Victorian Labor – Equality Australia 2026 State Election Survey

Advancing equality

1. What accomplishments for LGBTIQA+ people has your party achieved or contributed to?

Victorian Labor has led the nation in advancing LGBTIQA+ equality.

Since coming to government in 2014, Labor has invested more than $180 million through the Equality portfolio to strengthen rights, improve services and support LGBTIQA+ communities.

Our achievements include:

- Establishing Australia's first dedicated Minister for Equality and Commissioner for LGBTIQA+ Communities.
- Delivering *Pride in our future: Victoria's LGBTIQA+ strategy 2022–2032*, Victoria's first comprehensive ten-year LGBTIQA+ strategy.
- Delivering adoption equality and banning harmful conversion practices.
- Removing barriers and fees for trans and gender diverse Victorians to obtain affirming identity documents.
- Passing nation-leading anti-vilification reforms protecting LGBTIQA+ Victorians from hatred and threats.
- Establishing health safeguards for people born with variations in sex characteristics.
- Delivering the Victorian Pride Centre.
- Supporting specialist legal assistance, mental health services, peer support, regional programs and community-led organisations.
- Delivering the world's first State Apology to victims of homophobic laws.

We are proud of this record, while recognising there is more work to do.

Labor will continue building a Victoria where everyone can live safely, wholly and freely as their authentic selves.

2. Will your party ensure coordinated, whole-of-government leadership on LGBTIQA+ equality, including specific ministerial responsibility, dedicated policy capacity and mechanisms for engagement in specific portfolios?

Labor established specific ministerial responsibility, dedicated policy capacity and engagement mechanisms – and Labor will retain it.

3. Will your party retain a Commissioner for LGBTIQA+ Communities, and enshrine the role in law as a statutory position?

Labor established this role and Labor will retain it. We acknowledge the proposal to establish the Commissioner as a statutory position. The priority is protecting the role and ensuring it is well funded.

4. Will your party provide sustainable funding for LGBTIQA+ community-controlled organisations and programs? For example, will you continue funding the LGBTIQA+ Organisational Development program, the Pride Events and Festivals Fund, and the Healthy Equal Youth Grants program?

Labor will continue backing LGBTIQA+ communities through our existing investments, programs and partnerships.

We invested $8 million over four years in LGBTIQA+ grants programs, including the Organisational Development, Sector Strengthening and Pride Events and Festivals funds.

Our Organisational Development Fund has supported 180 projects since 2016–17, while the Pride Events and Festivals Fund has supported 275 events and festivals since 2018–19.

We have also supported more than 135 organisations through the Healthy Equal Youth Grants program.

The 2026–27 Budget provided a further $6.5 million over two years for key equality initiatives, including Victoria's Pride, QHub and the Trans and Gender Diverse Peer Support Program.

Improving human rights

5. Will your party review the Equal Opportunity Act 2010 with a view to strengthening the powers of the Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission to protect LGBTIQA+ people from discrimination and vilification?

Victorian Labor believes every Victorian deserves to live free from discrimination, hatred and vilification.

In 2025, we passed the *Justice Legislation Amendment (Anti-vilification and Social Cohesion) Act*, delivering the most comprehensive reforms to anti-vilification protections in Victoria's history.

It is important to note that the Coalition opposed this important legislation. Further, One Nation has proposed amending the Equal Opportunity Act to prioritise biological sex over gender identity.

Labor's anti-vilification reforms expanded civil protections and strengthened criminal offences addressing serious vilification.

Labor has also supported improvements to community reporting of discrimination, vilification and hate speech, helping Victorians share their experiences and seek appropriate assistance.

We value the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission's role in protecting equality and advancing human rights.

Labor remains committed to strengthening protections against discrimination and ensuring our anti-vilification reforms are effectively implemented.

6. Will your party narrow the exemptions in section 38(4) and repeal section 42 of the Equal Opportunity Act 2010?

Labor believes people should not face discrimination because of who they are or who they love.

Our record demonstrates this commitment.

Labor passed the *Equal Opportunity (Religious Exceptions) Amendment Act 2021*, strengthening protections for LGBTIQA+ Victorians working or studying in religious educational institutions and narrowing the circumstances in which religious bodies can discriminate.

These reforms were an important step towards ensuring Victorian students and workers are protected from discrimination while recognising the importance of freedom of religion.

We acknowledge Equality Australia's concerns regarding the remaining exemptions in the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010*.

Labor will continue standing against discrimination and supporting equal rights and freedoms for LGBTIQA+ Victorians.

7. Will you remove remaining barriers to LGBTIQ+ people starting a family as recommended in the Independent Review of Assisted Reproductive Treatment, namely the requirement to prove you are unable to become pregnant and the requirement to undertake costly mandatory counselling?

Victorian Labor believes every person deserves the opportunity to build a family, regardless of their sexuality or gender identity.

We delivered adoption equality, removing longstanding discrimination against same-sex couples.

Labor has also established Australia's first public fertility care service, backed by an initial $70 million investment, making fertility treatment more affordable and accessible to Victorians who face financial and other barriers to treatment.

