



Comparison of Responses to Carers SA Candidates Questionnaire 2010

Carer Opportunity and Choice: Challenges for Candidates Carers Awareness Campaign State Election 2010

As part of its State Election Carer Awareness Campaign Carers SA sought responses from candidates to a range of questions relating to Carer issues. These issues have been discussed in the campaign document Carer Opportunity and Choice: Challenges for Candidates.

Carers SA does not back one party against another. Rather, we have provided candidates, or their parties, the opportunity to put before Carers and others, their responses to issues facing Carers.

The following responses were those received by 10 March 2010.

- Greens, Labor, Liberal.....pp 2 - 29
- Democrats, D4D (Dignity for Disability), Family First, United Party.....pp 30 - 39
- Gamers4Croydon.....p 39
- Kris Hanna (Mitchell), David Winderlich (Legislative Council), Mark Aldridge (Legislative Council.....pp 40-48

The way forward for Carers in South Australia is for a consistent whole of government approach through strategies that recognise the across portfolio nature of the caring role and the need for each government agency to develop Carer policies and programs within a central framework including the South Australian Strategic Plan, the SA Carers Policy and a commitment to social inclusion.

Question	Greens	Labor	Liberal
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Strategic Recognition

<p>Will you include Carers within your South Australian Strategic Plan, or equivalent?</p>	<p>Yes The Greens are committed to having an integrated approach to policy areas across all government sectors which relate to health, disability and carer issues. Carers are included in our health care policy specifically acknowledging the vital role they play in our community.</p>	<p>The Premier launched the update of South Australia's Strategic Plan on 24 January 2007. The first plan was launched in March 2004.</p> <p>There will be a review of the South Australian Strategic Plan in 2011. As was the case in 2007, that review will involve extensive consultation with the community, and the nature of any amended or new targets will be determined by that community consultation. Carers will have every opportunity to be part of those Strategic Plan consultations.</p> <p>The Government recognises that South Australian carers play an invaluable role in our community. For that reason, the Government created an Act specifically for carers – the <i>Carers Recognition Act 2005</i>.</p> <p>The Act created the <i>Carers Charter</i>, which sets out the rights of carers and provides South Australian Government departments and agencies with a framework to recognise carers and address the issues they face.</p> <p>We also established the Office for Carers (OFC) in the Department for Families and Communities (DFC) in October 2006. Much of the focus of the Office to date has been to increase awareness and understanding of the <i>Act</i>, the <i>SA Carers Policy</i> and the <i>SA Carers Charter</i>.</p> <p>Recognition and awareness remains a continuing priority and provides the lynchpin to the directions and priorities of OFC.</p>	<p>Yes: Carers play a vital role in the community by providing unpaid care for their family members or friends, who are elderly, have mental illness, disability, or any other illness or chronic condition. It is important that this is recognised in any State plans or strategic documents.</p>
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Question	Greens	Labor	Liberal
Will you include Carers within your South Australian Strategic Plan, or equivalent? cont.		<p>Raising awareness of carers is a primary focus in a significant number of outcomes of the <i>Plan for South Australian Carers</i>.</p> <p>Following South Australia's lead, the Commonwealth Government has undertaken to lead the development of a national carer recognition framework including legislation and a national carer strategy in 2010.</p>	

Partners in Care

Do you recognise Carers as partners in care?	Yes	Yes	Yes Carers provide care that often complements the care given by a doctor, allied health professional or similar. Carers are also often responsible for transporting and accompanying the person they are caring for to medical appointments, ensuring they take any medications prescribed correctly and provide any other care they require for their health needs outside of the health system.
What measures will you take to ensure the participation of Carers as partners in care?	Carers are best placed to know what kind of support and or respite they need. They are often in the best position to advocate for the person that they care for. The juggling of responsibilities needs to be recognised by the other agencies that they deal with, including health care professionals, carer support workers and community workers. The Greens strongly support greater carer advocacy in the community.	<p>Principle 4 of the <i>Carers Charter</i> requires service providers to work in partnership with carers. Carers must be included in the assessment, planning, delivery and review of services, and their views must be taken into account when decisions are made that impact on carers and the role of carers.</p> <p>Annual reporting against the <i>Carers Recognition Act</i> requires government departments to report on action taken in</p>	The only way to ensure that Carers are recognised as partners in care is through education, in particular making doctors, allied health professionals and others from within the health system aware of the SA Carers Charter.

Question	Greens	Labor	Liberal
<p>What measures will you take to ensure the participation of Carers as partners in care? cont.</p>		<p>respect of the Charter principles and on consultation with carers or bodies that represent carers.</p> <p>Disability SA consumer group consultations and focus groups are conducted for relevant policy and program review or development and planning.</p> <p>The Office for Carers consults with carer services, as representatives of their client groups, and with employees of the Department for Families and Communities who are carers.</p> <p>The Department of Health seeks carer representation in the preliminary stages of program development or design. Awareness training is provided for managers and senior staff.</p> <p>The Mental Health Unit employed a Carer Consultant to provide advice in relation to the <i>Carers Recognition Act 2005</i>. This person is responsible for advocating for the role of the carer in mental health service development, undertaking consultation with carer stakeholders and providing advice to ensure that carer needs are considered at the service planning stage of programs. The carer consultant has established a Carer Advisory Group to provide advice to the Mental Health Unit.</p>	

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<p>What measures will you take to encourage health and community care professionals to involve Carers as partners in care?</p>	<p>The Greens continue to advocate to give people living with a disability, their families and carers a greater opportunity to actively participate in policy development, service planning, and delivery.</p> <p>The Greens will advocate for quality education and training programs for health and community care professionals. Carers are vital partners in the delivery of a caring program and as a result health care professionals, community care professions and the caring profession must be cooperatively integrated.</p> <p>Carers are best placed to know what kind of support and or respite they need. They are often in the best position to advocate for the person that they care for. The juggling of responsibilities needs to be recognised by the other agencies that they deal with, including health care professionals, carer support workers and community workers.</p>	<p>Existing health programs and policies such as Transition Care, Metro Home Link, Hospital in the Home and GP Plus Health Centres have guidelines that incorporate the carer perspective.</p> <p>The <i>Mental Health Act 2009</i> and <i>South Australia's Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy</i> both recognise the role of carers and the appropriate sharing of information in the interests of the patient, subject to certain restrictions. Family/carers are consulted in policy, planning and service development.</p> <p>The Department of Education and Children's Services (DECS) provides support by informing relevant school and regional personnel about carers access to the health services and treatment information about the care recipient, within the framework of the Information Sharing Guidelines.</p>	<p>Promoting awareness of the SA Carers Charter as stated above and ensuring that health and community care professionals are aware of the role, responsibilities, and rights of carers.</p>

Caring for Carers

Assessment			
<p>How will you provide for Carer assessment independent of that for care recipients?</p>	<p>The Greens recognise the independent health and wellbeing needs of carers. The Greens support the cooperation of non-governmental organisations in education, assessment and support for carers and will continue to push for greater funding of community based support programs for carers.</p> <p>In addition we recognise the rights and roles of carers in self-identifying various</p>	<p>A national carer assessment tool has been in development for more than five years and is ongoing. The Commonwealth Government is mandating the Carer Evaluation and Needs Assessment - Revised (CENA-R) for use as the common carer assessment tool for all community aged care funding streams, including Home and Community Care (HACC).</p> <p>The Commonwealth Government response to</p>	<p>It is extremely important that carers are able to make informed choices about their role as a carer, taking into account their own health – physical and mental. A Redmond Liberal Government would investigate further a carer assessment program, so that the carers own health and wellbeing is constantly monitored and evaluated and any problems that arise can be dealt with, by offering</p>

