

As received from Progressive Party via Email

I have finally fought my way through to your questions. Our answers are:

"1. The Progressive Party does not have a policy on carers as such but has a comprehensive strategic social policy which is built on the assumption that as far as resources allow all citizens at whatever stage of their life have an entitlement to the best possible social services and in particular a comprehensive public health system. This includes the services of carers in appropriate circumstances e.g. for the elderly and frail, for the disabled and so forth.

2. Comprehensive high quality publicly resourced social services, including the provision of carer services is a key objective of Progressive Party policy.

3 Yes, as a coalition member of the current government we endorse this strategy

4 We see the strategy as a first step only. We anticipate if returned to government working to increase the resources available to this sector, particular for training and skill development purposes

5 It is clear from correspondence we regularly receive that the principal problem facing carers is the low level of remuneration in the sector. We encourage those who find themselves in this situation to join organisations which bargain collectively for better remuneration and working conditions.

Jim Anderton
M P for Wigram and Leader of the Progressive Party"

I hope that meets your requirements and I apologise once more for the delay in getting to you

Tony Simpson
Advisor