



## **NSW ELECTIONS – 26 MARCH 2011**

### **POLITICAL PARTIES RESPOND TO THE NSW JEWISH BOARD OF DEPUTIES TEN QUESTIONS OF INTEREST TO THE NSW JEWISH COMMUNITY**

Prior to the announcement of the NSW State Election, the New South Wales Jewish Board of Deputies presented 10 questions to the State Government, the State Opposition, Christian Democratic Party and The Greens, asking them to state their positions in key issues of concern to the Jewish community.

Their responses are tabled on the following pages.

Questions	Australian Labor Party	Liberal – National Coalition	The Greens	Christian Democratic Party
<p>1. The support of the <b>NSW Police</b> for the NSW Jewish community has been exemplary, particularly in protecting High Holyday services and major events. Given that there have been 19 serious attacks on NSW synagogues since the 1991 Gulf War without any arrest being made the NSW Jewish community is keen to see an increase in the resources applied to the investigation, prosecution and deterrence of such crimes. In government, would your party increase the resources to enable the NSW Police to investigate and make arrests in cases of crimes against places of worship? Would your party increase the level of priority given to the investigation of crimes against places of worship?</p>	<p>The Keneally Government has invested a record \$2.8 billion in the NSW Police Force this financial year.</p> <p>The NSW Labor Government has grown the authorized strength of NSW Police Force by more than 22.5% to a record 15,806 officers, over the last 15 years.</p> <p>It's clear that this Government's investment in resources, equipment, technology and police numbers have had a huge impact on crime in NSW. Ten years ago, every major crime category in NSW was stable or rising. Now, every major crime category is stable or falling. Property crime has halved and violent crime continues to fall. Ultimately, that means hundreds of thousands of people who are not the victim of crime.</p> <p>The Keneally Government will continue to support our police by providing them with record numbers, and the best resources and technology available</p> <p>Labor's plans to further increase police resources will be announced before the election on March 26<sup>th</sup>.</p>	<p>The NSW Liberals &amp; Nationals expressed their support for a proactive working relationship between Police and the NSW Jewish community. Such a relationship is an important part of community based policing.</p> <p>We are committed to providing the NSW Police Force with the resources and support to protect our community in order to recognise that criminal attacks on significant community assets, which includes places of worship, must be rigorously investigated.</p> <p>The Shadow Police Minister Hon. Mike Gallacher MLC is agreeable to discussing with the NSW Police Commissioner whether the issuing of a reward for information leading to the arrest of offenders involved in the 19 attacks on NSW synagogues will successfully resolve these crimes. Mr Gallacher hopes this may prompt someone closely associated with one or more of the individuals involved in these crimes to come forward with vital information.</p> <p>The NSW Liberals &amp; Nationals look forward to working with all of your members to the betterment of the entire community.</p>	<p>The Greens are appalled at all crimes against places of worship. We are committed to working with all affected religious communities to ensure that the practice of religion can be conducted free from fear of violence and discrimination. All crimes of violence and intimidation are to be condemned, particularly those that are targeted on the basis of religion or ethnicity. We agree that resources within the existing criminal justice system should be better targeted to the investigation of crimes against places of worship.</p> <p>The Greens believe that such crimes should also be addressed by enhancing the teaching of the values of tolerance and inclusion to all school children.</p>	<p>We fully support the increase of the level of priority to protect Jewish places of worship.</p>

