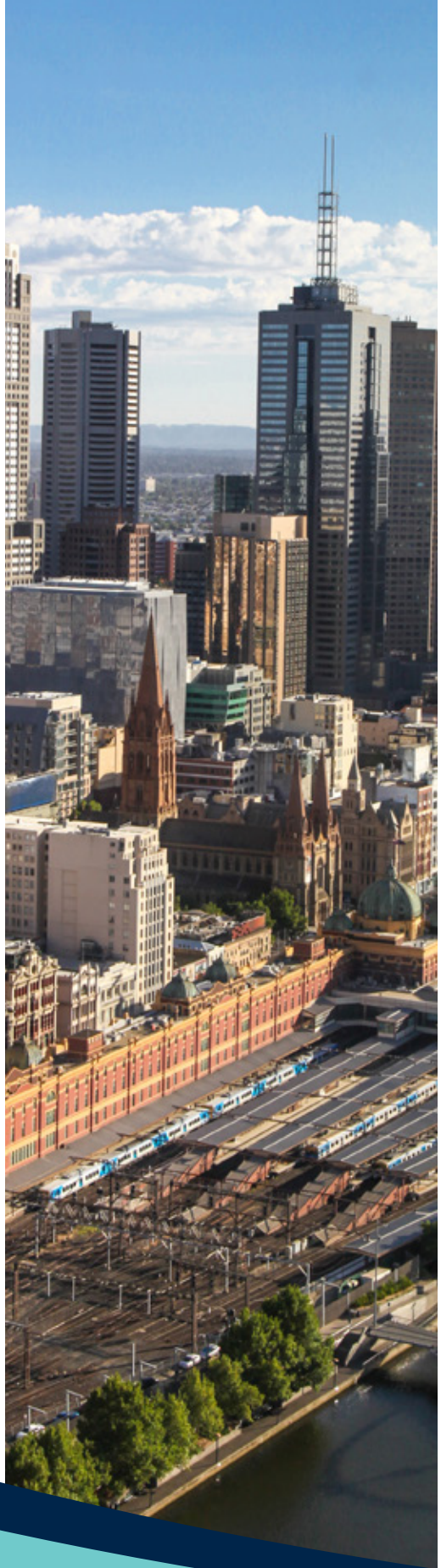






Victorian Election 2026:

Priorities for older Victorians

National Seniors AUSTRALIA

ELECTION PRIORITIES FOR OLDER VICTORIANS

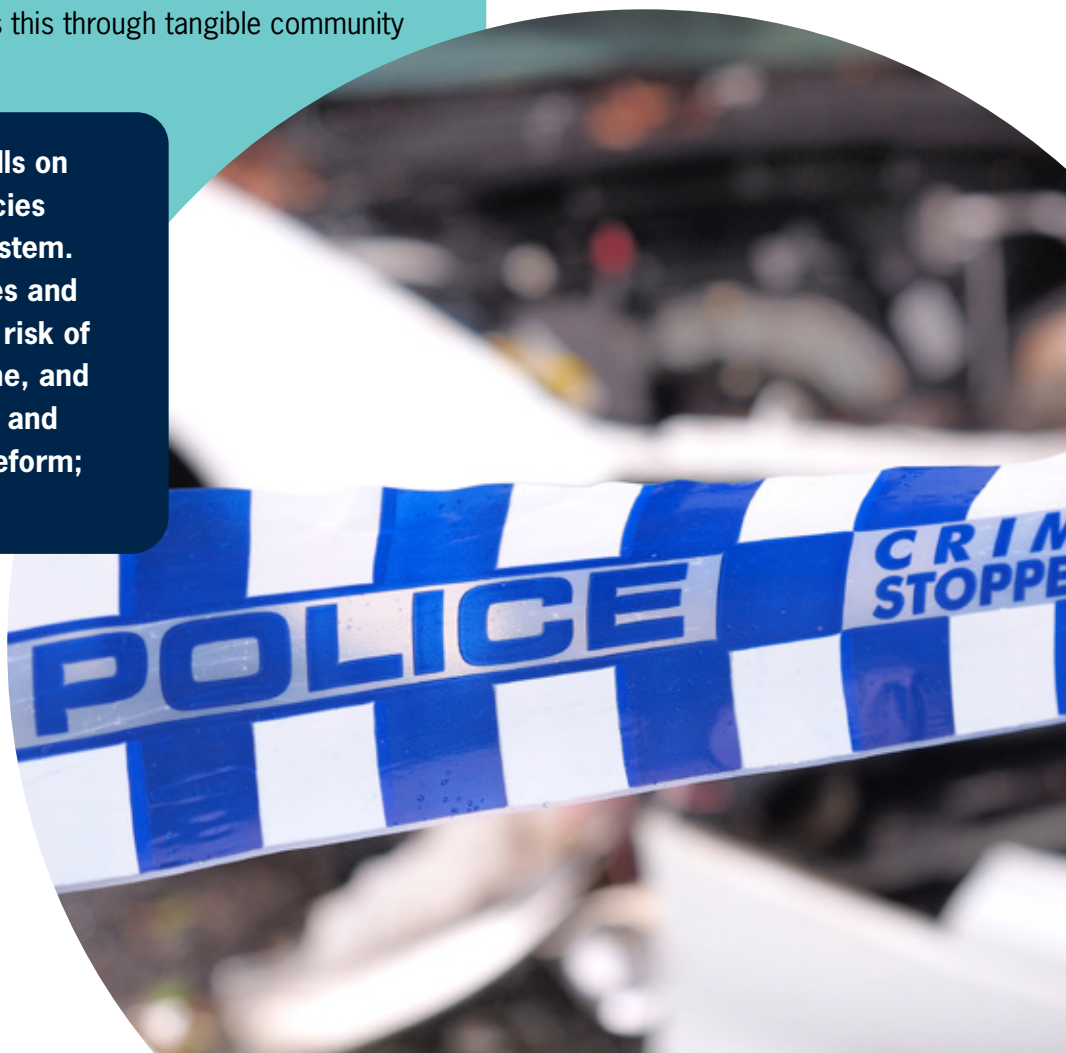
National Seniors Australia (NSA) is the peak consumer advocacy body for older people. With a community of over 300,000 Australians, including 35,000 Victorians, NSA is well placed to reflect the views of seniors. This election document draws on a recent survey that explored the key election concerns of seniors and ideas to improve Victoria. We ask that all candidates take seriously the concerns of older Victorians as an important part of the wider community.