Question	Greens	Labor	Liberal
<p>How will you provide for Carer assessment independent of that for care recipients? cont.</p>	<p>needs and the necessity for carers to be more involved in a consultative role rather than being shuttled between agencies.</p>	<p>the inquiry into better support for carers, the "Who Cares...?" report, identifies the expansion of the nationally consistent assessment process based on the Carer Eligibility and Needs Assessment-Revised questionnaire through the Health, Community and Disability Services Ministerial Council.</p> <p>Southern Adelaide Health Service is taking the lead on the development of a carer focussed model of care. A reference group has been formed which includes representation from key stakeholder groups including Carers SA, Siblings Australia and others.</p> <p>The <i>Mental Health Care Plan</i> released late 2009 includes a section of family/carer's plan to identify and describe the family/carer's level of involvement, their role, needs and the support they may require.</p>	<p>extra support or the relevant services.</p>
<p>Health</p> <p>Do you recognise Carers as an at-risk population group?</p> <p>Will you develop a comprehensive Carer Health Program? If yes, what will your Program include?</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes However the Greens are not in a feasible position to do this at a state level at this time. This will be developed in consultation with carers themselves and organisations such as Carers SA to best support the vital and difficult work they do. It is vital that carers are consulted in the</p>	<p>Yes SA Health works across government and with the non-government sectors to improve coordination of services between health, the community and aged care to support carers and the people they care for.</p> <p>SA Health's Statewide Service Plans and the Clinical Network Service Plans consider the role of carers and incorporate appropriate recommendations for the health and wellbeing for carers in each of the Plans.</p> <p>The Health Promotion Branch has offered to work with Carers SA to collate a package of information or identify useful web based links</p>	<p>Yes: Carers are so busy providing care for a care recipient that they do not have much time to spend on themselves.</p> <p>Yes This is a Federal legislative issue and as a State Government we would work with the Federal government to develop a carer health program and would make representations to COAG regarding the development of such a program.</p>

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<p>What measures will you take to provide training for family Carers that will assist them in providing the caring role?</p> <p>What measures will you take to further develop counselling services for Carers?</p>	<p>development of any carer health program. Measures must also be taken to ensure that carers do not suffer from social isolation and exclusion.</p> <p>The Greens will work to improve access to education, training and skills development through increased funding and development of functional and relevant training programs.</p> <p>The Greens support increased funding for quality, appropriate counselling services which can be readily accessed by carers.</p>	<p>for carers including community based chronic disease prevention programs.</p> <p>Health screening programs such as BreastScreen SA offer double appointments for client and carer and Saturday morning appointments.</p> <p>The National Disability Strategy is being developed in consultation with the National Disability and Carers Council. The National Disability Agreement (NDA), replacing the Commonwealth, State/Territory Disability Agreement is now in place and includes <i>Priority C: Responding to the needs of older carers</i>.</p> <p>The SA Social Inclusion Board has agreed to develop a blueprint for long-term reform of disability services and to 'join up' services between Health, Education and the Department for Families and Communities.</p> <p>The Carer Participation Position Statement was endorsed by SA Health Portfolio Executive in December 2009 and has been issued as a joint position statement of Carers SA and SA Health. The Statement both recognises and promotes the unique role and functions of the family carer. It is to be utilised by all SA Health Regions when developing or reviewing all components of health care relevant to family carers.</p>	<p>A Redmond Liberal Government would work in collaboration with Carer Associations to ensure appropriate training is available to family carers, to assist them in their caring role.</p> <p>A Redmond Liberal Government will liaise with all stakeholders and ensure that services provided are appropriate and up to date with the needs required by carers.</p>

Question	Greens	Labor	Liberal
<p>Respite</p> <p>Will you provide for a substantial expansion of affordable and appropriate respite for Carers?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Carers are an explicit target group for Home and Community Care (HACC) services, including respite care and carer support. Since 2001-02, total HACC funding in SA has increased by 85% (\$87.7 million in 2001-02 to \$162.2 million in 2009-10).</p> <p>In 2009-10, approximately \$10.5 million per year in recurrent HACC funding was allocated to the provision of respite services across the State.</p> <p>In recognition of the demand for HACC services and the ageing of our population we have already planned with the Commonwealth to increase funding and services in SA to over \$175 million in 2010-11. This funding will include an expansion of carer services.</p> <p>In addition the Government provided \$15.3 million for respite support in 2008/09, through Disability SA.</p> <p>In December 2009 an additional \$31 million in funding over the next four years was announced for disability services to provide families with more respite and in-home support. This is already providing 284 families more respite, more therapy and more in-home support.</p> <p>The Government has also now appointed two Senior Project Officers for Respite to streamline access to respite services for people with disabilities and to improve ways of utilising</p>	<p>A Redmond Liberal Government will review current respite arrangements for carers and will liaise with industry regarding any gaps in respite service provision and possible solutions.</p>

Question	Greens	Labor	Liberal
<p>Will you provide for a substantial expansion of affordable and appropriate respite for Carers? cont.</p>		<p>existing respite vacancies.</p> <p>The Government is also conducting a pilot program (1 February 2009 to 30 June 2010) to assess the value of diverse approaches to the direct provision of carer support and respite services to carers of people with mental illness. This program was devised in conjunction with carer support organisations. A consultant has been appointed to undertake a whole of project evaluation of these projects to guide future investment in this area. \$415,000 provided for these projects in 2008-09, rising to \$633,000 in 2009-10.</p>	
<p>Financial Resilience</p> <p>What measures will you take to alleviate the growing costs of essential services for Carers, including transport, energy, water?</p> <p>What measures will you take so that state concessions and subsidies meet the ongoing rises in the costs of caring?</p>	<p>The Greens support an increased base payment to carers, a review of means tested thresholds, improvement in concessions and subsidies and financial assistance to retro-fit households to improve energy efficiency and help to lower costs. Greens Senator Rachel Siewert has recently been lobbying for immediate financial relief for carers whilst system wide funding reform occurs. The Greens have long recognised the frequent financial hardship for carers and will continue to work to fix this.</p> <p>The Greens will continue to pressure the government to improve concessions and subsidies to carers. Carers are a vital part of our community and they perform an incredibly important job. The Greens will do as much as possible to ensure they are not undervalued.</p>	<p>The Government understands and appreciates that there can be significant financial costs involved for people who undertake a caring role.</p> <p>A range of concessions is available from the State Government to help South Australians on low or fixed incomes with the cost of household and other expenses.</p> <p>Since coming to office, the Government has provided and significantly raised concessions for eligible people.</p> <p>Information concerning the types of concessions available to all eligible South Australians is available from Families SA offices, the SA Government website at www.sa.gov.au/concessions and local councils.</p> <p>The Government has also developed the Concessions Finder which is an online tool that</p>	<p>We believe it is appropriate to provide clear summaries of entitlements, subsidies and concessions that are available to carers, which could be published and direct to the Carers Association, via HACC programmes, local councils, along with other relevant community bodies.</p>

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<p>What measures will you take to ensure that information is provided to Carers about entitlements for concessions and subsidies?</p>	<p>Lines of communication between carers, originations and the government on benefits, regulations and legislation are poor. Communication and government transparency must be improved and the Greens are working to ensure that all government department documents are easily accessible to the public. The Greens also recognise and encourage the vital role played by non-government organisations in communicating information to carers. We will ensure that they are able to fulfil this role with full government disclosure and cooperation.</p>	<p>assists clients to identify the concessions to which they are entitled. This tool is also available at www.sa.gov.au/concessions.</p> <p>On 17 February 2010, the Premier Mike Rann announced a significant boost for concessions for up to 235,000 South Australians, including seniors and low income earners, to take effect from 1 July 2010.</p> <p>These concessions relate to Energy, Water, Sewerage and Emergency Services Levy and will increase on 1 July, by five percent each year, up until 2012.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Energy concession will increase from a maximum of \$120 per year to a maximum of \$150 per year. There will be a further increase of 5% in 2011 and a further 5% in 2012. This will bring the total maximum energy concession up to \$165 in 2012-13. This concession will also be available to eligible low-income earners for the first time from 1 July 2010. the minimum and maximum levels of the Water concession will increase 5% and a further 5% each year to the 2012-13 financial year. <u>For owner occupiers</u> the water concession will increase up from the current maximum concession of \$200 to \$232 in 2012-13. <u>For tenants</u>, the water concession will increase up from the current maximum concession of \$160 to \$185 in 2012-13. the Sewerage concession will increase 5% and a further 5% each year to the 2012. The total maximum sewerage concession 	

Question	Greens	Labor	Liberal
Financial Resilience cont.		<p>will increase up from the current \$95 to \$110 in 2012-13.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Emergency Services Levy (fixed property) concession will increase 5% and a further 5% each year to the 2012. This will bring the total maximum ESL concession up from the current \$40 to \$46 in 2012-13. This concession will also be available to eligible low-income earners for the first time from 1 July 2010. <p>In December 2008 the Companion Card was launched. The Companion Card is available to people with a permanent disability who require attendant care support and allows a companion to enter free of charge to participating venues and activities. The program is an initiative of the South Australian Government, jointly managed by the Department for Families and Communities and National Disability Services.</p> <p>The Companion Card program also operates in ACT, New South Wales, Queensland, Tasmania, Victoria, and Western Australia.</p> <p>From 1 July 2009, Seniors Card holders were entitled to free travel on Adelaide Metro public transport during off-peak periods (between 9.01am–3pm on weekdays, all day on weekends and public holidays) and concessional fares at all other times (approximately 50%). This will assist older carers who are working less than 20 hours per week.</p>	

