

FEDERAL ELECTION REPORT CARD

Contact: admin@awava.org.au

ABOUT THE REPORT CARD

AWAVA is a non-party-political feminist alliance comprising peak bodies and specialist organisations aimed at preventing and responding to gendered violence. A foundation principle of AWAVA is intersectionality and our membership is inclusive of organisations representing First Nations women, women with disabilities, LGBTQIA+ women and non-binary people, migrant and refugee women, and women living in regional, remote and rural areas.

AWAVA does not receive funding from government, and is not aligned with any political organisation. We advocate for victim-survivors of violence and the organisations that support them, and we encourage all governments to do better. We understand that gendered violence is a consequence of gender inequality, and cannot be addressed in isolation from broader measures aimed at improving equality based not just on gender and sex, but also on race, ability, sexuality, income, geography, and other forms of potential disadvantage.

While we do not endorse candidates or parties, we encourage our friends and supporters to consider party policies and the impact these might have on the various dimensions of equality and on the safety of women, children and non-binary people. Your vote is important, and well-informed voting is a fundamental tenet of democracy.

For simplicity's sake, grading has been done on a traditional school system from the highest grading of A+ down to the lowest of F. Grading takes into account both content and level of detail provided in pre-election statements and policies.

Information is current at time of writing but may change quickly as new policies are released during the lead-up to the election. Please check back on [AWAVA website](#) for the latest version. AWAVA 'asks' are by no means exhaustive but represent key concerns of our membership base.

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WOMEN'S SPECIALIST SERVICES

AWAVA calls for federal investment of \$1 billion per year to implement the new National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children, including a substantial net and proportionate increase in funding for specialist sexual, domestic and family violence services to ensure support is available and appropriate.

In the 2022-23 Budget, **the LNP** Government committed \$1.3 billion to fund the next National Plan, including \$100M over five years to continue the Safe Places Emergency Accommodation program, which will fund around 720 new safe places for women and children; \$54.6M over five years for the Keeping Women Safe in their Homes Program; and \$100M over five years for trauma-informed counselling services to support victim-survivors and their families. There is no coherent or systematic logic to improving resourcing to specialist services generally. Efforts to address the specific forms of violence experienced by marginalised groups of women also appear to be minimal.

D

The ALP has committed to funding 500 new community sector workers to support women in crisis, and 15 domestic and family violence workers in community organisations that support women with disability. Half these jobs will be allocated to rural and regional areas. There is no mention that these would be allocated to specialist sexual, domestic and family violence services, nor that this funding will do anything address the sector's accessibility issues for marginalised groups of women.

D

The Greens say they will invest \$12 billion over 12 years to support the National Plan to deliver specialist outreach, crisis response, crisis accommodation, legal and financial support, help to avoid surveillance by an ex-partner, advocacy and post-crisis support so that no woman seeking support is turned away. Funding will be doubled for legal assistance services like Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services, community legal centres, women's legal services, Family Violence Prevention Legal Services, and legal aid commissions. A focus on prevention is not clear.

B

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HOUSING

AWAVA calls for a National Housing Strategy to address the current housing crisis and create a housing system which guarantees access to adequate housing as a basic human right for all Australians and particularly for those escaping violence. The Community Housing Industry Association (CHIA) is advocating for the development of at least 25,000 new social and affordable rental homes every year.

The LNP has committed to supporting greater investment into affordable housing with an additional \$2 billion in low-cost financing for social and affordable dwellings. This brings total low-cost financing to \$5.5 billion, supporting around 27,500 dwellings. There is no clear commitment to ensuring that the housing will be accessible for women with disabilities. **D**

The ALP will create the \$10 billion Housing Australia Future Fund which will build 30,000 new social and affordable housing properties in its first five years, and create thousands of jobs. Each year investment returns from the Housing Australia Future Fund will be transferred to the National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation (NHFIC) to pay for social and affordable housing projects. **C+**

- \$1.6 billion to be spent to build 4000 new social housing properties specifically allocated for women and children fleeing domestic and family violence.
- \$100 million will be allocated for crisis and transitional housing options for women and children fleeing domestic and family violence, and older women on low incomes who are at risk of homelessness.

There is no clear commitment to ensuring that the housing will be accessible for women with disabilities.

