

## **Emerge Australia**

**Invest in ME/CFS research to identify research priorities which improve understanding of the cause of ME/CFS, develop diagnostic tests and identify effective treatments and approaches to management.**

The Greens will provide a one-off funding boost of \$15m in ME/CFS research, enabling Australia's ME/CFS experts to continue and expand research in areas such as:

- A diagnostic test for ME/CFS,
- Understanding differences in metabolites,
- Pharmaceutical trials for the identified calcium channel ion defects,
- Identifying ways to improve the mitochondrial function of people with ME,
- Genomics studies to understand how variation in a genotype relates to changes in the phenotype at the molecular or cellular level.

**Invest in clinical education to ensure GPs and health providers are managing these conditions safely, underpinned by the latest evidence on diagnosis, management and treatment.**

The Greens value continuous improvement in the healthcare space and believe that an effective health care system depends on a skilled, well-resourced and supported workforce with high-quality training pathways.

The Greens will:

- Invest in disability awareness training for healthcare professionals in order to reduce the prevalence of bias against people with ME/CFS and other disabilities from healthcare professionals and increase the quality of care.
- Advocate for more ME/CFS training for health practitioners.

**Invest in ME/CFS and long COVID patient support and healthcare including greater access to telehealth, allied health services and in-home care.**

The Greens will:

- **Increase access to bulk-billing GP appointments**

The Greens will triple the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) bulk billing incentive payments for all Medicare card holders, this will enable more GPs to bulk-bill appointments.

Additionally, the Greens will support GPs to spend more time with patients by implementing a 20% increase to Medicare patient rebates for longer appointments. This will incentivise GPs to offer longer appointments to those who need them.

- **Establish 1000 free healthcare clinics to enable free access to GPs, dentists, psychologists, and nurses**

The Greens will establish 6 free local healthcare clinics in each federal electorate. At these clinics, people will be able to access a GP, psychologist, nurse, or dentist for free. These clinics will ensure that people do not have to worry about an out-of-pocket cost to access healthcare.

- **Expand Chronic Disease Management Plan to provide unlimited and affordable services to people living with chronic health conditions**

The Greens will remove the cap on the number of services that are able to be claimed under a Chronic Disease Management Plan. Additionally, The Australian Greens would raise the rebates to match the average out-of-pocket cost for those services. This will support more people to access allied health practitioners at an affordable rate.

- **Fund a review into accessibility of telehealth services**

This proposal would fund a review into accessibility of currently available telehealth services on Medicare, focusing in particular on accessibility for disabled people, chronically ill people, First Nations people, people in regional, rural and remote areas, elderly people including people in residential aged care, parents and carers, homeless people and people in insecure housing situations.

- **Fund advocacy organisations to support and advocate for disabled people**

For the people with ME/CFS and/or Long COVID who identify as disabled, the Greens will invest in advocacy organisations to enable them to effectively do their job to support and advocate for people who need it.

This includes supporting people through the NDIS, health systems, legal systems and other areas of their lives.

**Deliver equitable access to, and within, the NDIS and Disability Support Pension for people with ME/CFS and long COVID.**

The Greens have been advocating for many years for expanding eligibility for both the NDIS and the Disability Support Pension. We understand that, historically, people with ME/CFS have been unjustly denied access to mainstream disability services, leaving them without essential supports. More recently, people with Long COVID have received the same lack of services and supports.

The Greens will fully fund the NDIS by reversing over \$80b of NDIS budget cuts, enabling people with ME/CFS and Long COVID to enter the NDIS and access the supports they need.

The Greens want to see all income payments - including JobSeeker, Disability Support Pension, Youth Allowance and Age Pension - raised above the poverty line. In a wealthy country like Australia, people with ME/CFS shouldn't be living in poverty because they're forced to rely on income payments.