



Tasmanian Greens

Tuesday, 19 March 2024

Phil Swift  
Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation  
Via: [philip.swift@anmftas.org.au](mailto:philip.swift@anmftas.org.au)

Dear Philip,

Thank you for providing us with an opportunity to give a statement responding to the ANMF manifesto following on from the ANMF Health Forums held 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> March.

After a decade of Liberal government in which health has not been a priority, things are in a bit of a mess. Tasmania faces massive issues in primary health care access, ambulance services, and within hospitals that have all been starved of funding, and all have gotten worse.

The problems in health have become so large, they often feel impossible. But change is possible, and solutions are available. That's what the Greens are fighting for, and we will make action on health a top priority if we're in the balance of power.

Significant priorities and opportunities for change exist in preventative health, improvement of services, investment in infrastructure and in recruitment, retention, and training of staff to increase staff levels.

### **Preventative Health**

Significant opportunities for improving health outcomes lies in increased support for preventative health programs to improve health and reduce the pressure on primary health care. So far, we've committed \$25 million to improving preventative health services, including:

- Creating a Health Eating Advisory Service to help organisations promote better food and drink habits, based on the model successfully rolled out in Victoria,
- Making free smoking cessation products available at GP practices,
- Expanding the **Eat Well, Move Well** program to all schools to promote healthy eating and exercise,

- Banning junk food at supermarket checkouts and banning junk food ads during children's viewing hours, and
- More funding for community preventative health initiatives.

### **Recruitment, Retention and Training & Increasing Staffing**

A huge challenge currently facing our health sector lies in the recruitment, retention, and training of staff to even maintain the current levels of staffing. We recognise that existing workforce pressures are a significant factor pushing people away from jobs in the health sector, so we need a plan to expand staffing levels as well. The Greens have committed to a range of measures to improve staffing levels and to recruit, train and retain staff across the health sector, including:

- Paying \$5,000 per year toward university fees for new graduate staff (based on improvements to the model adopted in Western Australia),
- Allowing staff to count their university degree towards long service leave (e.g. a 4-year degree means staff would be able to take long service leave after 6 years work - as Tasmania used to do in the 80's),
- Providing government housing for staff in regional areas,
- Building a new ANMF HERC in northern Tasmania to train new nurses and provide support to existing workforce across North and North West,
- Employing clinical coaches to support the workforce,
- A six-year plan to expand the health sector workforce,
- An additional 120 nurses per year, including ED navigators, discharge nurses, psychiatric evaluation nurses, and backfill for ANUMs,
- An additional 87 new paramedics hired immediately, plus 100 more in next five years, and
- A plan to increase numbers of available support staff and allied health workers.

### **Improving Services**

One of the big stresses facing Tasmanians today is that our services need additional funding, support and staffing to improve services provided, access to services and ease pressures on staff and patients due to existing long waits to access some services. The Greens have long called for support and investment to improve the provision and access to our health services, and we're committed to:

- Expanding 24/7 radiology and pathology on site to North West Regional Hospital (NWRH) and Launceston General Hospital (LGH),
- Expanding cardiac services at the LGH,
- Funding and expanding mother and baby unit beds and relocating them to a purpose-built facility,

- Increasing the number of mental health beds and expanding the Mental Health Response ambulance to run statewide, and
- Expanding the **Hospital in the Home** program to keep people out of hospital and free up beds.

### **Investing in Infrastructure**

Of course, improving staffing levels will only deliver the improvements required if they are supported by sufficient investment in infrastructure. The Greens recognise this, and, in a balance of power, we're committed to:

- Bringing forward the timeline for the masterplans for health facilities ensuring critical health infrastructure delivery is brought forward to 2035,
- Delivering 6 new ambulance stations and 13 ambulance station upgrades - as per expert recommendations to government,
- Building a new ANMF HERC in northern Tasmania to train new nurses and provide support to existing workforce, and
- The range of important projects in the ANMF manifesto - all of these have merit and should be a focus of the government, not building a massive, unnecessary stadium.

Our full range of policies can be found at [tasgreensmps.org/policy/](https://tasgreensmps.org/policy/).

Please get back in touch if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

Dr Rosalie Woodruff  
**Tasmanian Greens' Leader**  
**Member for Franklin**

Cecily Rosol  
**Tasmanian Greens' Candidate for Bass**

Dr Darren Briggs  
**Tasmanian Greens' Candidate for Braddon**