By email from Shadow Minister for Equality, James Newbury

Thank you for sending through the 2026 Victorian State Election LGBTIQA+ Party Survey and for your ongoing engagement with me on issues affecting the rainbow community.

The Liberals and Nationals approach equality from a simple principle: dignity, safety, opportunity and equality before the law belong to every Victorian.

Our party has a long record of reform in this area. The Hamer Liberal Government decriminalised homosexual activity in Victoria in 1981, and the Napthine Liberal-National Government introduced the scheme allowing historical convictions for consensual homosexual activity to be expunged in 2014.

We have continued to engage on issues of equality during this term. The Coalition supported the intent of recent reforms strengthening protections against serious vilification and protecting people born with variations in sex characteristics, while also seeking to ensure legislation is clear, workable and informed by appropriate expert advice.

Our broader commitments ahead of this election will also benefit LGBTIQA+ Victorians. This includes our $132 million Mental Health Early Access Plan, with significant investment in community-based mental health, suicide prevention, youth mental health and counselling, as well as our commitments to strengthen protections for victim-survivors of family violence through leading the call for a standalone offence of coercive control and a Right to Ask, Right to Know framework.

As Shadow Minister for Equality, I have valued the opportunity to engage directly with LGBTIQA+ organisations and advocates.

I appreciate the detailed proposals contained in your survey and will continue to consider the issues you have raised as we finalise our remaining policies and commitments ahead of the State Election.