

RAINBOW VOTES 2025 - WHERE THEY STAND

**Summary of federal election
party questionnaire responses**

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2025


POLITICAL PARTY POLICY COMPARISON

The following comparison sets out a summary of responses provided by major political parties to a questionnaire conducted by Equality Australia in 2025 ahead of the federal election. This side-by-side overview captures the extent to which each party has committed to advancing the rights and wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ people in Australia across a range of key issues. The questions put to political parties were based on the priorities identified by nearly 5,500 LGBTIQ+ voters who participated in the Rainbow Votes 2025 survey. You can read more in the full [Rainbow Votes 2025 Report](#), and also view full responses from the parties.


The information below reflects what parties have chosen to share in response to our questionnaire and may not capture the full scope of each party's election platforms. For further details, you can visit each party's website or policy documents, or ask your local candidates for their position on these issues.



POLICY AREA	ISSUE	LIBERAL-NATIONAL COALITION	AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY	AUSTRALIAN GREENS
 <p>HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF LGBTIQ+ PEOPLE</p>	<p>Implementation of the National Action Plan for the Health and Wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ People (the Plan)</p>	<p>Supports the National Action Plan for the Health & Wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ people.</p> <p>Would work with key stakeholders around its implementation.</p> <p>In particular, improving health literacy, improving research, data, and evaluation and ensuring workforce capability and capacity will be key areas of focus.</p>	<p>Launched and invested \$15.5m in the implementation of the Plan and promises an additional \$10m post-election to subsidise training for primary healthcare providers.</p> <p>Commit to ongoing community advisory arrangements to guide implementation and inform policy decisions.</p> <p>Continuation of funding for LGBTIQ+ community programs including qheadsace and QLife.</p>	<p>Committed to national standards, LGBTIQ+ organisation funding, education and workforce training, invest in LGBTIQ+-specific mental health programs and services. Costed policies.</p>
	<p>Conversion practices</p>	<p>Does not support conversion practices.</p>	<p>Opposes damaging and discredited conversion practices.</p> <p>Supports and territory actions to address.</p>	<p>Committed to national, government-led inquiry into conversion movement and funding for:</p> <p>LGBTQIA+ organisations and peer support groups to deliver self-advocacy programs for survivors</p>


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			Considers regulation and criminalisation to be a state/territory matter.	Public health and awareness campaigns Professional development around conversion practices for health practitioners.
	Gender-affirming health care	No response to this specific issue.	Referred to \$22m in research funding announced in 2023 for various projects relating to gender affirming care and current development by NHMRC review of national guidelines, along with current review by Medical Services Advisory Committee of an application which proposes new and amended items for gender affirming care. Notes care delivery, including by specialist gender services, is provided by states and territories.	Committed to free and publicly accessible gender-affirming care. Costed.
	Ending HIV transmission	Referred to previous achievements: 4th National Strategy for bloodborne viruses and sexually transmissible infections; funding for Australian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis & Sexual Health Medicine and LGBTIQ+ Health Australia in 2016; listing of PrEP on PBS; \$59m investment in HIV treatment in 2021.	Referred to previous achievements: establishment of HIV Taskforce and delivery of report (2022-23); commitment in 2024-25 budget to respond to recommendations of Taskforce; and incorporation of those recommendations into 9 th National HIV Strategy (2024-2030). Goal is virtual elimination of transmission of HIV in Australia, ensuring people living with HIV can have healthy lives free of stigma and discrimination.	Fully support National HIV Strategy and Taskforce, including the 2023 Report. Fully support Australian Federation of Aids Organisations (AFAO) Agenda 2025 (now Health Equity Matters) proposal, and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting doctors to provide patients with an HIV self-test they can use at home between clinical visits Establishing minimum service levels and a national partnership agreement with states and territories for


