

Fighting for South West families

After 25 years as a working mum serving the South West, I understand the struggles of our communities. While the big supermarkets and energy companies post record profits - prices keep going up for households. The major parties have shown they're out of touch, and they can't be trusted to regulate their major donors.

I will fight for stronger penalties against price gouging, while pushing for sensible reforms to help household budgets: cheaper child care, accessible health care and greater availability of homes to rent and buy. **Read more here.**

Homes that locals can afford

Decades of neglect by the major parties have taken our region's housing market to the brink. Nurses, teachers and small business owners are being pushed out of their neighbourhoods and forced to make increasingly long commutes.

As an independent, I don't accept donations from property developers which means I can bring about change that the major parties cannot. Our region needs improved protections for the environment in the planning and approvals process, and guaranteed funding to ensure essential workers can live in the communities they serve. **Read more here.**

Accessible healthcare for everyone

While politicians play with purse strings from Canberra, our local health services are no longer coping in the South West. Bed block, ambulance ramping, and increasing out-of-pocket costs are out of control. Growing communities like Treendale and Cowaramup are left without essential health services. Many people are struggling to access the care they need.

As a surgeon who has spent 25 years serving this region, I understand these challenges because I've lived them. I will fight for long-term commitments to regional health care workforce recruitment and retention, expanding primary health care and mental health services and an increase in Medicare rebates to deliver affordable care for everyone. **Read more here.**

Protecting our unique environment

Our beautiful environment is the reason so many of us choose to live in the South West. Weak laws and unchecked development leave our natural landscapes exposed and vulnerable. While the major parties take donations from big developers, our precious bushland is bulldozed, our water resources are squandered and community voices are ignored. We don't have to choose between a strong economy and protecting our unique biodiversity.

I will fight for stronger environmental protections that work, ensuring development respects our natural heritage while supporting sustainable jobs. I will bring evidence-based decision making to Parliament, proving we can have both a strong economy and thriving environment. **Read more here.**

Restoring trust in politics

Trust in politicians is at rock bottom - and South West communities are fed up with being taken for granted. While career politicians serve their parties and corporate donors, basic community needs are ignored.

For 25 years, I have earned trust one patient at a time as a doctor in our community. I will bring the same honest, solutions-focused approach to Parliament: no party lines, no corporate donors – just straight talk and real results for our community. **Read more here.**

Cost of living

Easing financial pressure on households and businesses

As a doctor and working mother in the South West for 25 years, I have seen firsthand how rising costs are impacting local people. Intergenerational inequity is worsening and our ageing population is finding times tougher and more precarious. In my surgical practice, and as an active community volunteer, I meet people forced to make impossible choices between essential healthcare and basic necessities.

Households across the South West are struggling. From energy bills to grocery prices, childcare to healthcare - everyday people can't keep up, while big corporations post record profits.

The cost of living crisis impacts regional communities differently, here's what it looks like in the South West:

- Grocery prices rise while major supermarket chains post record profits
- Families in Harvey and Cowaramup can't access affordable childcare options
- Keeping homes cooler as temperatures rise is driving up energy bills
- Farmers and business owners are being crippled by rising energy costs while fossil fuel companies pay no tax
- High fuel prices and long commutes eat up household budgets
- Unaffordable rents are pricing out essential workers like nurses and teachers
- People are falling behind as wages fail to keep up with inflation

As your Independent MP, I will:

Tackle Corporate Price Gouging: The major supermarket chains and energy companies are posting record profits while families struggle. I will push for stronger competition laws and enforceable penalties for price gouging, including mandatory reporting of profit margins on essential items and greater powers for the ACCC to investigate regional price discrepancies.

Make Childcare More Accessible: Families shouldn't have to choose between work and childcare. Improving access to affordable childcare helps parents return to work, putting more money in their family budget and strengthening our regional workforce. I'll support increased childcare subsidies and assistance for regional childcare centers to expand their services. I'll push for federal funding to establish new centers in underserved areas and workforce support to address chronic staffing shortages.

Reduce Energy Expenses: South West families and businesses deserve fair power prices and greater energy security. I'll work to secure rebates for solar and batteries for households

and businesses beyond 2030. This includes pushing for home batteries to be included in the federal government's small-scale renewable energy scheme to reduce the cost of batteries for the one third of Australians who have rooftop solar. I'll also advocate for programs to help renters and low-income households access cheaper energy solutions to bring down their bills.

Farmers and manufacturers need energy certainty to produce food and keep industry running. I'll press for transparency in energy pricing and grid stability to ensure what we eat and buy are produced at reasonable prices.

Support Essential Workers: Our community relies on teachers, nurses, aged care workers, and staff for our small businesses. I'll support policies that help essential workers afford to live in the communities they serve, including targeted housing solutions and innovative incentives when relocating to regional and rural areas.

As a surgeon, I'm trusted to care for people in their most vulnerable moments and I understand how stress impacts our daily lives. With the same commitment and compassion, I'll fight for practical solutions that ease financial pressures on our communities.

Health

Quality Healthcare for our Region

For the last 25 years, the urology unit I established in the South West has cared for tens of thousands of people. I've watched as our community has grown dramatically and investment in healthcare has fallen behind. We face enormous challenges delivering the care our community deserves: bed block, ambulance ramping, long waitlists for aged care packages, unaffordable medications and a lack of access to mental health services.

We need accessible, affordable, quality healthcare in the South West. We should not have to settle for less because we live in regional and rural communities.

