

## Equality Australia

The Australian Greens believe that all people have fundamental human rights and are entitled to equal protection of the law without any discrimination, including on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex variations.

### A voice for LGBTIQ+ people in decisions

LGBTIQ+ issues need to be heard at the highest levels of government and implemented across portfolios. As part of our whole of government inclusion strategy, the Greens will:

- Appoint a Minister for Equality, supported within a Department, to ensure issues affecting LGBTIQ+ communities are represented in cabinet;
- Appoint an LGBTIQ+ Human Rights Commissioner, to ensure LGBTIQ+ people are protected from discrimination on the basis of sex, sexuality, gender identity and sex characteristics, and;
- Establish a Ministerial Advisory Group to provide strategic advice to all ministers, and ensure decisions regarding LGBTIQ+ communities are made only after meaningful consultation. The work of the group will be supported by working groups across departments that will ensure a whole of government approach to policy making.

### Improving data collection and recognition of LGBTIQ+ populations

The Australian Greens believe that the contribution of people with diverse sexualities, gender identities, intersex variations and their communities is unique and valuable to the Australian community. That's why we want to see the Australian Bureau of Statistics and other relevant agencies to improve statistical data collection on people with diverse sexualities, gender identities, and intersex variations, and their families.

The Greens will allocate \$10m in dedicated funding to implement Australian Bureau of Statistics 2020 Standard on Sex, Gender, Variations in Sex Characteristics, and Sexual Orientation Variables in data collection across Government, including through the Census.

As part of the work of the Minister for Equality, the Greens will call for a review of the Australian Government Guidelines on the Recognition of Sex and Gender to allow people to update their gender markers through a simple, whole-of-government administrative process.

We will also provide \$600,000 per year in dedicated funding to support ongoing data collection on the needs and experiences of LGBTIQ+ communities, such as the Private Lives and Writing Themselves In projects.

## Protecting LGBTIQ+ people from discrimination

Society should be free of harassment, abuse, vilification, stigmatisation, discrimination, disadvantage or exploitation on the basis of the actual or perceived sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex variations of a person, or someone they are associated with.

The Australian Greens have consistently advocated for changes to legislation to remove discrimination, including introducing:

- [amendments that would have provided protections under the Fair Work Act for trans and gender diverse people and people with intersex variations;](#)
- [amendments to the Sex Discrimination Act and the Fair Work Act](#) that would have provided protections for LGBTQA+ teachers and students, and prevented religious schools from discriminating when they provide services to the general public;

The Australian Greens will continue to advocate for these changes in future Parliaments, to ensure we can achieve genuine equality. We will specifically commit more than \$24m over four years, and additional funding on an ongoing basis, to protect LGBTIQ+ rights in law, including:

- a review of outdated provisions of the *Sex Discrimination Act* (including s43A), and opportunities to strengthen it including providing protections for LGBTIQ+ people from vilification and hate-based conduct, and;
- removing discrimination exemptions for religious organisations.

In addition, we will also require that all services (including health and social services) that receive government funding must be required to agree to anti-discriminatory practice.

The Australian Greens would also commit an [additional \\$490m per year to double the current National Legal Assistance Partnership \(NLAP\)](#) funding for legal assistance services, including for those assisting LGBTIQ+ Australians. We would also commit \$300,000 for a study into the unmet legal needs of LGBTIQ+ communities, with a view to developing a health justice partnership proposal for responding to those needs.

## Protecting LGBTIQ+ students and teachers

The Greens will make schools safer for LGBTIQ+ students and teachers by:

- removing provisions that enable discrimination in schools on religious grounds, including s38 of the *Sex Discrimination Act*;

- providing over \$50m in funding to enable every current and new teacher to receive training on LGBTIQ+ inclusion, and refreshers every five years;
- creating and implementing guidelines and an inclusive curriculum for schools, including ensuring that the health and physical education curriculum, including sexual education, is LGBTIQ+ inclusive, and;
- scrapping the School Chaplains Program and investing the \$61m a year in secular, inclusive support for students through counsellors and anti-bullying initiatives such as the Safe Schools Program.

