

Election 2016 Report Card

In 2016 WAAMH wrote to the 165 Western Australian candidates for the federal election asking them to commit to 5 key target areas which would significantly improve people's mental health outcomes. Below is a summary of the responses provided to WAAMH by the major parties and by candidates.

Major Party Responses

1. A reduction in the national suicide rate by 10% by 2020 and 50% by 2026, compared to 2014 levels

Australian Labor Party	Coalition	The Greens
<p>Commitment to a target of 50% reduction in suicides over the next 10 years.</p> <p>National Suicide Prevention Strategy to reduce suicides and coordinate effort across Australia.</p> <p>Commission Australia's first national data-set of suicide deaths and establish a national suicide register.</p> <p>\$72 million over three years for 12 regional suicide pilot projects in high risk communities, including in at least 3 Aboriginal communities.</p> <p>Action to reduce suicide in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities by working with communities to implement the recommendations of the University of Western Sydney's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Evaluation Project.</p> <p>\$9 million towards a National Suicide Prevention Fund.</p>	<p>A new approach to suicide prevention coordinated by Primary Health Networks (PHNs).</p> <p>\$24 million for 8 suicide prevention trials, and an additional \$7 million for 4 PHN lead sites focused on suicide prevention.</p> <p>Trials would focus on community based approaches to suicide prevention including education, service integration, effective post-discharge follow up and the application of digital technology.</p> <p>\$12 million for a new Suicide Prevention Research Fund and Best Practice Hub to support targeted research and evaluation and support the PHNs.</p> <p>No commitment to specific suicide reduction targets.</p>	<p>The Greens are committed to ... developing and meeting targets for reducing suicide over the next 5, 10 and 20 years.</p> <p>This will require adequate resources for prevention, mental health intervention and addressing underlying social determinants, particularly for LGBTIQ and Aboriginal communities.</p> <p>Commitment to the recommendation of the National Mental Health Review to roll out 12 large regional trials over 3 years.</p> <p>\$38.3 million National Suicide Campaign over the next four years to build community engagement and education around suicide and improve data collection.</p>



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2. A reduction in the mortality gap for people with a mental illness

Australian Labor Party	Coalition	The Greens
<p>Additional \$100 million over two years to strengthen primary care.</p> <p>This would include the development of new models of integrated primary care including a unique Australian model of patient-centred medical homes – Your Family Doctor. Part of the patient-centred medical home model is to reward the provision of holistic and ongoing care, especially, but not exclusively, for patients with complex and chronic illnesses.</p> <p>Commitment to restore indexation of the Medicare Benefits Schedule from 1 January 2017, and to reverse increases to Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme co-payments and thresholds.</p> <p>No specific commitment to reduce the mortality gap.</p>	<p>The Commonwealth will continue to support GPs in the management of mental illness within the context of holistic health care¹.</p> <p>Key reforms in mental health will be coordinated with the Coalition’s other major significant primary care reform ‘health care homes’ for those with complex illness.</p> <p>No specific commitment to reduce the mortality gap.</p>	<p>Commitment to reducing the mortality gap between the 20% of Australians who experience/have experienced mental illness and the rest of Australia.</p> <p>Additional \$1 billion over the next four years for primary mental health services to provide additional treatment services and support.</p> <p>Other commitments: \$4.3 billion over four years for improved chronic disease management in primary health including \$2.8 billion for access to allied health services.</p>

3. An increase in the proportion of mental health consumers and carers in employment

Australian Labor Party	Coalition	The Greens
<p>Support and promote the Mentally Healthy Workplace Alliance and task the Alliance with improving mental health safety and wellbeing,</p>	<p>The Coalition will invest in the mental health of all Australians to ensure a stronger economy through workforce participation with greater</p>	<p>Broad commitment to less punitive and better funded pathways to employment for all Australians.</p>

¹ Australian Government Response to Recommendations to the Review of Mental Health Programmes and Services