<p>2. There is broad consensus among experts that current provisions for criminal prosecution under the <b>Anti-Discrimination Act (NSW)</b> preclude any prosecution being launched.</p> <p>In government, would your party support the amendment to the Crimes Act that has been proposed by the Anti-Discrimination Board that would make it a criminal offence to publicly and recklessly incite hatred towards, or harass, another person or group of people because of the actual or presumed race, colour, cultural heritage or national, ethnic or ethno-religious origin, homosexuality, HIV/AIDS infection or transgender identity?</p> <p>Would your government commit resources to programs designed to achieve deterrence of such attacks?</p>	<p>Labor will strengthen anti-vilification measures by introducing a new aggravated offence of racist and obscene graffiti. This will mean heavier penalties for antisemitic graffiti, such as swastikas and other inappropriate symbols which will be prosecuted not just as ordinary graffiti but as an aggravated offence recognising its greater severity.</p> <p>Racist, offensive or obscene graffiti is simply wrong and has no place in our society.</p> <p>Daubing a synagogue with a Nazi symbol goes beyond mere graffiti and is a racist attack. It should be treated as such.</p> <p>Labor supports the criminalisation of racial vilification under existing state law. The <i>NSW Anti-Discrimination Act 1977</i> prohibits racial vilification in this State. Under the Act, 'it is unlawful for a person, by a public act, to incite hatred towards, serious contempt for, or severe ridicule of, a person or group of persons on the ground of the race of the person or members of the group'. 'Race' is defined broadly to include colour, nationality, descent and ethnic, ethno-religious or national origin.</p> <p>NSW law also makes serious racial vilification a criminal offence. Serious vilification involves not only inciting hatred, serious contempt or severe ridicule of a person or group on the ground of their race, but also threatening physical harm, or inciting others to threaten physical harm.</p>	<p>In the last NSW Liberals &amp; Nationals Government from 1988 to 1995, we strengthened the <i>Anti-Discrimination Act</i> by introducing anti-vilification laws to prevent the incitement of hatred within the community. In 1994 the Act was amended so that, in the words of the then Attorney General, Hon. John Hannaford MLC, "<i>Ethno-religious groups such as Jews, Muslims and Sikhs, have access to the racial discrimination and vilification provisions of the Act</i>". A NSW Liberals &amp; Nationals Government will examine possible options to strengthen penalties and provisions relating to groups and/or individuals who incite violence.</p>	<p>Legal sanctions against vilification and incitement of hatred against various religious and other groups are an important component in protecting the civil and human rights of all individuals and communities. They are also an important codification of a key ingredient of a civilised society. Where they are not working, there is a clear need to remedy the failure, and to ensure that there exist viable mechanisms to secure convictions of people guilty of such crimes. The Greens are committed to working with all affected groups to ensure that the law is reformed. This includes amendments to the Crimes Act as proposed by the Antidiscrimination Board (ADB) and suitably strengthened penalties for conduct that is aggravated by proven prejudice.</p>	<p>We oppose all attempts to incite hatred but are concerned that the Muslims may use this power to attack Jews and Christians.</p>
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	<p>The maximum penalty for an individual is six months imprisonment, a fine of \$5500, or both. The maximum penalty for a corporation is \$11,000.</p> <p>The Government also funds measures to deter racist attacks by promoting multiculturalism in NSW through the work of the Anti-Discrimination Board and the Community Relations Commissions, which provides \$1.6 million in funding through the Community Development Grants Program.</p>			
<p><b>3. Counter-terrorism</b> is an area of federal-state partnership. What specific resources would your party in government allocate to strengthening counter-terrorism capability and emergency management resources in NSW?</p>	<p>The NSW Police Force Counter-Terrorism Command was created in 2002 in the wake of the Bali bombings for the investigation and prevention of terrorist attacks. This command is also tasked with responding to high risk incidents, providing specialist dog and armoury services, undertaking bomb disposal operations, investigating and collecting intelligence on terrorist suspects and incidents, protection of critical infrastructure and the co-ordination of security operations for dignitaries and high risk visitors to NSW.</p> <p>This highly specialised and well equipped Command has a staff of over 600.</p> <p>The command is in addition to the work of other police units that continue to support the counter-terrorism effort, including the Public Order and Riot Squad which has 100 officers and the regional State Protection Support Units, which have over 200 officers.</p>	<p>The NSW Liberals &amp; Nationals are committed to the NSW Police Force and the NSW Crime Commission working with the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) in order to strengthen counterterrorism capability and emergency management resources in NSW. The NSW Liberals &amp; Nationals support the autonomy of the NSW Police Force in their current arrangements of the Counter Terrorism &amp; Special Tactics Command, and specifically the Anti Terrorism &amp; Security Group investigating all threats (or acts) of terrorism impacting NSW.</p>	<p>The Greens believe that all members of society and all communities and groups should feel safe and protected. We will work towards a society where fear of persecution or random attack is minimised. In part this involves detection and apprehension of planned acts of terrorism and planning for large scale emergencies that minimises the damage and fear caused by attacks. We believe however that any unnecessary sacrifice of civil liberties delivers an unwarranted victory to terrorists. We do not support the Howard government's ASIO laws, their sedition laws and other legislation that allows the security services</p>	<p>We would support the restoration of the NSW Police Special Branch.</p>