Question	Greens	Labor	Liberal
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Regional Carer Support

<p>What measures will you take to further develop regional Carer Support, in particular in their engagement of special needs groups?</p>	<p>Regional carer services are best provided within the community however community development services are often overlooked by state government. Health care and carer support services, particularly in rural and regional communities need financial support and fully funded training and educational programs.</p> <p>The Greens believe that carers in regional and remote areas should not be penalised for their location and should have the same access to services, training and support as carers in urban areas.</p>		<p>A Redmond Liberal Government would liaise with various regional carer stakeholders to ensure that the needs of carers are met, with a particular focus on special needs groups. We would investigate implementing programs specifically designed for carers in the regions.</p>
<p>Rural and Remote</p> <p>What measures will you take to provide for better access to services for Carers living in rural and remote regions such as information, counselling and health services?</p> <p>What measures will you take to provide appropriate and adequate transport options for Carers in rural and remote regions?</p>	<p>People in rural and remote areas have equal right to essential government services such as health services, mental health services and information. The Greens will support measures to attract health professionals to rural and remote areas whilst encouraging local community growth in these areas through educational measures, including subsidies for transport, training.</p> <p>The Greens support the establishment and expansion of appropriate transport options for people with disabilities and their carers. Broader access to the 'access cab' program is vital and an improvement of the quality of this service, particularly in regional and remote areas is urgently needed. Improvements to the</p>	<p>In 2007-8, the Community Business Bureau (CBB) was engaged by the Government to undertake an audit of carer support programs funded through the HACC Program. Recommendations included the need for all carer services to undertake carer consultations across their regions to understand the level of unmet need in the HACC target group.</p> <p>In 2008-09, in response to the recommendations of the above audit, the Government allocated an additional \$585,000 per year in recurrent funding for the establishment of carer services in the Onkaparinga, Adelaide Hills, Kangaroo Island and the expansion of existing services in the Fleurieu sub region. There are existing HACC funded carer support services across the other regions.</p>	<p>Access to health services for those residing in country areas, including carers is vitally important. A Redmond Liberal Government will maintain existing country health services and facilities at all country hospitals unless local communities request otherwise.</p> <p>Transport for Carers residing in rural and regional areas is vital to ensure that the carer and the person they are caring for are able to access the services and assistance they need. A Redmond Liberal Government will support Community Passenger Networks, PATS, Dial a Ride and other</p>

Question	Greens	Labor	Liberal
<p>What measures will you take to provide appropriate and adequate transport options for Carers in rural and remote regions? cont.</p>	<p>Transport Subsidy Scheme would also be made to ensure that transport is reliable, affordable and accessible across the state. This includes provision for transport and accommodation in Adelaide if this is necessary.</p>	<p>The Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure (DTEI) manages the Transport Accessibility Advisory Group (TAAG).</p> <p>The role of the Committee is to provide advice to DTEI on matters relating to the operation of transport services and construction of new and upgraded transport infrastructure.</p> <p>The Committee has a wide representation from people with a disability, and includes representatives from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council for the Ageing • Carers SA • Spina Bifida Association • Guide Dogs Association • Royal Society for the Blind • Physical Disability Council <p>The Committee works extremely well, and has a positive working relationship with staff from the Department. The Committee has had a significant role in the new infrastructure projects in enhancing the accessibility of transport services for all customers.</p>	<p>community transport systems that provide vital transport services for South Australians residing in regional and rural areas.</p>

Question	Greens	Labor	Liberal
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Special Needs Groups

<p>Aboriginal Carers</p> <p>What measures will you take to provide for Aboriginal Carers who are further disadvantaged through language and cultural differences and other barriers?</p>	<p>Aboriginal people who are carers face significant additional disadvantages. The Greens support the adequate provision and access to culturally appropriate essential services. This is absolutely critical for both the carers and their charges. We support increased community programs, support and development and the provision of an appropriate level of funding to achieve this.</p>	<p>The Government currently funds HACC carer support services for Aboriginal people on a regional basis based on local needs and delivered by local service providers.</p> <p>A state-wide Aboriginal Carer Needs Analysis is to be undertaken in 2010 which will provide the Government with recommendations of how to better support Aboriginal carers in SA.</p> <p>Health Regions have employed Aboriginal Liaison Officers, to develop policies and to consult with ATSI communities on support for ATSI consumers and carers across their engagement with health services.</p> <p>The Transition Care Program has funded three Aboriginal Liaison Officers to develop stronger care pathways between ATSI communities and the Transition Care Program.</p> <p>In April 2009, Disability SA held the third triennial State Aboriginal Disability Conference titled Living Strong 2009, Gathering People, Linking Voices – Our Strength for Our Future. This conference provided an opportunity for exchange of disability and carer information and issues relating to people of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent.</p> <p>Disability SA Service Coordinators with ATSI backgrounds and expertise are now located regionally to provide advice and support to clients, staff and carers on ATSI issues.</p>	<p>A Redmond Liberal Government will support Aboriginal carers of people who are frail aged and people with disabilities and chronic conditions and will investigate the possibility of implementing a program to identify special needs group carers, offer culturally appropriate carer support services and will work to reduce the level of isolation of Aboriginal carers and increase confidence in their caring roles.</p>
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Question	Greens	Labor	Liberal
<p>Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Carers</p> <p>What measures will you take to provide for CALD Carers who are further disadvantaged through language and cultural differences and other barriers?</p>	<p>The Greens call, for the provision of culturally and linguistically appropriate services for CALD carers. Services would be organised with community wide consultations and particular consultation with carers. Carer support needs to be community based and well funded.</p>	<p>In 2007, the Government funded a project under the auspice of the Multicultural Communities Council of SA (MCCSA) to identify the carer support needs of CALD communities across the State.</p> <p>As a result of this \$408,000 per year in recurrent funding was allocated in 2009-10 to 13 CALD community organisations to establish or expand existing carer support services for carers of the HACC target group. Further work is being undertaken in 2009-10 on the implementation of these services.</p> <p>In 2009-10 \$418,850 in HACC funding was allocated to support CALD carers. In future years, HACC funding will continue to be allocated to address needs, particularly to those communities which currently do not have ethno-specific responses. Work will also need to be done on how to best meet the needs of CALD communities in country regions.</p>	<p>A Redmond Liberal Government will support CALD carers of people who are frail aged and people with disabilities and chronic conditions and will investigate the possibility of implementing a program, offer culturally appropriate carer support services and will work to reduce the level of isolation CALD carers may feel within their communities and increase confidence in their caring roles.</p>

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<p>Families of Children with Disabilities</p> <p>What measures will you take to provide for families of children with disabilities, particularly sole parent 'whole of life' Carers including access to adequate, quality respite; childcare and post school care and support groups?</p>	<p>Respite options should be appropriate, adequate and affordable, particularly "whole family" respite options. Respite services operating across the state must be extended and the level of funding for respite increased. The Greens are particularly concerned about age appropriate options for people with disabilities, both for the individuals with disability but also the impact this may have on the carer in terms of emotional difficulty, guilt, regret. There must be funding options in the community for carers to have realistic, accessibly respite options.</p>	<p>There is an ever increasing demand for disability services, including those for children, which all jurisdictions across Australia are facing.</p> <p>Because of this growing demand, the Government has increased funding for disability services by 87% since 2002 - from \$123 million to \$233 million in 2009.</p> <p>This has directly benefited more than 4,000 new people with a disability and their families. About 19,500 people now receive disability support services in South Australia.</p> <p>In December 2009 an additional \$31 million in funding over the next four years was announced for disability services to provide families with more respite and in-home support. This is already providing 284 families more respite, more therapy and more in-home support.</p> <p>The Rann Government has made it a priority to provide extra support to students with disabilities in our State education system.</p> <p>Since being elected in 2002, \$120 million extra has been provided to cater for the growing number of students with special needs.</p> <p>In that time, the number of students with disabilities has increased from 11,862 in 2002 to 15,126 in 2009.</p>	<p>A Redmond Liberal Government will increase funding available to people with disabilities and their carers but even more we will increase the capacity of families to choose the best way to use that funding to meet their needs. We know that respite and post-school options will figure strongly in the choices made by families.</p>