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<p>self-help at work and with reducing stigma and discrimination in the workplace.</p> <p>Work with industry organisations to establish a new Heads Up award for excellence in attaining a mentally healthy workplace, as part of our recognition of the best employers in Australia.</p> <p>Create a New Jobs Tax Cut to reward small businesses that invest in jobs and provide opportunities for young people, carers and older Australians who are struggling to get back into work after becoming unemployed or taking time out of the workforce.</p> <p>No commitments made to specific employment targets.</p>	<p>opportunity to improve the wellbeing of those living with mental health challenges.</p> <p>The Mental Health Australia report card notes “the Turnbull Coalition is focused on creating jobs and growth ... [and] will consider opportunities to provide training and employment for individuals with a lived experiences of mental ill health as a peer support workforce.</p> <p>No commitments made to specific employment targets.</p>	<p>Enforceable rights for workers to request flexible working arrangements which will support consumers and carers in self-management and caring duties.</p> <p>Additional \$400 million to the Primary Health Networks mental health flexible fund over the next four years, which may result in increased employment prospects.</p> <p>Develop and implement a national mental health and psychosocial support Peer Workforce Development Framework, which will increase peer employment opportunities.</p> <p>No commitments made to specific employment targets.</p>
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4. An increase in mental health consumer and carer participation and choice in national policy design and implementation

<p>Australian Labor Party</p> <p>Consumer and carer involvement should be actively pursued at the outset of policy formulation and not as an afterthought once policies are determined.</p> <p>Labor believes there is merit in establishing a national body for consumer and carer involvement and advocacy and will consider this in government.</p> <p>No specific commitments made.</p>	<p>Coalition</p> <p>No specific commitments made.</p>	<p>The Greens</p> <p>Commitment to investing \$6.5 million in consumer and carer involvement in mental health reform.</p>
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5. Maintain, at a minimum, overall investment in mental health, with measures that support full reinvestment of cost efficiencies and savings back into mental health programs and services

Australian Labor Party	Coalition	The Greens
<p>Committed to maintaining current investments in mental health programs.</p> <p>Continue to progress agreed recommendations of the National Mental Health Commission and if any efficiencies are identified, these will be reinvested back into areas of need within the primary mental health system.</p>	<p>No specific commitments made.</p>	<p>The Greens would support the major funding recommendation from the National Mental Health Commission Review in 2014, to increase spending on primary mental health care by \$1 billion over the next four years.</p> <p>This would be funded through increased revenue enabled by a fairer tax system.</p>

For more details, view each Party's full response to WAAMH

The Australian Labour Party [160625 ALP response to WA Association for Mental Health.pdf](#)

The Coalition [Coalition Response.pdf](#)

The Greens [Greens response.pdf](#)

Individual Candidate Responses

WAAMH also received broad statements of support for mental health, and commitment to mental health policy and resourcing, from the following individual candidates for the 2016 federal election. WAAMH welcomes their response and looks forward to the development of more comprehensive mental health policies by these independents and/or their party should they be elected.

Senate Candidates

Candidate	Party
Katrina Love	Animal Justice Party



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Alicia Sutton	Animal Justice Party
Brian McRea	Australia First Party
Elizabeth Re	Nationals WA
Julie Matheson	Independent
Kai Jones	Independent
Robert Taylor	The Arts Party
Samantha Jenkinson	The Greens (WA)
Stuart Donald	Mature Australia Party
Susan Hoddinott	Katter's Australian Party

House of Representative Candidates

Candidate	Party	Seat
David Fishlock	Outdoor Recreation Party (Stop The Greens)	Forrest
Jon Ford	Australian Labor Party	O'Connor
Kate Davis	The Greens (WA)	Fremantle
Lee-Anne Miles	The Greens (WA)	Pearce
Kim Mubarak	Independent	Stirling
Patrick Hyslop	The Greens (WA)	Hasluck
Thor Kerr	The Greens (WA)	Tangney
Viv Glance	The Greens (WA)	Curtin

Specific commitments were made by

Kai Jones

Independent

Senate candidate

- Reduce our national suicide levels to be at or below 10% by 2020 and at or below 50% by 2026 compared to 2014 levels, with the intention to eliminate it.
- Provide long term workplace support for people affected by mental health, including appropriate and adequate access to and funding for carers, mentors and associated trained health professionals.
- Fund appropriate, objective, sustainable investment in mental health.

Stuart Donald

Mature Australia Party

Senate candidate

Establish a national trauma counselling program to act PRO-actively to reduce suicide and the effects of trauma-related suicide, and associated actions. More detail is available at <http://themap.org.au/map-policies/policy-mental-health/>