Equality Australia survey response (LCV)

Advancing equality

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

Legalise Cannabis Victoria has strongly advocated for LGBTIQA+ equality in Victoria, including pushing for inclusive mental health and specialist health services, stronger early intervention and prevention programs, specialised housing solutions and strengthened anti-vilification protections to address discrimination and hatred towards the community.

LCV has:

- Called for the Government to strengthen early intervention and prevention programs, providing inclusive mental health and specialist health services and promoting broader discussion around gaps and barriers in current mental health provision for especially young LGBTIQA+ people;
- Actively campaigned for the Victorian government and specifically, the AG to progress Victoria's anti-vilification law reforms and extend protections to LGBTQIA+ people and address the ongoing hatred, discrimination and hatred directed towards the community. LCV's amendment to anti-vilification legislation was successful, resulting in anti-vilification laws commencing earlier than first proposed.
- Successfully advocated for Pride in Place, securing funding in the budget for this program. Price in Place does incredibly important work for LGBTIQA+ people who are homeless, at risk of homelessness or living in housing that is unsafe, insecure or too expensive.

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?

LCV has and will continue to work collaboratively and in a coordinated manner with the Victorian Government on issues impacting LGBTIQA+ people. We have engaged constructively with relevant Ministers as well as working closely with stakeholders to ensure that the lived experiences and needs of this community are represented while supporting evidence-based approached.

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

The Victorian Commissioner for LGBTIQA+ Communities plays a vital role in ensuring LGBTIQA+ voices are heard, respected and represented in government decision-making.

At a time of increasing discrimination, the Commissioner provides a critical link between communities and government, advocating for safe, inclusive, culturally appropriate and accessible policies, services and support for everyone and LCV will support retaining the Commissioner's role.

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?

LCV will continue to support sustainable and long-term funding for organisations, programs and events in this space as we recognise the important role these programs play in supporting communities as well as to respond to emerging needs of LGBTQIA+ people.

We will continue to work constructively to support and advocate for stable funding arrangements that enables these programs to plan effectively and deliver meaningful outcomes for the community.

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?

LCV supports the review of the Equal Opportunity Act 2010 to ensure that Victoria's human rights framework is strong enough to protect LGBTIQA+ Victorians from discrimination, vilification and systemic disadvantage.

6. Will your party narrow the exemptions in s 38(4) and repeal s 42 of the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities?

LCV supports the review of the Equal Opportunity Act 2010 and that work would inform any changes going forward.

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?

LCV supports removing barriers to LGBTIQA+ people starting a family and support the Gordon review recommended removing the discriminatory requirement for same-sex

couples to demonstrate that they were unlikely to become pregnant without treatment. This requirement that simply does not reflect the circumstances of many LGBTIQA+ families and is discriminatory.

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

Yes. LCV has raised this with the Government and advocated for change to this outdated law.

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

LCV is committed to establishing a comprehensive LGBTIQA+ Hate Crime Prevention Action plan, tailored to meet the diverse needs of the LGBTIQA+ community, and developed in consultation with key stakeholders and members of the community.

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

LCV has been actively campaigning for the Alexis Family Violence Response Model to be fully funded statewide and had had parliamentary budget office costings produced to show that this program could be rolled out across the state for a little over $10M annually. The Alexis Model specifically embeds specialist FV workers with police, and this specialist workforce is made up of migrant and LGBTIQA+ lived experience workers.

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? Improving health and wellbeing

LCV is committed to supporting budget bids for LGBTIQA+ safety and security initiatives, including community-controlled and community-led programs. LCV is also committed to advocacy in this space.

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?

LCV supports developing an LGBTQIA+ Health and Wellbeing Action Plan and will continue to advocate for funding to be secured for LGBTIQA+ health services. LCV understands LGBTIGA+ health is a distinct policy area with its own unique needs, evidence requirements, targets and accountability and more work must be done to ensure these disparities in health outcomes are addressed and eradicated.

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

LCV supports publishing a dedicated LGBTIQA+ health report after each Victorian Population Health Survey. LCV understands it is critical this data is published so it can inform LGBTIQA+ health policy and funding programs and services, ensuring they accurately meet the identified needs of the LCBTIQA+ community.

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?

LCV is committed to supporting budget bids for LGBTIQA+ health initiatives, including community-controlled health programs. LCV is also committed to advocacy in this space.

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?

LCV supports dedicated, well-funded and resourced health and wellbeing services for intersex Victorians, that are designed in consultation with intersex organisations.

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

LCV was a strong supporter of this legislation when it passed Parliament, and we remain committed to supporting the full implementation of the Health Safeguards for People Born with Variations in Sex Characteristics Act 2026.

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?

LCV is committed to supporting the Safe Schools and Respectful Relationships programs. We see these programs as essential for maintaining and supporting school and student safety. LCV opposes any attempts to withdraw these programs from schools.

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

LCV supports the full implementation of the coroner's recommendations and opposes any attempts to delay, reduce or reverse these recommendations.

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?

LCV is committed to the objective of ending HIV transmission in Victoria. LCV also supports increased and sustained funding for community-controlled prevention, testing and treatment support programs and resources, delivered in partnership with LQBTIQA+ organisations.

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

LCV is committed to supporting budget bids for LGBTIQA+ community-controlled mental health and suicide prevention services.