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<p>What measures will you take to provide for families of children with disabilities, particularly sole parent 'whole of life' Carers including access to adequate, quality respite; childcare and post school care and support groups? cont.</p>		<p>Over the past eight years, we have funded new facilities and upgraded services for students with disabilities. The Rann Government has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided seven Inclusive Preschool Programs for students with disabilities and high support needs • Built a brand new Regency School for 80 students at the Ocean View College Campus at Taperoo • Established new special classes for students with disabilities • Provided specific recognition of students with Autism and Asperger's Disorders to streamline support for these students • Introduced a new way to identify and support students with learning disabilities, allowing funds to reach children immediately • Established more special classes in schools, with 91 schools across the State now offering 104 special classes. This compares to 88 schools with 99 special classes in 2002. • Redeveloped and upgraded special education schools and units, including Woodville Special School (\$3.1m), Kilparrin/Townsend House (\$6.2m), Gordon Education Centre at Mount Gambier (\$3.8m), Modbury Special School (\$2.9m), Victor Harbor High School Special Education Unit (\$2.2m) and Para Hills High School Special Education Unit (\$1.1m). <p>In collaboration with the Commonwealth</p>	

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<p>What measures will you take to provide for families of children with disabilities, particularly sole parent 'whole of life' Carers including access to adequate, quality respite; childcare and post school care and support groups? cont.</p>		<p>Government, the Rann Government has developed the largest package of reforms in the State's history for people with Autism Spectrum Disorders.</p> <p>New programs and service models have been implemented for children with disabilities and families of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. This includes intensive case management and respite for children with significant and complex health needs.</p> <p>New programs and service models implemented include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Preschoolers with Autism Program; • Senior Developmental Programmers in country South Australia who provide post diagnostic support, group programs and intensive interventions; and • Intensive case management during transition to school for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders and their families. <p>As part of South Australia's Strategic Plan, we have also set a target of increasing by 400 the number of people with a disability involved in day options by 2014. The day option program is targeted towards those school leavers with Autism Spectrum Disorder or an intellectual disability. We are well on our way to meeting this target having increased the number of people involved in day options by 209 to 1258 in 2008-09.</p>	

Question	Greens	Labor	Liberal
<p>Young Carers</p> <p>What measures will you take to provide for children and young people who are Carers?</p> <p>What measures will you take to provide for the families of young Carers so that the young person's caring role is reduced?</p>	<p>The Greens will call for the provision of extra support services and peer-based support programs to allow young people to avoid social exclusion and underachievement. It is particularly important for young carers to be able to access regular and reliable respite options.</p> <p>The Greens support increased funding for respite services and in-home support. We support specific respite for young carers, peer support programs and the equipping of schools via School counsellors etc to support young carers with their schooling and personal lives.</p>	<p>The Social Inclusion Board headed by Monsignor David Cappo is developing a blueprint for long-term reform of disability services right across the South Australian Government.</p> <p>This work will also encompass the factors driving demand for disability services, and will be guided by a range of existing reforms already being undertaken.</p> <p>This would include looking at the specific issues facing children and young people who are carers and the particular cross-Government issues that they face.</p> <p>The Government will continue to ensure that young carers are supported through individualised programs that consider caring responsibilities.</p> <p>We are a partner in a three year study funded through the Australian Research Council exploring issues for young carers. The research undertaken by the Social Policy Research Centre (University of New South Wales) will provide a knowledge base to inform policy and service responses for young carers and will be completed in 2010.</p> <p>The Government will continue to support young carers' projects by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Working with Carers SA to develop and deliver a training session for participating schools/establish an information network for teachers. ○ Produce guidelines for teachers to 	<p>A lot of children and young people who are carers do not have a choice about taking on the role of a carer and need support to maintain their own life and education. We would investigate a system where a young carer has a constant mentor and support system in place.</p> <p>As above</p>

Question	Greens	Labor	Liberal
<p>What measures will you take to provide for the families of young Carers so that the young person's caring role is reduced? cont.</p>		<p>develop individual plans for young carers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Develop and trial a Young Carer Network. ○ Support the secondary school carers to develop SACE Community Learning unit ○ Establish a website link for young carers. <p>The Mental Health Unit, Department of Health is part of an across department Senior Officers Group for the Care and Protection of Children. In August 2009 the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) requested the group look at cross government strategies to offer greater support to Children of Parents with a Mental Illness (COPMI) and provide advice on strategies, timeframes and budget implications.</p>	
<p>Ageing Carers</p> <p>What measures will you take to assist ageing family Carers in their caring role and in transition planning?</p>	<p>The Greens support the increased provision for transitional housing for people in need with sufficient options for long term housing. We also strongly advocate for age appropriate accommodation options. Again, community support and mobile higher care options, eg travelling nurses, are crucial to allow people to stay longer in their own homes whilst being fully supported to the level they require.</p>	<p>The Disability Assistance Package (DAP) offers a range of supports for carers in South Australia including: the Respite for Older Carers packages providing additional respite hours for carers; three monthly monitoring for a Transitional Support Measure target group who are expected to require service support in the future; and the development of an Aged Care and Housing Proposal designed to undertake futures planning with each of the identified carers in the Transitional Support Measure target group.</p> <p>In 2009-10, the Government funded Multicultural Advocacy Liaison Services South Australia (MALSSA) for a project called Futures Planning for Ageing Carers of Adult Children with Disabilities.</p>	<p>A Liberal Government will encourage planning by carers, particularly among ageing family carers. Front-foot planning can avoid crises now and give carers the confidence to maintain the caring role. The tragic consequences of failing to plan was highlighted by the recent case of the 76-year old South Australian man who shot his own son because of his concerns about future care.</p>

Question	Greens	Labor	Liberal
<p>What measures will you take to assist ageing family Carers in their caring role and in transition planning? cont.</p>		<p>The purpose of this project is to provide older carers of people with a disability with a broad range of information concerning future planning arrangements. This includes the development of a reader-friendly booklet and production of CD ROMs in English and four languages other than English (LOTE) on Wills, Trusts and Power/Enduring Power of Attorney.</p>	
<p>Working Carers</p> <p>What measures will you take so that Carers can either remain in, or re-enter, the workforce?</p>	<p>The Greens will call for the right to request flexible working arrangements to carers and through community support and day care programs ensure that carers do not feel as though there are impossible hurdles to entering or re-entering the workforce.</p> <p>The Greens will also support increased funding to carer organisations so that carers are not forced into the workforce through financial difficulties.</p>	<p>The Government will continue to support employees who are also carers through the provision of flexible working arrangements which are negotiated to meet individual and changing needs.</p> <p>The new Public Sector Act contains a range of flexible work practice policies that can be accessed by carers. Training is available for Managers and HR personnel to ensure they are able to provide appropriate support and assistance to staff who are carers.</p> <p>In many agencies, staff orientation sessions include information on support for carers and Carers SA is invited to be present to provide advice to interested employees.</p> <p>Carers are consulted about relevant policy development to ensure their needs are reflected.</p> <p>A range of health and wellbeing initiatives are offered to all staff to improve their own wellbeing, including carers.</p>	<p>A Redmond Liberal Government will investigate and discuss with stakeholders and industry the feasibility of providing leave for carers for specific periods of time.</p>

Question	Greens	Labor	Liberal
<p>Carers of People with Mental Illness</p> <p>Will you establish a priority pathway to social housing and service supports within mental health programs for adult children of ageing Carers?</p> <p>Will you develop a mental health education and liaison program for Carers? If yes, what will this program include?</p>	<p>Yes The Greens strongly support such a measure. Nevertheless we are not in the political position to establish such a pathway at the present time.</p> <p>The Greens support increased education and counselling services in the area of mental health and mental illness, particularly for carers. The Greens lead candidate for the Legislative Council has worked as a policy officer for the Mental Health Coalition in South Australia and has a passionate interest and concern in the areas of mental health. Considering that carers are an 'at-risk' group of health professionals, their mental health and wellbeing must be addressed in a timely, professional and sympathetic manner by individuals who understand the trial and tribulations of daily caring. The Greens would like to see such services for carers readily accessible.</p>	<p>In relation to mental health the Housing and Accommodation Support Partnership (HASP) Program will provide intensive supported accommodation in 2010/11.</p> <p>HASP is a collaborative partnership between public Community Mental Health Services and non-government organisations (NGOs) to work with consumers and carers with the objective of providing the optimal chance for recovery.</p> <p>This program will address the needs of persons who have a need for very high levels of support including persons for whom the continued support of ageing carers is no longer viable; persons currently in Glenside extended care, and future clients who may otherwise be dependent on carer support, hospital-based extended care or admission to other facilities.</p> <p>Housing SA and SA Health have agreed to provide up to 262 new public housing places with clinical and psychosocial support where required, targeted to mental health consumers with high and complex needs.</p> <p>The housing provision through the Commonwealth Government Economic Stimulus Package will strengthen the capacity of community mental health support programs to address the vital issue of prolonged waits in hospital beds due to lack of suitable accommodation and/or the loss of viable carer support.</p>	<p>The State Liberal Party have made a commitment if elected, to retain Glenside as a mental health facility and would investigate developing mental health education and liaison programs and service supports as a part of the programs offered at the facility.</p> <p>As above</p>

