

# Rainbow Votes Survey: Spender Responses

## **I support the top 5 LGBTIQ+ Issues**

1. End conversion practices
2. Improve protections from discrimination
3. End unnecessary, non- consensual medical treatments on intersex people
4. Remove barriers to parenthood and support rainbow families
5. Deliver improved LGBTIQ+ mental health and suicide prevention

## **Health and wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ people**

It is shameful that LGBTIQ+ Australians continue to face poorer health outcomes and barriers to accessing the care and treatment that they need.

I fully support the *National Action Plan for the Health and Wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ People* and will push Government to ensure the three-year implementation strategy is developed and its promised funding is used to deliver measurable outcomes with clear deadlines.

I support better training of counsellors, government funded chaplains and health practitioners to ensure all people are permitted to be who they are, and that attempts are not made to change or suppress a person's sexual orientation or gender identity. To this end, I support the government's recent announcement of \$10m to upskill doctors and nurses so they can provide "inclusive, culturally safe" healthcare for LGBTIQ+ and a new accreditation program.

I also fully support increasing the availability of gender affirming care for trans people in Australia, as well as implementing national standards recommended by the NHMRC and based on evidence to end uncertainty.

I am also passionate about ending HIV transmission in Australia, using the evidenced-based approach outlined in the *HIV Taskforce Report (2023)*. For over 30 years, organisations in Wentworth, such as St Vincents Hospital, have played a leading role in the near elimination of HIV transmission in Australia and I'm proud to support them. I believe ending HIV is an urgent but achievable aspiration and I support making PrEP and PEP free for Australians with a prescription so that cost is not what stops us finally defeating HIV.

## **Protecting LGBTIQ+ people from discrimination and vilification**

No Australian should face discrimination because of who they are, be that based on their gender, sexuality, faith, ethnicity or disability.

I am a strong advocate for new laws to stop the promotion of hatred against LGBTIQ+ community by hate preachers and neo-Nazis. In February this year, I worked closely with Equality Australia to introduce amendments to the Government's Criminal Code Amendment (Hate Crimes) Bill to outlaw serious vilification and the promotion of hatred. I moved this to ensure hate is not permitted to fester, ultimately ending in acts of violence. I also did so in acknowledgment of the fear and psychological damage caused by hate speech and vilification. It is incredibly disappointing that neither major party supported these amendments.

I am also focussed on changing the Sex Discrimination Act – as recommended by [Australian Law Reform Commission](#) - so that LGBTIQ+ teachers and students cannot be kicked out of religious schools for who they are or who they love.

I pushed this very hard during the current parliament – publicly, and by writing to both Attorney General and Shadow Attorney General asking them to make the change. I support repealing section

38 of the Sex Discrimination Act and I will continue to fight for this in the next parliament. You can view my latest media release [here](#).

I will also continue to call out promotion of hate by politicians and support a Commissioner for LGBTIQ+ people to oversee and promote protections. I have also previously moved amendments in parliament that would have expanded workplace discrimination protections so that they properly cover the LGBTIQ+ community.

I stand proudly with LGBTIQ+ people at every opportunity and have joined the Mardis Gras parade four years in a row on the *'Independents for Inclusion'* float to publicly declare my support for the community.

### **Ending unnecessary, non-consensual treatments on intersex people**

Nobody should be subjected to cosmetic, non-consensual body alterations, particularly children.

I support the Australian Human Rights Commission in their calls for legislative and regulatory reform to ensure freedom from harmful practices and to prevent unnecessary medical interventions on intersex people.

While this is largely an issue for state governments and some are already progressing various legislation, I believe this is an opportunity for the Federal Government to take a leadership role in preventing cosmetic medical interventions.

I acknowledge the incomprehension, stigmatisation and harm experienced by people with variations of sex characteristics, their need for support and, the importance of educating the wider community to avoid discrimination.

### **Removing barriers to parenthood and supporting rainbow families**

I support equal legal recognition and access for rainbow families including the same Medicare-funded fertility treatments and surrogacy laws for all patients, and inclusive policies, forms and processes across federal agencies.

### **A voice for LGBTIQ+ people in government decisions**

As an Independent who represents one of the largest LGBTIQ+ communities in the country, I will continue to be one of the strongest voices in parliament for the community.

I support the development of a whole-of-government LGBTIQ+ strategy.

### **Protecting LGBTIQ+ people beyond our borders**

I condemn international human rights abuses and discrimination against LGBTIQ+ people and I support the promotion of LGBTIQ+ rights and equality – including issues such as legal discrimination, social stigma, and economic and social marginalisation globally.

I support Australia engaging in multilateral forums like the UN Human Rights Council and other international bodies to promote LGBTIQ+ rights and acknowledges the importance of both public and quiet diplomacy to promote shifts towards inclusion and rights for LGBTIQ+ people.

I support asylum claims on the basis of LGBTIQ+ status being treated appropriately, without discrimination.

I am deeply concerned by the funding cuts to USAID which will affect the availability of treatments, including HIV in developing countries and slow progress towards eradication globally.

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

I [advocated strongly](#) and helped secure the inclusion of LGBTIQ people in the census.

I support continued refinement of census questions after the next census, so people with variations of sex characteristics are also included.

I also support reviewing and updating of the *Australian Government Guidelines on the Recognition of Sex and Gender* to reflect accurate terminology in relation to intersex people, and to streamline the process of updating records.

### **Supporting LGBTIQ+ community organisations**

I support reliable, ongoing funding for LGBTIQ+ community organisations.

### **Other commitments relevant to LGBTIQ+ people**

Like many in the community, I have had enough of the culture wars around trans rights, used by politicians to stoke fear and division in the community. I will continue to call out this behaviour whenever it happens with the hope that Australia can move beyond this divisive and hateful rhetoric.

I commit to continuing my close engagement with the LGBTIQ+ community on policy issues and legislation in the next term. I will continue to be a strong advocate for a safe, kind and diverse Wentworth – and Australia more broadly.

Apart from these specific issues, my core policy priorities for the next term include:

- Lowering living costs
- Accelerating climate action
- Building a smarter economy
- Creating a kinder society; and
- Integrity in politics

For full details, go to: [www.AllegraSpender.com.au](http://www.AllegraSpender.com.au)