The 2026–27 Victorian Budget provided a further $43.4 million to support fertility care and preservation.

We recognise the importance of ensuring assisted reproductive treatment services reflect the diversity of Victorian families and support equitable access to reproductive healthcare.

Labor's record demonstrates our commitment to removing discrimination and making it easier for Victorians to build the families they choose.

8. Will your party reform the historical homosexual convictions scheme in the Sentencing Act 1991 to incorporate a redress scheme?

Victorian Labor recognises the profound harm caused by laws that criminalised homosexuality and the lasting impact of discrimination on LGBTIQA+ Victorians.

In 2016, the Labor Government led a historic apology for the laws, policies and attitudes that caused so much pain and injustice.

Labor also established arrangements enabling people to apply to have eligible historical homosexual convictions expunged.

These reforms were an important step towards acknowledging past injustice and removing barriers experienced by those affected.

We recognise that the consequences of these laws can extend well beyond a criminal record, and that affected Victorians deserve dignity, respect and recognition.

A re-elected Carroll Labor Government will continue the work to address the legacy of discrimination against LGBTIQA+ Victorians and ensure the injustices of the past are never repeated.

Ensuring safety and security

9. Will your party establish an LGBTIQA+ Hate Crime Prevention Action Plan?

Victorian Labor believes everyone deserves to feel safe in our state, free from hate, harassment and violence.

We passed nation-leading anti-vilification reforms, strengthening protections against hatred, threats and serious vilification. Stronger civil protections commenced in April 2026 – laws the Liberals opposed.

Labor has also supported stronger responses to anti-LGBTIQA+ hate crime, including app-facilitated attacks.

We welcomed the parliamentary inquiry into anti-LGBTIQA+ hate crimes, which reported in September 2026.

The Premier's Anti-Hate Taskforce has heard directly from LGBTIQA+ community leaders, while Victoria Police has worked with community organisations, including Thorne Harbour Health, to respond to targeted attacks.

We recognise the importance of coordinated prevention, reporting, enforcement and victim support.

A re-elected Carroll Labor government will continue working to strengthen community safety and ensure LGBTIQA+ Victorians are protected from hatred and violence.

10. How will your party address family violence experienced by LGBTIQ+ people? Will you fund LGBTIQ+ community-controlled specialist support services?

Labor recognises that LGBTIQA+ Victorians can experience distinct forms of family violence and face barriers to accessing services that are safe, inclusive and responsive to their needs.

Following Victoria's Royal Commission into Family Violence, Labor has invested in specialist LGBTIQA+ services, workforce training and prevention initiatives.

We invested $7 million over four years to continue and expand Switchboard Victoria's Rainbow Door service, followed by a further $4.8 million in the 2025–26 Budget.

Rainbow Door provides specialist counselling, family violence support and pathways to other services for LGBTIQA+ Victorians.

We have also supported *Pride in Prevention*, strengthening evidence-based approaches to preventing family violence experienced by LGBTIQA+ communities.

Labor recognises the importance of community-led expertise in preventing violence, supporting victim-survivors and ensuring services respond to the diverse experiences of LGBTIQA+ Victorians.

11. Will your party fund dedicated safety and security measures to protect LGBTIQA+ events and spaces and mandate LGBTIQA+ awareness training for private security like for police?

Labor believes LGBTIQA+ Victorians should be able to gather, celebrate and access community spaces without fear of harassment or violence.

We established Australia's first Victorian Pride Centre, investing more than $25 million in its development, and have provided additional support to improve its security, accessibility and capacity.

Labor has also supported community organisations through grants that strengthen their operations and help them provide safer, more inclusive services.

The Labor Government has worked with Victoria Police and LGBTIQA+ community organisations on responses to threats and targeted violence.

We recognise the importance of culturally competent security practices and ensuring community events and spaces are safe and welcoming.

Labor will continue supporting safe and inclusive environments for LGBTIQA+ Victorians through our existing laws, partnerships and community initiatives.

Improving health and wellbeing

12. How will your party tackle the disparities in health outcomes experienced by LGBTIQ+ people and meet their health needs? For example, will your party develop an LGBTIQA+ Health and Wellbeing Action Plan?

Labor recognises that LGBTIQA+ Victorians face disproportionate barriers to healthcare, including discrimination, poorer mental health outcomes and difficulty accessing inclusive services.

Our *Pride in our future* strategy places health and wellbeing at the centre of our whole-of-government approach to equality.

We have invested in specialist gender services, mental health and suicide prevention, HIV and sexual health services, and community-based support.

We have also invested in Rainbow Tick accreditation to improve the safety and inclusion of mainstream community and mental health organisations.

This includes the development of culturally appropriate Rainbow Mob resources in partnership with the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation.

The 2026–27 Budget continued investment in QHub and the Trans and Gender Diverse Peer Support Program.

Labor will continue implementing *Pride in our future* and working with health services and LGBTIQA+ communities to improve access, quality and health outcomes.

13. Will your party publish a report on LGBTIQA+ health after each Victorian Population Health Survey?

Labor recognises that better evidence is essential to understanding and responding to the health needs of LGBTIQA+ Victorians.

