

SUPPORTING AFRICAN AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITIES IN MELBOURNE

THE GREENS' PLAN TO SUPPORT AFRICAN AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITIES INTO EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND SUPPORT



Our history and success as a state is built on the success of immigrants from across the globe. Now, more than ever, it is important to support African Australian communities, particularly into education, training, and secure, well-paying jobs - these things are fundamentals for a good life for all of us.

Racism in any form must be condemned. We reject the racist ideas of anyone that wants to foster fear in the community by using cowardly, racist language to win votes.

We stand together, proud of our diverse and multicultural society. We pledge to continue to fight for everyone to be able to look for a secure, well-paying job, go to school, and live free from racism, in our community.

It can be hard to find work in Melbourne at the best of times, but it is downright unfair if you cannot get a foot in the door because of your religion or the colour of your skin.

Many of Melbourne's public housing residents, and especially qualified members of the African Australian community want to work, they are qualified, but they face discrimination that their peers do not.

In one of many academic studies 50 per cent of African-Australians reported experiencing discrimination while trying to find work.

Currently, the Victorian Labor Government has only provided targeted jobs support for African Australian communities in certain areas - including areas where public housing land is being planned to be sold off.

In many cases, funding has not been provided to African-Australian-led organisations, who are often best placed to do this important work with the community.

Many African Australian families also report difficulties understanding and engaging with the education system

which may leave students feeling left out and confused, which in turn affects their education.

We would also make sure local African Australian students and their families get the support at school that they need to succeed.

African Australian communities have repeatedly called for a dedicated African Australian community spaces or neighbourhood houses. A dedicated community space would serve as a community meeting hub for support, connection, and togetherness.

Dedicated neighbourhood houses were established for and by new migrant communities in the 70s and 80s. Due to the rising cost of inner city land, newly arrived migrant communities haven't been able to access similar neighbourhood spaces without outside assistance.

OUR PLAN

The Greens plan will:

- Provide funding for African-Australian led organisations to provide targeted job and training programs for African-Australian community members
- Employ African Australian school liaison officers in local government schools.
- Build a dedicated African Australian community owned and managed neighbourhood house.

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JOB AND TRAINING

Traditional job agencies - like JobActiv - have not been particularly successful with the African-Australian communities due to incorrect incentives or lack of cultural awareness of the needs of these communities.

There are many organisations in our community who already provide services linking African-Australian job-seekers with organisations who want to employ them, or with training organisations. We will provide funding for these successful African-Australian led organisations to continue their great work.

The Greens plan will expand the current Flemington Public Housing Employment Program to Carlton, North Melbourne, Kensington and other areas in the inner city so that we can properly support people looking for secure, well-paying jobs.

To ensure any new jobs program is a success, we would work with and empower African Australian organisations to be able to deliver these comprehensive jobs and training programs to their own communities.

SCHOOL SUPPORT

The Greens plan includes \$2 million over three years to employ African Australian school liaison officers in local government schools. These officers will support students, their parents, and also liaise with the schools as problems arise. The officers will play a key role in connecting families to services, and identifying risk-taking behaviour or school disengagement.

COMMUNITY SPACE

Our plan provides \$15.5 million to build a dedicated African Australian community owned and managed neighbourhood house. This space would provide social, educational, and recreational activities and programs. This space would provide social, educational, and recreational activities and programs.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST

The cost to deliver our platform for African Australian communities in Melbourne is \$20.1 million over the forward estimates.

This cost is made up of:

- \$2.6 million over three years to expand the jobs programs targeted to public housing residents to other estates,
- \$2 million over three years to employ African Australian community liaison workers in schools,
- \$15.5 million over three years to plan and build a dedicated African Australian community space in Melbourne.