

Questions:

You are free to respond to any or all of these questions:

1. [If you were elected, what would be your first initiative within the electorate, to improve the outcomes for young people moving from school to work or further study?](#)

The Australian Greens believe that young people have a right to access appropriate services, regardless of their location.

We want a system of regionally based, appropriately resourced and independent youth advisory committees, greater coordination in youth policy formulation, improved education and secure, satisfying, employment opportunities for young people, including in remote, rural and regional areas.

We will

- ✓ increase Youth Allowance to the level of a living wage to enable young people to study full time without recourse to casual work.
- ✓ develop new, and improve existing, education and preventive health programs for children and young people.

2. [What resources would you commit to better synchronise state and federal education, employment and training programmes operating throughout the electorate?](#)

We will re-establish a dedicated ministry for children and youth affairs, together with a re-established national youth affairs peak body with elected and representative members.

3. [What will you do to improve the skills of the community and enhance the local regional economies and labour markets?](#)

We want a decent and secure income for young people to enable full participation in education and employment opportunities, improved education and secure, satisfying, employment opportunities for young people, including in remote, rural and regional areas, affordable, accessible and secure housing options for young people.

We will increase Youth Allowance to the level of a living wage to enable young people to study full time without recourse to casual work and implement a national employment strategy for young people, with excellent labour market and training programs.

Under our strategy for a new economic direction, “Re-Energising Australia”, we will transfer subsidies that currently go to fossil-fuel based industries into renewables. In a region as rich in renewable energy potential as McEwen, this will generate economic activity, jobs and training opportunities.

4. How will you address youth unemployment across the electorate?

We will implement a national employment strategy for young people, with excellent labour market and training programs.

5. What is your position on the immediate needs to better synchronise education and training provision in the electorate?

In order to better synchronise education and training provision it is necessary to provide facilities within the community, rather than force young people to travel outside the region to access opportunities.

We will increase the availability of a wide range of apprenticeships, especially in rural and regional Australia and ensure adequate funding to all rural, regional and outer-suburban universities to enable them to serve their communities and meet local and regional demand.

6. What do you see as the future for the current federal government's Local Community Partnerships [LCP's] initiative?

I would need to seek independent advice on the past effectiveness of and problems (if any) associated with this program before making comment.

7. What role do you see for the use of high speed telecommunications infrastructure in this electorate?

The Australian Greens believe that effective, affordable and accessible media and communications systems are integral to the functioning of a successful democratic society.

It has become increasingly clear in this election that the internet is an increasingly important resource in sharing information and enhancing participation in democracy.

The internet is also an important resource in education, an essential means by which business is conducted, a means of carrying on work activities remotely (reducing the need to travel, thereby reducing costs and greenhouse emissions) and an important resource for recreation.

We want affordable and reliable high-speed internet connections to be available for all Australians and the equitable installation of new communications infrastructure across Australia.

8. Can you provide a commitment to increase resources/funding available to education and training providers in this electorate?

Yes, the Greens believe all people are entitled to free, well-funded and high quality, life-long public education and training and that it is the principal responsibility of government to fund and support a high quality public education system available to all.

The Greens 2007 education policy is about making that possible. The Greens suggest additional investment of \$7.3bn would get Australia back in the Top Ten of OECD countries by public investment in education.

We will institute a broad-ranging investigation into the funding of school education and end government funding for schools that operate for private profit.

We will support funding mechanisms that prioritise public schools, abolish the Commonwealth Government's inequitable schemes for funding private schools which link private school funding to the cost of educating students in the public system, invest the money saved from ending public subsidies to the very wealthiest private schools into a national equity funding programme for public schools whilst supporting the maintenance of the total level of Commonwealth funding for private schools at 2003–04 levels (excluding that re-allocated under previous clauses), indexed for inflation, with a review at the end of the 2005–08 quadrennium.

We are committed to ensure adequate funding to all rural, regional and outer-suburban universities to enable them to serve their communities and meet local and regional demand, significantly increase the per-student funding of universities and implement index-based funding, increase the number of publicly funded places so that every qualified Australian can have access to a university education.

9. Each community is unique and education providers need to be flexible to meet the needs of their students/community. What do you propose as an appropriate funding model or models that would support a student-centred education and training system?

The Australian Greens agree that education services must be responsive to community needs. Flexibility within the public education system is essential for

the provision of a wide and diverse range of education options. To provide for this financial and resource needs of public education must receive the highest priority within the education budget.

10. If you were elected, what would be your first initiative within the electorate, to improve the outcomes for young people moving from school to work or further study?

See question 1 above

Details of all Australian Greens policies and policy initiatives are available at –

<http://greens.org.au/election/policy.php>