



National Seniors Australia

Western Australia Election 2021

Priorities for the over 50s



Health

Provide additional funding for seniors' oral health programs to provide comprehensive services on a regular basis.

Good oral health is critical to general health. A healthy mouth enables people to eat, speak and socialise without pain, discomfort or embarrassment. Poor oral health is also linked to chronic diseases, including stroke and cardiovascular disease. Unfortunately, cost often creates treatment barriers for seniors.

National Seniors is calling for additional funding for the seniors' oral health program and an extension of dental care services in regional areas.

Improving the oral health of older Western Australians should be viewed as an investment, not a cost. It can save the WA health budget many millions of dollars by reducing emergency treatment of preventable dental conditions in hospitals. In 2016-17, for example, there were more than 9,500 Western Australians hospitalised for preventable dental conditions alone.



Housing

Introduce a stamp duty concession for eligible seniors comparable with existing schemes operating in other states and territories.

Stamp duty is a clear disincentive to downsizing, discouraging older people from moving into a home that is more suitable as they age. Downsizing will be especially critical if we are to transform the aged care sector to one that is orientated towards care in the home.

National Seniors recommends implementing a stamp duty concession for Pensioner Concession Card and Commonwealth Seniors Health Card holders in Western Australia.

Seniors in Victoria, the Northern Territory, the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) and Tasmania are already eligible for a stamp duty concession. Western Australian seniors should have access to a similar concession to assist them to downsize.



Employment

Improve employment outcomes for mature-age workers by providing career transition assistance and re-skilling opportunities.

Workforce participation among older age groups is integral to Western Australia's sustained economic growth. Workers aged 50 – 64 now make up 29.8 per cent of Western Australia's total working age population. The State Government must improve workforce participation and the retention of mature age workers.

National Seniors recommends creating tailored assistance for mature job seekers, including greater awareness of new employment opportunities and relevant upskilling opportunities.

Such assistance should focus on an individual's needs and aim to help them gain the skills needed to better manage their careers in the changing job market.

For more information on these recommendations please refer to our [WA 2020 Budget Submission](#).