Labor has supported improvements in the collection of sex and gender data across health services, including guidance developed with Transgender Victoria.

Labor has also supported research into LGBTIQA+ experiences and health outcomes, including La Trobe University's *Private Lives* research.

The Victorian Population Health Survey provides important information about health disparities, wellbeing and access to care.

Through *Pride in our future*, we established an outcomes framework to improve data collection, reporting and accountability for equality initiatives.

Labor will continue using evidence, research and community expertise to inform public health policy and improve services for LGBTIQA+ Victorians.

14. Will your party maintain or increase funding for health for trans and gender-diverse people, including specialist health clinics and measures to increase inclusiveness of healthcare services?

Labor is committed to supporting trans and gender diverse Victorians to access safe, high-quality and evidence-based healthcare.

We established the Trans and Gender Diverse in Community Health initiative, supporting multidisciplinary clinics in Preston and Ballarat alongside professional training to improve inclusive healthcare.

The 2025–26 Victorian Budget provided $15.3 million over four years, with $4.1 million ongoing, to support trans and gender diverse young people.

In the 2026–27 Budget, Labor invested $1 million over two years to continue the Trans and Gender Diverse Peer Support Program in partnership with Transgender Victoria.

That program has supported more than 1,800 Victorians since 2019, providing wellbeing support, social connection and assistance to access services.

15. How will your party support the health of people born with intersex variations? For example, will your party support and fund the establishment of specific intersex health and wellbeing services?

Victorian Labor believes people born with variations in sex characteristics deserve bodily autonomy, dignity, informed healthcare and protection from unnecessary medical interventions.

We have worked with intersex advocates and organisations to strengthen healthcare and human rights protections.

Since 2016–17, the Equality portfolio has supported intersex-led initiatives with $354,000 in funding.

In May 2026, InterAction for Health and Human Rights received funding through the LGBTIQA+ Sector Strengthening program to expand intersex peer support into regional and rural Victoria and strengthen the capability of partner organisations.

We recognise the importance of specialist expertise, peer support and appropriate clinical care for people with variations in sex characteristics and their families.

16. Will your party continue to implement the Health Safeguards for People Born with Variations in Sex Characteristics Act 2026?

Yes.

Labor is proud to have passed the *Health Safeguards for People Born with Variations in Sex Characteristics Act 2026*, delivering nation-leading protections for bodily autonomy and informed decision-making.

17. Will your party continue the Safe Schools and Respectful Relationships programs? How will you otherwise ensure that LGBTIQ+ young people are supported and safe at school?

Yes. Victorian Labor delivered Safe Schools and Respectful Relationships and will continue to support it.

18. Will your party implement in full the recommendations following the 2023 coronial inquest into the trans and gender diverse suicides?

Victorian Labor recognises the profound impact of suicide on trans and gender diverse communities, families and loved ones.

The coronial findings concerning the deaths of five young trans and gender diverse Victorians identified significant challenges involving access to gender-affirming healthcare, suicide prevention and community support.

Labor recognises the importance of responding to these findings and strengthening the services available to trans and gender diverse Victorians.

Our investments include specialist gender clinics, the Trans and Gender Diverse Peer Support Program, targeted mental health services and community-led suicide prevention initiatives.

We have also supported Mind Australia's LGBTIQA+ Aftercare program and Switchboard Victoria's suicide prevention services.

19. Will your party commit to the goal of ending HIV transmission in Victoria and provide sustained funding for community-controlled prevention, testing and treatment support?

Yes, we commit to ending HIV transmission in Victoria, in line with the Albanese Labor Government's Ninth National HIV Strategy 2024–2030 and its goal of virtually eliminating HIV transmission by 2030.

Victoria has a proud history of leadership in the HIV response, built on strong partnerships between government, healthcare professionals, researchers, people with lived experience and community organisations.

We recognise the vital role community-controlled organisations play in HIV prevention, testing, treatment and support, particularly in reaching communities who experience barriers to healthcare.

Labor believes every Victorian living with or affected by HIV deserves access to high-quality healthcare, free from stigma and discrimination.

20. Will your party fund LGBTIQA+ community-controlled mental health and suicide prevention services, including peer support and peer navigation?

Yes. We have invested in specialist services including Switchboard Victoria's Rainbow Door, Mind Australia's LGBTIQA+ Aftercare program, QHub and the Trans and Gender Diverse Peer Support Program.

The 2026–27 Victorian Budget provided $2 million over two years to continue QHub in Western Victoria and $1 million over two years for trans and gender diverse peer support.

Through our Sector Strengthening grants, we have also supported community-led suicide prevention and mental health initiatives.

Labor is continuing the most significant reform of Victoria's mental health system in generations, with a strong focus on prevention, early intervention and access to care.

We value the expertise of LGBTIQA+ community-controlled organisations and recognise the importance of peer support, specialist services and inclusive mental healthcare.

Labor will continue working towards a Victoria where every LGBTIQA+ person can access the care, connection and support they need to live safely and thrive.