Terms of Reference which specifically address the issue of financial redress of victims and survivors and for the removal of Commissioners Bennett and Ryan.
2. The Greens are committed to fully funding the implementation of the National Disability Strategy. We believe that this strategy must include the progressive achievement of measurable outcomes at a federal level as well as ensuring this applies to all levels of government. We would support this outcome by establishing an Office of Disability Strategy within the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet with the responsibility to coordinate and monitor the progress of the National Disability Strategy.
3. The Greens are fully committed to a transparent, accountable and fully funded NDIS that works for the people who need it. Although we recognise the transformational potential of the scheme to the lives of disabled people. We also recognise that far too often the scheme has failed participants and their families causing distress and trauma in the process. That is why we have developed a comprehensive plan to fix the flaws within the scheme and create an NDIS that works. The key points of this plan are:
 - A fully funded the NDIS;
 - Adequate staff training and remove unnecessary staffing caps; and
 - An improved IT systems and interfaces for participants and service providers.
4. The Australian Greens recognise that the national transition to the NDIS has not been the smooth and orderly process that was promised by the major parties. We are particularly concerned that people who rely on mental health, aged care and psycho-social disability related funding are being left behind. In addition to this we have seen local state and federal governments arguing over who should take the lead in filling the systemic cracks created by the scheme, causing participants and their families to suffer. The Greens have used every opportunity to call out and rectify this shameful process of buck passing.



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As part of our plan to solve these issues, in addition to our commitments in point 3, we have committed to \$450 million for community psycho-social support services to help repair the damage to the sector that has occurred during the implementation of the scheme.

5. The Greens fully committed to fully funding national Disability Representative Organisations as part of our plan to increase federal disability advocacy funding to the disability advocacy sector by \$11.3 million over the next 4 years.
6. The Greens believe that the voices and needs of disabled Australians and their families must be at the centre of all relevant policy development and discussion. We also understand the vital role that systemic and individualised advocacy plays in supporting disabled Australians to live with dignity and pride. That's why we have committed to boosting federal funding to the disability advocacy sector by \$11.3 million over the next 4 years.

Thank you again for the opportunity to respond to your election priorities. We look forward to working with you in the next Parliament.

Yours Sincerely,

Senator Richard Di Natale

Leader of the Australian Greens & Senator for Victoria



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