

Misty Farquhar & Anna Brown
Rainbow Futures WA and Equality Australia
[REDACTED]

Dear Mx Farquhar and Ms Brown

Thank you for your letter seeking information about Greens (WA) policies in the lead up to the March 2021 state election. As the Greens spokesperson for sexuality and gender diversity I am pleased to respond on behalf of the party.

Does your party support strengthening anti-discrimination protections? If so, what actions will be taken to ensure they are enacted?

Yes. The Greens are committed to action to address gaps in anti-discrimination protections including the removal of all exceptions in the Equal Opportunity Act that permit discrimination against people on the basis of their gender identity.

Almost three years ago I introduced my Equal Opportunity (LGBTIQ Anti-Discrimination) Amendment Bill 2018 into the Legislative Council. It is incredibly disappointing to me, and to the wider community, that the Bill has not been passed and that WA religious schools can still legally discriminate against LGBTIQ parents, students and staff.

In addition to supporting reform of the Equal Opportunity Act, the Greens (WA) are also seeking to strengthen protection of fundamental human rights through the introduction of a Charter of Rights. Further information about our *A Charter of Rights for WA* election initiative can be accessed at:

<https://greens.org.au/sites/default/files/2021-01/Charter%20of%20Rights%20.pdf>

Does your party support ending conversion practices? If so, what actions will be taken to ensure they are enacted?

Yes. Banning conversion practices is an official Greens (WA) policy. I have undertaken significant work in this space including speaking at length in Parliament about the need to ban conversion practices, asking numerous questions pushing the Government to enact their previous but unpursued election commitment to implement a ban, and providing media comment about the desperate need for Western Australia to ban these harmful practices.

A sample of some of my recent work can be found as follows:

- Reporting from Out In Perth - <https://www.outinperth.com/xamon-its-not-enough-to-oppose-conversion-therapy-you-have-to-take-action/>
- Opinion piece - <https://www.outinperth.com/opinion-lgbtq-religious-conversion-therapy-is-still-hurting-western-australians/>
- Video of me speaking in Parliament on this issue - <https://www.facebook.com/alisonxamonmlc/videos/622550918637461>
- Welcoming the recent passage of Victoria's legislation - <https://www.facebook.com/alisonxamonmlc/photos/a.216951922072088/1130193970747874/>

Does your party support ensuring trans and gender diverse people can easily update their official documents? If so, what actions will be taken to ensure they are enacted?

Yes. The Greens believe that freedom of gender identity is a fundamental human right. The inclusion and celebration of people of diverse gender identities are essential for genuine social justice and equality.

The Greens (WA) are committed to encouraging and supporting legislation and actions that ensure that intersex and transgender people, without undertaking surgeries, are able to alter their sex on all official documents, consistent with how they live and identify, and irrespective of their marital status.

The Greens want the process for legal recognition of gender in Western Australia to be simplified, and for Western Australian birth certificates to have an X gender marker, in line with most of the rest of Australia.

Does your party support prohibiting medical interventions performed on people born with intersex variations? If so, what actions will be taken to ensure they are enacted?

Yes. The Greens (WA) will encourage and support legislation and actions that ensure permanent medical intervention of a cosmetic nature for people born with an intersex condition is made only when they are able to make the decision for themselves.

Does your party support ensuring people are not discriminated against in surrogacy laws? If so, what actions will be taken to ensure they are enacted?

Yes. The Greens (WA) will encourage and support legislation and actions that recognise that gender diversity should not be a factor in adoption, fostering, child custody rulings or access to artificial insemination, surrogacy, sperm donation and in vitro fertilisation programs.

What actions will be taken to improve government services to better recognise and accommodate the unique needs of LGBTIQ+ Western Australians?

The Greens (WA) will encourage and support legislation and actions that:

- ensure that Governments and their agencies consult with the LGBTIQ+ communities and representative groups on the development of policies and programs that affect them
- educate for understanding and acceptance and provide, within the education system, age-appropriate information about the diversity of sexuality and gender identities
- provide community awareness programs that lead to a greater understanding of the diversity of gender identities
- provide accurate information, appropriate referrals and counselling for individuals, parents and carers of young people, in relation to issues of diverse sexualities and gender issues
- provide adequate funding for services to support and protect people who identify as LGBTIQ+, in particular suicide prevention, peer support, coming out, counselling, health and housing programs
- fund and support organisations that provide information, support and referrals for transgender and intersex people, and people with gender dysphoria
- make refuges safe for people of diverse sexualities and gender identities and oppose discrimination against transgender women in accessing women's refuges
- improve and broaden the police, health services' and prison services' knowledge of and sensitivity towards LGBTIQ+ issues and further develop liaison between these services and the LGBTIQ+ community
- replace the state Gender Reassignment Board and remove surgery/hormone treatment as a requirement for legal gender change
- ensure that if transgender people are imprisoned, that they are committed to the correct prison for their lived and identified gender

How will your party support the development of a comprehensive whole-of-government LGBTIQ+ strategy to address the issues raised in this survey?

The Greens (WA) will continue their public and parliamentary advocacy to support the development of a whole of government LGBTIQ+ strategy as a mechanism to drive and prioritise much-needed reform.

Thank you again for writing to me seeking information about Greens' policies in the lead up to the 2021 state election. If re-elected in March, I will continue to advocate for improved access to LGBTIQ+ services, and for progress on law reform including the repeal of all state laws which are discriminatory on the grounds of sexuality and/or gender identity.

Thank you for your advocacy in this important area.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alison Xamon', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hon Alison Xamon MLC
Member for North Metropolitan

24 February 2021