

The Coalition's Response to Equality Australia

2025 Federal Election Questionnaire

Health and wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ people

The Coalition supports the National Action Plan for the Health & Wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ people and a Dutton Government would work with key stakeholders around its implementation.

In particular, improving health literacy, improving research, data, and evaluation and ensuring workforce capability and capacity will be key areas of focus.

A Dutton Coalition Government will invest \$9.4 billion into Medicare to fix Labor's primary healthcare crisis and restore bulk billing back up to Coalition levels and to invest in mental health.

This investment includes our \$500 million commitment already announced to restore critical Medicare funding for mental health support, after it was slashed in half by the Albanese Government from 20 sessions to 10.

We will also address the health workforce crisis through a substantial and comprehensive suite of measures. This includes extra medical student places, extra places for postgraduate GP training, nursing scholarships and incentives for junior doctors to pursue a career in General Practice.

When last in Government, the Coalition launched the fourth National Strategy for blood-borne viruses (BBV) and sexually transmissible infections (STI).

The Coalition took a critical step in helping end the transmission of HIV infection in Australia with listing of tenofovir with emtricitabine (also known as Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)) on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Schedule (PBS).

In 2021, the Coalition invested over \$50 million in new funding to extend access to HIV treatment in Australia and to support activities that will support the health and mental wellbeing of people living with blood borne viruses and sexually transmissible infections. This included \$39 million over 5 years to support people living with HIV in Australia, who are not eligible for Medicare, to access the treatment they need.

We will continue to work with key stakeholders to progress the elimination of HIV in Australia.

The Coalition does not support LGBTIQ+ conversion therapy.

Several laws related to public health services, including the provision of medical services to intersex individuals, are a matter for States and Territories.

The Australian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis & Sexual Health Medicine and LGBTIQ+ Health Australia are two organisations which received funding under the third round of the Health Peak and Advisory Bodies Program that was originally established by the Coalition in 2016.

Protecting LGBTIQ+ people from discrimination and vilification

It is simply unacceptable to advocate force or violence against someone because of their personal characteristics or the groups they belong to. No LGBTIQ+ Australian should ever be subject to violent attacks or hate because of who they are.

The Coalition provided bipartisan support to strengthen the criminal code for those committing hate crimes, particularly around advocating the use of force or violence and the display of hate symbols.

We strengthened this Bill to ensure that those who are advocating force or violence against a particular group of people, including the LGBTIQ+ community, would be captured under the criminal code.

This legislation was an important step in ensuring that all Australians are protected, no matter their background, religion or the community they belong to.

The Coalition will continue to consult across the community to ensure that all Australians are protected from discrimination, and will take a measured, consultative approach to that issue.

We don't propose to introduce a *Human Rights Act*.

A voice for LGBTIQ+ people in Government beyond our borders

The Coalition has consistently championed the indivisibility, universality and inalienability of human rights in our foreign policy approach, including ending discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and the protection of the rights of LGBTIQ+ people. We believe the promotion and protection of human rights underpins sustainable peace and prosperity for individuals, communities and societies as a whole.

In Government, our Foreign Minister instructed Australia's Ambassadors and High Commissioners to ensure engagement on human rights issues were a core part of Australia's bilateral relationships. We support Australia using all avenues to advocate for those experiencing discrimination, including directly with other states, through our development program, and in partnership with civil society.

Improving data collection and recognition of LGBTIQ+ populations

The Coalition will consider any advice provided by the public service with a view to ensuring that data collection and record keeping processes remain fit for purpose, including in relation to intersex people.

Supporting LGBTIQ+ community organisations

The Coalition will continue to support community organisations with a wide range of grant programs.