

Ph 1800 033 660 | E [bca@bca.org.au](mailto:bca@bca.org.au) | W [bca.org.au](http://www.bca.org.au/) | ABN 90 006 985 226

# Federal Election 2022: Party Report Card

In our Election Platform 2022, we identified three key themes covering a range of policy areas where we wanted to see all parties and candidates focus their attention.

In the final week of the campaign, we have put together a summary of the major parties positions on these issues, based on public statements and responses to us, and other disability organisations during the election.

## Talking About BCA’s Platform

### Making Technology Work for Everyone

#### Accessible Voting

* **Australian Labor Party (ALP) –** No Commitment on online voting
* **Liberal Party and National Party (Coalition) –** No commitment
* **Australian Greens –** No commitment
* **Other Parties –** No commitment

#### Assistive Technology for All

* **ALP –** No commitment on a Nationally Consistent Assistive Technology scheme
* **Coalition –** No commitment
* **Australian Greens –** No commitment
* **Other Parties –** No commitment

#### Maintain and Extend Audio Description

* **ALP –** No commitment to extend AD
* **Coalition –** No commitment beyond Budget commitments
* **Australian Greens –** No commitment
* **Other Parties –** No commitment

#### Setting Standards for Electric Vehicles, E-scooters and E-bikes

* **ALP –** No commitment to reform Australian Design Rules
* **Coalition –** No commitment
* **Australian Greens –** No commitment
* **Other Parties –** No commitment

#### Better access to banking

* **ALP –** No commitment to
* **Coalition –** No commitment
* **Australian Greens –** No commitment
* **Other Parties –** No commitment

### Improving Government Services and Support

#### Defending the National Disability Insurance Scheme

* **ALP –** Strong Commitment. Promises include:

To identify and solve the problems with the design and operation of the scheme, ensuring solutions are evidence based and are codesigned with people with disability, their families and carers, and service providers and workers.

To share governance and make all proposed changes to the scheme transparent to rebuild trust between the NDIS and the people who rely on it for support.

To increase the number of people with disability on the National Disability Insurance Agency executive and board so that the voice and experience of participants is returned to the scheme.

To appoint a senior officer within the NDIA to tackle the barriers to service delivery in remote areas of Australia and other areas.

* **Coalition –** Partial Commitment. Promises include:

Commitment to NDIS co-design, demonstrated through legislative amendments to the National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013 in March 2022.

Equitable access for eligible Australians, including through a review of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI), and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) strategies, in line with co-design principles.

* **Australian Greens –** Strong Commitment. Promises include:

Removing the staffing cap and ensure that staff receive high-quality, ongoing training and support.

Ensuring the IT systems and interfaces for participants and service providers are fit for purpose and fully accessible.

Ensuring the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission is properly resourced to undertake its compliance and investigative capacity through an immediate investment of $300 million.

Pushing to remove the age limit that prevents people over 65 from being accepted in the NDIS

Boosting NDIS funding and reinvesting $160 million back into the NDIS.

* **Other Parties –** Partial Commitments

**Centre Alliance** has promised genuine consultation with people with disability and advocates regarding future changes to the NDIS proposed by whomever forms government. They also advocate for the removal of barriers to accessing the NDIS, including the unjust exclusion of people who acquire their disability once they have turned 65.

**Pauline Hanson’s One Nation Party** supports ensuring the NDIS remain a sustainable scheme for those Australians who meet its intended purpose and rely upon it for a decent quality of life. They believe expenditure on unnecessary administrative costs and fees is pared back to essentials only, and promise to call out services and overheads which cannot be justified.

#### Improving our Aged Care system

* **ALP –** No Commitment. Labor has promised:

To mandate that every Australian living in aged care receives an average of 215 minutes of care per day, as recommended by the Royal Commission. They have also committed to give the Aged Care Safety Commissioner new powers to ensure there is accountability and integrity.

They have given no commitment to implement the recommendations of the Aged Care Royal Commission in full.

* **Coalition –** Partial Commitment. Promise to meet the Younger People in Residential Aged Care (YPIRAC) targets through the YPIRAC Strategy 2020-2025 in order to address Recommendation 74 of the Royal Commission into Aged Care, Quality and Safety
* **Australian Greens –** Strong Commitment. The Greens supports implementation of all recommendations of the Aged Care Royal Commission, but believes in some areas they did not go far enough.
* **Other Parties –** Strong Commitment from the **Centre Alliance** who supports all recommendations of the Royal Commission, including recommendation 72 that people who acquire a disability after the age of 65 years should have access to NDIS-equivalent supports

#### Quality Healthcare

* **ALP –** Partial Commitment. Promise to cut the cost of medications by reducing the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) co-payment from the current maximum of $42.50 per script, to a maximum of $30 per script.
* **Coalition –** Partial Commitment. Similar promise to cut the cost of medications. Promise to lower the PBS Safety Net threshold from 1st July 2022
* **Australian Greens –** Strong Commitment. Promises to make the physical and digital worlds more accessible, including by establishing a new $3 billion Accessible Infrastructure Fund.

The Greens call for priority access to vaccinations and testing, along with access to accessible vaccination centres.

* **Other Parties –** Partial Commitment. Includes promises by **Centre Alliance**, and by Independents Zali Steggall (MP and Candidate for Warringah), Helen Haines (MP and Candidate for Indi), Andrew Wilkie (MP and Candidate for Clark) to ensure vulnerable populations, including people with disability are prioritised in health care settings.

