

# Federal Election Scorecard 2022

**Political Party: The Australian Greens**

## Aged Care Request

1. **Malnutrition to be included in the National Aged Care Mandatory Quality Indicator Program for both residential and in-home aged care. The framework for screening of malnutrition risk must include:**
  - a. **Initial and ongoing training of all care staff and support workers who provide in-home and residential aged care re: use of the validated malnutrition screening tool.**
  - b. **Prompt referral of all identified as being malnourished to an Accredited Practising Dietitian (APD) for nutrition intervention.**
  - c. **Minimum standards for the documentation of screening results and follow up.**

Full Commitment	Partial Commitment	No commitment	Supporting information (include dot points on policy announcements to date, achievements and commitments).
Support			

2. **Mandating, as a condition of receiving the Basic Daily Fee supplement, that every Residential Aged Care home undergoes an annual on-site Menu and Mealtime Quality Assessment performed by an Accredited Practising Dietitian.**

Full Commitment	Partial Commitment	No commitment	Supporting information (include dot points on policy announcements to date, achievements and commitments).
Support			

For both Aged Care Requests:

We have an ageing population and there is not enough care for older people in our community and they do not have access to treatment that is good enough. It's time that older people in our country are given the level of care they need. On average, aged care residents are only provided with 2 hours and 50 minutes of care per resident per day.

The Greens plan will:

- Provide \$6 billion per year to, increase hours of care to 4 hours 18 minutes per resident per day, introduce staff to resident ratios, increase wages and improve conditions and training.
- Phase out for-profit providers.
- Guarantee a human rights based approach to aged care and physical and chemical restraints
- Invest \$260 million to keep the home care package waiting list clear

Significantly boosting the funding and resourcing for residential aged care will support residents, ensuring that residents can access fresh, nutritious, appetising and appropriate meal choices that they want.

For too long Our aged care system has been underpinned by a lack of transparency and accountability and a culture of secrecy. We don't know how much aged care providers spend on food or care, but we do know that

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private companies are making billions from the provision of aged care. We need a system that holds providers to account. The Greens will fight to improve governance, transparency and accountability in the aged care sector, starting with mandatory public reporting on how providers are spending Government funds, including particularly on food.

## Mental Health

3. **Creation of Medicare Benefit Scheme (MBS) items relating to depression, other mood disorders and severe mental illness, to include:**
  - a. **Introduction of long and short MBS items for Accredited Practising Dietitians for individual and group consultations, in person and via telehealth.**
  - b. **Immediate referral to Accredited Practising Dietitians for people who are prescribed antipsychotics and other psychotropic medications where there are known metabolic side effects.**

Full Commitment	Partial Commitment	No commitment	Supporting information (include dot points on policy announcements to date, achievements and commitments).
Support			<p>The Australian Greens support a needs-based system of federal funding that ensures the delivery of prevention, treatment and support services can be sustained in communities for the long-term, including with comprehensive mental health services funded by Medicare.</p> <p>We recognise the role of dietitians and other allied health professionals in the management of severe mental illnesses to ensure a holistic approach to supporting the individual.</p>

## Disability

4. **Accredited Practising Dietitians to be included in teams for autism, pervasive developmental disorder and disability (M10), including:**
  - a. **a unique 820\*\* number for the dietary assessment and treatment of people with disability.**
  - b. **inclusion in list of eligible professions for multidisciplinary case conferences.**

Full Commitment	Partial Commitment	No commitment	Supporting information (include dot points on policy announcements to date, achievements and commitments).

Support			The Australian Greens are supportive of improved access to allied health professionals to allow for a holistic approach to the management of disabilities. We support a unique number for the dietary assessment and treatment of people with disability and an inclusion in the list of eligible professions for multidisciplinary case conferences.
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## Policy

### 5. Develop a National Nutrition Strategy and a National Nutrition Implementation Action Plan.

Full Commitment	Partial Commitment	No commitment	Supporting information (include dot points on policy announcements to date, achievements and commitments).
Support			The Australian Greens believe that all people should at all times have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe, nutritious foods that meet their dietary, cultural and religious needs for an active and healthy life. We support the development of a National Nutrition Strategy and a National Nutrition Implementation Action Plan.