



National Seniors Australia

South Australia Election 2022

Priorities for the over 50s



Concessions

South Australia has some of the most generous [concessions in Australia](#). These are vital to ensure seniors can maintain a decent standard of living.

Candidates should commit to the following:

- Review and update concessions to ensure they adequately reflect cost of living pressures faced by older people in South Australia.



Energy

Older people on low-fixed incomes are concerned about energy costs and would like to see support to improve energy self-sufficiency.

Candidates should commit to the following:

- Examine the outcomes of the Solar for Low Income trial run by the NSW Government in 2019 with a view to implementing a reduced cost [Rooftop Solar Installation Program](#) and [Home Battery Installation Program](#) for seniors on low-income.



Housing and Homelessness

There is a severe lack of accessible and affordable housing in South Australia. There is need for more low-cost rental housing and the expansion of state government assistance programs to allow more people to own their own home.

Seniors want candidates commit to the following:

- Construction of a minimum of 100 new social housing dwellings for seniors every year.
- Expansion of schemes that promote home ownership for South Australians (e.g SA Rent to Buy program, First Home Owner Grant, Family Home Guarantee, Indigenous Home Loans (IHL), First Home Loan Deposit Scheme, Buying your Public Housing Property - for Housing SA tenants).
- Implementation of all recommendations of the 2021 review of the Retirement Villages Act 2016 (SA) and to work with state and commonwealth governments to introduce strengthened retirement village legislation that is nationally consistent.
- Increase funding for homelessness services and expand the 'Homelessness service directory provider directory' to include a listing for 'Seniors at risk'



Public Transport

A lack of accessible transport exacerbates social isolation and restricts access to services and activities essential for quality of life. Free public transport will ensure those with limited means have mobility and are socially connected. Improved public transport networks will improve road congestion and reduce emissions.

Candidates should commit to the following:

- Provide free travel on public transport for seniors, at all times.
- Expand rail services into growth areas in the north and in Mt Barker, the Hills and Fleurieu regions.



Health

South Australian Seniors want a commitment from candidates to address the following outstanding issues across the South Australian health system:

- Covid responses & staff exhaustion;
- Ambulance ramping;
- Management of mental health emergencies in hospital EDs;
- Understaffing and excessive hours and underpayment of junior doctors.

Candidates should also commit to the following initiatives:

- Appointment of a retired GP as a GP Liaison Officer to work with the private system to improve continuity for older patients who wish to establish an ongoing relationship with the same doctor, rather than see whoever is available.
- Free RATs for low income seniors over 50 who are not able to source them elsewhere.
- Establishment of a new Dental Health Service for Older People with comprehensive services, which travels to regional locations.
- Increased health worker numbers across the state and more doctors to regional areas.
 - a permanent Regional Doctors' Income supplement when working in area more than 2 hours from Adelaide
 - a HECS Reduction Regional Service Program to pay up to 50% of HECS fees for health workers in regional areas.



Mature Age Employment

Mature age unemployment is a significant problem. In South Australia there are more workers aged 55-64 than any other age group receiving JobSeeker. A lack of gainful employment in later life is not just a financial problem. It can have health and wellbeing impacts that cost the individual and society more broadly.

Candidates should commit to the following:

- Reinstate funding for DOME (Don't Overlook Mature Expertise), a specialist employment service for older workers (previously funded by state government).
- Fund a dedicated reskilling program for the over-50s



Environment

Seniors care about the environment. They want practical ways to make a difference and for government to take strong action to protect our precious natural environment.

Candidates should commit to the following:

- Reinstate ongoing grant funding for volunteer-run environmental education and action centres across the state.
- Protect the Murray Darling by:
 - Conducting a review of water allocation to South Australia
 - Appointing an eminent senior South Australian to the Murray Darling Basin Authority Board
 - Implementing recommendations from the 2019 Royal Commission without delay