

HEALTH POLICY

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PREAMBLE

Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. Furthermore, the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and wellbeing is one of the fundamental human rights of every human being without any discrimination and distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition. Good Health outcomes for individuals are only possible within the context of a healthy environment and society. The Greens recognise that health is both an individual and common good, and as such the Greens have developed a policy that addresses individual health, and the health of communities and society.

VISION

The vision is to strive for health systems and policies that allow individuals and communities to be healthy and achieve their greatest individual and collective physical, mental, and psychosocial potential. The right to health must be protected, free or affordable and promoted regardless of negative discrimination based on race, religion, political belief, economic situation, or social condition, or other arbitrary distinction. Furthermore, health policies at all levels of government utilise quality of life metrics to assess indicators of national and international progress in addressing diseases. must integrate holistic quality of life and health metrics to guide policy, programs, and strategy at all levels of government.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the Greens is to promote public health and healthcare services that are free from discrimination and realise individuals' and communities' right to health in all spheres of life. The objective is also to develop a new public health consciousness, which, through individual and collective action, will challenge vested interests and promote personal, social and political changes needed to achieve improved states of health.

ACTION PLAN

The action plan of the Greens will be to develop health services that emphasise prevention, promotion and the development of individual and community self-reliance, in addition to the treatment and cure of disease. Such services will be empowering, participatory, and democratic and their development be guided by both users' and practitioners' own perceptions of their health needs. Therefore, the Greens will prioritise as follows:

Public Healthcare

1. Ensure universal access to quality publicly funded healthcare as a basic right.
2. Work towards universal access to publicly funded primary dental care.
3. Ensure universal access to publicly funded mental health services.
4. Ensure decisions about health services are based on the strongest possible evidence.
5. Support an integrative model of health care that includes complementary and alternative healthcare approaches that have been shown to be safe and effective.
6. Ensure that people of all socio-economic backgrounds have access to resources and opportunities essential for good health and wellbeing.
7. Encourage preventive approaches and measures to alleviate social disadvantage.
8. Base primary healthcare on preventive measures, early interventions, and routine care.
9. Ensure that the healthcare system affirms rights to human dignity, personal choice, and privacy.
10. Ensure a comprehensive food labelling system that is strongly enforced includes and allows only scientifically verified health and nutritional claims.
11. Ensure culturally appropriate and community-controlled health services for indigenous people and minorities.
12. Assure food aid and water programs reach areas most in need especially in war-torn areas.
13. Assure health care needs are met and planned for in response to disasters such as drought, floods, fire, and climate change catastrophes.

Healthcare Professionals

1. Support existing measures, programmes, and legislative actions that increase access to high quality, cost-effective medical services for all.
2. Ensure standard reasonable prices for medicines, medical goods and services are reasonably priced and where possible free.
3. Ensure that hospitals, clinics, and other care providers are democratically governed, including representation from healthcare workers, consumers, and other public interest groups and organisations.
4. Ensure clear and transparent disclosure of all fees, charges, and out-of-pocket costs, including the gap between health costs and health insurance rebates.
5. Closely integrate primary, secondary, and hospital care.
6. Ensure that care for minor illnesses and injuries is provided by community health centres.
7. Reduce rates of over-prescription.
8. Ensure an effective approach to the prevention of work and road related accidents and access to provision of injury rehabilitation services.

9. Increase access to health professionals in rural and remote areas.
10. Ensure remunerative wages for all health workers.
11. Prioritise patient safety, including strong enforcement against malpractice, negligence, and fraud.
12. Establish community health centres as focal points for self-help, and community-based initiatives.

HIV/AIDS

1. Invest in programs to address HIV/AIDS and protect the health and wellbeing of those living diagnosed with HIV/AIDS.
2. Fight HIV/AIDS stigma through community educational programs and promotion with the help of short films, mass media, social media and other tools of communication.
3. Curb new cases of HIV/AIDS with the help of sex education.
4. Especially educate young people about HIV/AIDS.
5. Reprioritise the fight against HIV/AIDS and ensure people's participation.
6. Improve the wellbeing of those living with HIV.
7. Ensure family support for dependent family members of people with HIV.

Sexual and Reproductive Health

1. Ensure individual freedom and moral autonomy in individual reproductive choices.
2. Provide access to family planning services and adequate funding for sexual health awareness campaigns, including greater access to free condoms and sexual health clinics
3. Acknowledge that unintended pregnancies can be minimised through sex education, accessible contraceptive services and greater gender equality
4. Ensure high quality, culturally appropriate maternity care during pregnancy, birth, and post-natal care, in accordance with WHO recommendations
5. Provide easy access to family planning services and natural birthing options.
6. Provide adequate funding for sexual health including awareness campaigns, and greater access to free condoms and sexual health clinics
7. Ensure all women have access for all women have unbridled access to contraception that are legal, free, and safe contraception, and safe pregnancy termination services
8. Ensure that all women and their partners are offered support after birth to help deal with trauma and post-natal depression.
9. Encourage public buildings, workplaces, and restaurants/shops to provide breastfeeding facilities for women.
10. Ensure that all healthcare settings are achieve baby-friendly status, as mandated established by UNICEF.
11. Ensure access for all women to legal, free, and safe pregnancy termination services.