Question	Greens	Labor	Liberal
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Comprehensive Quality Services for Care Recipients

<p>What measures will you take so that there are adequate services for the care recipients?</p>	<p>The Greens support the adequate provision of funds required to address the shortfall in services.</p>	<p>The Rann Government is very aware of the ever-growing demand for disability support services. This is why we have increased funding for disability services by 87% since 2002 - from \$123 million to \$233 million in 2009.</p> <p>This has directly benefited more than 4,000 new people with a disability and their families. About 19,500 people now receive disability support services in South Australia.</p> <p>South Australia also provides services to 46% of our disability community compared to the national average of about 32%.</p> <p>Despite these significant increases in funding, we know that there is more to do. All Australian jurisdictions have experienced growth in demand for disability services over the past few years, and all governments are tackling the challenges of meeting this demand.</p> <p>Due to these challenges, in December 2009 the Government announced a funding injection of \$31 million in additional funding for disability services to provide 250 families more respite, more therapy and more in-home support.</p> <p>The Rann Government is committed to significant reform of disability services and to the way we support people with a disability more generally in South Australia.</p> <p>This is why the Premier asked the Social</p>	<p>The State Liberal Party has announced that under a Redmond Liberal Government no South Australian with a disability who is who is deemed at immediate and high risk of harm either to themselves or others will be left on the waiting list for disability services and will investigate further this commitment to include other care recipient groups.</p>
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Question	Greens	Labor	Liberal
<p>What measures will you take so that there are adequate services for the care recipients? cont.</p>		<p>Inclusion Board, headed by Monsignor David Cappo, to develop a blueprint for long-term reform of disability services across the Government in South Australia.</p> <p>Since its formation in 2002, the South Australian Social Inclusion Initiative has provided the Government with valuable advice on how to tackle a range of social issues. Importantly, this initiative has delivered results in reducing rough sleeping homelessness, increasing school retention, and reforming mental health services.</p> <p>In developing this new blueprint the Premier has asked that the social inclusion approach be applied to disability services. This approach will seek to ensure a people-centred system that joins the various arms of government services together to better support people with disabilities, their families and carers.</p> <p>The Social Inclusion Board work will also look at the factors driving demand for disability services, and will be guided by a range of existing reforms already being undertaken including, for example, the first phase of self directed funding.</p>	
<p>What measures will you take to ensure that Carers know what services the care recipients will receive?</p>		<p>Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centres provide a single point of contact for the general public, service providers, general practitioners and other health professionals for information on community, aged and disability services and carer support. The Centres can also assist with information about costs for services, assessment processes and eligibility criteria.</p>	

Question	Greens	Labor	Liberal
<p>What measures will you take to ensure that Carers know what services the care recipients will receive? cont.</p>		<p>Information about local respite services can be obtained by phoning a Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centre on Freecall 1800 052 222 during business hours or, for emergency respite support outside standard business hours, Freecall 1800 059 059.</p> <p>Carers have access to short-term professional counselling and assistance to manage issues such as stress, loss and grief through the National Carers Counselling Program, delivered by Carers Australia. Carers Australia can be contacted on the national Freecall number 1800 242 636.</p> <p>Disability SA assists people with disabilities and their families by providing a wide range of specialist services and by funding other organisations to provide support to people with a disability throughout South Australia. Individuals can apply for services from Disability SA by telephoning the Disability SA Intake Team on 1300 786 117 or by visiting their closest Disability SA office.</p> <p>If a child or adult is a client of Disability SA, they will have a case manager allocated who can help them navigate the services they require.</p> <p>Access2HomeCare, a joint initiative of the Commonwealth and South Australian Governments, is a telephone based service, with a free call number, 1300 130 551, that is now available for older people, their families and carers who are residents of Western Adelaide region and the country communities</p>	

Question	Greens	Labor	Liberal
<p>What measures will you take to ensure that Carers know what services the care recipients will receive? cont.</p>		<p>of Gawler, Barossa, Lower North and Yorke Peninsula. Access2HomeCare aims to reduce the number of times a person has to provide information about themselves and their care needs.</p> <p>DTEI manages the Common Internet Site for Government, which provides the South Australian community, including recipients of services, with a one-stop contact point for government information, products and services. Information for and regarding Carers is provided on the site located at www.sa.gov.au.</p>	
<p>What measures will you take so that people with disabilities or chronic illnesses and the frail aged have access to timely, affordable and quality equipment?</p>	<p>The Greens' Disability Policy supports the timely and adequate provision of necessary equipment to people with disabilities. The so-called 'unmet need list' of Disability SA needs to be addressed urgently.</p>	<p>Since being elected in 2002, the Rann Government has spent almost \$43 million on equipment for people with a disability, including one-off amounts of funding from budget surpluses, totaling \$23.4 million.</p> <p>In 2008, a new single Equipment Program was established through the consolidation of the former programs. Adopting this approach, and refurbishing standard items, has reduced waiting times for some items of equipment and addressed some unmet need.</p>	<p>The State Liberal Party have committed an additional \$10 million to the \$31 million already allocated to clear the waiting list for South Australians on the waiting list for disability equipment, and would investigate measures to clear backlogs or waiting lists for equipment being experienced by other care recipient groups</p>
<p>What measures will you take so that there will be adequately qualified and credentialed staff in the community care sector?</p>	<p>The Greens' Disability Policy supports the adequate training and education of disability Support workers in the community. Training must be of high quality and be provided by reputable training providers. There also needs to be legitimate career paths for those entering the sector who can reasonably expect to not find themselves in a 'dead end', low paid job.</p>	<p>The Government recognises the importance of providing training in the provision of sound support practices and the Department for Families and Communities (DFC) currently offers a range of training services.</p> <p>It is a requirement that all new and existing direct support staff have or gain a minimum qualification of Certificate 3 in Disability. This is undertaken through the DFC College of</p>	<p>What measures will you take so that there will be adequately qualified and credentialed staff in the community care sector?</p> <p>A Redmond Liberal Government will review the current staffing situation through discussion with stakeholders and industry, and the Federal Government and will work to ensure</p>

Question	Greens	Labor	Liberal
<p>What measures will you take so that there will be adequately qualified and credentialed staff in the community care sector? cont.</p>		<p>Learning and Development. There are 25 enrolments per month and there is no charge for this course.</p> <p>New staff attend the DFC Induction program and then the Disability Dynamics Program (Foundation Program), followed a further day on local worksite for orientation/induction.</p> <p>The Disability Dynamics Program is a six-day program covering basic care (hygiene, showering, toileting, grooming, etc), manual handling, medication administration, principles and practices of active support and positive behaviour support. These are credited towards the Certificate 3 in Disability and Certificate 3 in Government.</p> <p>Existing staff are assessed in terms of recognition of prior learning, credited with the skills they have acquired on the job, and then complete any other outstanding areas of skill/knowledge gaps through specific modules within the Certificate 3 curriculum.</p> <p>As of the next College Graduation in April, around 850 staff will have achieved their Certificate 3 in Disability qualification.</p> <p>The Department also has 90 staff undertaking the Certificate 4 in Frontline Management to equip them to undertake the role of Shift Supervisor.</p> <p>A new program commenced on 28 January for Service Coordinators and Program Coordinators which will result in a Certificate 4 in Disability. In addition the College runs</p>	<p>that there is enough qualified staff to work within the sector, by investigating incentive programs to attract more people to the industry.</p>

Question	Greens	Labor	Liberal
<p>What measures will you take so that there will be adequately qualified and credentialed staff in the community care sector? cont.</p>		<p>specific programs for work groups as needed, for example, Advanced Positive Behaviour Support.</p> <p>The Department also has six areas of compliance training that it engages external providers to deliver. The six areas are: manual handling, fire safety and emergency management, food handling and safety, first aid, universal precautions and behaviour support.</p> <p>The Department requires that organisations employ support workers who are trained to Certificate 3 where they are providing support to people with high health needs.</p> <p>The sector itself has a strong commitment to training support workers and a number of large organisations such as Minda and Bedford are registered training organisations (RTOs).</p> <p>In addition, the Government is providing an extra 1% indexation per year over four years on state funding to be directed towards employees wages and conditions in certain non-government organisations in the community services sector.</p> <p>This is to support recruitment and retention of care workers in this area and is not intended to replace any ordinary wage increases that would be passed onto employees and will be additional to any allocation of base indexation for wages and conditions.</p>	

Question	Greens	Labor	Liberal
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Individual Candidate Comments

Penny Pratt (Liberal for Ashford)

Good morning (3.40 am!!!) from Michael Pratt, campaign manager for Penny Pratt, Liberal Candidate for Ashford.

