



Paul Coates  
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Dear Mr Coates

### **Speaking up for WA Carers: State Election WA**

Thank you for providing the Greens (WA) with a copy of Carers WA 2021 State Election Priorities. As the Greens (WA) spokesperson for Carers I am pleased to respond on behalf of the party.

#### **Priority 1. Promotion of Carer recognition**

The Greens recognise the vital role undertaken by carers in Western Australia. We are committed to ensuring the estimated 230,000 family and friend carers in WA receive the right support and recognition. This sentiment is reflected in a number of our policies. Our Mental Health and Disability policies include that the vital role of carers and family members should be acknowledged, respected and supported. Our Seniors policy commits us to actions that increase the awareness of grandparents as carers and encourage support services for grandparents who are raising their grandchildren, as well as ensure greater funding for programs that enhance the physical, social and mental well-being of carers.

It is frustrating that the important review of the Carer Recognition Act 2004 has stalled. The Greens (WA) will advocate for the review to be completed and for swift action to be taken to address recommendations that arise. While we will consider each specific recommendation on its own merits, we are pleased to confirm our broad support for changes which would enhance the rights and recognition of carers.

**Priority 2. Provision of adequate social connection, resilience building and respite facilities to allow carers to maintain their important role**

The Greens recognise that being a carer often involves a huge personal sacrifice that goes unrecognised, and too often carers themselves are vulnerable to health and wellbeing issues. Respite for carers is critical, and the Greens WA are committed to improving respite options to support carers and allow them to sustain their essential role.

The Greens WA will continue to support significantly increasing respite options for carers, ensuring that respite options are family friendly, culturally appropriate and available in metropolitan and regional locations.

We will also continue to support initiatives and actions that improve programs, concessions and subsidies for carers to help them fulfil their roles and meet the extra costs of providing care, including help for young carers, grandcarers, retro-fitting homes and help with utility bills.

The Greens WA will advocate for specialised support for people who provide care and support for those with mental illness, including community services and peer-supports.

Thank you for the important work that Carers Australia WA does in supporting and advocating for the interests of carers. The Greens (WA) look forward to working closely with you in the next Parliament.

Yours sincerely,



Hon Alison Xamon MLC  
4 February 2021