



One in five Victorians has a disability. But for too long services have been inadequate, our transport system prohibitive and our cities built to exclude. The Greens will always fight for the rights of people living with a disability, and will fight to make sure we all have the support we need and our state is accessible for all of us.

All of us have the right to live a happy and healthy life, and exercise independence, self-determination and choice in our lives. Disability services policy is not just a matter of individual health and well-being – it is a fundamental human rights issue about everyone's ability to participate fully in all aspects of society.

More than 1.1 million Victorians are living with disability. While Victoria has made steps towards creating a more inclusive and accessible society, there is still so much more we need to do.

The National Disability Insurance Scheme will make a huge difference in the support available for people with disability. However, not every Victorian who lives with a disability will be eligible for the NDIS. While the NDIS will become the dominant service provider for people with a disability, there will still be many Victorians who need to access disability support services outside of the NDIS, such as mental health support or in-home care.

As the NDIS rolls out across Victoria, the state government has been redirecting the majority of its disability funding to the NDIS, and closing or reducing the services it has provided. This means that Victorians who use these services but do not qualify for the NDIS will need to rely on underfunded services and may be at risk of losing access altogether.

To create a more inclusive society, we also need to create broader social and structural change across our system. Our vision is of a Victoria where everyone is able

to participate fully in all aspects of life. This includes ensuring that people of all ages and abilities can use public transport, access their local shops, cafes and restaurants, and find an affordable and accessible home.

OUR PLAN

The Greens believe that everyone should be able to participate fully in society. We will:

- **Provide \$100m in funding to help fund the gaps in the rollout of the NDIS**, including in advocacy, as well as an additional \$200m for community mental health services
- **Improve the accessibility of our public transport system** by upgrading all tram routes to make every stop a level access stop, and manufacturing 300 new accessible, high capacity trams
- **Make Victoria accessible** by requiring all new urban development to comply with universal design principles

We will work closely with Victorians with a disability and advocacy bodies to create a state that is inclusive and accessible to all.



FUNDING THE GAPS

The National Disability Insurance Scheme is a ground breaking change being implemented across the country, and can make a huge difference in the support available for people with disability. The Greens want to see a fully funded NDIS, informed by the views of Australians with a disability, so it is the best it can be.

The NDIS is available to those who have a permanent disability that substantially reduces their ability to participate effectively in activities. The nature of the eligibility requirements means that those who need to access services that do not meet the NDIS criteria (for instance some mental health conditions) will be left without access to proper services.

As the Victorian government reallocates the majority of its disability funding to the NDIS, it is reducing and closing the services it previously funded. This means that hundreds of Victorians are falling through the funding gap, unable to access the NDIS but lacking any services in Victoria. There are particular gaps in mental health services, in-home care and respite care.ⁱ

The Greens believe that Victoria still has an important role to play in the provision of disability services alongside the NDIS, for those Victorians who will not be eligible for the NDIS.

We will provide \$100m in funding for disability services to fill the gap in NDIS funding.

We will thoroughly investigate the transition to the NDIS to identify and address any additional service and funding gaps.

We have also committed \$200 million over four years to restore funding to Community Mental Health Services to provide care to people who are not NDIS eligible. The Greens have strongly supported the Fund The Gap in Mental Health campaign and believe sustained, long-term investment is needed.

[Read our full mental health services initiative here.](#)

ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORT

Under the federal Disability Discrimination Act, Melbourne's tram network was meant to be 90 per cent accessible by the end of 2017. However, currently less than 25% of stops across the network are disability accessible, and the rollout of level access stops and low-floor trams has been piecemeal.

This failure by successive governments has restricted the ability of many Victorians to get around our city.

The Greens have a plan to transform our transport system and create a transport system that all of us can rely on – including Victorians with a disability.

Over the next decade, we will upgrade tram routes to include level access stops along entire routes. We want to see every single tram stop in Melbourne be a level-access stop, making it easier for all of us to get around the city.

We will also manufacture 30 new low-floor, high-capacity trams every year for the next 10 years, to create 300 new accessible trams.

[Read our full tram policy here.](#)

ACCESSIBLE VICTORIA

To create an inclusive, diverse, welcoming Victoria, we also need to create an accessible Victoria. For all of us to be able to participate fully we need to be able to access our homes, our public spaces and all the other places that form a community.

Accessibility standards have formed part of building codes and disability regulations for many years. While there are legally binding rules around the accessibility of public premises, accessibility provisions for homes are often targets or merely suggestions. Where there are targets, they mostly apply to new builds, and so do not capture Victoria's ageing homes and buildings, most of which do not meet accessibility and universal design principles.



It is no longer good enough for developers to cut corners and build new developments that do not meet basic accessibility standards. We want Victoria's built environment to meet universal design principles, including both new developments and existing buildings.

Universal design is the design and composition of an environment so that it can be accessed, understood and used to the greatest extent possible by all people regardless of their age, size, ability or disability.ⁱⁱ

The Greens will reform our planning system to include **universal design as a key aim of planning in Victoria**.

We will:

- Include universal design as a key objective of the *Planning and Environment Act*
- Review the *Planning and Environment Act* to review key gaps in legislation and state planning frameworks
- Update Victorian building codes to require all new homes and businesses to be designed using universal design principles

We will also work towards new targets for all homes in Victoria to be **visitable, adaptable and accessible**:

- Visitable homes are homes that anyone can visit, regardless of need
- Adaptable homes can be easily modified to meet changing needs, without requiring demolition or heavy renovation
- Accessible homes meet universal design and accessibility standards

All new builds will need to comply with these standards.

SUPPORTING ADVOCACY

It is crucial that Victorians with a disability are included in planning for support services and accessibility. We cannot have a Victoria that works for all of us if we do not listen to all of us, including those of us with a disability.

The Greens will work closely with Victoria's disability advocacy groups to ensure that their voices are heard in all aspects of government decision-making. We will make available up to \$20 million to support the gaps in advocacy funding. We will also ensure there are properly funded advocates within the NDIS, including legal advocates.

ⁱ ABC News, 'People are worse off: NDIS funding gaps leave many without care in Victoria' <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-10-26/funding-gaps-emerging-between-ndis-and-victorian-government/9079484>

ⁱⁱ <http://universaldesign.ie/What-is-Universal-Design/>