

ACT GREENS ELECTION MEDIA RELEASE

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Greens election commitments on justice

The ACT Greens election commitments on justice have been released today by Shane Rattenbury, Greens Attorney General and Police Spokesperson.

“The ACT justice system currently has bottlenecks that make life harder than it should be for victims of crime, people needing a lawyer and people coming into contact with our courts”, said Shane Rattenbury.

“These Greens justice initiatives will alleviate these problem areas and improve the quality of our justice system.

Improved outcomes for victims of crime

“To improve the way victims of crime are treated when they seek compensation, the Greens would instigate the Ombudsman’s recommended review without delay. The ACT must be able to do better than leave victims legally unrepresented and battling against government lawyers before they can access their legal entitlement and the review is the necessary first step to improvement.

Better access to free legal advice

“Community Legal Centres help catch those people who risk falling through the cracks when they can’t afford a private lawyer but do not qualify for Legal Aid. The Greens commitment is to establish a CLC Hub which will increase the number of people who get legal assistance from CLCs.

More help for people coming into contact with our courts

“Something is wrong in our courts when people can leave court none the wiser that there are services funded and in place which are designed to help them. The Greens would fund up to three court liaison officers to bridge this gap and tell people what services are out there to help them get their life back on track.

Reducing court delays

“Our courts have a case backlog problem which has negative flow-on effects for everyone involved, whether it be a business involved in a civil dispute, or the victim of crime who has to put their life on hold.

“Too often in recent years the Government has imposed top down solutions without consulting the stakeholders who are required to implement the reforms on a daily basis.

“The solution is more collaboration between the legal stakeholders and the government. To achieve this the Greens would establish a taskforce where ideas for reform could be discussed while they are in the planning stages, rather than imposing the reforms without consultation.

“The Greens know that the profession has many ideas for reform, and the taskforce is the ideal place to

talk them through with the Government.

The full package is available at: <http://act.greens.org.au/content/justice-package>.