



CENTRAL COAST GREENS

Social Equality & Economic Justice | Ecological Sustainability | Grassroots Democracy | Peace, Nonviolence & Disarmament

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No child should be living in a car – International Children’s Day June 1

Crisis housing solutions, long-term funding, and sustainable solutions to the scourge of homelessness are top of the policy list for the Central Coast Greens this week. A range of fully funded policy platforms have been announced by the Australian Greens, and local Greens candidates point out how these, if supported by the major parties, would bring significant benefits to our local communities.

"We support any additional funding for front-line emergency housing services, because so much money has been cut by recent governments" said Robertson Greens candidate Hillary Morris. "However, the funding model used shouldn't be based on whether or not an emergency service is in a marginal seat – funding should be provided to critical emergency and long-term programmes wherever it is needed."

Instead, the candidates highlight the Australian Greens Homelessness Policy released on April 13, which outlines a 10 year funding budget which will allow service providers to make secure long term plans to help everyone find a safe path home.

"This is a complex problem, and solving it so that we do not need to make desperate appeals requires coordinated policies addressing some of the causes of homelessness," says Dobell candidate Abigail Boyd.

"We have also released details of better funding for domestic violence, mental health, Aboriginal and Torres St Islanders who are sadly over-represented in disadvantage in this country, and affordable housing. We have several plans to increase employment options. Further relevant platforms will be announced during the election campaign. All are fully costed. All draw on existing Greens policies and philosophies. All reflect the way Greens MPs will vote." Ms Boyd said.

Abigail Boyd will represent the Greens at this weekend's Rise UP 4! community event which will highlight the need for better funding for emergency housing on the Central Coast.

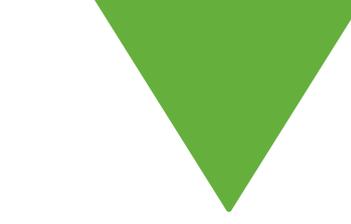
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1604544909868337/>

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Comments:

Abigail Boyd, Dobell Greens candidate - 0421 599 192

Hillary Morris, Robertson Greens candidate - 0424 079 442



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Background:

<http://greens.org.au/homeless>

The Greens have a commitment to double the federal funding for homelessness services – for at least the next ten years.

We propose to:

- *Double the federal funding for Specialist Homelessness Services provided under the original National Affordable Housing Agreement (and index the funding by 7%), at a cost of \$507 million pa; and,*
- *Sign a new ten year National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness and double funding under the original agreement, at a cost of \$320 million pa. This funding would be matched by the states, bringing the annual total to \$640 million.*

The total federal commitment over the next ten years would be \$827 million per year which would result in a package worth \$1.1 billion per year for homeless services.

This investment will double the capacity of existing, overstretched services. Sorely needed programs like street outreach and 'street to home' schemes will help hundreds of people each day.

This long-term funding commitment will also provide the much-needed security service providers have been crying out for. Thousands of people working on the front line providing emergency support services currently operate on yearly funding; they have no certainty over the future and no capacity to plan and prepare.

We must not turn our backs on people experiencing homelessness, we need to provide certainty and resources to specialist homelessness services. It's time to help our most vulnerable find shelter and a pathway home.

Homelessness has no place in Australia.