Here's what our regional healthcare problems look like:

- Access to primary and preventative care is impossible because GP practices have closed their books to new patients
- Frontline healthcare professionals are stretched trying to fill workforce shortages caused by underfunding and understaffing
- Margaret River needs healthcare infrastructure to meet the demand of its growing visitor and resident populations, forcing locals to travel for essential care
- Hospitals are footing huge costs to pay locums and short-term staff because the South West can't attract and retain doctors, nurses and allied health professionals

Secure Long-Term Funding

The South West deserves certainty about healthcare funding. As your Independent, I'll fight for dedicated federal funding for new medical centres in our growth corridors and I'll push to secure long term commitments to recruit and retain healthcare workers across the region.

Reform Medicare to Reduce Out-of-Pocket Costs

Medicare rebates haven't kept pace with the cost of providing care, forcing many doctors to abandon bulk-billing. I will push for an immediate increase to Medicare rebates and push for ongoing indexation that reflects the real cost of healthcare delivery. This includes advocating for additional loading for regional practitioners to encourage recruitment and retention of a long term medical workforce.

Build a Sustainable Healthcare Workforce

We need long-term solutions to attract and retain healthcare workers in our region. We can achieve this by championing regional medical training programs, establishing a South West medical school hub and expanding placement opportunities for junior doctors. I'll work to secure federal funding for supervision and accommodation for training positions.

Expand Regional Mental Health Services

Accessing mental health care shouldn't include long waiting lists or lengthy travel. I'll pursue the federal government for funding to establish additional mental health services across the South West, with a particular focus on youth services. This includes supporting telehealth initiatives and working to attract more mental health professionals to our region through targeted incentives and housing programs.

In a balanced Parliament, Independent MPs have unique power to deliver commitments for their communities - just like Helen Haines whose successful advocacy secured more than \$1 million for mental health services in her rural electorate.

I've spent my career finding solutions to healthcare problems and producing results. To ensure our communities are set up to thrive, I'll be fighting for regional healthcare that's well-resourced and delivered close to home.

Housing

Prioritising homes for locals instead of investment properties

Twenty years ago, it was possible for young couples and essential workers to build lives in the South West on a single income. Today, most households have two incomes and they still can't scrape together the deposit they need to plant roots without help from mum and dad.

The major parties at all levels of government have proven they're too close to property developers to deliver real change. As an Independent, I'll spearhead housing policy that works for our regional communities, without influence from developers.

House prices and rental shortages are locking young professionals, nurses and teachers out of the housing market. These workers are essential to our communities. It's unaffordable to live in the towns they grew up in despite having good jobs and wanting to build their lives there.

Here's what the housing crisis looks like in the South West:

- Families sharing a rental because of a lack of rental properties
- Single mums dropping kids at school after spending the night sleeping in their car
- Young professionals with good jobs living with their parents into their thirties because they can't find an affordable rental or scrape together enough for a home loan deposit
- Essential workers turning down critical jobs because they can't find anywhere to live
- Aged care facilities using nursing quarters with shared bathrooms to house staff
- Short-term rentals and investment properties sitting vacant
- New housing projects stalled due to lack of infrastructure funding

As your Independent MP, I will:

Increase Federal Investment in Social and Affordable Housing

The South West needs dedicated funding for housing that essential workers can afford. I will fight for a Regional Housing Investment Fund to build new social and affordable housing across our region. This includes advocating for partnerships with community housing providers and local governments to ensure developments meet community needs.

Reform Developer Regulations

Unrestricted development is destroying both affordability and livability. I will push for stronger oversight of property developers, including enforcement of mandatory affordable housing targets in new developments and stronger environmental protection standards. This includes requirements for community infrastructure and green space in all major developments.

Support First Home Buyers

Young people deserve a fair chance to enter the housing market. I will champion expanded support for first home buyers, including regional-specific programs that recognise the unique challenges in our community. This includes advocating for expanded shared equity schemes and deposit support programs targeted at essential workers.

Regional Infrastructure Funding

Critical infrastructure like sewerage, and connections for water and electricity are essential to enabling new homes to be built. Regional areas have been left behind when it comes to funding this type of infrastructure needed to kickstart housing projects. I'm backing a \$2 billion Regional Housing Infrastructure Fund to help unlock areas that local councils have already earmarked for housing projects in the South West.

Rebalance the incentives for Short-Term Rentals

The proliferation of short-term holiday rentals is impacting rental availability in tourist areas like Margaret River and Dunsborough. I want to see reforms that encourage the return of houses to the long term rental market . I'll also support penalties for developers who are land banking or deliberately keeping suitable rental properties vacant. Locals must have a home before tourists have a holiday house.

Everyone deserves an affordable, secure place to call home.

Environment

Our south west is the food bowl of Perth and our area and we need to ensure our productive farmland is protected and our farmers supported in their efforts to improve the health of their land. We have some of the highest quality produce in our region and we need to find solutions that provide certainty that everything that is grown is consumed- not left to waste in the fields dependent on the whim of a corporate buyer.

Repair our laws

Create a strong department of Environment

Promote a renewable economy where recycling is mandated and locally available

Protect what's left of our biodiversity here in the south west

Encourage sustainable and regenerative agriculture activities

Integrity

Publication of ministerial diaries

5 year Moratorium on work in industry associated with ministerial duties upon retirement as an MP

Truth in political advertising

Accountability for tax payer spending