	<p>The NSW Government has boosted the NSW Police budget by \$2.1 million a year to fund the Counter Terrorism Command.</p> <p>In addition, the Government has spent more than \$14 million on new equipment including a helicopter for counter-terrorist response, a bomb containment vessel and three bomb disposal robots.</p> <p>Plans for additional resources for counter terrorism will be announced before the election on 26 March 2011.</p>		<p>to hold suspects without charging them. Security can be maintained within a strong framework of civil rights.</p>	
<p><b>4. Under the proposed federal education syllabus overhaul, signposts towards teaching of the Holocaust and genocide have been included. In the experience of educators in the NSW Jewish community, the number of students with basic understanding of how racial hatred can lead to genocide (the Holocaust being a key example) is diminishing. In government, would your party support a substantive unit of study addressing racial hatred and genocide in the core high school curriculum?</b></p>	<p>The NSW Government has successfully argued for study of the Holocaust to be included as a compulsory part of the new national history curriculum. That means that the new history curriculum in NSW will include an examination of significant events of World War II, including the Holocaust.</p> <p>Until the new curriculum is in place, students will continue to have the opportunity to learn about the Holocaust under the existing NSW syllabus.</p> <p>The Holocaust can currently be covered in several ways as part of either the mandatory or elective Years 7-10 History courses. There are also opportunities to study the Holocaust in the Higher School Certificate Modern History Course and the History extension course.</p> <p>The Sydney Jewish Museum currently lists eight different NSW secondary syllabuses in which the Holocaust can be</p>	<p>The NSW Liberals &amp; Nationals support the development of students' understanding of the Holocaust and genocide. We support enhancements to the NSW high school curriculum that further improves students' education on the principle of the persecution of minorities, with the Holocaust being a key example that demonstrates racial hatred and genocide.</p> <p>As a means of ensuring that teachers provide appropriate levels of education on the issues surrounding the persecution of minorities generally and the Holocaust as a specific example of this, we would support specific signposts in the NSW high school curriculum to guarantee this consideration. A NSW Liberals &amp; Nationals Government looks forward in working with the Jewish Board of Deputies to investigate ways we can appropriately teach our children about these historic events so they can</p>	<p>The Greens believe that a crucial outcome of school education should be an appreciation of the lessons of history as an important ingredient to good citizenship.</p> <p>An understanding of the history of genocide is central to recognising danger signs such as growth in racial hatred and vilification, demagoguery and ethnic and religious divisions. The Greens recognise the Holocaust as a key example of genocide. We would seek to work with educational experts to develop mechanisms to ensure that high school students understand the horrors of the Holocaust and other acts of genocide and that they are</p>	<p>We would fully support the historic events of the Holocaust and other racial hatred and genocides being studied in core high school curriculums.</p>

	incorporated into school lessons.	understand the fragility of society.	aware of the causes and consequences.	
<p>5. Would your party in government allocate increased resources to education programs in public schools promoting <b>interfaith dialogue and community harmony</b>? What methodologies would you undertake to ensure that more action is taken against racism and antisemitism in NSW schools?</p>	<p>NSW public schools are inclusive places and we currently have a number of programs aimed at strengthening this culture. The Education Department's Cultural Diversity and Community Relations Policy: Multicultural Education in Schools and Anti-Racism Policy provide the framework for programs that promote interfaith education and cross cultural understanding.</p> <p>The NSW Government already promotes religious diversity in our schools and supports a number of programs to achieve this. This includes <i>Courage to Care</i> - a travelling exhibition developed by the B'nai B'rith Jewish Service organisation and endorsed by the Department for student involvement. <i>Courage to Care</i> emphasises the importance of tolerance and understanding of minority groups in a multicultural society. The exhibition focuses on how caring for fellow human beings sometimes takes courage. It tells the story of people whose actions saved persecuted Jews during the Holocaust. Through these stories the exhibition demonstrates the universal message of the power of the individual to make a difference to the lives of others. Students hear stories from Holocaust survivors who owe their lives to the actions of others. Students also participate in a <i>Living in Harmony</i> workshop conducted by specially</p>	<p>The NSW Liberals &amp; Nationals support the development of education programs to promote interfaith dialogue and community harmony.</p> <p>While we are all proud that NSW is a wonderfully multicultural State, we recognise that from time to time NSW communities are threatened by acts of violence, racism and anti-Semitism. Schools should be a safe environment for all. Acts of racism hurt individuals and their families. This is a serious problem, and it must be tackled from the top.</p> <p>A NSW Liberals &amp; Nationals Government will continue to strengthen our students' values, morals and ethics through the education system.</p>	<p>We are aware of a number of highly successful programs that bring young people of diverse religious and ethnic backgrounds together for dialogue and social interaction.</p> <p>We strongly support these programs and encourage the participation of children from all types of schools. We support state funding for these programs.</p>	<p>We support every effort to eradicate racism with a priority to combat anti-Semitism in NSW schools and society.</p>