Because Ashford is a long way down the non marginal seat category. Penny only received this yesterday.

She is still employed by the government as a teacher, until Friday when she resigns, without pay, and then she is free to make a more personal comment.

Penny has briefed me to respond to you on her behalf.

Obviously Isobel Redmond and the Liberals have supported this carers awareness campaign .Penny was with Isobel when she launched the Liberals commitment to retain Glenside as a committed institution for Mental Health.

On Penny's behalf I have been a constant source of aggravation to the Rann Government on Julia Farr, Glenside and the RAH.

Penny's Labor opponent and Member for Ashford Steph Key shut Julia Farr down telling South Australia how good it would be for them, she deserves to be tipped out on that alone!

Glenside/Burnside open space. Penny and I are members of that organisation, I have chaired meetings, protested at Labor function and had a good 'letters run', see copies.

I am wondering of Bob Such's response, you will see where he 'rolled over' for the sale of Glenside to a shopping centre developer!

To mention Monsignor Cappo and his Labor/employed biased position on Glenside ,supporting a film studio and retail precinct containing a new large liquor store just metres from recovering alcoholics and 'druggies'...good one Mon!

Then the RAH, again Penny has been involved from the beginning to save the RAH, and with a great endorsement from Dr Jim Katsaros. For a 'Sturt bloke "he's alright!!

Penny has worked closely with Rick Neagle and in fact Rick will appear in Penny's next ASHFORD newsletter giving strong condemnation to Rann/Key and the disgraceful state of Julia Farr. (for a Norwood bloke Rick's a goodun!!)

We have family involvement with JF my late brother Jim's wife has been a 20 year patient of JF

Any positive help you or Carers SA can give will be returned 'in spades'

On behalf of Penny best wishes Michael Pratt

Question	Democrats	D4D (Dignity for Disability)	Family First	United Party
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Strategic Recognition

Will you include Carers within your South Australian Strategic Plan, or equivalent?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
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Partners in Care

Do you recognise Carers as partners in care?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
What measures will you take to ensure the participation of Carers as partners in care?	Support your recommendations of recognition.	Provide strategies, guidelines and education within the health system.	Begin with building mutual understanding between carers and service providers giving autonomy to carers and care recipients in how funding concerning the care recipient is spent will raise the participation of carers in funding decisions	Recognise carers as a major and essential component of health care at a similar level to hospitals and primary care.
What measures will you take to encourage health and community care professionals to involve Carers as partners in care?	Support your position that Carers be involved in planning and service delivery.	Distribute the same to health care professionals.	Working towards mutual understanding and recognising carers as partners in care will also require health and community care professionals to engage with carers for all work with care recipients of health services requiring health and community care professionals to identify whether care recipients of health services have a carer at the earliest opportunity.	Establish full consultation, education and linkage mechanisms across the spectrum from the general public to the cared-for, carers, doctors, hospitals and medical schools.

Question	Democrats	D4D (Dignity for Disability)	Family First	United Party
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Caring for Carers

Assessment How will you provide for Carer assessment independent of that for care recipients?	Support your challenge to develop a common assessment tool	Push to re-write the SA Carers Policy 2006 to include a development assessment tool.		Establish help centres for carers with scheduled meetings so that they can confidently fall back to a reliable base of support
Health Do you recognise Carers as an at-risk population group?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Will you develop a comprehensive Carer Health Program? If yes, what will your Program include?	Yes	Yes	Yes Mechanisms for identifying carers at risk, as well as self-assessment and awareness of risk factors and whether they are at health risk, and greater awareness programs for the help that can be obtained	Yes It will include evaluation when the carers attend help centre meetings.
What measures will you take to provide training for family Carers that will assist them in providing the caring role?		Provide appropriate training facilities to develop caring rules for Carers.	A program will be determined in consultation with Carers SA and other stakeholder groups.	Develop a program in consultation with the present administration and the carers, including a survey of carers' views.
What measures will you take to further develop counselling services for Carers?		Provide education and access to more information of counselling services.	Likewise this will be developed in consultation with Carers SA and other stakeholder groups	Employ specialist expertise as determined by a general study and survey.

Question	Democrats	D4D (Dignity for Disability)	Family First	United Party
<p>Respite</p> <p>Will you provide for a substantial expansion of affordable and appropriate respite for Carers?</p>	Yes	Yes. We are currently offering to campaign the government for a state Day of Respite for Carers.	Yes Family First is particularly concerned about the lack of respite options in rural and regional SA, but also considers it unacceptable that people have to wait up to 2 years for even one fortnight a month's respite care.	Yes Help the carers to engage with their own extended families and contacts, and establish a flexible rostered and at-call team to provide respite.
<p>Financial Resilience</p> <p>What measures will you take to alleviate the growing costs of essential services for Carers, including transport, energy, water?</p>		Provide subsidies, concessions and increase the current Carers Allowance.	Family First supports rebate schemes to care recipients and carers on growing utility costs. Indirectly we are trying to keep those costs down by supporting stormwater harvesting, for instance, instead of expensive doubled desalination.	Provide subsidies and concessions for carers, which may include new services.
<p>What measures will you take so that state concessions and subsidies meet the ongoing rises in the costs of caring?</p> <p>What measures will you take to ensure that information is provided to Carers about entitlements for concessions and subsidies?</p>		<p>Ensure that CPI is attached to any concessions or subsidies.</p> <p>Provide resource centres and access to website to gain information.</p>	<p>Family First is happy to support the indexation of concessions and subsidies to match pace with the growing cost of living.</p> <p>Family First supports the creation of a website and help line as a one-stop shop for carers to obtain information not only about concessions and subsidies, but their rights and help available to them.</p>	<p>Use the help desk system to constantly evaluate progress and effectiveness.</p> <p>A structured approach through the help desk system.</p>

Question	Democrats	D4D (Dignity for Disability)	Family First	United Party
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Regional Carer Support

<p>What measures will you take to further develop regional Carer Support, in particular in their engagement of special needs groups?</p>		<p>Provide appropriate information and education and an ability to refer to specialised services.</p>	<p>Family First is appalled at the lack of support for regional carers and one of our candidates is a carer in a regional area. We understand that families need help and better support than they have currently received from the Government.</p>	<p>Develop regional networks of support and establish effective communications with special needs groups, both local and remote.</p>
<p>Rural and Remote</p> <p>What measures will you take to provide for better access to services for Carers living in rural and remote regions such as information, counselling and health services?</p> <p>What measures will you take to provide appropriate and adequate transport options for Carers in rural and remote regions?</p>		<p>Increase transport and referral to specialised services.</p> <p>Increase funding for transport services.</p>	<p>This will be developed in consultation with rural and regional carers to ensure the most appropriate service is provided for their needs.</p> <p>This will be developed in consultation with rural and regional carers to ensure the most appropriate service is provided for their needs.</p>	<p>Provide education and information to the local community and ensure that the carers have adequate information. This may include research in the community to determine viable strategies.</p> <p>Build a database of information about the needs of the cared-for and their carers, in conjunction with an evaluation of the options available in the community, and then determine how these needs can be satisfied and what further options are required.</p>

Question	Democrats	D4D (Dignity for Disability)	Family First	United Party
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Special Needs Groups

<p>Aboriginal Carers</p> <p>What measures will you take to provide for Aboriginal Carers who are further disadvantaged through language and cultural differences and other barriers?</p>		<p>Provide specific services and communicators to facilitate the caring service.</p>	<p>Family First supports extending and creating services and communication to reach out to and support Aboriginal carers.</p>	<p>Work with the traditional people and the extended families to determine their level of support. Develop special strategies as required, including cross-fertilisation with other Aboriginal areas and people.</p>
<p>Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Carers</p> <p>What measures will you take to provide for CALD Carers who are further disadvantaged through language and cultural differences and other barriers?</p>		<p>Provide specific services and communicators to facilitate the caring service.</p>	<p>Family First supports creating services and communication to reach out to and support CALD Carers.</p>	<p>Engage expertise in that culture (may be the immediate family) and develop specific strategies.</p>
<p>Families of Children with Disabilities</p> <p>What measures will you take to provide for families of children with disabilities, particularly sole parent 'whole of life' Carers including access to adequate, quality respite; childcare and post school care and support groups?</p>		<p>Provide programs and access to regional community centres for support.</p>	<p>This is a fundamental need for those faced with raising a disabled child, and presently the services and support are sadly lacking. Family First supports more respite programs and specialist child-care being available to enable whole of life carers to get a break and look after their families.</p>	<p>Develop options for shared accommodation that could involve a number of parents, particularly sole parents, sharing experiences and support.</p>