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		<p>Would continue to work with key stakeholders to progress the elimination of HIV in Australia.</p>		<p>community-led education and services, surveillance and public sexual health care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing adequate funding to address remaining components of Agenda. • Fully costed plan to make PrEP and PEP free under Medicare for anyone with a prescription.
 <p>PROTECTING LGBTIQ+ PEOPLE FROM DISCRIMINATION AND VILIFICATION</p>	<p>Anti-discrimination law reform</p>	<p>Would continue to consult across the community to ensure that all Australians are protected from discrimination, and would take a measured, consultative approach to that issue.</p>	<p>Stated commitment to protecting all Australians from discrimination.</p> <p>Drafted legislation to prevent discrimination against people of faith and protect students and teachers from discrimination during the current term won't continue without bipartisan support.</p> <p>Cites lack of Coalition engagement on draft legislation. Considers that legislation should only proceed if it would unite Australians and not divide us.</p>	<p>Committed to reforming legal provisions that enable discrimination in schools, funding professional development (via state and territory governments) to enable schools to offer LGBTIQ+ inclusion programs, inclusive guidelines and curriculums promoting inclusivity for schools, and ensuring all services funded by government including health and social services agree to anti-discrimination measures.</p>
	<p>Addressing hate and violence</p>	<p>Strong statement against advocating force or violence, and violent attacks or hate against LGBTIQ+ Australians.</p> <p>Referred to bipartisan support for 2025 hate crimes legislation</p>	<p>Referred to recent hate crimes legislation which recently passed into law.</p> <p>Commit to establishing a Hate Crimes and Incidents Database, and a national working group and consultation with</p>	<p>Would appoint an LGBTIQ+ Human Rights Commissioner and ensure adequate funding for government departments and agencies to develop pathways for consultation on issues impacting LGBTIQ+ communities.</p>

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		protecting LGBTIQ+ people for the first time.	<p>affected community groups on its design.</p> <p>Addressing gender-based violence considered a national priority, and includes LGBTIQ+ people and children. Funding committed to front line service delivery, a national framework and other projects.</p>	Support strengthening protections for vulnerable and targeted communities.
	A Human Rights Act for Australia	Does not propose a Human Rights Act.	<p>Strong statement in support of protecting and promoting human rights.</p> <p>Government considering recommendations of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights regarding a potential Human Rights Act.</p>	<p>Committed to legislating a national Human Rights Act.</p> <p>Specifically committed to rights to free speech, access to housing to a safe environment, right to protest, as well as strengthening human rights institutions.</p>
	LGBTIQ+ Commissioner	No response to this specific issue.	Referred to the Sex Discrimination Commissioner having the responsibility to promoting the rights of our communities.	Would appoint an LGBTIQ+ Human Rights Commissioner, and make sure there is adequate funding for government departments and agencies to develop pathways for consultation on issues that impact LGBTIQ+ communications.


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 <p>MEDICAL TREATMENTS ON INTERSEX PEOPLE</p>	<p>Ending unnecessary, non-consensual medical interventions on intersex people</p>	<p>Considered a matter for states and territories.</p>	<p>Strong statement on protecting Australians from discrimination. Considered a matter for states and territories.</p>	<p>Recognise that people with variations in sex characteristics, and intersex status continue to face discrimination regarding health outcomes, including the undergoing of unnecessary medical procedures without their consent.</p> <p>Committed to fully implementing the recommendations of Darlington Statement.</p> <p>Would provide funding for additional research to better understand and support the needs of people with variations in sex characteristics, and intersex status.</p>
	<p>Redress and support for intersex people</p>	<p>No response to this specific issue.</p>	<p>No response to this specific issue.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> In 2024, a multi-institutional research team was awarded nearly \$5m in federal government funding to improve health and wellbeing, and \$500k was awarded to InterLink psychosocial support program.</p>	<p>Would provide funding for public service to examine and begin implementation of a redress scheme for people who have undergone forced or coercive medical practices.</p>

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 <p>REMOVING BARRIERS TO PARENTHOOD AND SUPPORTING RAINBOW FAMILIES</p>	<p>Legal recognition and inclusive practices</p>	<p>No response to this specific issue.</p>	<p>Has recently made it more equitable for same-sex couples and single people accessing Medicare rebates by recognising an expanded definition of infertility.</p>	<p>Supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reform to enhance access to IVF by removing the infertility requirement • Doubling Medicare rebates in this space • Ensuring equitable access for LGBTIQ+ individuals and couples, including those accessing subsidised IVF treatment through altruistic surrogacy.
 <p>A VOICE FOR LGBTIQ+ PEOPLE IN GOVERNMENT DECISIONS</p>	<p>Dedicated Minister or government office</p>	<p>No response to this specific issue.</p>	<p>Ministers remain readily available for engagement with community. Have established advisory models on health and HIV.</p> <p>Commit to ongoing community engagement and advisory models.</p>	<p>Would continue to have a portfolio spokesperson for LGBTIQ+ matters. Committed to ensuring LGBTIQ+ issues are central to government decision-making and ensuring that LGBTIQ+ voices are heard at the highest levels of government.</p>
	<p>Whole-of-government strategy</p>	<p>No response to this specific issue.</p>	<p>No response to this specific issue.</p>	<p>Supportive of a whole-of-government LGBTIQ+ equality strategy and would continue to advocate for government commitment to equality, including providing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • funding for departments and agencies to develop reference or advisory groups on portfolio issues that impact LGBTIQ+ communities

