

# FAIR ACCESS TO ALLIED HEALTH FOR ALL

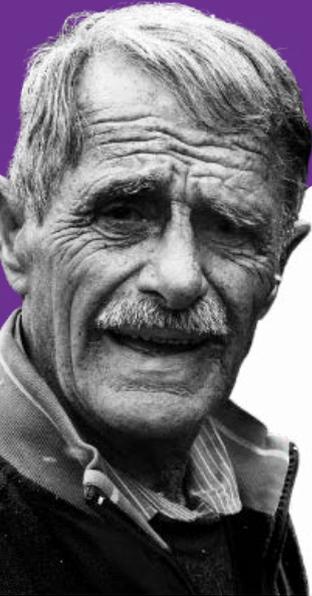
Help stop the suffering  
and make your vote count

[ahpa.com.au/electioncampaign](http://ahpa.com.au/electioncampaign)

## What does **suffering** sound like?

For many, it's the sound of being ignored and overlooked. **Enough is enough.** It's time to bring about the change for allied health that will mean that people finally get the attention and the relief they deserve.

To address this requires urgent federal government intervention, and we're calling on the voting public and the Australian Government to help stop the suffering.



## ABOUT AHPA

Allied Health Professions Australia (AHPA) is the recognised national peak association representing Australia's allied health professions.

AHPA is the only organisation with representation across all allied health disciplines and settings. We have **25 allied health member organisations** and a further **12 affiliates** with close links to allied health. A full list of our members is available [here](#).

The scope of allied health encompasses preventive and primary care (including chronic illness), aged care, disability (including the NDIS) and veterans' care.

This breadth makes allied health Australia's second largest health workforce, with over **200,000 allied health professionals**.

These professionals treat numerous clients, and all are aware of how many people across Australia struggle to obtain access to the allied health services they need.

AHPA provides representation for the allied health sector, working with a wide range of working groups and experts across the individual allied health professions to support all Australian governments in the development of policies and programs relating to allied health.

## ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN

Allied health services provide unique value to the Australian health, care and support system because they are diverse, preventive, collaborative and cost efficient.

Urgent federal government intervention is required to ensure all Australians are able to access the allied health services they need.

**AHPA intends to compile independent candidates' and parties' views on our key election asks into an election 'scorecard' which will be made publicly available.**

Details regarding our key asks are available on the reverse of this sheet, and more information about AHPA's election campaign are available on our [webpage](#).



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## KEY ASK ONE

Enable full access to allied health services for early intervention and prevention throughout the life cycle. This can be achieved by:

- **Making sure people in residential aged care** get the allied health services they need as recommended by the Aged Care Royal Commission.
- **Making sure people ageing at home** get allied health services according to their assessed needs.
- **Making sure people with chronic disease** get the allied health services they need, not an arbitrary cap.
- **Ensuring Medicare items, including telehealth, are sufficient** to provide effective evidence-based care and reduce out of pocket costs.

## KEY ASK TWO

Strengthen and sustain the allied health workforce to meet present and future needs in all sectors. This can be achieved by:

- **Collecting and analysing allied health data across all sectors** (primary health care, NDIS, aged care, DVA, justice, education and social service sectors) to ensure equitable access to a well distributed, effective workforce.
- **Supporting people in rural, remote and other poorly serviced areas** to get better access to allied health through adequate funding models and a comprehensive support model such as that for rural GPs.
- **Ensuring populations with specific needs have access to culturally appropriate services**, for example: train more First Nations allied health professionals.



## KEY ASK THREE

Fully integrate allied health as a key and distinct component into all health, care and support sectors.

This can be achieved by:

- **Giving the Chief Allied Health Officer equivalent status to the Department of Health's Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer and Deputy Medical Officers** with adequate staff to address complex cross sector reform.
- **Embedding timely and well-resourced actions for allied health** in every national health, care and support strategy such as primary health care, NDIS, aged care, DVA, justice, education and social service sectors.
- **Ensuring allied health has its own service delivery structures and referral processes** which complement and integrate with others such as GP and Medical Specialist clinics.
- **Making standards of training, competency and credentialing** for all allied health professions fully recognised, eliminating unnecessary duplication across sectors.
- **Providing adequate support to fully digitally enable** allied health service provision to support integrated patient care and secure transfer of information.