## Health and wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ people

### National health and wellbeing plan

LGBTIQ+ people have health care needs which are not always met by the current system. The Greens will provide dedicated funding to establish a national LGBTIQ+ health and wellbeing action plan. The Greens will provide \$285m to ensure all LGBTIQ+ people have access to holistic and comprehensive health services regardless of whether they live in a capital city or a rural town. It will include national standards and training for health professionals to ensure they can provide world class care to LGBTIQ+ patients, particularly patients who are transgender, gender diverse or non binary or have intersex variations.

### Supporting sexual orientation and gender identity change efforts survivors

We know from survivors that the LGBTQ+ Conversion movement extends further than formalised 'therapies' and that sexual orientation and gender identity change efforts pervade some religious communities, faith-based organisations, schools and the counselling industry in dangerous ways. The Greens will adopt and provide \$125m to fund the approach recommended in the [Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Change Efforts Survivor Statement](#), including funding for survivor groups, a national inquiry, a public health and awareness campaign, and work towards developing a redress scheme. We will continue to advocate at state and federal levels for a complete ban on reparative, sexual orientation and gender identity conversion therapies.

### Ending HIV transmission

The Australian Greens will fund and implement in full the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations [Agenda 2025](#), including funding of more than \$53m to:

- Create a Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) item so doctors can provide patients with a human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) self-test they can use at home between clinical visits;
- Create an MBS item for rapid HIV testing so doctors can give initial results while awaiting lab confirmation, and;

- Establish minimum service levels and a national partnership agreement with States and Territories for community led education and services, surveillance and public sexual health care.

## LGBTIQA+ inclusion in sport

The Australian Greens support the work undertaken by Proud 2 Play and other national and community organisations around Australia to improve inclusion in sport. The Greens will commit \$10m in funding for public education about the importance of inclusion for trans, gender diverse and non binary people, including in sport. We will always fight changes to s42 of the *Sex Discrimination Act* that seek to make it harder for trans gender diverse and non binary people to participate in sport.

## Health and wellbeing for trans, gender diverse and non binary people

There are significant gaps and barriers for people trying to access gender affirming healthcare. In addition to the broader measures set out as part of the national health and wellbeing plan, the Greens will provide dedicated funding of \$15 million to cover the out of pocket costs experienced by trans, gender diverse and non binary people in accessing gender affirming healthcare.

As set out in our [policy](#), the Greens believe that trans, gender diverse and non binary young people should have the freedom to affirm their gender, and that any medical interventions involved in this process should be guided by the young person, their families and their medical specialists. That's why we want to see the removal of the requirement of a court order to allow access to hormone treatment for transgender young people.

## Health and human rights for people born with intersex variations

The Australian Greens will provide \$132m in funding to implement the *Darlington Statement* developed by Australian and Aotearoa/New Zealand organisations and independent advocates for the rights of people with intersex variations. That implementation plan will include:

- Funding for the public service to examine and begin implementation of a redress scheme for people with intersex variations who have undergone forced or coercive medical practices;
- Work to examine a nationally consistent, legislated approach to preventing so-called 'normalising' medical interventions, undertaken without consent, on people with intersex variations;
- \$3m per year for additional funding to better understand and support the needs of people with intersex variations;

- \$4m in funding for community lead organisations, to support advocacy and peer-support, and;
- \$4m per year for additional funding for education of health, welfare and allied professionals in issues relating to intersex variations, including human rights issues.

## Protecting LGBTIQ+ people beyond our borders

### Foreign policy and defence

The Australian Greens want to see a foreign policy approach that centres human rights. As part of that, the Australian Greens would ensure Australia adopts an approach of advocating for LGBTIQ+ human rights in bilateral and multilateral fora, including advocating for law reform in our region and in the Commonwealth of Nations. We would also:

- Provide dedicated funding of \$300,000 to establish a network of LGBTIQ+ organisations, development agencies, human rights organisations, philanthropy and academia to promote and protect the rights of LGBTIQ+ people regionally and across the globe;
- Provide \$10m in funding to improve inclusion training and communications in the Australian Defence Force, and;
- Establish an aid program within the broader aid program to support LGBTIQ+ communities internationally.

