Economic recovery from COVID

What are people concerned about?

The path COVID has taken has highlighted the vulnerabilities of the economic model we all rely on. There have been very different economic impacts on communities, sectors and regions across Australia and here in the ACT as well.

Small businesses, tradies and the services industries, such as hospitality, have been severely impacted. Higher education has been smashed. Women, young people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, vulnerable groups, people with insecure jobs and remote communities have been hit hard.

There is a very real danger that the recovery from COVID will see a similar uneven sharing of economic benefits and opportunities.

What do people think the solutions should be?

Economic planning for post-COIVID needs to be inclusive, focus on resilience and explicitly factor in the real likelihood of future pandemics. The interconnection with climate change and severe weather events needs to be addressed.

The focus should be on sustainable economic opportunities that work for and support communities. The key role that small business plays in the economy should be a foundation stone, along with the important role played by services industries, the trades and the education sector.

There needs to be greater support for workers in insecure employment and a fairer deal for all people needing support through our welfare system.

Therefore, what is proACT calling for?

proACT believes economic recovery should build on the lived experience of people, businesses and communities. This will require an open and honest examination of how our society and economy fared throughout the COVID pandemic.

proACT believes this is an opportunity to prioritise a green recovery – let's build back better.

proACT believes a more diverse range of voices need to be heard in Parliamentary decision making. Voting for community-based independents – including a centre-progressive Independent Senator for the ACT - is a good way to achieve this.