

TAMMY FRANKS.

Member of Legislative Council

Women's Electoral Lobby SA

Via email: admin@welsa.org.au

Dear members of the Women's Electoral Lobby SA,

RE: Women's Electoral Lobby SA Policy Platform

Thank you so much for providing the Greens SA with the opportunity to respond to the Women's Electoral Lobby SA Policy Platform and to outline the Greens SA's positions and initiatives that directly relate to your members and the issues you have raised in your survey. We support the priority election issues as put forward by WEL (SA) but we would like to provide further clarity and information to you and your members on exactly how the Greens would pursue action on the priority areas you have identified in your survey.

We note as well that while the Greens SA will not hold Government following the 2022 State Election, we will likely hold balance of power in the Legislative Council – particularly if we elect our 2nd Leg Co candidate, Yesha Joshi. Electing Yesha to the Legislative Council would make a huge difference – not just for the Greens, but for our Parliament as well, as we would be electing a young woman of colour and diversifying a chamber that is typically thought of as pale, male and stale. This would also put us in a strong position to negotiate with whoever is in Government for better outcomes for women in South Australia in line with the commitments we are making to you, and to push necessary and important reforms. We have indicated our support and commitment in our response to your survey, but below we want to further detail our approach to the issues you have outlined as well as the underlying values and principles that guide our response.

Pandemic recovery

We need a strategy to challenge the structural inequalities that underpin our society and economy as we map out a COVID-19 economic recovery, and which manifest in the disproportionate impact COVID-19 has had on women. If we don't address these inequalities, women will continue to be disproportionately impacted long into the future. To do this, we need to disrupt the current patriarchal system, embed gender-transformative strategies into all aspects of government, and support and encourage these strategies to be taken up by all of society - to build a better normal.

Assistance packages coming from governments intended to provide economic stimulus since the pandemic began have in the main been a stimulus for male dominated industries such as infrastructure maintenance and construction, whilst at the same time, the first workers to lose access to the Jobkeeper payment are early childhood education workers, who are predominantly female. The Greens know that as we continue to face the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and as we head towards an economic recovery, we must aim to do so in a more equitable way.

Federally, we have a [strong plan for tackling the pandemic](#) and making sure that any recovery efforts are equitable and put people (not profits) first. At a state level, we also have a [common sense and compassionate plan for responding to COVID-19](#) and ensuring that people are properly cared for.

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Reducing and eliminating violence against women and children

The Greens have a comprehensive plan to end violence against women at home, at work, and in public. We want to take a holistic approach to addressing the conditions and behaviours that perpetuate violence against women, create safe pathways to escape violence, and ensure no-one is turned away when they need help. [This is a nation-wide plan that would:](#)

- Ensure support services and prevention programs can meet demand with a \$12 billion investment in the next National Plan to End Violence Against Women, including specialist services, a dedicated First Nations Plan developed by First Nations women and community organisations, and well-designed behavioural change initiatives
- Centre the voices of victim-survivors in program design and delivery
- End rape culture with a \$477 million national roll out of OurWatch's Respectful Relationships Education in all schools
- Support women escaping violence with \$10,000 survivor grants and 10 days paid domestic leave and family violence leave
- Trial a national DV disclosure scheme to assist women concerned that their partner may have a history of violence
- Double funding for women's legal services and Family Violence Prevention Legal Services, and work towards Safety First reforms of the family law and criminal justice system
- Recognise the significance and complexity of trauma recovery by funding a 5 year pilot of the Illawarra Women's Trauma Recovery Centre
- Address underlying financial and housing insecurity that can force women to choose between staying in an abusive relationship or escaping to homelessness and poverty

Climate and environmental crises

First and foremost, the Greens know that we must meaningfully tackle climate change. We want to achieve net zero (or even better, net negative) greenhouse gas emissions in South Australia by 2035 or sooner, ensuring we have a just transition for workers in fossil fuel-dependent industries. You can ready our [climate change policy here](#), and our [renewable energy policy here](#). Importantly, we know that South Australia has a once in a generation opportunity to become a renewable energy superpower in Australia. [We have a plan](#) to create 9,600 jobs a year in renewable energy, revive the Electricity Trust of South Australia and ensure it is publicly owned, and invest in publicly owned renewable energy and storage.

The Greens want to help our economy recover post-COVID through investing in and creating conservation jobs, [with a plan that would create almost 3000 new jobs](#) while restoring our precious environment and creating beautiful green cities and suburbs.

