



REDUCING SUICIDE REDUCING AND PREVENTING SUICIDE IN CANBERRA

The Greens will fight for better treatment and care

The ACT Greens have a vision for high quality mental health services that are easily available to all Canberrans. Everyone should have access to the treatment, care, support and recovery that they need.

The ACT Greens have a vision for high quality mental health services that are easily available to all Canberrans. Everyone should have access to the treatment, care, support and recovery that they need.

The Australian Greens have backed calls for the development and introduction of a new approach to suicide prevention in light of the recommendations of the National Mental Health Commission and calls from Suicide Prevention Australia. We have targets for reducing road deaths and other preventable health issues - the ACT Greens believe we should do the same for reducing suicide.

ACT Greens MLA Amanda Bresnan introduced annual reporting of suicides into the Assembly in 2012. The ACT Government has now reported against this for the past two years, helping to reduce the stigma and taboo around talking about suicide which can stand in the way of people seeking the help they need, leading to tragic and preventable loss of life.

As a society, we must better equip our services, and indeed the broader community, to respond to suicide.

» The ACT Greens will

- » Set a target to reduce suicide by 50% by 2025, in line with calls from Suicide Prevention Australia.
- » Establish a Suicide Expert Committee, along the lines of the Child Death Review Committee, to properly examine suicides in the ACT and make policy recommendations to ACT Government to help us better respond to and prevent suicide.
- » Advocate for the creation of a national suicide register through representation at the Ministerial Council level, and the development of improved suicide prevention campaigns relevant to the ACT community.
- » Enhance anti-stigma and health promotions strategies to challenge the ongoing misunderstanding and misrepresentation of the lived experience of mental illness - particularly in relation to at risk groups, such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, LGBTI and CALD communities.

Setting a target to reduce suicide means acknowledging, and responding to, suicide as a preventable health issue. It calls on all of us in the Assembly, and in the community, to do all we can to prevent suicide.

It also serves as a constant reminder to never become complacent, and to continue to work to reduce the stigma attached to talking about mental health and mental illness. That is why the ACT Greens are committed to implementing Suicide Prevention Australia's call to reduce the suicide rate by 50 per cent by 2025.