



## **Response to Shelter SA's Open letter to all South Australian Political Parties and 2018 State Election Candidates Summary**

Shelter SA wrote an open letter to all South Australian political parties and State election candidates containing key policy asks from our recent Transitions workshop. The event in November gathered sixty South Australians from across Government and non-government housing and community service organisations to look at how we house and support Aboriginal South Australians during times of transition, from institutions back to family and community.

Shelter SA was pleased to receive responses to our open letter from SA Labor, SA Liberal, SA-BEST, SA Greens, Dignity Party, Robert Brokenshire MLC, and Advance SA.

SA Labor responded that a re-elected Labor Government will explore further ways to increase the numbers of Aboriginal people in the public sector. They stated that they have also prioritised the development of practice guides to assist staff to respond effectively to Aboriginal families approaching services. SA Labor said that the State Government will vigorously advocate for ongoing funding for remote Indigenous communities from the Commonwealth Government.

Steven Marshall MP responded on behalf of all Liberal Party candidates who will stand at the State election. He promises to take the Aboriginal Affairs portfolio, develop a housing strategy in consultation with Aboriginal people, and work with government, non-government and private sectors to implement an Aboriginal workforce development strategy.

SA-BEST responded that it will outline its social inclusion policy prior to the election, and supports better outcomes for Indigenous Australians, particularly with regard to reducing offending and incarceration rates.

Greens SA wish to change, and where necessary remove, laws and policies so that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are not incarcerated at disproportionate rates.

Dignity Party's response was on behalf of all party members. They would support a Government tender to assist the establishment of a specialist service for Aboriginal people, and the implementation of an Aboriginal workforce development strategy.

Robert Brokenshire MLC stated that Australian Conservatives supports the Playford model in terms of housing policy, which proposes increasing affordable housing, addressing the maintenance backlog of Housing SA and making sure that Housing SA properties meet the needs of current and future tenants (including Aboriginal people).

Advance SA responded that they are "generally supportive" of the five election priorities that Shelter SA outlined and will consider all legislative changes regarding these issues.

[View the full-length responses to our open letter.](#)