1. Community safety

The most important election issue for older Victorians relates to the broader justice system – primarily issues such as community safety, crime, violence, and law and order.

Older people's feelings about community safety often reflect feelings of vulnerability. Every person should feel safe when in their home or when they move around their community. If they don't feel safe, government should take action to address this through tangible community safety measures.

National Seniors Australia calls on candidates to commit to policies that strengthen the justice system. Seniors want concrete policies and interventions that reduce the risk of crime, especially violent crime, and have suggested tougher laws and sentencing; bail and parole reform; and better funding for police.



2. Economic management

The second highest ranked issue relates to the economy. Specifically, economic management, government debt and fiscal sustainability as well as pressures from rising living costs, a lack of income and rising taxes.

The state of the Victorian economy has been a key part of the public debate since COVID-19 caused significant disruption. Blow outs in the cost of major projects and accusations of corruption and largesse have also created a negative picture of Victoria in the mind of the general population.

National Seniors Australia calls on candidates to adopt policies that improve economic management. Seniors want a focus on reduced government debt; increased government accountability and integrity; reductions in the cost of major projects; and reductions in public sector spending. Seniors also want better support for pensioners; and improved opportunities for jobs and economic participation.



3. Health care

The third highest ranked issue for older Victorians is the state of the health care system. While primarily a federal responsibility, the affordability of private health insurance was a significant issue raised by older Victorians. Concerns around aged care and access to home care; access to hospitals (including regional hospitals); and hospital wait times were also raised.

It is understandable that seniors are highly concerned about the state of the health care system given the increased reliance on health care services by the ageing population. Hospital use clearly increases with age, with people aged 85 years and over hospitalised at a rate of 1,511 per 1,000 population, compare to only 99 per 1,000 population among those aged 5–14.

Older people have told us they want to see greater funding for health services to improve access and reduce wait times, as well as better access to dental and aged care services specifically. They also want to see greater investments in preventative health interventions and a focus on ensuring an adequate and skilled health workforce.



4. Other issues

Other issues seniors want addressed by candidates during the state election relate to transport, fairness, housing, environment, infrastructure and education. Seniors specifically raised the affordability of rents; housing insecurity and homelessness and flagged the importance of respect, tolerance and social cohesion. They demonstrate that older people are not a homogenous group with singular or limited concerns, but a group that have a diversity of interests.

While it will be tempting for candidates to push a narrow agenda appealing to a specific group or set of concerns, it is important that candidates consider the interests of all Victorians, including older Victorians, during the election. This will ensure Victoria is a welcoming and prosperous state, whoever forms government.



National Seniors Australia (NSA)

NSA is the peak advocacy organisation representing the interests of older Australians. Established in 1976, NSA continues to grow as a national organisation representing over 300,000 seniors.

With a community of over 35,000 in Victoria, including four community branches in Berwick, Greensborough, Metro West and Yarra Ranges, NSA is a strong voice for older people in 'The Garden State'.



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