Advancing equality

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

Equality is one of the Animal Justice Party's (AJP) core values. The AJP has a proud history of supporting progressive social justice causes and is committed to building an inclusive society without discrimination, harassment or vilification. Animal Justice Party MPs have been proud to act as key votes for the most significant reforms for LGBTIQA+ people over the last two parliamentary terms, including the 2021 ban on conversion practices – one of the strongest in the world. Our sitting MP, Georgie Purcell, worked closely with the Government on their major vilification reforms in 2024. In 2025, she spoke in Parliament on the surge of violent assaults on LGBTIQA+ men and called on the government to create an independent tool for reporting homophobic incidents, which they announced several weeks later.

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?

The AJP supports a coordinated, whole-of-government leadership on LGBTIQA+ equality. This includes specific ministerial responsibility, dedicated policy capacity within government, and clear mechanisms for LGBTIQA+ communities to engage with key portfolios, particularly health, education, justice and family violence prevention.

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

The AJP supports the retention of the Commissioner for LGBTIQA+ Communities role and is committed to seeing it enshrined as a statutory position. The Commissioner has done important work for LGBTIQA+ Communities and the role must be properly funded, listened to, and protected.

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?

The AJP supports sustainable funding for LGBTIQA+ community-controlled organisations and programs. We support continuing the LGBTIQA+ Organisational Development program, the Pride Events and Festivals Fund and the Healthy Equal Youth Grants program. We strongly support funding delivered on a stable, multi-year basis.

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?

The AJP strongly supports a review of the Equal Opportunity Act 2010. Georgie was proud to support the significant reforms to Victoria's vilification laws in 2024 and since then has called for the strengthening of the Act to provide stronger powers to the Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission to ensure it can stamp out discrimination and vilification. Georgie advocated for the Government to include 'subjection to family violence' as a protected attribute under the Act, which the government has since introduced. The AJP supports a review to also consider the further expansion of protections to other attributes.

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

The AJP supports narrowing the exemptions in section 38(4) and repealing section 42 of the Equal Opportunity Act 2010. Religious freedom should not be a licence to discriminate against LGBTIQA+ people in employment, education or service delivery. We support a review of the Equal Opportunity Act to also consider these exemptions.

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?

The AJP supports removing the remaining barriers to LGBTIQ+ people starting a family, as recommended in the Independent Review of Assisted Reproductive Treatment.

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

The AJP supports investigating reforming the historical homosexual convictions scheme in the Sentencing Act 1991 to incorporate a redress scheme, and would want the design of any redress scheme developed with people affected by historical convictions.

Ensuring safety and security

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

The AJP supports the establishment of an LGBTIQA+ Hate Crime Prevention Action Plan.

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

The AJP supports funding LGBTIQ+ community-controlled specialist family violence support services. We will continue to push for a family violence system that is inclusive, adequately and sustainably resourced and safe for LGBTIQ+ people.

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?

The AJP supports the funding of dedicated safety and security measures to protect LGBTIQA+ events and spaces and awareness training for all those involved in the delivery of security services.

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?

The AJP supports a dedicated LGBTIQA+ Health and Wellbeing Action Plan to tackle the disparities in health outcomes experienced by LGBTIQ+ people. The plan should be developed in partnership with community-controlled health organisations, cover mental health, sexual health, ageing and access to inclusive services, and include clear targets and public reporting.

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

The AJP supports improving data collection and publication on LGBTIQA+ health including through the publishing of a report after each Victorian Population Health Survey.

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?

The AJP supports maintaining and increasing funding for trans and gender-diverse health, including specialist clinics, and measures to make mainstream healthcare services safer and more inclusive. The AJP has a long record of standing with trans and gender diverse Victorians – our votes helped deliver birth certificate reform in 2019 and the ban on conversion practices in 2021. Trans and gender-diverse Victorians should be able to access affirming care without long waitlists, and that care should be shaped by trans-led organisations.

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?

The AJP supports the health of people born with intersex variations, and supports funding specific intersex health and wellbeing services developed with intersex-led organisations. People born with intersex variations have too often been subjected to medically unnecessary interventions without their consent, and many live with the lifelong physical and psychological impacts.

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

The AJP strongly supports the further implementation of the Health Safeguards for People Born with Variations in Sex Characteristics Act 2026. Georgie was incredibly proud to support the bill's passage through the parliament.

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?

The Animal Justice Party strongly supports the continued delivery of the Safe Schools and Respectful Relationships programs. Every LGBTIQA+ young person deserves to feel safe at school. We also support properly resourcing school wellbeing staff, inclusive uniform and bathroom policies, and strong responses to bullying and online harassment.

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

The AJP supports the full implementation of the recommendations following the 2023 coronial inquest into the deaths by suicide of trans and gender diverse people.

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?

The AJP strongly supports the goal of ending HIV transmission in Victoria and supports sustained funding for all measures needed to achieve it.

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

The AJP supports funding LGBTIQA+ community-controlled mental health and suicide prevention services.