	<p>trained volunteers in which they explore the relevance of courage to care principles in their own lives.</p> <p>A re-elected Labor Government would continue to build on interfaith understanding and community harmony by strengthening and supporting programs like these.</p>			
<p>6. What steps would your party take in government to properly resource the work of the <b>Community Relations Commission and the Anti-Discrimination Board</b>, and to require all arms of government to be publicly and substantively accountable for compliance with the principles of multiculturalism set out in Section 3 of the <b>Community Relations Commission And Principles Of Multiculturalism Act 2000</b>?</p>	<p>The Keneally Labor Government strongly supports the Community Relations Commission and the Anti-Discrimination Board and is committed to continuing to properly resource both organisations. In 2010/11 the Government increased funding for the Community Relations Commission by 4%to \$18.6 million, and is providing \$4.4m to the Anti-Discrimination Board.</p> <p>Only recently, the NSW Government elevated the status of the Commission to a division of Government under the Department of Justice &amp; Attorney General, so that the Commission reports directly to the Premier, as well as the Minister. The Government has also increased the number of Commissioners on the Community Relations Commission, giving more communities a voice in Government.</p> <p>Through the Multicultural Policies and Services Program the NSW Government has implemented a strong multicultural governance model aimed at improving services for and better meeting the needs of a culturally diverse population. All New</p>	<p>A future NSW Liberals &amp; Nationals Government will work with the Community Relations Commission and the Anti-Discrimination Board to require that NSW departments and agencies are properly resourced to publically and substantively be accountable for compliance with the principles of multiculturalism set out in Section 3 of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000.</p>	<p>Recent experiences such as the growth in harassment and attacks based on religion and ethnicity suggests that there is a growing need for a renewed effort to promote tolerance and harmony as core values within the broad Australian community. We are committed to additional resources to ensure that the reach of the Community Relations Commission (CRC) and the ADB is extended. The Greens support the work of both the CRC and the ADB and are yet to be convinced that they should be merged. We look forward to working with the various community bodies to assist in the development of new programs and administrative arrangements.</p>	<p>We support increased budget allocations especially to the Community Relations Commission.</p>

	<p>South Wales government agencies are guided by the Principles of Multiculturalism which are enshrined in law. Public sector agencies make these principles and objectives part of their core business through their Multicultural Policies and Services Plan. The Community Relations Commission assesses and monitors the performance of public sector agencies, and reports on this performance in an annual <a href="#">Community Relations Report</a>.</p>			
<p><b>7. As an ageing community, the Jewish community has a particular interest in <b>services for older people</b> such as home care services and community health.</b></p> <p>What would your party in government do to increase and improve the services presently available?</p> <p>And what plans would you put in place to ensure that adequate and accessible land is set aside for cemeteries?</p>	<p>The NSW Government is responsible for Home and Community Care (HACC) funding which supports older people to remain living in their homes as long as possible and to avoid premature entry to aged care facilities.</p> <p>The Keneally Government (with the Commonwealth) injected around \$650 million in the last financial year, up from \$443 million in 2005/06. This included the delivery of 12 dementia day care centers all over NSW.</p> <p>The Keneally Government maintains its commitment to our ageing strategy – <i>Towards 2030</i>.</p> <p>Towards 2030: Planning for our changing population (Towards 2030) is a comprehensive, whole-of-government approach to ensure that we are positioned to meet the opportunities and challenges of an ageing population. The goal of Towards 2030 is to create a more ‘age friendly’ society that is able to respond</p>	<p>The NSW Liberals &amp; Nationals are committed to returning quality services in areas such as health, transport, education and community safety. Our positive and practical plan for the ageing community is through increasing funding for Community Transport, delivering free photo ID for self-funded retirees and pensioners, providing incentives to safe drivers, standardising retirement village contracts.</p> <p>Community transport is vital for seniors, the ill, people with disability and people who live in isolated communities. A NSW Liberals &amp; Nationals Government will make access to Community Transport a priority by provide an additional \$12 million to he</p> <p>Community Transport Program through the Ministry of Transport; establish a “one stop shop” for Community Transport providers within the Ministry of Transport to improve communication, efficiency and reduce unnecessary</p>	<p>One of the greatest challenges facing Australian society is our aging population. The</p> <p>Greens are concerned that older people will suffer declining standards of living unless there is a renewed investment in aged care facilities, home care and other services for older people. The Greens support maintaining a high level of social infrastructure and resources to meet the needs of frail older people. We believe that expenditure on public housing and on social infrastructure are vital for older people. Not only does more public housing need to be built, but also increased expenditure is required on social infrastructure that has</p>	<p>We would increase services for the aged and allocate land for cemeteries.</p>

