

# OUR STORY

FROM 'YES' TO ALWAYS



**7,817,246**  
PEOPLE SAY  
**'YES'**

**31,527**  
COUPLES  
MARRIED  
BETWEEN 2018-2024

**9 IN 10**  
PEOPLE AGREE  
OUR COMMUNITY  
DESERVES  
DIGNITY AND  
RESPECT

**500 LAWS**  
AUDITED  
TO SUPPORT  
LARGEST PACKAGE OF  
LGBTIQ+  
REFORMS IN NSW  
**HISTORY**

**42,480**  
**PEOPLE**  
HELPED REVERSE  
THE BOOK BAN IN  
JUST 1 WEEK

**250 ORGS**  
SUPPORTED  
OUR OPEN LETTER TO  
**DEFEAT**  
MORRISON'S RELIGIOUS  
DISCRIMINATION BILL

OUR SMALL BUT  
**MIGHTY**  
**TEAM**  
GREW FROM JUST  
3 IN 2019 TO  
13 IN 2025

WE PARTNERED WITH  
**OVER 30**  
LGBTQ+ ORGS  
IN 2025 TO DRIVE  
**POSITIVE**  
**CHANGE**





# KEY MILESTONES

Our mission has always been clear: to drive legal and social change so that LGBTIQ+ people are treated equally and live with dignity and respect. Our Story reflects the concrete impact of our tireless efforts to make this vision a reality.

## 2015

December - *Australians for Equality* is established

## 2016

January - First employees join *Australians for Equality*

September - Coalition's marriage plebiscite bill is defeated (CTH)

October - *'YES' Equality Campaign* launches

## 2017

August - Coalition's marriage plebiscite bill is defeated again (CTH)

August - Postal survey announced after failed plebiscite attempts

November 15 - 61.6% of Australians vote "Yes" for marriage equality

December 7 - *Marriage Amendment Act* passes into law (CTH)

## 2018

January 9 - *All couples can now marry the person they love* (CTH)

February - HRLC partnership to support ongoing LGBTIQ+ rights work (CTH)

Late 2018 - Anna Brown meets with community leaders and donors to build support for an ongoing LGBTIQ+ rights organisation

December 8 - *Equality Australia* launches

## 2019

January - *Anna Brown* is appointed as inaugural CEO

February - *'Love makes a family'* campaign launches to equalise access to surrogacy (WA)

June - *LGBTIQ+ Legal Audit* on human rights is published (ACT)

August - Birth certificate reform passes (VIC)

December - National ad campaign against Scott Morrison's *Religious Discrimination Bill* launches (CTH)

## 2020

August - Conversion practices banned (ACT)

December - *'Gay panic'* defense to murder abolished in final state (SA)

## 2021

January - Polling shows overwhelming support for trans Australians (CTH)

February - Conversion practices banned (VIC)

May - Consultation and proposal for intersex reform is developed (VIC)

**June - Motion condemning medical treatments for trans youth defeated in Senate (CTH)**

July - Victorian government commits to reform health safeguards and oversight to better support intersex people

December - Faith-based exemptions removed from discrimination law (VIC)

## 2022

**February - Morrison's Religious Discrimination Bill is defeated (CTH)**

March - One Nation's anti-trans *Education Bill* is defeated (NSW)

May - Labor commits to protections for LGBTIQ+ people in religious schools if elected (CTH)

July - UN Human Rights Council resolves to retain LGBTQ+ voice (INTL)

**September - Census human rights complaint lodged (CTH)**

November - Anti-discrimination protections pass (NT)

December - *Fair Work Act* amendments pass protecting workers from discrimination based on gender identity and intersex status (CTH)

December - Commitment to ban conversion practices and advance birth certificate and discrimination reforms (WA)

During 2022 - Audit of laws to identify discrimination and opportunities for increased protection for LGBTIQ+ people (NSW)

## 2023

February - *Partnering with Pride* report is published to advance LGBTIQ+ rights in Asia-Pacific in partnership with GPP and regional partners

**March - Sydney WorldPride LGBTIQ+ Human Rights Conference**

March - Fund to support LGBTIQ+ civil society organisations and human rights defenders in Asia-Pacific is announced at conference (INTL)

March - *LGBTIQ+ Health Plan* and funding is announced at conference (CTH)

**March - First law in Australia protecting intersex people from unnecessary surgeries passes (ACT)**

March - Reforms to better protect LGBTIQ+ people from religious discrimination passes (ACT)

March - Birth certificate reforms pass (QLD)

August - ABS issues statement of regret about LGBTIQ+ exclusion from 2021 Census (CTH)

August - Bid for Senate inquiry into gender affirming care is defeated (CTH)

August - *LGBTIQ+ Equality Bill* is introduced (NSW)

October - Attempted ban and inquiry on gender affirming care for young people is defeated (CTH, VIC)

## 2024

March - Law removing barriers to gender recognition passes (ACT)

March - Conversion practices banned (NSW)

**March - *Dismissed, Denied, Demeaned* report on LGBTIQ+ discrimination in faith-based schools and organisations launches (CTH)**

**May - Cumberland Council book ban is reversed (LGA)**

June - NSW Premier Chris Minns makes historic apology (NSW)

June - Legal recognition of parents of children born through surrogacy (ACT)

August - Federal Government announces LGBTIQ+ people won't be properly counted in the 2026 Census (CTH)

**September - Federal Government makes new decision to include questions on sexuality and gender identity in the next Census (CTH)**

September - Birth certificate reform passes, abolishing archaic and cruel Gender Reassignment Board (WA)

**October - *LGBTIQ+ Equality Act* passes (NSW)**

October - Conversion practices banned (SA)

**October - Equality Australia launched *Equal ALLways Fund* to prepare for future challenges and safeguard hard-fought gains for our communities in generations to come**

During 2024 - Five motions to restrict access to gender-affirming care are defeated in parliaments across the country (NSW, VIC, SA, CTH)

## 2025

February - Protections against anti-LGBTIQ+ threats of violence pass (CTH)

April - Anti-vilification reforms pass (VIC)

April - *Rainbow Votes Report* launches and national polling shows continued overwhelming support for LGBTIQ+ Australians (CTH)

**July - Community celebrates in NSW Parliament as every state and territory across Australia now has legal pathways for gender recognition without the need for invasive surgery**

July - UN Human Rights Council resolves to retain LGBTIQ+ voice (INTL)

**November - First Joint Shadow Report Universal Periodic Review regarding Solomon Islands in partnership Kaleidoscope Human Rights Foundation and ILGA Oceania launches (INTL)**

November - Census questions to count LGBTQ+ people for the first time in 2026 officially confirmed (CTH)

**December - *The Missing Voice* report on intersex medical interventions launches, in collaboration with InterAction (CTH)**

December - Bill to end unnecessary medical interventions on intersex children is introduced (VIC)

December - Equal access to parenthood reforms pass (WA)

**December - *Equality Australia* celebrates 10 years since *Australians for Equality* was established**

## WHAT'S NEXT?

**Our 10-year story shows what we can achieve together in pursuit of lasting legal and social change, but our mission is far from over until...**

- LGBTQ+ students and staff are protected from discrimination in religious schools
- Conversion practices are banned across the country
- Intersex people are safeguarded from unnecessary medical interventions
- Our communities can live free from hate and vilification
- Trans and gender-diverse people have access to the health care they need
- Equitable pathways for rainbow families are enabled
- Our global movement has the support and resources it needs
- **We ensure our hard-fought gains are protected for future generations**

For more more on our story: <https://equalityaustralia.org.au/about-us/our-story>