Mental Health

1. Acknowledge, recognise and respect the rights and responsibilities of people with mental health challenges, problems and illness; and mental health services and community provisions must be provided in accordance with agreed national and international obligations.
2. Participation and inclusion are important for clients with mental health challenges, problems and illnesses; and they must be ensured the same rights to full social, political and economic participation in their communities.
3. Mental health promotion strategies will support destigmatisation and assist mental health service clients to become emotionally resilient, cope with negative experiences and actively participate in their communities; and including implementing programmes, education, and awareness campaigns to reduce mental health stigma.
4. Ensure that mental health services are sensitive to the needs of individuals on the basis of age, ethnicity, gender, sexuality and cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds and are well equipped to deal with issue.
5. National strategies for preventing mental health problems, managing mental illness and reducing suicide risk should engage enabled clients in the co-design of their care plans; and where this is not possible, it should include care plans or designated family/agreed carers co-designed with clients when they well.
6. Developing available community-based support services to enable people with chronic mental and/or physical illnesses to live in and participate in their communities.
7. Encourage all local authorities to establish mental health centres; and ensure that local authorities take preventative actions in terms of well-known suicide spots.
8. Ensure that services supporting child and adolescent mental health are properly funded and accessible.
9. People with an emerging mental health challenges, problems or mental illness should be identified and treated as early as possible in the initial phase and any subsequent episodes, to minimise the severity and duration of the condition and to reduce its broader impacts on the individual client and their support or other group[s] in their environment.
10. Appropriate access to the right care at the right time is critical for clients with mental health challenges, problems and illness; and clients should have timely access to high quality, coordinated care appropriate to their condition, or formally assessed diagnoses and circumstances, provided by the most appropriate mental health services within the health care system, or external community mental health provisions.
11. Client Carers are crucial in the care of clients with mental health challenges, problems or illnesses, and they are critical in the prevention, early intervention, treatment and recovery of clients' care plans; and they must be well supported to provide best care services for their clients and their families.
12. The mental health workforce, and the supply and distribution of appropriately trained workers in the mental health sector and other complementary sectors should be adequately resourced to meet the needs of clients with mental health challenges, problems and illness.
13. Quality provisions and outcomes is important across all sectors providing services to clients with mental health challenges, problems and illnesses; and they should be monitored and evaluated to ensure that they are of high quality and achieving best outcomes.

Informed Consent

1. Ensure the right to informed consent without coercion for every individual for any medical procedure.
2. Legislate that the products derived from body tissue or organ extraction, and from insertion, injection, sampling, and imaging cannot be used without the informed consent of the patient.
3. Ensure the right to confidentiality of all medical, dental, and pharmaceutical record data for all individuals.
4. Ensure that the patient has complete freedom of choice to accept or refuse treatment.
5. Ensure that the medical decisions taken towards the end of a patient's life (if allowed by law) are undertaken seriously and that the patient has a right to appoint individuals who will have access to their medical and other records

Regulation of Medicines and Prescription Charges

1. Ensure that the safety and regulation of medicines are controlled by a single government agency.
2. Develop appropriate evidence-based methods of assessment for both synthetic pharmaceuticals and natural medicines, involving practitioner's expert in their respective uses.
3. Ensure that an independent healthcare treatment agency provides assurance on the effectiveness of treatments and recommendations for new treatments to an appropriate authority.
4. Implement pharmaceutical and prescription price control mechanisms that remove cost as a barrier to accessing required treatment.
5. Exempt sanitary products from all sales taxes and/or value-added taxes, consistently with other basic necessities.
6. Promote the use of generic pharmaceuticals where available.

Health Services in Communities and Schools

1. Increase funding of community services, enabling healthcare to be provided at home or in community-based facilities as far as possible.
2. Increase community services for people with a disability, are elderly, those with mental and physical health problems, and those with learning difficulties.
3. Ensure that each school has the funding and capacity to provide fresh, healthy, and preferably locally sourced, lunches for their students.
4. Promote physical exercise and develop education programmes on health and health issues at school or at work.
5. Create a national drug reduction strategy including safe injection sites and examine decriminalisation processes for illegal drugs as a way to curb their usage.

Research and Development

1. Implement a comprehensive programme of research into cost-effective care and prevention, and a rigorous system for the assessment, approval, regulation and marketing of pharmaceuticals, therapeutic goods, medical devices and other health therapies and technologies.
2. Rigorous research and evaluation strategies should generate new knowledge about mental health challenges, problems and illness that can reduce the impact of these

conditions on sustainable livelihoods and communities; and providing adequate funding for research into mental health service best practices.

Miscellaneous

1. Promote an industry and agriculture sector respectful of environment and health
2. Ban or regulate products in agriculture, manufacturing and industry that are dangerous for health, such as pesticides, glycols, mercury, and industrial chemicals.
3. Regulate the distribution of pharmaceuticals prescribed by doctors to track and prevent dangerous levels of over-medication and prevent addiction.
4. Ensure that LGBTIQ+ community specific health programmes are funded and able to identify and support at-risk individuals.
5. Ban advertising, funding, OR practice of any form of coercive therapy that aims to alter the sexuality or gender identity of an individual.
6. Reduce consumption of high sugar content foods and drinks and promote a healthy lifestyle.
7. Stop advertising of tobacco and gambling and other harmful practices including in sports sponsorship.

References

- <https://www.who.int/about/who-we-are/constitution>
- <https://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/health/index.html>
- <https://www.globalgreens.org/globalcharter-english>
- <https://greens.org.au/policies/health>
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