We want to move towards a [zero-waste society](#), and have introduced legislation that would allow people to [bring their own reusable containers when buying food](#) and have consistently called for and supported banning single-use plastics in South Australia. The Greens would [protect and restore South Australia's ecosystems](#) through a range of measures including implementing preventative measures to preserve ecosystems, creating a network of conservation areas and wildlife corridors to connect fragmented and

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remnant habitats, limit the exemptions to the Native Vegetation Act, and much more. We [vehemently oppose the mining and exportation of uranium](#), and continue to stand against South Australia becoming a nuclear waste site.

As the driest state in the driest inhabited continent, we have the imperative to lead on water innovation, security, and resilience. [The Greens are committed to protecting our waterways and water quality](#), and have a strong track record in working with local communities to empower them to protect their water sources such as with the establishment of the Coorong Environment Trust. As part of our commitment to protecting our waterways, we are also of course equally committed to [looking after our coasts and marine environments](#), and working with local communities to do so.

Work

It could not be clearer that our current legal “protections” are not at all fit for purpose. This is also why this year the Greens introduced legislation that would ensure that employers have a positive duty to prevent sexual harassment in the workplace. We must ensure that avenues for dealing with and preventing sexual harassment and discrimination are evidence-based and victim-focused, which is why the Greens introduced this legislation. The Respect@Work report showed us in particular that in not requiring employers to prevent workplace sexual harassment they then place a higher priority on compliance with employment and work health and safety laws than on compliance with anti-discrimination law. Which is not to say that we shouldn't be prioritizing compliance with employment and work health and safety laws, but that compliance with anti-discrimination legislation is just as vitally important. A discriminatory workplace is not a safe workplace. By not imposing a positive duty on employers to prevent, as far as possible, discrimination, harassment, and victimization what we've been doing is placing a heavy and difficult onus on individuals experiencing discrimination, harassment, and victimization to complain. And as we've seen highlighted clearly by the Equal Opportunity Commissioner, some workplaces have arcane at best procedures for reporting harassment, with many barriers in place that actively prevent people from reporting their experiences. This is why the Greens are also committed to fully implementing the recommendations of the SA Equal Opportunity Commissioner's reports into sexual harassment in the Parliament and legal professions. We must also remember the complex and interconnected ways in which experiencing and reporting sexual harassment and discrimination can affect individuals. These impacts can include negative impacts on health and wellbeing, negative impacts on employment both day to day and on career progression, and there can be significant financial consequences as well. But the impact of workplace sexual harassment and discrimination extends beyond just the individual person experiencing that harassment and discrimination; it extends to their families, friends, bystanders and other co-workers. Even just in terms of the workplace, sexual harassment affects employers through lost productivity, staff turnover, negative workplace culture, resources associated with responding to complaints, and reputational damage. It is in everyone's best interest to take proactive and preventative action against sexual harassment and discrimination. The Greens are committed to implementing all recommendations in the Respect@Work report and want to ensure we have a roadmap to safer workplaces, including: giving the AHRC powers to investigate systemic discrimination and

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harassment, allowing class actions for sexual harassment and sex-based discrimination, and funding Working Women's Centres in all States and Territories

We not only are strongly committed to amending the long service leave Act to ensure all workers become entitle to long service leave at 7 and 10 years and to amending the portable long service leave Act to include all on-demand workers, but we want to go further; the Greens believe that everyone should have access to portable long service leave. This is essential as we recognise that increasingly people are more likely to work for multiple employers during their working lives. Further, it is our position that all workers deserve full protection of their accrued entitlements. We also support the expansion of leave provisions and entitlements to allow for paid leave for foster caring, surrogacy, kinship care and escaping domestic violence. Our policy calls for at least 15 days of paid family and domestic violence leave for all workers.

We also need to ensure that technology and automation make people's lives better, not more insecure. This means that we need to provide access to life-long learning and training for workers and support them to transition between industries, without them losing their working conditions or pay. Governments and employers have the responsibility to ensure a just transition for workers to a low/net zero greenhouse gas emitting economy, which guarantees comparable or better working conditions and security.

There is a compelling case for overturning existing sex work laws in South Australia. The archaic criminal laws attached to sex work cause harm, putting sex workers' safety at risk by preventing them from reporting real crimes committed against them. Consensual sex between consenting adults should not be a crime. The South Australian laws as they stand are contrary to the positions taken by the World Health Organisation (WHO), Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, UNAIDS, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW).

