



THE HONOURABLE ROBERT SIMMS MLC

TOPIC	COTA SA RECOMMENDATIONS	GREENS RESPONSE
AGEING IN COUNTRY SA	That the incoming state government immediately commissions the development of an ageing in country South Australia Strategy, working with older people, local councils, businesses, government agencies and community groups to identify best practice examples and initiatives in response to critical issues in regional areas including housing, employment, digital inclusion, transport and health	Strongly agree. Older regional South Australians must not be neglected due to geographical location.
	That the incoming state government funds COTA SA to establish a Country Engagement Program to work with older people and stakeholders in country areas to promote ageing well, build local capacity and support options for people to remain in their community as they age Estimated cost: \$160,000 per annum	Agree.
	That the incoming state government maps, plans and set targets for optimal levels of health and aged care staffing and services in country SA and then reports regularly against the achievements of those targets	Agree.
DIGITAL INCLUSION	That the incoming state government research and funds innovative, evidence based, best practice programs that identify and target other people at risk of digital exclusion to help them to use the online world	Agree. As we move increasingly online, it is unacceptable that anyone be left behind.



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	That the incoming state government maintains non-online systems for access to information, support and all government and government funded services	Agree. Age should never be allowed to become a barrier to accessibility of essential information and service.
AGEISM	<p>That the incoming state government funds COTA SA to lead key stakeholders in a multi-year, targeted media and awareness campaign that confronts and addresses ageism</p> <p>Estimated cost: \$500,000 per annum</p>	Agree. South Australia's older population is significant and there is much they can contribute. We must make sure that potential is not dismissed.
EMPLOYMENT	That the incoming state government funds a pilot project in regional South Australia to engage older workers and employers to trial new opportunities for mature employment and enterprise in country areas. This project should also investigate the work required to support upskilling, reskilling and workplace flexibility to create proactive employment opportunities for older people with a focus on older women	Agree. With people retiring later in life than ever, this is particularly relevant in both regional and urban communities.
HOUSING	That the incoming state government increases the quantity of public and social housing available for older people by at least 100 homes per year	Agree.
	That the incoming state government uses age as a criterion of priority for housing for disadvantaged older people	Agree.
	That the incoming state government establishes a specialised advocacy and housing service that	Agree. Vulnerable older people are in a uniquely difficult position to secure accommodation.



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assists vulnerable older people living in housing stress to secure ongoing accommodation

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

That the incoming state government provides funding to enable the Strength for Life program to continue to meet the needs of older South Australians including regional and low-SEIFA areas, with dedicated funding to develop a next generation model targeting CALD and First Nation Elders and the roll out of online access for isolated and regional South Australians

Estimated cost: \$290,000 per annum

That the incoming state government prioritises and accelerates strategies to improve health outcomes and measures to reduce ambulance ramping for older people

Agree. Empowering older South Australians to live healthy and independent lives prolongs quality of life while helping to prevent medical interventions. We agree this service should be extended.

Agree. Ramping is one of the most pressing issues we face in our state, disproportionately affecting our older population.

The Greens want to significantly increase funding for mental-health services, including public hospital inpatient services, psycho-social supports, community-based outpatient and outreach services, and case managers, especially for patients with acute and pervasive mental-health conditions, including distinctive separate pathways for mental health consumers to access care before it becomes an emergency where possible. This, we believe, would more meaningfully address and alleviate issues of ramping and hospital overcrowding.



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	<p>We also want to invest in preventative and community health. South Australia's community health centres used to provide a world class service to our state – some of them even gaining WHO recognition, but their functions were severely cut in the wake of the McCann review. The Greens want to reverse those changes. Cutting these community health services may have been a short-term savings measure for the South Australian Government at the time, but long term we have seen that with the lack of preventative and health promotion services our hospitals and EDs are under more strain than ever, and there is increased pressure on already stretched health budgets.</p>
<p>That the incoming state government makes ambulance travel free for all commonwealth senior health card holders</p>	<p>Agree. It's not acceptable that we are the only jurisdiction in Australia not to support this. More broadly, we believe that ambulance travel should be free for all South Australians, so that everyone can access life-saving and timely care without fear of debt.</p>
<p>That the incoming state government, with the Australian government, addresses access to oral health care services for older South Australians, with an absolute priority on older people with low incomes</p>	<p>Agree. The Greens believe that everyone should be able to access dental care through Medicare – with more details available here: https://greens.org.au/sites/default/files/2019-</p>



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[03/Greens%202019%20Policy%20Platform%20-%20Dentcare.pdf](#)

SOCIAL INCLUSION

That the incoming state government funds the COTA SA Rainbow Hub to safeguard its current footprint and expand it's reach to LGBTI+ elders living outside metropolitan Adelaide

Estimated cost: \$140,000 per annum

Agree.

That the incoming state government funds the extension of transport concessions beyond off-peak times.

Agree. The Greens have long supported this policy.

That the incoming state government reviews transport options in regional South Australia as part of an Ageing in Country South Australia strategy

Agree. Use of public transport helps older people maintain an active life, any strategy addressing Ageing in Regional South Australis ought to contain an assessment of it.

That the incoming state government reinvests in COTA SA to provide peer to peer road safety awareness and education initiatives for older people.

Estimated cost: 150,000 per annum

Agree. A targeted campaign for older road users is a sensible initiative,