



Misty Farquhar
Steering Group Member
Rainbow Futures WA

Dear Misty

Thank you for engaging WA Labor on LGBTIQ issues ahead of the March State Election.

I thank you for your consultation both with your consortium, but also members of Rainbow Labor and the wider WA Labor membership.

The McGowan Government understands the challenges faced by LGBTIQ people and has a strong record in supporting the LGBTIQ community in Western Australia. The Government is committed to righting past injustices and continues to seek equality for LGBTIQ Western Australians. As you are aware, since 2017 the McGowan Government has;

- Passed the Historical Homosexual Convictions Expungement Act 2018 (WA), in force since 2018, which enables certain convictions for historical homosexual offences to be expunged from a person's criminal record;
- Made changes to the Gender Reassignment Act 2000 (WA) made in 2019 to allow a gender recognition certificate to be issued to person who is married;
- Ensured the Bentley Hospital and Royal Perth Hospital Inpatient mental health services become WA's first public health services to gain Rainbow Tick accreditation;
- Worked with the community to ensure that trans people charged with crimes are incarcerated in the prison of which they identify their gender; and
- Released the WA Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex (LGBTI) Health Strategy 2019 – 2024, the first strategy of its kind, which sets out clear priorities and outcomes for the health system over the next five years.

There is of course more work to do. Should WA Labor be returned to Government, I am pleased to commit to working with Rainbow Futures WA to guide future policies and priorities for Western Australia.

The Rainbow Futures WA Consortium can also be assured that a re-elected McGowan Government remains committed to LGBTIQ+ law reform commenced in Government, including consideration of, and where appropriate action the recommendations of;

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- the Law Reform Commission of Western Australia's (LRCWA) review of the outdated *Equal Opportunity Act 1984 (WA)*;
- the independent review of the *Western Australian Human Reproductive Technology Act 1991* and the *Surrogacy Act 2008*; and
- the LRCWA's 'Project 108: Final Report 'Review of Western Australian legislation in relation to the recognition of a person's sex, change of sex or intersex status'.

If re-elected, we will also;

- Create a dedicated LGBTIQ+ officer within the Department of Health as recommended in the WA's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex (LGBTI) Health Strategy 2019 – 2024; and
- Ban the practise of conversion therapy through the implementation of the National Code of Conduct for unregulated healthcare workers including the introduction of legislation and/or regulations necessary to give affect to the Code.

We are aware that the current state of emergency has led to significant resources being directed to the health and economic impacts of COVID-19. The Premier announced on 26 March 2020 that key Government priorities including the public sector reform program had been deferred. Against that backdrop all agencies have been adjusting their work program and, accordingly, the Department of Justice and Department of Health's finite resources have been largely directed to assisting the State in its response to the COVID-19 pandemic

I assure you consideration of these reports and their related reforms will continue if the Government is returned to office.

I appreciate the opportunity to respond to Rainbow Futures WA's concerns, and look forward to working with you on these important matters should the McGowan Government be re-elected.

Yours sincerely



Mark McGowan MLA
PREMIER; WA LABOR LEADER

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