

Public Sector Policy

The New Liberals economic policy gives us the latitude to think of public sector funding differently, insofar as our policies are not constrained by managing the 'lie' that a budget surplus should be the aim of all governments at all times.

We believe that all citizens have a human right to have access to high quality services that provide the basis of a productive life. We believe that a well-funded and capable public sector, without a profit motive, is always better placed to deliver citizen-centred services. Further, we do not believe that the private sector is always better placed to provide public services, although, we do recognise that well-developed and accountable public and private partnerships can contribute to a productive citizen life.

Our belief is that successive governments have taken a mostly systemic approach to the privatisation of public services. We believe that this has been a simple policy choice not an economic imperative and which is based on an ideology underpinned by:

- a belief that citizens are customers where individual 'choice' is the mantra. Where citizens are exposed to both market 'whims' and to providers that use 'choice' to exclude the uneconomically viable citizens from the services that they need;
- a belief in 'small' government where services are standardised, reduced and outsourced;
- a belief that the 'private' sector is always better; and
- a belief that government spending does not create value but is merely a cost that needs to be managed and reduced overtime.

We wholeheartedly reject this ideology. Instead, we will:

- invest in policies and services that create citizen value and not shareholder returns;
- create a public service that is 'sized' to achieve the purpose of growing the wealth of the nation;
- create a public service that moves away from contract management to delivering citizen value; and
- create a public service that treats citizens as human beings with different context, not as customers exposed to economic choice.

Governments around the world are currently flooding markets with liquidity (for example since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Australian Government has provided \$257 billion in direct economic support to cushion the blow and strengthen the recovery). It is vital that maximum citizen value is extracted from this investment. We will ensure that all public sector investment is measured against the citizen value it creates.

In conclusion, we will create policies that guard against creating a new privately-owned "public" sector, that lines the pockets of shareholders instead of helping to create a productive life for all Australians.