The Greens say they will fund crisis and transitional accommodation under the National Plan for Eliminating Violence Against Women, and provide long-term affordable housing by investing in social housing to build 1 million new public and community homes. There is no clarification about where the resources will come from for the ambitious 1 million new homes. There is no clear commitment to ensuring that the housing will be accessible for women with disabilities. **C**

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CONSENT EDUCATION

AWAVA calls for consent or respectful relationships education to be properly funded and for every school to employ a Respectful Relationship Coordinator.

In the LNP Budget 22-23 there was no allocated additional funding towards mandating and embedding whole school respectful relationships education across all government schools nationwide.	F
The ALP will invest \$77 million to help make sure all Australian school students are able to access high quality, age-appropriate consent and respectful relationships education.	B-
The Greens will invest \$477 million to support the national roll out the Respectful Relationships program in all public schools, including pilot programs to help tailor training to address local contexts and maximise the impact.	A

NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME (NDIS)

AWAVA calls for the expansion of the NDIS to be more gender equal and to include more than 10% of people with disability, through a major review on the eligibility criteria that currently excludes some neurodivergent people, people with chronic illness, people on temporary visas and people over 65.

The LNP has not as yet published a position.	F
The ALP will review NDIS design, operation and sustainability. They will bring forward a planned review of the scheme and consult on terms of reference that will consider all available evidence and look at benefits as well as problems inside and outside the NDIS. Labor will also develop a National Autism Strategy. There has been no commitment to the implementation of an NDIS Gender Strategy, nor any funding or strategies within the NDIS to support participants who experience violence.	B-
The Greens are committed to creating a properly funded, staffed and resourced NDIS that is transparent, consultative and accountable. Greens will push to remove the age limit that prevents people over 65 from being accepted in the NDIS. There has been no commitment to the implementation of an NDIS Gender Strategy, nor any funding or strategies within the NDIS to support participants who experience violence.	A

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INCOME SUPPORT

AWAVA call for a permanent increase in the rate of social security payments including the DSP, JobSeeker, Youth Allowance and ABStudy to reflect the increasing cost of living and lift recipients above the poverty line, and for the immediate abolition of income control programs such as the Cashless Debit Card.

The LNP has announce a one-off \$250 cost of living payment for Centrelink and DVA 'customers'. **F**

The ALP will abolish the Cashless Debit Card. **C-**

The Greens have committed to:

- Introduce a liveable income guarantee
 - Raise the rate to \$88 a day: increase all income support payments above the poverty line. This covers: JobSeeker Payment, Parenting Payment, Age Pension, Carer's Payment, Disability Support Pension, Farmhouse Allowance, ABSTUDY, AUSTUDY, Youth Allowance, and Crisis Payments.
 - Lower the age pension age back to 65 and raise the rate of the pension
 - Abolish punitive measures from our social security system including the Cashless Debit Card, Basics Card, Work for the Dole, Parents Next, and exploitative youth employment programs obligations
 - Replace the failing privatised Jobactive scheme with a public employment service that is responsive, flexible and tailored to an individual's circumstances to ensure all unemployed people get the support they need to enter or re-enter the workforce.
- A**
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RESPECT@WORK

AWAVA calls for increased action to ensure women's safety at work, including the implementation and resourcing of all 55 recommendations of the Respect@Work report.

The LNP states that 43 of 55 recommendations of the Respect@Work Report are fully implemented and/or fully funded with over \$70 million committed. Consultation is continuing on legislative amendments that should in AWAVA's opinion be able to be implemented immediately.	C
The ALP will fully implement all 55 recommendations of the Respect@Work Report and legislate to strengthen laws that prevent sexual harassment. Labor has committed \$24 million to ensure that there are properly funded Working Women's Centres in every Australian state and territory.	A
The Greens say they will implement all recommendations in the Respect@Work report and ensure a roadmap to safer workplaces.	B

VIOLENCE AGAINST FIRST NATIONS WOMEN AND CHILDREN

AWAVA calls for a separate, dedicated, self-determined action plan to end violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children, including funding for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-led initiatives to address and prevent domestic and family violence.

