



EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE

THE GREENS WILL:

- Reinstate funding for National Youth Week
- Reinstate funding for the national youth peak body
- Establish a Federal Minister for Youth
- Give 16 and 17 year olds the right to vote
- Make each voice count in the political process

Young people are disenchanted with politics because they don't see parliament as representative of them. Their future is not being decided by people their age, who represent them, who speak to them, and for them. Under-30 year olds make up 40 percent of the Australian population, yet just over one per cent of the Australian Parliament.

The Coalition government has sought to further silence the voices of young people and exclude them from the political process by systemically cutting funding to youth engagement initiatives. In 2014, the Abbott budget cut funding to the national youth peak body, Australian Youth Affairs Coalition, and removed the Australian Youth Forum. In 2015, Turnbull cut funding to National Youth Week and with it the National Youth Awards, as well as the Australian Clearinghouse for Youth Studies. The 2018 Turnbull budget had a glaring lack of support for young people; it was almost as if they didn't exist at all.

The Australian Greens are committed to listening to young people and ensuring that their voices are heard, as well as helping to amplify the voices of young people on issues that matter to them. We will reinstate the funding that the Coalition government has slashed to National Youth Week and the national youth body. We will establish a Federal Minister for Youth and we will give 16 and 17 year olds the right to vote. Finally, we will get lobbyists and big money out of politics to make sure that politicians are listening to, and working for, everyone. The Greens will give a voice to youth in the parliament and make sure they are heard.

REINSTATE FUNDING FOR NATIONAL YOUTH WEEK

The Australian Greens will reinstate funding for National Youth Week. In 2015, Turnbull cut funding to National Youth Week and with it the National Youth Awards. National Youth Week is an annual celebration of young people. The festival promotes young people's current contribution to community and cultural life, as well as providing information about opportunities for young people to engage in their communities.

REINSTATE FUNDING FOR NATIONAL YOUTH PEAK BODY

The Australian Greens will reinstate funding for the national youth peak organisation, the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC), at \$2 million per annum. AYAC is Australia's non-government national youth affairs peak body. They undertake a range of activities including research and policy development, youth sector development, and youth engagement. Their work is essential to representing the interests of young people, informing policy, promoting best practice, advancing participation and supporting coordination and cooperation within the sector.

ESTABLISH A FEDERAL MINISTER FOR YOUTH

The Australian Greens will establish a Federal Minister for Youth. When the Abbott-Turnbull government took over,

they scrapped the Youth portfolio. There hasn't been anyone appointed to look after youth affairs since 2013. Each year, the Liberals slash more and more from youth engagement, education, and support services. The Greens will return the Youth portfolio and minister, to ensure that the rights and needs of young people in Australia are being discussed, promoted, prioritised, and looked after.

GIVE 16 AND 17 YEAR OLDS THE RIGHT TO VOTE

For far too long, politics has failed to properly represent young people or the issues they care about. Young people can work full time and pay taxes, own and drive a car, have sex and make decisions about their bodies, be treated as adults by our justice system, but they cannot vote. The Australian Greens will give 16 and 17 year olds the right to vote and to have a say in their own future. We will also increase flexibility in enrolling to vote, allowing voters to register and vote on polling day.

MAKE EACH VOICE COUNT IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS

The Greens will ensure that everyone has a fair say in our political process and that our representatives are accountable to us, not big political donors. Our policy on cleaning up politics can be found at:

<https://greens.org.au/platform/democracy/>