

Tanya McGregor
Chief Executive Officer
Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia

Dear Ms McGregor

RE: SA-BEST response to Aboriginal Health Council of SA Election Priorities

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia's election priorities.

I have long been a vocal advocate for improving health services and health outcomes for Aboriginal people in South Australia.

I have advocated for an increase in the number of Aboriginal people employed within our state health service, raised the need for simple health screening tests, such as hearing tests, for Aboriginal children and successfully pushed for a ban on spit hoods following the death of an Aboriginal man in custody in 2016.

I have raised in Parliament several health issues which disproportionately affect Aboriginal people, including type 2 diabetes and the adverse health effects of high levels of smoking within Aboriginal communities. I also highlighted the unique challenges facing Aboriginal women going through menopause.

Importantly, I have raised the social determinants for health within our Aboriginal communities, such as housing and utilities, and took issue with the introduction of mandatory electricity payments in remote Aboriginal communities.

I voted in support of the South Australian First Nations Voice to Parliament and if re-elected I will continue to be a fierce advocate for improving health services for Aboriginal people, and addressing the underlying social, economic and geographic barriers to good health outcomes.

On behalf of SA-BEST, I have no hesitation in **SUPPORTING** the Aboriginal Health Council's call for:

- Improvements to community-controlled health services, including an additional breast screening bus, and improved and culturally appropriate patient transfer services and accommodation.
- Continuous health in justice care, particularly given the high proportion of Aboriginal people incarcerated within our prison system.
- Improvements to child development and food security, including a breakfast program for children in rural and remote communities.
- Better maintenance programs for Aboriginal housing in remote and rural communities.
- Continued investment in the Aboriginal Health Workforce.
- Addressing racism within healthcare, and indeed within all government services.

- Improvements to Aboriginal aged care services, including in respect of Elders living on country.
- Funding commitments to address Aboriginal mental health, including appropriate acute services and community-led prevention strategies.

I encourage you to bring to my attention issues facing Aboriginal people in this state in order that I can continue to press the government of the day to bridge the gap between health outcomes within Aboriginal communities and the broader community.

I would be honoured and delighted to take up the opportunity to visit your service and hear from you directly about the impact your member services have on Aboriginal people in South Australia.

On behalf of SA-BEST I thank you for the opportunity to consider and respond to your election priorities and I look forward to speaking with you soon.

Warmest regards



Hon Connie Bonaros MLC
SA-BEST

9 January 2026