

**What guarantee can you give that maternity services will be returned to Pambula hospital and its long term future secured?**

To ensure the greatest availability of specialist medical services across the region we must establish a first class Regional Hospital. Pambula should have a community health facility into the future and I do not support reductions in present services before a Regional Hospital is up and running. The Greens support a wide spectrum of well funded maternity and birthing services, including home birth and an important role for midwives. Hospital services should not be viewed in isolation. The Greens are committed to better primary health care, including preventive strategies, especially for our Aboriginal citizens, who currently face a loss of important community controlled services because a bureaucratic and political funding impasse. Community based and acute mental health care are urgent priorities, as is universal access to dental care. Low income people face chronic lack of access to affordable dental care which can often damage other aspects of their health.

**How would you stimulate job growth in the Bega Valley Shire?**

I wonder how many people know that there are already more people employed in renewable energy than in woodchipping. This is just one example of the long-term, secure jobs possible with the right policy framework. State Governments can decentralise more of their own bureaucracy. Why is the National Parks and Wildlife Service situated in Hurstville in Sydney, for example? It would make much more sense to locate important administrative centres like this in the regions. Improved public transport, community services, health, aged care and education, especially TAFE and tertiary all have potential to generate many secure satisfying careers. One of the best value for money ways to stimulate jobs and a more interesting community is in the arts. Let's not forget the lessons to be learned from the fact that there are now many more jobs in whale watching related tourism than there ever were in whaling.