



Harriett Swift
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media release

Putting the Bite on Big Parties – “Give us a Policy with Teeth” – Greens

Greens candidate for the Bega electorate, Harriett Swift is challenging the major parties to release details of how they will bring NSW into line with levels of funding for dental care publicly available in other States.

“I am asking them to do this before election day on 26th March,” Ms Swift said.

“NSW has the lowest funding per capita for public dental services of any state or territory and now is the right time for Labor and the Coalition to explain how they will correct this problem.

“Many people on the Far South Coast wait for months for dental treatment and 60% of the 132,800 people on the public dental waiting list must wait at least 6 months for treatment.

“This is a result of years of government underinvestment & a lack of government incentives and programs to improve regional dental health care.

“Just about all of us know someone who suffers dental health problems and these often lead to problems in other aspects of a person’s physical and mental health,” Ms Swift said.

“I fear more privatisation of health services under a Coalition Government, but Labor’s voucher is no silver bullet for people urgently needing care but unable to get to see a dentist because of the achingly long waiting lists that exist in regional NSW,” she said.

“The Greens support training more dentists and government incentives for dentists to work in rural and regional areas to better service those populations.

“People living in rural/regional areas like ours receive significantly poorer quality of dental care and will continue to do so unless we get firm commitments from the big parties now.

“The Greens will continue to campaign at state and federal levels to reduce the growing gap between those who can afford dental care in NSW and those that cannot,” Ms Swift said.

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