### Asylum seekers and refugees

LGBTIQ+ people seeking asylum have been the subject of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment for the political benefit of the Liberal and Labor parties. Both major parties support indefinite detention for people who seek safety in Australia, including LGBTIQ+ asylum seekers.

The Australian Greens policy would:

- End cruel and unnecessary offshore detention, bringing refugees to safety and freedom in Australia, and ensuring we create a fairer and safer system that helps more people and meets our international obligations;
- Increase Australia's humanitarian intake to 50,000 per year;
- Provide 20,000 humanitarian places for refugees from Afghanistan and 20,000 places for refugees from Ukraine, and protect Afghan and Ukrainian citizens already in Australia;
- Establish a regional solution for people seeking asylum;
- Introduce a 7 day limit for onshore detention and provide fair support for people seeking asylum, and;

- Abolish Temporary Protection Visas and reintroduce Permanent Protection Visas for refugees.

This would ensure that Australia is not refouling refugees, including guaranteeing that no LGBTIQ+ refugee or asylum seeker is placed or resettled in any country that cannot genuinely guarantee their safety.

As part of our specific measures to protect LGBTIQ+ refugees, the Greens would:

- Establish an internal target for LGBTIQ+ refugees for people who have fled persecution from their home countries based on sexuality, gender identity or intersex variations;
- Provide dedicated funding to ensure adequate and appropriate training for departmental staff so they are equipped to appropriately assess applications from LGBTIQ+ people seeking asylum, and;
- Invest \$40m in funding into local organisations and sponsors groups working on LGBTIQ+ refugee resettlement within the private sponsorship of refugees program.

## Supporting LGBTIQ+ community organisations

The Australian Greens want core and ongoing funding for community organisations established to support people with diverse sexuality, gender identities and intersex variations. That's why we will provide a \$70 million grants fund for community groups, including consultation with the Ministerial Advisory Group about priorities and a transparent allocation process.

We will support the introduction of a category in the Income Tax Assessment Act that allows deductible gifts to be made to organisations established to advance the welfare and rights of LGBTIQ+ people.

## Family, domestic and sexual violence

The Greens recognise that LGBTIQ+ people experience higher risk of family, domestic and sexual violence, and often struggle to access advice and support. The Greens have committed \$12 billion for the next National Plan for Ending Violence Against Women and Children, focusing on prevention, early intervention, frontline response and recovery services. The plan will fund dedicated, secure, long-term funding for specialist services, including for LGBTIQ+ victim-survivors, fund data collection and research bodies to better understand and address the drivers of violence, and strengthen and harmonise criminal justice responses.

We will also fund comprehensive, expert-led, age-appropriate Respectful Relationships Education in all public schools which will address gender diversity and same sex relationships.

We are committed to full implementation of all recommendations in Set the Standard, including strategies for greater diversity and inclusivity in parliament and parliamentary workplaces. We have also called for similar workplace inclusivity strategies for the Australian Public Service

## Housing and homelessness

More and more people are locked out of home ownership and at the mercy of the private rental market. Liberal and Labor have given big banks, property developers and the real estate industry too much power, and now rents have gone through the roof. As a result, homelessness is on the rise and the waiting list for public housing is growing. Over a million Australian households are paying more in rent than they can afford.

### The Greens plan includes:

- Building one million new publicly-owned, affordable, high-quality and sustainable homes;
- Establishing national standards for renters rights – including capping rent increases, stopping ‘no-grounds’ evictions and supporting tenants to make their house a home;
- Increasing funding to tenants advocacy services by \$30 million a year, and;
- [Boosting funding for homelessness services by \\$550 million per year over the next ten years.](#)

As part of our housing commitments, the Australian Greens will commit \$25 million to specifically address the housing needs of LGBTIQ+ Australians, including trans, gender diverse and non-binary people.