The Greens proudly stand for the decriminalisation of sex work. [It is our policy](#), and firm belief, that sex work is work and that sex workers deserve the same rights, respect and protections as any other worker. We have consistently worked with sex workers to advocate for decriminalisation in South Australia (and around the country), and have both introduced and supported legislation for the decriminalisation of sex work on multiple occasions. Most recently, Greens MLC and State Parliamentary Leader Tammy Franks [introduced a Bill](#) to repeal the criminalising provisions under both the Criminal Law Consolidation Act (1935) and Summary Offences Act (1953), which was then referred to a Select Committee for inquiry. We are hopeful that the report of this Committee, which will be tabled in Parliament during the next sitting, will help form the basis for a new push for the decriminalisation of sex work in the new Parliament following the 2022 State Election.

The Greens are strongly committed to continuing to work with sex workers to ensure that sex work is finally decriminalised in South Australia.

The Greens are also firmly committed to making wage theft a crime. When an employee steals money, the police are called, but that does not happen when an employer steals money from a worker. Cases are costly to prosecute, and the Fair Work Ombudsman is a toothless tiger. Unions should rightfully be empowered to check the books on behalf of the workers. Ensuring we are taking wage theft seriously as a crime is an important step in stopping the people who are exploiting vulnerable workers in our state,

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and protecting them from further duress, exploitation and harm. We backed the inquiry chaired by the Hon. Irene Pnevmatikos to take a deeper dive into wage theft and slavery like conditions in our state just as we will back good legislation to make wage theft a crime.

We have a [strong plan to make work safer, fairer, and future ready](#). The Greens want an inquiry into a Jobs Guarantee for South Australia. We continue to face the crises of inequality and of climate change in South Australia, and while a Jobs Guarantee is not a silver bullet it is an important tool that we have for addressing these issues. We can pay people to care for their communities and for their environment, to learn new skills while doing so or to finally have the opportunity to use the skills they already have. We can invest in repairing our landscape, in better preparing for bushfires. We can fill much needed positions in the health services, aged care and disability sectors. In short, we can look after each other. There is a wealth of opportunity in our state to connect the untapped potential of people with the unmet needs of the community. A jobs guarantee would - and has in the past - ensure that there is meaningful work for anyone who wants it.

Finally, we want to ensure that priority is given to ensuring equity and diversity in all fields of employment. We believe this can be achieved by:

- Developing and implementing strategies to improve the employment of older people including promoting the skills and life experiences of older workers to the business community, and supporting older people to take up re-skilling and education opportunities;
- Implementing/supporting tailored programs to improve training and employment opportunities for young people (post-school), Indigenous South Australians, and the long-term unemployed;
- Implementing and reporting on evidence based strategies to improve female participation in the workforce and achieve gender equity in terms of wages, entitlements and career progression;
- Reviewing the content of South Australian equal opportunity laws to ensure best practice in terms of scope of protection and practical implementation.

Housing

The Greens are committed to bringing back the South Australian Housing Trust (SAHT) and slashing the waiting list for public housing. We have announced a costed plan to build 40,000 new houses over 4 years, with 10,000 new homes to be built each year. Under our model, rent would be capped at 25% of income, or market rent, whichever is lower. This will ensure that the housing constructed is affordable for those living on low incomes. Under our plan, those currently experiencing housing insecurity would be priorities. 16,000 of the new homes would be immediately allocated to those on social housing waitlists. The remaining 24,000 homes would be available to anyone who applies. Priority would, however, be given to key workers such as teachers and nurses. This would ensure a diverse mix of family types, workers and incomes.

The Greens are also committed to redressing the balance between tenants and landlords through reform of the Residential Tenancies Act. Following the State Election, we intent to amend the Residential Tenancies Act with a focus on ending no fault evictions, introducing rent capping to protect vulnerable people from unfair rent hikes, giving renters security and stability through long-term tenancies, making

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pet-friendly properties the norm, instead of the exception, and stamping out underhand rental bidding that forces rents to go up and up.

We also remain concerned that existing zoning requirements have failed to result in investment in social housing. We need to strengthen these requirements to ensure that new developments deliver a greater investment in social and affordable housing. This is particularly important when such development involves the use of public land.