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> grants to community groups and organisations in a transparent manner, so that they are adequately resourced to contribute to advisory groups about priorities.
 <p>PROTECTING LGBTIQ+ PEOPLE BEYOND OUR BORDERS</p>	<p>Foreign policy strategy</p>	<p>Strong statement that the Coalition champions human rights in foreign policy approach, including ending discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and protection of the rights of LGBTIQ+ people.</p>	<p>Strong statement about support for human rights of LGBTIQ+ people internationally.</p> <p>Referred to previous achievements: announcement of DFAT strategy; co-led resolution in Human Rights Council regarding intersex people.</p> <p>Would finalise and implement a dedicated LGBTIQ+ human rights engagement strategy, ensuring our bilateral and multilateral diplomacy, development and humanitarian assistance helps support the priorities and needs of LGBTIQ+ people.</p>	<p>Committed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring Australia adopts an approach of advocating for LGBTIQ+ rights in bilateral and multilateral fora, including advocating for law reform in our region and the Commonwealth of Nations Advocating for and fully funding an aid program to support LGBTIQ+ communities internationally.
	<p>Dedicated staff resourcing in Dept Foreign Affairs and Trade, including special envoy or ambassador</p>	<p>No response to this specific issue.</p>	<p>Referred to previous achievements: Established Human Rights Ambassador with specific responsibility for LGBTIQ+ rights , supported by Australia's Ambassador for Gender Equality (renamed from Women and Girls).</p> <p><u>Note:</u> Government has established dedicated staff roles within DFAT for LGBTIQ+ issues.</p>	<p>Committed to ensuring adequate staffing and training on LGBTIQ+ matters for all departments, including funding inclusion training and communication efforts within the Australian Defence Force and other uniformed services.</p>

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	International aid funding and advocacy	Support for Australia using all avenues to advocate for those experiencing discrimination, including directly with other states, through development program in partnership with civil society.	Referred to previous achievements: In 2023, established Inclusion and Equality Fund for LGBTIQ+ civil society and human rights defenders focused on Indo-Pacific; support for Fiji to host largest ever gathering of LGBTIQ+ civil society in 2024. Would continue to advance LGBTIQ+ equality and rights internationally, including our ongoing support for the Inclusion and Equality Fund.	Committed to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring Australia advocates for LGBTIQ+ rights in international forums and pushes for global legal reforms, including across our region and within the Commonwealth Advocating for and fully funding an aid program to support LGBTIQ+ communities internationally.
	LGBTIQA+ asylum seekers	No response to this specific issue.	LGBTIQ+ refugees prioritised for resettlement. Cases are assessed through principles of procedural fairness on merits, taking into account individual circumstances and country of origin information, and appeal avenues available.	Ensuring adequate and appropriate training for departmental staff so they are equipped to appropriately assess applications from LGBTIQA+ people seeking asylum.
 IMPROVING DATA COLLECTION AND RECOGNITION OF LGBTIQ+ POPULATIONS	Census and other major dataset inclusion	Would consider any advice by public service with a view to ensuring data collection and record keeping processes remain fit for purpose, including in relation to intersex people.	Would ensure that the 2026 Census collects data for the first time on gender and sexual orientation, in line with the ABS recommendation to Government. Would continue to work with the intersex community about ways of	Fully committed to improving quality and integrity of public data collection for LGBTIQA+ sub populations, including in the Census and data collection by other government departments.

