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## **Create meaningful employment for people with disability**

The Greens believe that workplaces should reflect the diversity of Australian society and that everyone should have equal access to meaningful paid employment. Two areas where we are falling behind as a country are the employment of newly arrived migrants and people with a disability.

The workforce participation rate is around 30% lower for people with a disability. This is despite the fact that people with a disability report wanting to engage in quality employment. And employing someone with a disability makes good business sense. Studies indicate that the employment of people with disability can lead to increased productivity, reduced absenteeism and a more positive workplace culture.

The APS is in a unique position to lead the way on the employment of people with a disability and those from non-English speaking backgrounds.

Almost 20% of Australians identify as having a disability but the number of people with a disability employed by the APS dropped to 2.9% of the entire workforce in 2012. Similarly, 1 in 4 people in Australia identify as being from a non-English speaking background but account for only 5.1% of the APS workforce.

Diverse workplace will enhance economic and social inclusion in marginalised groups as well as creating a more caring and cohesive society.

In this next term of Parliament, the Greens will introduce legislation that will require the Australian Public Service to double the representation of people with a disability and people from non-English speaking backgrounds within the public service by 2018. This will create approximately 4500 employment opportunities for people with disabilities and 7500 for people from non-English speaking backgrounds.

## **Ensure quality education for improved learning outcomes**

Every child has the right to an education and disability should never be a barrier to access.

We want to make sure that each and every child, no matter their abilities, gets go to school and participate just like everyone else.

Less than half of students with disability in Australian schools are currently being funded for their support needs. This is unacceptable, and unfair: it fails students, and it fails our schools.

The Greens are the only party to have a disability funding policy for schools based on the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD).



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This policy funds the gap between what the Commonwealth Government has budgeted for in its disability loadings for schools, and the amount required when calculated against the NCCD.

The Greens' support for the Gonski reforms have been unwavering.

The Greens are committed to implementing the recommendations outlined in the 2015 Review of the Disability Standards for Education and the Gonski Review.

For more information please see the Greens policy for disability funding in schools:

<http://greens.org.au/disability-education>

### **Support Senior's access to blindness and low vision services**

The Greens have been strong supporters of appropriate disability funding, and fought to enable all-age access to the NDIS and will continue to pursue this issue. The Greens have also pushed for consumer directed care in age care, which would give older Australians greater choice and flexibility in the care they receive, to make sure it is appropriate for their needs. The Australian Greens believe that everyone has the right to independence, self-determination and choice in their lives, and support policies that empower people in every aspect.

### **Mandate Audio Description on Australian free-to-air television**

The Australian Greens have a specific policy to improve access to audio description. The initiative (<http://greens.org.au/initiatives/wa/audio-description>) states that:

“The Greens will make the current iView trial permanent, to ensure that audio description continues to be available online into the future. The Greens will also review audio description by Government broadcasters, and legislative requirements for other broadcasters, and develop an action plan for rolling out audio description more widely. This will help determine the best way to make audio description more widespread on the ABC and SBS, and improve the use of audio description by commercial providers.”

### **Introduce accessible voting through iVote**

The Greens strongly support making voting more accessible to all people, including those with disability.

The Greens support investigating options to make voting more accessible, which could include the expansion of the iVote system.



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