

TAMMY FRANKS.

Member of Legislative Council

Ross Womersley

CEO

SACOSS

Via email: sacoss@sacoss.org.au

Dear Ross,

RE: SACOSS Cover the Basics Campaign & Election Report Card

Thank you for sharing with the Greens the platform of policies that SACOSS has developed ahead of the 2022 State Election. We appreciate the opportunity to engage with you and your members and to share some of our own policies and initiatives in response. We appreciate the time that you have put into developing these policies and analysing the responses you receive, and thank you for your work and advocacy. As the peak body for the not-for-profit health and community services sector in South Australia, SACOSS plays an essential role in advocating for vulnerable and disadvantaged people in this state. Recognising that accessible and high quality health and community services are critical to the wellbeing of South Australians, the Greens align very strongly with the policy vision outlined in your comprehensive platform. We are proud to be a voice in the South Australian Parliament consistently calling for such measures and we look forward to continuing this work after the election.

It is important to say from the outset, the Greens are guided by our four pillars: ecological sustainability, grassroots democracy, social justice, and peace and non-violence. These pillars inform everything the party does in the Parliament. As such, the Greens have a strong track record in advocating on the issues addressed in your letter, particularly given the social justice vision outlined there, and we are happy to pledge our support for these measures.

As you have noted in your letter, The Greens SA will not hold Government following the 2022 State Election, but we will likely hold balance of power in the Legislative Council – particularly if we elect our 2nd Legislative Council candidate, Yesha Joshi. As such, this would put us in a strong position to negotiate with whoever is in Government for the legislative changes we're committing to below, and to push necessary and important reforms.

Implement minimum energy efficiency standards for private and public rental properties, and mandatory disclosure of energy efficiency ratings for all rental properties in South Australia

The Greens support mandatory energy efficiency standards for rental properties, with measures to minimise rent increases. We also want to go further, and are deeply committed to redressing the balance between tenants and landlords through reform of the Residential Tenancies Act. In the new Parliament, we intend to amend the Residential Tenancies Act, including:

- Ending no fault evictions
- Introducing rent capping to protect vulnerable people from unfair rent hikes
- Giving renters security and stability through long-term tenancies
- Making pet-friendly properties the norm, instead of the exception
- Stamping out underhand rental bidding that forces rents ever upwards

We are also advocating for a Tenant's Union to provide independent advocacy support to tenants.

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Introduce a floor price for cheap alcohol

The Greens support introducing a floor price for cheap alcohol and recognise that it is an important element of a harm-minimisation approach to alcohol and other drugs, preventing excessive use of very low-priced alcohol. Outside of this, however, the Greens have a concrete plan for reducing harm from drug and alcohol use in South Australia. We are dedicated to working with the sector on a genuine co-designed infrastructure audit of the entire specialist alcohol and other drug service system to inform infrastructure needs in the medium- and long-term. [Our full plan can be found online.](#)

Revise legislation governing water supply changes for renters to align with other states and make landlords responsible for water supply

We absolutely support revising the legislation that governs water supply for renters, and agree that it should return to being the responsibility of the landlord in line with other jurisdictions.

Commit to passing legislation to raise the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to at least 14 years of age, without exception

The Greens are absolutely committed to this, and have previously introduced legislation to this effect and will be reintroducing it in the new Parliament. It is an international disgrace that we allow children as young as 10 to be incarcerated, and we are whole-heartedly in favour of raising the age of criminal responsibility to at least 14.

Remove the Victims of Crime Levy on expiation notices for those in receipt of Centrelink payments or SA Government concessions

Yes, the Greens would support legislation to this effect. We recognise that excessive fines, particularly for those on Centrelink payments or SA Government concessions, can help perpetuate a cycle of poverty.

Legislate to void any requirement for mandatory gas connections in new residential developments

The Greens strongly support this measure. We have previously introduced legislation that would do exactly this, and are committed to pursuing this legislation into the future – noting as well that in the last term of Parliament our piece of legislation was passed in the upper house. We know that gas is the new coal, and has a terrible environmental impact. It also drives up energy prices and harms community health. It's absurd that some property developers are denying new home owners a choice when it comes to their energy. We know South Australians prefer clean, green options and many will welcome this choice.

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Implement a percentage-based concession scheme for home, contents, and vehicle insurance for people on low income and resource non-government organisations to facilitate access to the concessions for communities that would benefit

The Greens support this policy measure. We recognise that insurance premiums continue to rise, pricing people out of protecting their homes, vehicles, and possessions. This means that they are incredibly vulnerable to things such as natural disasters, which could compound and/or prolong peoples' experiences of poverty or financial precarity.

Amend the Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007 to:

- **Include a representative of the non-government health and community services sector on the Premier's Climate Change Council**
- **Require consultation with SACOSS before making the appointment of the sector representative**

We absolutely support this. We know that climate change impacts all aspects of our lives, and therefore we should have comprehensive representation on the Premier's Climate Change Council of people and stakeholders with experience in the health and community services sector. We recognise that SACOSS is the peak representative body in this sector, and view it as appropriate that they would be consulted on this appointment.

Legislate and provide seed-funding for a portable long service leave scheme for all SCHADS workers in SA

We not only are strongly committed to amending the long service leave Act to ensure all workers become entitle to long service leave at 7 and 10 years and to amending the portable long service leave Act to include all SCHADS, but we want to go further; [the Greens believe that everyone should have access to portable long service leave](#). This is essential as we recognise that increasingly people are more likely to work for multiple employers during their working lives. This has been an issue the Greens have been in support of for many years now. Greens Federal Leader Adam Bandt tried [bringing the issue to the Senate](#) back in 2015, and former Greens Senator Lee Rhiannon [similarly spoke](#) on the need for portable long service leave in 2014.

This change is sorely needed and is already seen to have benefited workers in other states and industries. SA needs to catch up and properly address and protect the interests of our community sector workers, and indeed of all workers. We need to catch up with the realities of employment in this current day and age, and reflect that reality in how we provide workers with their accrued entitlements.

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Fix the definition of electoral matters and political expenditure in the Electoral Act, and/or exempt ACNC-regulated charities from SA election expenditure disclosure

The Greens are concerned that the Electoral Act places undue pressure on ACNC-regulated charities. We are committed to working with the next Government to rectify this, while ensuring that we maintain the maximum levels of accountability and transparency in the Act.

I hope that you find these responses to your Cover the Basics Campaign comprehensive and useful. If you have any further questions regarding the Greens' response, or would like any clarifications, please do not hesitate to contact my office on 8237 9296 or at franks.office@parliament.sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tammy Franks". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tammy Franks MLC
Greens SA Parliamentary Leader