



IT'S TIME FOR NSW TO MIND THE GAP. The Greens NSW Aboriginal Policy Initiatives.

The inequality in outcomes for Aboriginal people in NSW must be overcome. The Greens' policy initiative delivers urgent, meaningful action to close the gap and promote opportunity and wellbeing.

Premier's Report on Aboriginal Inequality

Closing the Gap can't be left to the Federal Government. Outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders are failing to meet the federal targets, the Abbott Government has cut funding from Aboriginal services, and the national Closing the Gap report is based on a limited set of health and education outcomes.

The Greens will move to establish a NSW Premier's Report to be presented to the Parliament annually, with targets to address the full range of causes and indicators of Aboriginal disadvantage and inequality, including incarceration rates, rates of child abuse, neglect and removal, and mental health and suicide.

A rigorous approach to setting, measuring and reporting on targets for improved Aboriginal outcomes will provide the foundation for ensuring the NSW Government is delivering an effective, whole-of-government approach to eliminating disadvantage and inequality.

Investment in Aboriginal Housing

The Greens have announced a \$20 billion infrastructure package (nsw.greens.org.au/economy) that can be paid for without selling public assets. Our plan recognises that social and affordable housing is critical infrastructure required across the state to address housing affordability pressures, and we have allocated \$4.5 billion to deliver 20,000 new dwellings over two years.

Housing for Aboriginal people and communities is inadequate, leaving too many Aboriginal people living in poor conditions and at risk of homelessness. \$250 million from our housing investment will be directed to delivering around 1,000 new homes to be designed, developed and managed by Aboriginal housing providers.

The costs of delivering Aboriginal housing have often been very high, often involving transport, travel and accommodation costs as materials and labourers from Sydney are used to complete work in regional and remote communities. The Greens will work with Aboriginal communities and organisations to build capacity and promote local involvement in delivering the new housing, providing training and employment opportunities for Aboriginal people.

Clearing the Land Claims backlog

More than 30 years after the introduction of the NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Act, the framework has fallen short on its potential to promote economic opportunity and self-determination for Aboriginal people. More than 26,000 land claims remain unresolved, and around 500 of these claims were made more than a decade ago.

The Greens will ensure a strategy and protocols are developed to clear the backlog of outstanding Aboriginal Land Claims, and will require the Crown Lands Minister to prioritise resolving claims and transferring land promptly after claims have been approved.





Promoting employment and business opportunities

Delivering additional opportunities for training, employment and the development of businesses by Aboriginal people will be crucial to improving social and economic outcomes. The Greens will engage with Aboriginal communities and organisations to put in place strategies for training and employment across NSW.

Delivering places and grants for Aboriginal people to train as community services workers will grow the much-needed workforce in the child welfare sector, which will in turn contribute to improved outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people and break the intergenerational cycle of disadvantage.

Implementing a mandatory accreditation system for tourism that promotes Aboriginal cultural heritage will ensure the integrity of Aboriginal tourism and provide greater opportunity for Aboriginal people to become involved in the tourism sector that is a critical economic driver across many parts of NSW.

Seniors Card eligibility at 45

The Seniors Card provides a range of benefits including eligibility for transport concessions, which can improve access to and affordability of services that promote people's wellbeing as they age.

The life expectancy gap remains alarmingly wide between Aboriginal people and other Australians, with estimates of the gap ranging from 10 to 17 years. The Greens support lowering the eligibility age for Aboriginal people to 45 years, which would promote access to health services and social inclusion and deliver better outcomes for Aboriginal people.

Reparations for the Stolen Generations

The *Bringing Them Home* report into the Stolen Generations called for reparation, which includes an acknowledgment of the truth and an apology, guarantees that these wrongs will not happen again, returning what has been lost as much as possible, rehabilitation and compensation.

Although the National Apology addressed some parts of this process, Australian Governments have not delivered on all of the elements required to address the wrongs of the past. Other states have begun to act, with Tasmania introducing a compensation scheme and the South Australian Parliament holding an inquiry and considering legislation.

The Greens have tabled a motion to establish a Parliamentary inquiry into reparations for the Stolen Generations and will move to establish this inquiry in the next term of parliament. The inquiry will consider legislative and policy frameworks that could be introduced to make reparations to members of the Stolen Generations and their descendants, including potential approaches for compensation and the delivery of support services for the individuals, family members, communities and descendants affected.

The First State must do better by the First Peoples.

Our history of Aboriginal dispossession is continued in the ongoing pattern of disadvantage and inequality for Aboriginal people. The Greens' policy initiatives can put NSW on a path to addressing past wrongs and ensuring a fair opportunity for future wellbeing.

