



## Election 2017-Questions for Political Parties

In addressing the following please do not provide lengthy answers as we intend to circulate your responses without editing them. In answering the questions, we expect that if your party wins you will implement the commitments that you provide or you will support the implementation of the commitments given by the victorious party. If you cannot guarantee the latter, please advise accordingly for relevant questions.

1. How do your party's policies and programs address the principle of Substantive Equality? What mechanisms are/will be in place to monitor this?

The Greens WA are committed to building a fair, equitable and humane society based upon justice for everyone. Social justice and equality are at the heart of the Greens work. We recognise that for some members of the community there needs to be additional supports and services to ensure they are able to receive the same level and quality of services as all Australians, the Greens WA support programs and policies that ensure genuine equality for all Western Australians.

2. What are your party's policies and initiatives to address diversity in representation and diversity in decision making in government and other societal institutions?

One of the four pillars of the Greens is that of a commitment to Participatory Democracy. As such we support affirmative action to improve the representation of both women and other minority or marginalised groups within the Australian community at all levels of decision making. The Greens believe that one of Australia's strengths is that we are a culturally diverse society and that this strength should be reflected within our decision-making structures.

3. What are three key features of your party's commitment to achieve a socially cohesive society? Does it include an Anti-Racism Strategy and if so what funding will be assigned to it?

A core principle of the Greens WA Social Justice policy is the celebration of ethnic diversity and the many cultural backgrounds in Australia, a commitment to working to remove inequalities and to campaign against racism.

The Greens WA are committed to supporting the introduction of a Multiculturalism Act in WA to enhance and protect the rights and opportunities of multicultural communities and an Anti-Racism strategy to combat stereotypes, prejudice and racism in Australia. We need to build a sense of community, and ensure all Australians feel that they are part of and contributing to our country. An Anti-Racism strategy must include a counter balance to the damaging and divisive extreme right parties that preach division and intolerance. More details on this can be found in the Greens WA *Celebrating Diversity: Strengthening Multiculturalism* state election initiative.

4. Will your party restore ECCWA's core funding before 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017 and will the funding provided be on par with what other state and territory governments provide their ECCs or Multicultural Councils?

The Greens WA recognise the essential value of advocacy bodies in ensuring that all voices of the community are heard and are committed to fighting for funding for WA that matches with other state and territory governments, and support the ask of \$150,000 per annum for the Ethnic Communities Council of Western Australia.

5. Will your party introduce a Multiculturalism Act along the lines of what Victoria and Queensland have (i.e. The Multicultural Victoria Act 2011 and Queensland Multicultural Recognition Act 2016)?

The Greens WA are calling for a Multiculturalism Act that includes similar provisions to Victoria's Multicultural Victoria Act 2011 and Queensland's Multicultural Recognition Act 2016. The Greens believe that the introduction of any such Act must be undertaken in consultation with the multicultural community. More details of this can be found as part of the Greens WA *Celebrating Diversity: Strengthening Multiculturalism* state election initiative.

6. As part of a proposed Act will your party create an Independent mechanism to oversee a Multicultural Commission? It is envisaged that the Commission, with about 8 FTEs, (to replace the Office of Multicultural Interests (OMI) will focus on policy development, monitoring of Equity plans etc. and not to take over the functions of other departments e.g. ethnic schools as OMI has. Consultations with the community

The Greens support independent mechanisms and bodies to ensure that strategies can be developed and plans can be monitored to ensure progress in advancing the interests of a multicultural Australia. The Greens recognise that the current structure of OMI does not meet the needs of many within our community and support community consultations to explore the prospect of the establishment of a Commission.

7. Will your party monitor the effective implementation of the WA Language Services Policy?

The Greens support the WA Language Services Policy and would support measures to ensure its effective implementation. Access to interpreters should be viewed as a fundamental right and needs to be supported and promoted amongst all services.

8. Will your party restore the funding for the Italian Insertion Program without cutting the current funding of other Community Languages? Will it revert the implementation responsibility of the Community Languages program to the Education Department?

Access to the Community Language program is important for staying connected to culture and family. The Greens WA support restoring funding to the Italian Insertion Program and funding other community language programs appropriately and believe that this is best placed within the Department of Education.

9. Will your party re-establish a Transcultural mental health unit with State wide responsibility?

The Greens support appropriate culturally and linguistically diverse services to ensure that all members of the community can access the support services they need, this includes but is not limited to; mental health services, housing, education, aged services, disability services, and broader health services. The Greens believe that the best approach to ensuring the re-establishment of a statewide Transcultural mental health unit is via a hub and spoke model providing both a centre of excellence in transcultural mental health but also

ensuring that best possible care is available from the primary to tertiary health level anywhere within the state.

10. Will your party fund culturally and linguistically appropriate support and advocacy services for victims of Domestic and Family Violence? Will it also fund programs that focus on perpetrators to diminish the prevalence of such violence?

The Greens are very concerned about the lack of access to culturally appropriate services faced by CALD women experiencing domestic violence. The Greens support increased investment in frontline services to address domestic violence.

At a national level the Greens are advocating for a new ten-year, \$5 billion National Partnership Agreement on Domestic Violence and Violence Against Women. Under the new NPA, there would be dedicated funding for specialist domestic violence services working with CALD communities.

11. Will your party consider addressing religious vilification by incorporating provisions in the WA Criminal Code, similar to the ones that address racial vilification?

The Greens will commit to exploring the possible inclusion of religious vilification within the Equal Opportunity Act.

12. Will your party commit to:
  - restoring the teacher aides program to the previous level – they are needed especially for oral English language skills
  - providing special language programmes once the child/teenager has completed the Federal funded component
  - Funding English language programmes for pre-school/kindergarten.

The Greens will strongly advocate for the restoration of successful programs and the provision of English language and special language programmes for students and children of all ages.

13. Will your party develop a comprehensive strategy to effectively address needs/concerns of the CaLD population in Regional and Rural Areas, including equitable access to OMI's community grants program?

The Greens WA understand that CaLD people living in regional and rural areas face additional barriers in accessing the services and programs they require. The Greens WA believe that no matter where you live, you should be able to access the services and programs that are needed, the Greens WA support the development of a comprehensive strategy to address the concerns of CaLD people living in rural and regional areas.