The LNP-led draft National Plan noted that 'A dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan will outline strategic approaches to addressing violence against women and children, specifically designed with, and led by, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Council on family, domestic and sexual violence'.	C
The ALP has said they will deliver a separate national plan for First Nations people to end violence against women and family violence.	C
The Greens have committed to ensure there is a National Plan to End Violence Against First Nations Women and Children that is self-determined by First Nations women and their community-controlled services and organisations. There is an additional express commitment to ensuring that First Nations leadership, expertise and solutions be prioritised at all stages of the development and implementation of the Plan, commencing with a First Nations Women's Summit.	C+

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HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE JUST USE OF POWER

AWAVA calls for Australia to step up as a leader in protecting and advancing human rights and ensuring fair and transparent allocation of tax-payer monies. There must be a fully resourced and independent Human Rights Commission; Domestic, Family, and Sexual Violence Commission; and a new anti-corruption commission. The Family Court should be reinstated, and mechanisms across government put in place to ensure that human rights are upheld in policy making and implementation.

The LNP has said it will invest \$22.4 million over five years to establish a Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission as an 'executive agency' under the Public Service Act lead by a chief executive with key priorities to be set out in a public Charter and Operating Principles approved by the Minister.

D-

The ALP has committed to:

- Establishing a National Anti-Corruption Commission with all the independence, resources and powers of a standing Royal Commission into serious and systemic corruption in the federal government.
- Establishing a new Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Commissioner to act as a strong voice for victim-survivors, and to report directly and annually to Parliament.
- Prevent discrimination against people of faith, including anti-vilification protections;
- Act to protect all students from discrimination on any grounds; and
- Protect teachers from discrimination at work, whilst maintaining the right of religious schools to preference people of their faith in staff selection.

C+

The Greens will enact a human rights charter, which also includes environmental rights, to ensure no one is stopped from asserting their rights and dignities. The Greens say they will:

- Shine a light on corruption and unethical behaviour through a strong Federal integrity commission where corrupt politicians are held accountable.
- Fund the Australian National Audit Office to audit all government programs and stop the roting of public funds.
- Stop the spread of misinformation and hate by strengthening the powers of the Australian Communications and Media Authority, ensuring a high standard of truthfulness and journalist ethics.
- Require a Women's Budget Impact Statement to consider the gendered impacts of budget allocations before they are made.
- Develop a National Gender Equality Strategy and require explicit analysis of the gendered impacts of policy decisions.

A+

With respect to family law, they have committed to working with stakeholders and the community to repair and rebuild the family court system to restore specialisation, particularly in family law and family violence and to increase the safety of children and adult survivors of family violence.

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THE CARING WORKFORCE

AWAVA calls for more action to address low pay, reward and recognition and job insecurity within the predominantly female caring workforce. No sector has done more to bring Australia through the pandemic and yet no sector has had less support throughout the pandemic.

The LNP has said it will implement retention bonuses for nurses in aged care. **F**

The ALP will lead a national push to help close the gender pay gap and increase pay for women workers – particularly in caring jobs, by:

- Strengthening the ability and capacity of the Fair Work Commission to order pay increases for workers in low paid, female dominated industries.
- Legislating so companies with more than 250 employees will have to report their gender pay gap publicly.
- Prohibiting pay secrecy clauses and giving employees the right to disclose their pay, if they want to. **B**
- Taking action to address the gender pay gap in the Australian Public Service.

Labor will introduce a Secure Australian Jobs Code to ensure that taxpayers' money being spent through government contracts is being used to support secure employment for Australian workers.

The Greens will task the Productivity Commission with investigating options to value unpaid caring work. They will use the Commission's findings to develop a roadmap towards ensuring care work is properly recognised and compensated. The Greens also say they will:

- Rewrite labour laws to raise the minimum wage and ensure women in part-time, casual and low income roles have greater economic security.
 - Require large businesses to include gender pay gap data in annual reports. **B-**
 - Boost the Workplace Gender Equality Agency's powers to take action against employers who do not take action to address gender pay gaps in their organisation.
 - Legislate to remove pay gag clauses that prevent women on contracts in the private sector talking about what they get paid.
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REMOVING BARRIERS TO SAFETY FOR VICTIM-SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE WHO ARE ON TEMPORARY VISAS

AWAVA calls for the implementation of the recommendations set out in the Blueprint for Reform: Removing Barriers to Safety for Victims/Survivors of Domestic and Family Violence who are on Temporary Visas, including creating a new visa that gives women on temporary visas experiencing family violence and their children access to Medicare and income support.

The LNP has restated its commitment to Temporary Protection Visas.	F
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The ALP has not yet published a position.	B
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The Greens will Abolish Temporary Protection Visas and reintroduce Permanent Protection Visas for refugees so they can rebuild their lives in Australia.	B-
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