Question	Democrats	D4D (Dignity for Disability)	Family First	United Party
<p>Young Carers</p> <p>What measures will you take to provide for children and young people who are Carers?</p> <p>What measures will you take to provide for the families of young Carers so that the young person's caring role is reduced?</p>		<p>Establish and further facilitate programs to support young children.</p> <p>Establish effective networks with schools, community centres and counselling services to support the young Carers.</p>	<p>Family First wants to see an audit of the number of children and young people who are carers and the establishment of a dedicated program and funding line to assist them in their difficult task.</p> <p>A dedicated funding and support program and more respite places ought to alleviate the level of care required of young carers to enable them to enjoy their younger years and develop their own social and family connections further.</p>	<p>Home visits and help-desk availability to ensure that they have adequate support and are not missing out on education and other community involvement.</p> <p>Assist to extend support to the wider extended family and the community.</p> <p>Advise the teachers at the school of the special needs involved, thus increasing the general monitoring and support.</p> <p>As above, plus special consultation and information for the family and interviews with them to ensure their awareness and support, and to ascertain whether any additional support is needed.</p>
<p>Ageing Carers</p> <p>What measures will you take to assist ageing family Carers in their caring role and in transition planning?</p>		<p>Establish information and education programs to help with the issue of transition care.</p>	<p>More holistic work is required in the field of ageing carers to improve the transition process from care to the next stage of life for the carer and care recipient alike.</p>	<p>Similar to Young Carers, plus more detailed information that may be of assistance and assistance with transferring the support to others in the longer term.</p>

Question	Democrats	D4D (Dignity for Disability)	Family First	United Party
<p>Working Carers</p> <p>What measures will you take so that Carers can either remain in, or re-enter, the workforce?</p>		<p>Provide respite and support services.</p>	<p>The workforce needs to be encouraged through public awareness campaigns and, if necessary, equal opportunity laws, to ensure that employees are not discriminated against in the hiring and provision of employment. This links in to Family First's campaign to make workplaces more family friendly since we believe that a stable and health family life will improve, not hurt, productivity. Supporting family carers fits well within that philosophy.</p>	<p>Through consultation with the carer, assist in the development of workplace programs and increased integration with the family's needs.</p>

Question	Democrats	D4D (Dignity for Disability)	Family First	United Party
<p>Carers of People with Mental Illness</p> <p>Will you establish a priority pathway to social housing and service supports within mental health programs for adult children of ageing Carers?</p> <p>Will you develop a mental health education and liaison program for Carers? If yes, what will this program include?</p>		<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes Information regarding referral to specific services, resource through internet.</p>	<p>Don't Know</p> <p>Yes Advice to carers on mental health needs associated with the care environment, and pathways to assistance should a mental health need be identified, with accompanying respite or other support should it be required in that process.</p>	<p>Yes Further housing options should also be made available. This will include assisting acute patients to gain entry into specialist institutions if this is necessary.</p> <p>Yes It will include information and links to other people, agencies and tools that may provide further support.</p>

Comprehensive Quality Services for Care Recipients

What measures will you take so that there are adequate services for the care recipients?		Provide access and information resources.	Family First is willing to establish a regular dialogue with Carers SA and other peak bodies to identify the priority service needs and to lobby the Government of the day to provide those services urgently.	Constant monitoring through the help desk or equivalent.
What measures will you take to ensure that Carers know what services the care recipients will receive?		Provide access to resource centres and websites.	Family First supports a consent-based approach to service awareness for the care recipients of carers, so that the privacy of the care recipient is paramount	Through the help desk and regular channels of communication.

Question	Democrats	D4D (Dignity for Disability)	Family First	United Party
What measures will you take so that people with disabilities or chronic illnesses and the frail aged have access to timely, affordable and quality equipment?		Lobby the government to increase disability funding to reduce waiting lists.	Family First believes that the State Government has a moral obligation to provide affordable quality equipment for free. It was appalling that the State Government tried to levy a fee from care recipients in the past and Family First is looking to the major parties to commit to never do such a thing again.	Establish programs to determine the needs and seek further funding (see Other Comments below).
What measures will you take so that there will be adequately qualified and credentialed staff in the community care sector?	Push strongly for unqualified (paid) Carers to be licensed to ensure standard qualifications and skills levels and accountability.	Provide training programs for staff and accreditation programs.	Family First will consult with the sector on its needs in this regard and respond accordingly.	Provide programs and financial incentives for people to develop skills in care.

Other Comments

	<p>Your document "Carer Opportunity and Choice" provides a deep and comprehensive understanding of the daily pressures and inconsistencies experienced by Carers. Importantly you outline the challenges and provide solutions that can be pursued in to the future, recognising what is available at present.</p> <p>Your document should</p>	<p>D4d is a political party motivated to give a voice to people with physical, intellectual and mental health disabilities, the frail, the elderly, the Carers and the deaf/blind communities. We aim to give people marginalised in our community (d4d) "dignity through choice".</p>	<p>Family First invites readers to view our Disability Policy and Senior Citizens Policy, both of which cross over the needs and interests of carers in South Australia. These will be available via email request to policy@sa.familyfirst.org.au when the Policy has been launched</p>	<p>I am also developing a proposal for a restructure of the Legislative Council to ensure it has the necessary expertise to evaluate and match legislation to community needs, including healthcare, and to oversight effective programs.</p> <p>Funding for care should be dramatically increased. It is proposed that the RAH be redeveloped instead of building a new hospital over the railyards and that the \$1B saved be re-allocated to other urgent</p>
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Question	Democrats	D4D (Dignity for Disability)	Family First	United Party
	used as a template in policy development by Carers by all political parties.			healthcare needs, including at least \$80M over 4 years in direct payments to support carers.

Gamers4Croydon

Will you include Carers within your South Australian Strategic Plan, or equivalent? Yes

Do you recognise Carers as partners in care? Yes

Do you recognise Carers as an at-risk population group? Yes

Will you develop a comprehensive Carer Health Program? Yes

Will you provide for a substantial expansion of affordable and appropriate respite for Carers? Yes

Will you establish a priority pathway to social housing and service supports within mental health programs for adult children of ageing Carers? Yes

Will you develop a mental health education and liaison program for Carers? Yes

Comment

I am aware that it must seem like I am trying to avoid answering questions, like a typical politician. Honestly, I am aware of my own and my party's limitations on policy. We are a small organisation, without any significant health policy experience among our members.

But we do care.

A general summation of our opinion on this matter is that people should not be unfairly disadvantaged because they forgo so-called 'normal' working life to care for a loved one. In fact, that work should be applauded for the physical, financial and psychological toll it must take. We simply do not have the resources as a newly-formed party to develop in-depth health policy. Without the first-hand experience of the challenges involved in being a Carer, any attempt to do so would likely be all but worthless.

Personal, first-hand experience will be invaluable in developing policy any issue, and this is no different. So we'd like to defer to those who best know the challenges – and I would hope joys – of being a Carer. One of the key guiding principles of the party is to place the needs of the public ahead of party interests, and base policy on facts, not ideology. In other words, we want to actually be representatives for the public, not for vested party interests.

If elected (or even before the election, time between campaign work permitting), I would welcome the chance to sit down with Carers to discuss their concerns with the current system, and how they would like to be represented.

This is an approach personally championed by me and it is something that I am deeply passionate about.

Question	Hanna (Mitchell)	Winderlich (Legislative Council)	Aldridge (Legislative Council)
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Strategic Recognition

Will you include Carers within your South Australian Strategic Plan, or equivalent?		Yes An essential measure.	Yes I support the need for increase consideration of all SA Carers
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Partners in Care

Do you recognise Carers as partners in care?		Yes Essential partners.	Yes Carers rights should be equitable, and adequately addressed with any proposed legislative change.
What measures will you take to ensure the participation of Carers as partners in care?		Advocate for education for Carers and service providers across health and related systems: consider legislative changes to strengthen rights of Carers.	
What measures will you take to encourage health and community care professionals to involve Carers as partners in care?		Promote education of service providers in professional curricula and in service practice. Consider legislative changes to entrench Carers' rights.	