#### Responding to the Disability Royal Commission

* **ALP –** Partial Commitment. If elected, Labor promises to respond to the recommendations of the Disability Royal Commission when it delivers its final report in 2023.
* **Coalition –** Partial Commitment. The Coalition commits to considering the report of the royal commission once it has concluded its work and responding in due course. It has provided $500 million in funding to develop and implement solutions to ensure we protect those who are most vulnerable.
* **Australian Greens –** Strong Commitment. The Greens support all the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability, as well as their Interim Report recommendations.
* **Other Parties –** Partial to Strong Commitments.

The **Centre Alliance** is supportive of the examination of emerging themes, barriers, key issues and areas for further inquiry identified in the Interim Report of the Disability Royal Commission.

Independent MPs Helen Haines (Indi) and Andrew Wilkie (Clark) are on record supporting the implementation of all recommendations of the Disability Royal Commission, including the interim recommendations.

#### A Fairer Disability Support Pension

* **ALP –** No Commitment in relation to the Disability Support Pension.
* **Coalition –** No Commitment. Consultation with the sector is ongoing and will inform changes to the legislative instrument that sets out the Disability Support Pension impairment tables, due to expire on 1 April 2023.
* **Australian Greens –** Strong Commitment. Promises include:

A higher rate for multiple income support payments, including the Disability Support Pension, to ensure they remain above the Henderson Poverty Line.

Changes that would make the DSP genuinely accessible, including providing lifelong access and fixing the DSP impairment tables.

* **Other Parties –** Partial Commitment.

The **Central Alliance** supports ensuring social security payments, including the Disability Support Pension, are set at levels which keep up with the cost of living and allow for people to live with dignity.

Andrew Wilkie, Independent MP and Candidate for Clark, has argued government pensions and payments including the Disability Support Pension must be increased to levels that people can actually live on. He promises to work to remove barriers to accessing the DSP, and acknowledges DSP is currently far too difficult to qualify for and applications take too long.

### A Fairer Future

#### Australia’s Disability Strategy

* **ALP –** Partial Commitment. Labor will introduce central coordination of disability across government through a National Disability Strategy to ensure real action and recognition for all people with a disability in Australia, not just those on the NDIS.
* **Coalition –** Partial Commitment.

The Coalition has promised to drive the delivery of Australia’s Disability Strategy 2021–2031, supported by a $250 million investment to break down barriers for the 4.4 million Australians with disability.

* **Australian Greens –** Strong Commitment through their Accessible Australia policies.

The Greens support a national anti-ableism campaign to address ablism in society.

* **Other Parties –** Partial Commitment.

Andrew Wilkie, Independent MP and Candidate for Clark, supports the co-design of a national anti-ableism campaign to address ableism, negative attitudes, discrimination, misconceptions and bias against people with disability.

#### Better Emergency Response

* **ALP –** Partial Commitment.

Labor has made a promise that the government will never again leave people with disability at the back of the queue in relation to the pandemic or a future emergency response.

* **Coalition –** Partial Commitment. Responsible for establishment of an advisory panel within the Department of Health to co-design the Management and Operational Plan for People with Disability.
* **Australian Greens –** Strong Commitment. Committed to ensuring any plan to protect people with disability is co-designed, and supported with all necessary funding.
* **Other Parties –** Partial Commitment.

Andrew Wilkie, Independent MP and Candidate for Clark, has argued for the need to prioritise the safety and protection of all people with disability in all disasters, including the current COVID-19 pandemic. He has committed to o funding the disability sector to co-produce a detailed plan for protecting the health and wellbeing of people with disability in a world where we must now live with COVID-19.

#### Encouraging Meaningful Employment

* **ALP –** Strong Commitment. Promises include:

A White Paper on Full Employment, which will plot a path for government to reduce unemployment and underemployment rates, particularly among vulnerable groups, and keep them low.

Establishment of a centre for excellence in disability employment to provide a clearing house for ideas and increase capacity among employment services, so that more Australians with a disability can secure long-term positions in open employment.

Fix the NDIS and make the National Disability Strategy 2010–2020 accountable, to ensure real action on employment outcomes.

* **Coalition –** Strong Commitment.

Committed to improving employment opportunities for people with disability and supporting increased economic participation. This includes through the Launch of ‘Employ My Ability – the national disability employment strategy’. This strategy sits underneath Australia’s Disability Strategy 2021– 2031 and demonstrates commitment to changing the employment landscape for people with disability.

* **Australian Greens –** Strong Commitment. Promises include:

Championing inclusive employment by establishing a 20 per cent quota for full disabled employee representation in the Australian Public Service by 2030

* **Other Parties –** No Commitment

#### Ensuring Equitable Education

* **ALP –** Partial Commitment

Labor will consider the need for a review of the Disability Standards and a national inclusive education strategy.

* **Coalition –** Strong Commitment.

The coalition has committed to implementing ‘Driving Change: A roadmap for achieving inclusive education in Australia’ developed by the Australian Coalition for Inclusive Education

* **Australian Greens –** Strong Commitment. A commitment to transition to a fully inclusive education system, in support of the Inclusive Education Pledge, including by:

Investing an initial $10 million over four years to co-design a national inclusive education transition plan with disabled people, families, disability representative organisations, teachers and their unions, and education experts

Building inclusive education into tertiary qualifications and giving all pre-service and in-service teachers and principals the opportunity to train, retrain and regularly upskill in inclusive education practices by investing $400 million over four years

* **Other Parties –** Partial Commitment.

Andrew Wilkie, Independent MP and Candidate for Clark, supports implementation of ‘Driving Change: A roadmap for achieving inclusive education in Australia’