	<p>effectively to population ageing in NSW. This includes provisions to support older people to 'age in place', such as the development of innovative housing solutions to support older people.</p> <p>The Towards 2030 strategy includes a number of initiatives, being led by the Department of Planning and Housing NSW, under Strategic Priority 1.3 Liveable homes and communities. These initiatives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that housing planning incorporates the following features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ encouraging universal design principles as the basis for planning for seniors housing in the public and private sectors;</li> <li>○ a range of housing choices to meet the needs of a changing population profile;</li> <li>○ safe and accessible, well designed communities suitable for a diverse ageing population; and</li> <li>○ partnership models where social housing is provided in conjunction with support services for</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>administration costs; and the establishment of an appropriate driver accreditation framework to ensure Community Transport providers can enhance their services and ensure utmost safety of volunteers, employees and clients. Many transactions in daily life require some form of photo identification (ID). People without photo ID can face stress and humiliations, extra costs, and sometimes miss out on entitlements. A NSW Liberals &amp; Nationals Government will waive the cost of photo identification cards for Seniors Card and Pensioner Concession Card holders; and make the free ID card available also to older people with a disability support pension.</p> <p>In relation to incentives to safe drivers, a NSW Liberals &amp; Nationals Government will introduce our Fair Go for Safe Drivers strategy, which takes a "carrot and stick" approach to road safety. Under a Fair Go for Safe Drivers, safe drivers who have a driving record free of an offence for at least five years will have their licence renewal fees cut by fifty per cent. This discount will apply whether the licence is renewed for 1, 3 or 5 years.</p> <p>The decision to purchase a property in a retirement village can be a difficult one. There are standard contracts for the sale of a house, so why shouldn't there be standard contracts for the sale of property in a retirement village? A NSW Liberals &amp; Nationals Government will develop standard contracts for</p>	<p>to be in place along with the housing, to avoid isolation and lack of services. We also advocate for programs to provide support for carers, so that the carers are able to seek other employment, to carry out their daily roles, or act as carers from a position of choice, not necessity. The Greens acknowledge that cremation is not culturally or religiously appropriate for some communities. Cemeteries are important for families and communities and the diminishing availability of land for cemeteries in Sydney in particular is an issue. The Greens support making available adequate and accessible land for cemeteries. This would need to be done with sensitivity to the natural environment and appropriate planning laws, with the provision of suitable public transport infrastructure.</p>	
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	<p style="text-align: center;">older people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encouraging the market, including the private sector and local government, to develop and provide a diversity of innovative housing products to meet future needs, driven by consumer demand. We recently invested \$5 million to a new project in Bondi called Apartments for Life, which aims to provide 40% affordable and social housing for older people to enable them to remain living in their community. This is a pilot which could be replicated in other parts of the State.</li> <li>• Ensure that linkages to health and community care services are taken into account in the design and delivery of housing products, to facilitate ageing in place.</li> <li>• In relation to cemeteries, the Government has set aside extra land for particular religious groups and we are advised by the Department of Lands that there is sufficient burial space to meet the needs of Sydney's various cultural and religious denominations until the middle of the century.</li> </ul>	<p>retirement villages to use when selling property or occupation rights to consumers; and establish a committee of experts to develop the standard contracts. The NSW Liberals &amp; Nationals are conscious of the need to ensure there is sufficient Crown Land for cemeteries in NSW – as we understand the need and importance of culturally appropriate burial practices. Please rest assured we will make certain these practices can and will continue.</p>		

