

Questions for the politicians: NSW State election

Selected politicians and independent candidates were sent questions to elicit their policy position on a number of issues. OWN NSW Management Team adopted this strategy at its final meeting for 2010 with the expectation that our concerns will stimulate interest and relevant policy development by the political parties and other candidates. The questions together with supporting information were distributed during the first week of January 2011.

The questions are as follows:

Ageism

What strategies would you support/implement to address ageism in the workplace and in society beyond the Anti-Discrimination Legislation including:

Improved and more effective procedures requiring Government employers to acknowledge all job applicants and maintain statistical record reflecting their adherence to EEO policy and legislation in advertising, interviewing and hiring of staff.

Immediate investigation of measures to redress any government role in feminisation of poverty in Australia.

Affordable Housing

Do you support the recommendations set out in the report 'It Could Be You: female, single, older and homeless' (McFerran 2010 www.ownnsw.org.au). For example

- Collect mainstream homeless and housing data disaggregated by sex that enables the development of a gendered homeless and housing policy.*
- Consult with older women on their experience and needs when developing mainstream homeless and housing strategies.*
- Set targets to meet the needs of older women in all relevant strategies.*

What priority would you give to this issue and how would you measure outcomes?

Prevention of Violence against Older Women

*What priority would you give to policy development and program funding to address the prevention of violence against older women based on the experiences of older women living with violence? (McFerran 2009 *The Disappearing Age*; strategies to address the prevention of violence against older women; www.OWNNSW.org.au)*

Health

Do you support a gendered analysis of all government spending on health programs addressing issues of particular relevance to older women, with a commitment to improved program funding as the outcome?

Volunteers and Carers

Do you affirm CEDAW Recommendation 43. –that “parties should ensure that older women, including those who have responsibility for the care of children, have access to appropriate social and economic benefits such as childcare benefits, as well as access to all necessary support when caring for elderly parents or relatives”.

What measures would you take to improve access to home and community care to a level required to meet community demand?

Transport

What steps would you take to improve access to public transport for older people including improved access points to trains, buses and prepaid ticketing.

We are hoping to be able to report on any responses in the next issue of OWN Matters.

OWN groups may wish to use this information to lobby candidates in their local areas.

Copies of the complete correspondence together with the list of recipients is available from the OWN Office.

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