Caring for Carers

Assessment How will you provide for Carer assessment independent of that for care recipients?		Promote it as an integral element of professional care.	Hard for me to answer not being well educated on the subject, I would hope Carer assessment should be considered a totally different circumstance to that of our end users?
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Question	Hanna (Mitchell)	Winderlich (Legislative Council)	Aldridge (Legislative Council)
<p>Health</p> <p>Do you recognise Carers as an at-risk population group?</p> <p>Will you develop a comprehensive Carer Health Program? If yes, what will your Program include?</p> <p>What measures will you take to provide training for family Carers that will assist them in providing the caring role?</p> <p>What measures will you take to further develop counselling services for Carers?</p>		<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes Health care assessment and therapeutic counselling for Carers, GP education and liaison.</p> <p>Post discharge support for carers of clients should include training for Carers in health care management.</p> <p>Promote extension of provision for health counselling.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>HHMMMMmmmm If successful as an upper house candidate, I would ensure adequate services were considered for carers at a legislative level.</p> <p>Training should be part and parcel of any Carer's role, and should be supplied by the government, especially considering the huge role they play in society, and the extensive savings they offer health services in general.</p> <p>Having read the Family's SA report in brief, not that the recommendations were very clear, I would support further development of services in general</p>
<p>Respite</p> <p>Will you provide for a substantial expansion of affordable and appropriate respite for Carers?</p>		<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes, yes, yes, yes</p>

Question	Hanna (Mitchell)	Winderlich (Legislative Council)	Aldridge (Legislative Council)
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<p>Financial Resilience</p> <p>What measures will you take to alleviate the growing costs of essential services for Carers, including transport, energy, water?</p> <p>What measures will you take so that state concessions and subsidies meet the ongoing rises in the costs of caring?</p> <p>What measures will you take to ensure that information is provided to Carers about entitlements for concessions and subsidies?</p>		<p>Review concessions to identify improvements and advocate for indexation of concessions and subsidies.</p> <p>Advocate increased provision for indexation of concessions and subsidies for Carers.</p> <p>Advocate for service outreach and public education program.</p>	<p>The easiest method would to ensure all carers received a subsidy linked to inflation.</p> <p>The same as the previous answer.</p> <p>I am unsure one exists, but a board that consists of Carers with the resources to report governmental change.</p>
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Regional Carer Support

<p>What measures will you take to further develop regional Carer Support, in particular in their engagement of special needs groups?</p>		<p>Promote administrative and professional support and subsidies transport and other costs.</p>	<p>It will be all in the funding, regional Australia are so far behind; any future funding allotments should have a clear definition in regards to the regional percentage allotments.</p>
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Question	Hanna (Mitchell)	Winderlich (Legislative Council)	Aldridge (Legislative Council)
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<p>Rural and Remote</p> <p>What measures will you take to provide for better access to services for Carers living in rural and remote regions such as information, counselling and health services?</p> <p>What measures will you take to provide appropriate and adequate transport options for Carers in rural and remote regions?</p>		<p>Extend service provision in regional areas through outreach and service location.</p> <p>Advocate for subsidisation of Carers' transport costs.</p>	<p>Same methods as per last answer.</p>
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Special Needs Groups

<p>Aboriginal Carers</p> <p>What measures will you take to provide for Aboriginal Carers who are further disadvantaged through language and cultural differences and other barriers?</p>		<p>Advocate for linguistically and culturally appropriate service provision.</p>	<p>Services must be expanded to all carers in the system, without adequate investigation, the linking up of already established services might be best in the short term.</p>
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Question	Hanna (Mitchell)	Winderlich (Legislative Council)	Aldridge (Legislative Council)
<p>Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Carers</p> <p>What measures will you take to provide for CALD Carers who are further disadvantaged through language and cultural differences and other barriers?</p>		<p>Advocate for linguistically and culturally appropriate service provision.</p>	<p>HHmmmm sorry I do not understand the system enough to know how to address this problem.</p>
<p>Families of Children with Disabilities</p> <p>What measures will you take to provide for families of children with disabilities, particularly sole parent 'whole of life' Carers including access to adequate, quality respite; childcare and post school care and support groups?</p>		<p>Promote service provision tailored to individual family needs and community awareness of the need to access this support.</p>	<p>I think peer workers, respite, increased funding for services and equipment would be number one priority, family Carer centres would need to be established to allow the support services to catch up with reality.</p>

Question	Hanna (Mitchell)	Winderlich (Legislative Council)	Aldridge (Legislative Council)
<p>Young Carers</p> <p>What measures will you take to provide for children and young people who are Carers?</p> <p>What measures will you take to provide for the families of young Carers so that the young person's caring role is reduced?</p>		<p>Promote service provision to the whole family to alleviate the caring role.</p> <p>Advocate for educational and personal support for the members of the family and awareness among schools, universities and employers of the need to support Carers.</p>	<p>I think the establishment of community centres would provide the support needed for all those carers coming under stress from the system.</p>
<p>Ageing Carers</p> <p>What measures will you take to assist ageing family Carers in their caring role and in transition planning?</p>		<p>Promote provision of transitional planning for ongoing care.</p>	<p>Respite, Respite Respite....and access to increased social services.</p>
<p>Working Carers</p> <p>What measures will you take so that Carers can either remain in, or re-enter, the workforce?</p>		<p>Promote union, employer and government accommodation of working Carer needs.</p>	<p>Where ever I have looked through the sector, the main issues seems to be respite, increased services and support, and adequate funding, to be honest I can do very little from the upper house, other than have improved resources to lobby from within, my position on these issues should be well known</p>

Question	Hanna (Mitchell)	Winderlich (Legislative Council)	Aldridge (Legislative Council)
<p>Carers of People with Mental Illness</p> <p>Will you establish a priority pathway to social housing and service supports within mental health programs for adult children of ageing Carers?</p> <p>Will you develop a mental health education and liaison program for Carers? If yes, what will this program include?</p>		<p>Will advocate for this policy.</p> <p>Yes With an emphasis on the nature and management requirements of mental illness and the needs of the mentally ill.</p>	<p>Yes Yes Yes</p> <p>Yes yes yes yes I would adequately fund the private sector, like of course MHC.SA as they have the understanding of these issues.</p>

Question	Hanna (Mitchell)	Winderlich (Legislative Council)	Aldridge (Legislative Council)
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Comprehensive Quality Services for Care Recipients

What measures will you take so that there are adequate services for the care recipients?		Advocate for regular parliamentary review of service provision.	Bringing the Carers support and funding up to scratch would ensure services would improve for care recipients, quality checks and supervision would have to become part and parcel of the system in general.
What measures will you take to ensure that Carers know what services the care recipients will receive?		Advocate that proper information be a statutory requirement under the Carers Recognition Act 2005.	I covered the issue in a prior answer, education regarding all services available through a board established for the purpose of overseeing the whole process, members chosen by ballot of the carer community, seems appropriate, but as with all the aforementioned questions I would in any case consult with Carers S.A.
What measures will you take so that people with disabilities or chronic illnesses and the frail aged have access to timely, affordable and quality equipment?		Adequate appropriate provision of subsidies.	A, Lift the funding to the highest level in the country rather than lagging behind, oohhh so I dream.
What measures will you take so that there will be adequately qualified and credentialed staff in the community care sector?		Promote professionalization of the sector.	Training and appropriate accreditation.

Question	Hanna (Mitchell)	Winderlich (Legislative Council)	Aldridge (Legislative Council)
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Other Comment

	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to read and comment on your policy document. I have not answered your questionnaire, as for such a complex policy area I would need a lot more than 4 days to do it justice. Also, it seems to me your questions have been formulated more towards a ministerial office, rather than an Independent MPs' office with limited resources.</p> <p>However, I would like to respond by saying that I have called for the inclusion of Carers into the Mental Health Act, which recommended that psychiatrists and staff work with families on treatment plans. Too often, "confidentiality" is used as an excuse to cut Carers out of the picture.</p> <p>I have also been highly supportive of MOSH - the association aiming to minimise suicide harm. I would also like to draw your attention to the dozens of cases my office deals with, providing individual advocacy for equipment and support hours. We have had many successes. However, with current levels of government funding on mental health and disabilities not meeting demand, we are right down to the basics when it comes down to caring for people in need, and for Carers.</p> <p>I applaud you for the good work you do, as I applaud every Carer in this state that contributes to the welfare of those close to them.</p>	<p>I endorse a whole of government approach towards the disability sector as a whole, and call for a review of all State legislation regarding the sector in light of the UN convention on the rights of the People with a Disability.</p>	
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