<p>8. Given the importance of <b>early-childhood education</b> for children in low-income families, does your party propose to increase the availability of, and improve access to, early childhood education?</p>	<p>The Keneally Government is committed to early childhood development as a cornerstone for a bright future for the next generations. This has been demonstrated by the Government’s biggest investment in 30 years through the <i>Preschool Investment and Reform Program</i>, with an 85% boost in funding to NSW community preschools in 2009/10 under the National Partnership.</p> <p>Additional funding for disadvantaged children already means that Aboriginal children pay less than half the average daily preschool fee, and children from low-income families just slightly more than half the average. As a result, their preschool participation rates have significantly increased in 2009.</p> <p>Research shows that high quality early childhood care can improve child development and school performance, especially for children who are disadvantaged. This is why the Keneally Government delivered the 1:4 staff-to-child ratio to improve care for babies in childcare ahead of the National Quality Framework requirements.</p> <p>Labor’s plans to further target early childhood development will be announced before the election on March 26<sup>th</sup>.</p>	<p>The NSW Liberals &amp; Nationals agree that early childhood education is important, and that’s why we have announced a \$250 million <i>Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan</i>.</p> <p>Early childhood is a critical period in a child’s learning and development. Quality early childhood education is an essential building block for later success in literacy and numeracy – and is important for children especially in low income families.</p> <p>Our <i>Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan</i> involves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognising the importance of early childhood development to improved literacy and numeracy outcomes by moving responsibility for preschools from the Department of Community Services to the Department of Education.</li> <li>• Use Kindergarten screening assessments, current internal school data, Best Start results and Australian Education Development Index information to identify K-2 students at risk of not meeting literacy and numeracy standards.</li> <li>• Expanding and enhancing the Reading Recovery Program by providing an additional 900 teachers, and revising the program to include both literacy and numeracy and targeting ‘at risk’ K-2 students.</li> <li>• Reallocate over 300 K-2 Support</li> </ul>	<p>The Greens are committed to two years of universal free preschool education. While expensive in money terms, pre-schooling has massive benefits in the later years of education that result in large scale social and economic benefits.</p>	<p>We support increased budget allocation for early childhood education and home support for non working mothers.</p>
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<p>9. A number of Australian states have <b>bilateral agreements with Israel</b> in areas such as science, technology (including water management) and trade.</p> <p>Would your party in government consider implementing a bilateral trade relationship with Israel?</p>	<p>Labor strongly supports a bilateral agreement with Israel of the type outlined, Industry and Investment NSW has been in discussions with the Israeli Chamber regarding a Memorandum of Understanding for Research and Development technology over the last 12 months. Both the Minister for State Development and the Minister for Science and Medical Research have met directly with the chamber. While an agreement has not yet been reached, it is anticipated the further steps in negotiations would take place in the middle of the year.</p>	<p>The NSW Liberals &amp; Nationals believe in sending a clear message globally that NSW is open for business in order to become the leading economy and financial capital in our region.</p> <p>We understand the importance an opportunity of building international relationships for industries in information and communication technologies, mining and resources, financial services, education, pharmaceutical and health care, and building and construction.</p> <p>A NSW Liberals &amp; Nationals Government will be competing for more international trade and export opportunities – working with nations such as Israel – through creating a consistent and cohesive ‘Brand</p>	<p>The Greens NSW have recently given their support to the global boycott divestment and sanctions campaign, the purpose of which is to encourage the state of Israel to comply with international law in regards to the human rights of the Palestinians under their jurisdiction. We understand that this would preclude entering into a bilateral trade relationship at this time.</p>	<p>We fully support a bilateral trade relationship with Israel and strongly oppose the current boycott by Marrickville Council.</p>