Education and training

The Greens are committed to [fully funded, genuinely free public education](#) – and this is a key element of our platform. By making [big banks](#), [miners](#), and [developers](#) pay their fair share of tax we know that we can increase the South Australian Government's share of the School Resource Standard funding from 75% to 80% for an extra \$804 million over four years for public schools. We also want to abolish school materials and services charges, and other subject fees, for parents – ensuring that public education is truly free in our State. This would mean our public education system would be much more equitable for all South Australian children, no matter where they live or what their parents earn. We also want to [introduce free, healthy school breakfasts and lunches in South Australian public schools](#). We know that this would see a massive increase in students' concentration, ability to socialise, attendance rates and educational outcomes. Importantly, it would ensure that no child goes hungry and ensures they have a more equal start in their lives regardless of their parent's income.

Further, the Greens are committed to supporting and strengthening the role of the Independent Industry Advocate to ensure these outcomes. With clearer targets, expectations and reporting frameworks.

We want to restore TAFE SA as the best VET provider possible. A publicly owned and controlled provider of affordable vocational education, training, and skills development. We support Vocational Education and Training (VET) being primarily provided through the public TAFE system in addition to the community and not-for-profit VET sector. We have introduced legislation to bring the TAFE SA Board back into that public control and ensuring Ministerial accountability. Bringing TAFE SA fully back into public hands is still something to which we are deeply committed.

We have a strong policy in regards to [promoting and investing in science and research](#), and are committed to the [expansion and promotion of accessible pathways](#) for women and girls into the Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) field. There is a clear need to create good jobs in new and emerging industries, and to that end the Greens support the financing of innovative green industries through initiatives for South Australian industry and research leaders to showcase new technologies, services and ideas to investors and other stakeholders. We want to boost funding to science and research to increase local job prospects for South Australian young researchers, and support research and development in environmental technologies and advanced industries by investing in public research programs and providing targeted tax incentives for private research and development.

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Health

Every South Australian is entitled to the best health care system possible, regardless of illness, ability, where they live or how much they earn.

The Greens believe that a public health system is the best way to deliver access to a comprehensive, high quality health care system. Providing quality public services is a political choice about what sort of society we want to live in. In particular, the Greens recognise the social determinants of health and we know that they need to be addressed in order for us to live in a healthy and fair society. Our healthcare system is critically ill. Our healthcare system has become increasingly privatised and money has been ripped out of hospitals and public services. As a consequence, health needs are not being met and people are not getting the care they need.

A key part of the Greens' approach to Health policy is that we firmly believe that South Australia's approach to public health should be guided by the World Health Organisation definition of health as the state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity - and therefore we should seek a holistic approach to health that includes an emphasis on disease prevention, health promotion and social and environmental determinants of health.

A holistic approach means that we actually value and invest in, for example, preventative health programs and measures. Prevention is better than cure – not to mention cheaper - and we must find ways to keep people healthier throughout their lives rather than just treating illnesses once people get sick. It is Greens policy to promote a model of health care delivery that is based on sustainable Primary Health Care centres (as opposed to GP super clinics) that have a more affordable and accessible staff and skill mix that includes doctors, nurses, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, and health promotion officers. By picking up and addressing health problems early on, or preventing them, we are keeping people out of emergency departments and reducing the load on hospitals.

The Greens are therefore calling for our State to establish a centre for expertise in specialised endometriosis and chronic pelvic pain diagnosis, treatment and management in South Australia. It is heartbreakingly unfair that women in our community have gone without answers, support, and treatment for so long and that we're still largely failing to provide those things.

It is estimated that one in nine Australian women are diagnosed with this condition by age 44, yet there is still a shocking lack of research, treatment, and diagnosis options. While the number of sufferers and the quality-of-life impacts are understood to be similar to that of diabetes, endometriosis only receives about 5 per cent as much funding as that disease.

Adelaide is already leading the nation in care and treatment for endometriosis, and while there are many doctors working in the field who are making a huge difference to the lives of people with endometriosis, there are many more who remain ignorant of the disease, who still push tired old myths about its cures, and who treat people with the disease as hysterical. There is a clear need for more trained health practitioners in South Australia so that patients can access interdisciplinary and holistic care.

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By having this specialist centre in South Australia we will provide more training opportunities for health practitioners, but it will also provide opportunities to partner with research organisations to evaluate the best treatment, diagnosis and training options. This centre would also ensure that no-one with pelvic pain is left behind, catering also to people with other types of pelvic pain and disease including PCOS, adenomyosis, and persistent pelvic pain.

If you have any questions or would like any further clarification on any of our positions as outlined above, please let us know. We hope that the information we have provided is of use to you and your members.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tammy Franks". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tammy Franks MLC