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			<p>gathering additional information in other ABS surveys.</p> <p>Cited previous investment of \$2m into LGBTIQ+ health and wellbeing surveys.</p> <p><u>Note:</u> the ABS recommended against including an intersex topic in the 2026 census due to poor test results, but work continues including asking these questions in other ABS household surveys and improving awareness.</p>	
	<p>Updating Australian Government Guidelines on Sex and Gender</p>	<p>As above.</p>	<p>Refer to guidelines as recognising that individuals may identify as a gender other than the sex assigned at birth, and standardise evidence required to change records.</p> <p>Would continue to engage with intersex people and advocates, to ensure that the Australian Government Guidelines on the Recognition of Sex and Gender align with legal protections provided under the Sex Discrimination Act.</p>	<p>Fully committed to ongoing improvement in recognition, terminology, data collection, and record keeping relating to sex, gender, and sexual orientation, including intersex people.</p>

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 <p>SUPPORTING LGBTIQ+ COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS</p>	<p>Funding for community organisations</p>	<p>Would continue to support community organisations with a wide range of grant programs.</p>	<p>Referred to investments made across multiple portfolios (health, social services, Attorney-General and tourism).</p>	<p>Would ensure adequate funding for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community groups and organisations, so they can influence policy and priorities effectively • Public education campaigns to promote inclusion and understanding of trans and gender-diverse people • Community leadership development, including training for community leaders and trans and gender-diverse community groups.
<p>ADDITIONAL COMMITMENTS</p>	<p>Anything else?</p>	<p>None further specific to LGBTIQ+ policy.</p>	<p>Funding for LGBTIQA+ community radio (\$250k) and \$78k for queer media.</p>	<p>The Greens state that further commitments regarding LGBTIQ+ people are on their website.</p>

INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE POSITIONS

The next section provides a summary of responses provided by a selection of independent candidates to a questionnaire conducted by Equality Australia in 2025 ahead of the federal election.

The questions put to candidates were based on the priorities identified by nearly 5,500 LGBTIQ+ voters who participated in the Rainbow Votes 2025 survey. You can read more in the full [Rainbow Votes 2025 Report](#), and view the responses from individual candidates.

The information below reflects what candidates have chosen to share in response to our questionnaire and may not capture the full scope of their election platforms. For further details, you can visit each candidate's website or policy documents, or ask them directly for their position on these issues.



HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF LGBTIQ+ PEOPLE

CAZ HEISE (COWPER)

- Supports fair and practical policies that uphold the rights of all individuals, including trans and intersex Australians, in areas such as legal recognition and healthcare access.
- Would work to ensure that harmful practices, such as conversion therapy, are addressed through strong policies.

DR HELEN HAINES (INDI):

- Considers that federal government should take a more proactive role in funding and backing evidence-based initiatives to including specific initiatives related to the health, wellbeing and human rights of trans and gender diverse people, as well as people born with intersex variations.
- Supports funding whole-of-government health strategy.
- Has spoken out about conversion practices in parliament.

ALLEGRA SPENDER (WENTWORTH):

- Full support for the *National Action Plan for the Health and Wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ People*, ensuring development of three-year implementation strategy, and funding for measurable outcomes with clear deadlines.
- Supports better training of counsellors, government funded chaplains and health practitioners, to prevent attempts to change or suppress people's sexual orientation or gender identity. Support for Government's \$10 million upskilling program for doctors and nurses to provide "inclusive, culturally safe" healthcare.
- Supports increasing availability of gender affirming care and implementation of national standards recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).
- Supports approach outlined in *HIV Taskforce Report (2023)*, and support making PrEP and PEP free for Australians with a prescription.



PROTECTING LGBTIQ+ PEOPLE FROM DISCRIMINATION AND VILIFICATION

CAZ HEISE (COWPER):

- Supports strengthening legal protections against discrimination while balancing the rights of all Australians.

DR HELEN HAINES (INDI):

- Opposed 2022 Religious Discrimination Bill because it contained provisions that created division and made it more difficult for our communities to feel safe and protected, particularly school-aged children.
- Would support religious discrimination legislation that strikes the right balance, including by carefully considering the ALRC's 2023 report on religious exemptions in the *Sex Discrimination Act*.
- Would support a dedicated spokesperson for LGBTIQ+ people or establishment of a dedicated unit within an existing department dedicated to LGBTIQ+ issues and whole-of-government inclusion strategies.

ALLEGRA SPENDER (WENTWORTH):

- Supports new laws to stop promotion of hatred against LGBTIQ+ community by hate preachers and neo-Nazis.
- Referred to previous work with Equality Australia to introduce (the since unsuccessful) amendments to Government's Hate Crimes Bill to outlaw serious vilification and promotion of hatred.
- Supports changing the Sex Discrimination Act to prevent firing of LGBTIQ+ teachers and expulsion of LGBTIQ+ students from religious schools, and had advocated for this to both major parties.
- Calling out promotion of hate by politicians, supports Commissioner for LGBTIQ+ people to oversee and promote protections, and previously moved amendments in Parliament that would have better covered LGBTIQ+ in workplace discrimination protections.