		<p>NSW'; restoring Sydney's reputation as a global finance capital; engaging our universities and think tanks in economic development, and making the most of our multicultural society to strengthen trade relationships.</p> <p>To facilitate export development and help open doors to export markets we will ensure NSW Trade Offices are actively seeking out emerging opportunities and trial the most promising with 'pilot' projects. We will also convene a NSW Export and Investment Advisory Board (NSWEIAB) comprising experienced business and Non Government Organisations (NGOs) representatives; and encourage the headquartering of more global NGOs in Sydney as the place where ideas are exchanged and partnerships formed. A NSW Liberals &amp; Nationals Government looks forward to working with Israel to achieve this plan.</p>		
<p><b>10. What level of funding will your government provide for</b></p> <p><b>(a) disability programs</b> and overcoming the debilitating turf war between Health and Community Services; and</p> <p><b>(b) Indigenous health programs?</b></p>	<p>The Keneally Government announced on 3 December last year an additional \$2 billion investment in disability services over the next five years for the second phase of the Stronger Together 2006-2016 initiative – reaching out to the most vulnerable in the community and supporting their carers.</p> <p>The first five years of the program has already injected \$1.3 billion in growth funding to the disability sector.</p> <p>The new funding is the largest investment</p>	<p>In relation to the funding of disability programs, the NSW Liberals &amp; Nationals is committed to the creation of the Supported Living Fund as part of our commitment to provide \$2 billion in growth funding for disability services over the next five years for the second phase of the Stronger Together program, as well as more broadly of our policy, Personalising Service Delivery.</p> <p>The NSW Liberals &amp; Nationals' policy for Personalising Service Delivery offers the</p>	<p>a. Disability programs: The Greens NSW believe it is a primary responsibility of governments to not only ensure equality of opportunity but to provide funding to work towards equality of outcome in areas of education, health, housing, mobility, employment and sporting, cultural and social engagement. The NSW</p>	<p>We would review the programmes and allocate additional funding when required, especially for indigenous health programmes.</p>

	<p>in disability services in New South Wales' history and the most significant investment made by a State Government anywhere in Australia.</p> <p>The additional funding will increase disability services capacity by an estimated 47,000 places over the next five years – doubling the size of the existing service system.</p> <p>This funding is in addition to the \$2.02 billion it will cost to continue to fund the expansion of disability services already provided under the first five years of the program.</p> <p>It brings the total new investment by NSW over the ten years of Stronger Together 2006-2016 to a record \$5.5 billion.</p> <p>Under Stronger Together 2 the NSW Government will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enable all people to determine the application of their support resources, whether or not they are using an individualised funding arrangement;</li> <li>• Set aside funding to enable each large residential centre to be closed by 2017/18;</li> <li>• Create the Supported Living Fund to recognise the right of people with a disability to make choices about how and where they want to live; and</li> <li>• Deliver 1750 new supported accommodation places, 4500 new flexible respite places and 9380 therapy and early intervention places by 2016.</li> </ul>	<p>choice between the current case management model and that of a more personalised service approach in which funding packages enable the individual to direct the services that they wish to have and when. In this regard the plan aims to go further than ensuring people with disability enjoy the same living conditions as the majority of Australians. The emphasis of quality of life 'outcomes' across all areas for people with disability is central to the NSW Liberals &amp; Nationals plan. In relation to indigenous health programs, the NSW Liberals &amp; Nationals understand and are concerned by the challenges Aboriginals face – especially a shorter life expectancy and higher rates of child mortality. A NSW Liberals &amp; Nationals Government will actively address the goals of the Commonwealth Heads of Government (COAG) national agreement to close the gap in Aboriginal life expectancy and child mortality rates – and report the progress at a state level.</p> <p>We would hold an annual progress meeting with all funded Aboriginal community based organisations and NSW Health to monitor progress against key indicators, and our independent health information bureau will report on the actual outcomes for all to see.</p>	<p>Greens will increase funding to ensure that all people with disabilities have access to a range of high quality, age-appropriate, community care and accommodation options to enable them to live as independently as desired or as possible. We would: expand respite care services and facilities, in-home and emergency support and crisis accommodation; provide specialist services where needed, including counselors, and recreational and social services and programs; provide, without cost and in a timely manner, equipment, facilities and support personnel to ensure people are able to participate in all aspects of community life, regardless of their differing abilities.</p> <p>b. Indigenous Health Programs: The Greens NSW believe Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people should enjoy the same life expectancy and access to health, education, training, housing, community infrastructure and policing as other Australians, and that the current “gap” in life</p>	
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	<p>In addition, the NSW Government will provide a payroll tax exemption for employers of people with disabilities. The exemption will apply to all new employees who are employed after 30 June 2011.</p>		<p>expectancy is unacceptable. We would increase resources in both community-controlled health services and mainstream services and train more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island health workers and health professionals. We would also make Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island child health a major priority, with a focus on community-controlled health services.</p>	
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