



DR RICHARD DI NATALE

Leader of the Australian Greens

Senator for Victoria

senator.dinatale@aph.gov.au
Level 14, 90 Collins Place, Melbourne VIC 3000
P. (03) 9660 6440 F. (03) 9660 6459

Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600
P. (02) 6277 3170 F. (02) 6277 3185

Dr Louise Schaper
CEO
Health Informatics Society of Australia
1A/21 Vale Street
North Melbourne VIC 3051

Via email: ceo@hisa.org.au

17 June 2015

Dear Ms Schaper

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to Health Informatics Society of Australia's Election questions.

Please see The Australian Greens' responses to your questions below. I apologise for the delay in responding.

- 1) When public funds are used to pay for healthcare, do you support a policy shift from payment for services to payment for outcomes?

The Greens have announced our policy to reform primary healthcare to best manage chronic disease. A major element of this \$4.3 billion commitment over four years is the introduction of voluntary enrolment of patients with chronic diseases with their GP. The GP is then responsible for the development and progression of a longer term treatment plan, and can access \$1000 annual payments to the practice for this care. Crucially it is linked to the attainment of benchmarks to ensure that patient outcomes are at the heart of this blended payment model.

- 2) Do you support regulations to incentivise interoperability of health information systems to promote exchange of clinical data and to sanction non-compliance?

The Greens are supportive of driving innovation and the use of technology in Australia's health system to realise efficiencies and maximise patient outcomes. As such we would support interoperability to reduce double-up and ensure a higher level of integration between health service providers and jurisdictions.

- 3) Do you support steps to forecast Australian digital health workforce needs and capabilities, providing educational bodies with better information for planning and offering courses that align with sector needs?

The Greens are strong supporters in the collection and utilisation of high quality data to educate and inform decision making in this complex policy space, and to ensure education providers can respond effectively to needs. We would support greater forecasting of digital workforce needs.

- 4) Do you support policy that promote a re-allocation of existing health funding towards evidence based preventive and health promotion programs?



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The Greens recognise the benefits in health outcomes and to the health budget of focusing investment on preventive health and health education. The Greens see health as an investment, rather than a cost and would not seek to move money away from other health priorities to fund investment in preventive health but would rather seek to raise extra revenue to fund these measures effectively. We have recently announced our policy for a tax on sugar sweetened beverages, which will lead to reduced consumption and the associated health impacts, while also raising \$500 million annually to be invested in preventive health and public health measures.

5) Do you support changes to the MBS items covering telehealth which would make GP consultations “technology neutral” so that clinicians and patients can choose online consultations rather than only traditional medical consultations?

The Greens are supportive of the use of telehealth services to ensure access to patient care and are encouraged by the opportunity telehealth presents for patients in rural and remote Australia, those with mobility issues and others in the community who prefer to access services of GPs in this way. We would be interested to examine the impacts of amending MBS payments so that the payment received by GPs was equivalent whether in person or via telehealth and would be happy to discuss this option with you more in the next term of parliament.

Thank you again for the opportunity to respond to HISA’s election survey.

Yours Sincerely,

Senator Richard Di Natale
Leader of the Australian Greens