DAVID POCOCK (SENATOR - ACT):

- Supports implementation of a national Human Rights Act to ensure governments protect human rights when legislating and developing new policies.



ENDING UNNECESSARY, NON-CONSENSUAL TREATMENTS ON INTERSEX PEOPLE

ALLEGRA SPENDER (WENTWORTH):

- Supports ending these treatments in line with Australian Human Rights Commission's recommendations for legislative and regulatory reform
- Supports Federal Government taking a leadership role in preventing cosmetic medical interventions



REMOVING BARRIERS TO PARENTHOOD AND SUPPORTING RAINBOW FAMILIES

ALLEGRA SPENDER (WENTWORTH):

- Supports equal legal recognition and access for rainbow families including for Medicare-funded fertility treatments and surrogacy laws, and inclusive policies, forms and processes across federal agencies.



VOICE FOR LGBTIQ+ PEOPLE IN GOVERNMENT DECISIONS

ALLEGRA SPENDER (WENTWORTH):

- Supports development of whole-of-government LGBTIQ+ strategy.



PROTECTING LGBTIQ+ PEOPLE BEYOND OUR BORDERS

CAZ HEISE (COWPER):

- Would work to promote Australia's leadership in standing up for fairness and human rights globally.

DR HELEN HAINES (INDI):

- While acknowledging that we need strong border protections, does not support our current system of detention arrangements and considers them a cruel stopgap that should have been dismantled long ago.
- Would support any initiatives to ensure decision-makers within the Australian Government apply best practice when reviewing LGBTIQ+ asylum claims and that LGBTIQ+ refugees and asylum seekers are not placed or resettled in countries that cannot guarantee their safety.

ALLEGRA SPENDER (WENTWORTH):

- Supports promotion of LGBTIQ+ rights and equality globally, including Australia engaging in the UN Human Rights Council and other international bodies to promote LGBTIQ+ rights.
- Supports asylum claims on the basis of LGBTIQ+ status being treated appropriately and without discrimination.
- Notes concern about funding cuts to USAID which will affect availability of treatments, including for HIV in developing countries.



IMPROVING DATA COLLECTION AND RECOGNITION OF LGBTIQ+ POPULATIONS

CAZ HEISE (COWPER):

- Would work to guarantee that all Australians are accurately represented in national data, including the Census.

DR HELEN HAINES (INDI):

- Wrote to Prime Minister in 2024 urging the government to reverse decision to exclude LGBTIQ+ people from 2026 Census.
- Strong advocate for evidence-based policy development. As a former public health academic, understands the importance of datasets for planning, measuring and evaluating success of interventions.

ALLEGRA SPENDER (WENTWORTH):

- Referred to previous achievement of advocating and helping to secure inclusion of LGBTIQ+ people in census.
- Supports continued refinement of census questions after next census, to include people with variations of sex characteristics.
- Supports reviewing and updating *Australian Government Guidelines on the Recognition of Sex and Gender* to include accurate terminology for intersex people and streamline process of updating records.

DAVID POCOCK (SENATOR - ACT):

- Opposed government decision to not include LGBTIQ+ community in the Census and successfully pushed them to reverse this decision along with others on the crossbench.



SUPPORTING LGBTIQ+ COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

DR HELEN HAINES (INDI):

- Committed to supporting community organisations, particularly in rural and regional Australia where it can be harder to connect in safe and shared spaces, and would support the establishment of a grants program.

ALLEGRA SPENDER (WENTWORTH):

- Supports reliable, ongoing funding for LGBTIQ+ community organisations.

ADDITIONAL COMMITMENTS

ALLEGRA SPENDER (WENTWORTH):

- Calling out divisive and hateful rhetoric around trans rights.
- Would continue to closely engage with LGBTIQ+ community on policy and legislation.

DAVID POCOCK (SENATOR - ACT):

- Would continue to meet with LGBTIQ+ Canberrans and advocacy groups regarding their priorities and concerns, and has historically stood up against discrimination and homophobia.
- Supports ending discriminatory rules for blood donations and enabling HIV-negative gay people in a monogamous relationship to donate blood.
- Calls for priority finalisation by the Therapeutic Goods Association, of its assessment of applications around how to modernise the regulation of blood donation in Australia and bring it into line with international best practice.
- Would advocate for further government investment in specialist services relating to family and domestic violence, with specific services to LGBTIQ+ communities.