



Australian Health Care Reform Alliance

C/- PO Box 280 Deakin West ACT 2600 ABN 64 051 645 674
www.healthreform.org.au

Australian Greens health policy



AHCRA welcomed the release of the Australian Greens' health policy this week. In particular AHCRA supports the use of the current \$6.5 billion private health insurance rebate to fund into prevention, dental subsidies, expanded primary care and public hospitals.

The billions of tax payer dollars that go into private health insurance every year are only available to less than half the population – those with private health insurance. These people are, on average, more affluent than those without

insurance. Therefore, the subsidy is a transfer from the less well off to the more affluent and does nothing to deliver health services where they are most needed.

AHCRA welcomes the statement from Greens leader and former doctor Richard Di Natale who said:

“You don't have a truly universal health system when thousands of Australians delay or avoid seeing a doctor, dentist or specialist because they can't afford it,” Senator Di Natale said. “It's about time we returned to the principle of free, universal healthcare.”

AHCRA strongly supports this statement and the Greens proposal to make Medicare-funded dental care available to all Australians by 2025 and to improve Medicare funding for chronic disease management.

These policies will help close the health and life expectancy gap between the most advantaged and least advantaged in our community. We call on both major parties to follow the lead of the Greens and commit to health policies that deliver both equity and efficiency.

7 May 2019

www.healthreform.org.au