

ACHIEVING LGBTIQ+ EQUALITY

Achieving equality for every person in the LGBTIQ+ community

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer and Asexual (LGBTIQ+) people continue to face discrimination.

Whether it is a lack of autonomy over their bodies, access to holistic and comprehensive health services, or secure housing.

The Greens will appoint a Minister for Equality, tighten the anti-discrimination laws and make schools safer. We will address the housing and homelessness crisis and end conversions.

So everyone is free from discrimination, and we actually achieve equality.

THE GREENS WILL:

- ▲ **Appoint a Minister for Equality and an LGBTIQ+ Human Rights Commissioner to make achieving equality a priority across government**
- ▲ **Tighten anti-discrimination laws and introduce a Charter of Rights to protect LGBTIQ+ rights in law**
- ▲ **Create a national LGBTIQ+ health and wellbeing action plan**
- ▲ **Make schools safer** by removing exemptions from anti-discrimination laws, funding inclusion training for teachers and redirecting funding from chaplains to inclusive secular programs
- ▲ **Address the crisis in housing and homelessness** for LGBTIQ+ people
- ▲ **Intervene to stop the LGBTIQ+ conversion movement**
- ▲ **Support the human rights of people with intersex variations**
- ▲ **Support LGBTIQ+ people seeking asylum in Australia**

PAYING FOR OUR PLAN

By making billionaires and big corporations pay their fair share of tax and winding back handouts to big polluters, we can build a better life for all of us.

1 in 3 big corporations pays no tax and many big corporations and billionaires send their profits offshore tax free.

The Greens will tax billionaires with a new 'billionaires tax', require big corporations making excessive profits to pay a 'corporate super-profits tax' and axe billions of dollars in handouts to the coal, oil and gas giants that are driving the climate crisis.

These measures have all been costed by the independent Parliamentary Budget Office.

When big corporations and billionaires pay their fair share, everyone can have the services they need for a better life.

MAKING EQUALITY A PRIORITY ACROSS GOVERNMENT

LGBTIQA+ issues need to be heard at the highest levels of government and implemented across portfolios. The Greens will:

- Appoint a Minister for Equality, to ensure issues affecting LGBTIQA+ communities are represented in cabinet.
- Appoint an LGBTIQA+ Human Rights Commissioner, to ensure LGBTIQA+ people are protected from discrimination on the basis of sex, sexuality, gender identity and intersex variations.

The Greens will also establish a Ministerial Advisory Group to provide strategic advice to all ministers, and ensure decisions regarding LGBTIQA+ communities are made only after

meaningful consultation. The work of the group will be supported by working groups across departments that will ensure a whole of government approach to policy making.

PROTECT LGBTIQA+ RIGHTS IN LAW

Our anti-discrimination laws currently include an unacceptable exemption for religious organisations. That means that a religious hospital can refuse to employ a gay doctor, a faith-based homelessness shelter can refuse to accept a transgender resident; and a faith-based school can sack a teacher who marries their same gender partner.¹

The Greens will remove these exemptions, and enshrine anti-discrimination in a comprehensive

¹ SBS, *Perth Baptist school sacks gay teacher*, 22/11/2017, <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/perth-baptist-school-sacks-gay-teacher>

charter of rights. Our anti-discrimination laws should apply to everyone.

A NATIONAL LGBTIQ+ HEALTH AND WELLBEING ACTION PLAN

LGBTIQ+ people have health care needs which are not always met by the current system.

The Greens will establish a national LGBTIQ+ health and wellbeing action plan, and provide \$285m over four years in additional funding, to ensure all LGBTIQ+ people have access to holistic and comprehensive health services regardless of whether they live in a capital city or a rural town. It will include national standards and training for health professionals to ensure they can provide world class care to LGBTIQ+ patients, particularly patients who are have intersex variations, or are transgender.

There are also significant gaps and barriers for people trying to access gender affirming healthcare. The Greens will provide \$15 million dedicated funding to cover the out of pocket costs experienced by trans and gender diverse people in accessing gender affirming healthcare.

The Greens will end forced and coercive medical interventions on people with intersex variations, eliminating harmful practices and ensuring that people with intersex variations have the right to autonomy that others take for granted.

The Greens will also adopt and fund in full the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations' *Agenda 2025* to end HIV transmission in Australia. This will include more than \$53m a

year in funding to improve prevention, testing, and treatment options, and reduce HIV stigma.

MAKING SCHOOLS SAFER

The mental health of LGBTIQ+ young people is among the poorest in Australia.² Education, support and acceptance improves the mental wellbeing and lives of LGBTIQ+ young people and whole school communities.

The Greens will make schools safer by removing provisions that enable discrimination in schools on religious grounds, and fund inclusion training for teachers. The Greens will scrap the School Chaplains Program and invest the \$61m a year in secular, inclusive support for students through counsellors and anti-bullying initiatives such as the Safe Schools Program.

ADDRESS THE CRISIS IN HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS FOR LGBTIQ+ PEOPLE

Housing is a human right, but LGBTIQ+ people are at a particularly greater risk of homelessness than the general population, including facing greater risks of domestic violence.³ The Greens will increase funding for general crisis and temporary housing services, including those for LGBTIQ+ people, to \$550 million per year, and guarantee this funding for

² National LGBTIQ+ Health Alliance, *The 2021 update*, 2021, <https://www.lgbtiqhealth.org.au/statistics>

³ ABC, *Young LGBTIQ+ Australians who moved back home this year face domestic violence risk*, <https://www.abc.net.au/triplej/programs/hack/lgbti-dv-report/12935784>; Star*Observer, *Report shows 40% of LGBTIQI Victorian Elders Experience Homelessness*, <https://www.starobserver.com.au/news/report-shows-40-of-lgbtqi-victorians-experience-homelessness/197966>

ten years to provide certainty to service providers. The Greens will also allocate funding to research and develop an action plan to address specific standard of living issues, including housing and homelessness, that impact on LGBTIQ+ people as a result of stigmatisation and discrimination.

FULLY IMPLEMENT THE SOGICE SURVIVORS STATEMENT

We know from survivors that the LGBTIQ+ Conversion movement extends further than formalised 'therapies', and that sexual orientation and gender identity change efforts pervade some religious communities, faith-based organisations, schools and the counselling industry in dangerous ways.

The Greens will adopt and provide \$125m over four years to fund the approach recommended in the *Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Change Efforts Survivor Statement*, including funding for survivor groups, a national inquiry, a public health and awareness campaign, and work towards developing a redress scheme.

FULLY IMPLEMENT THE DARLINGTON STATEMENT

The Greens will support and protect the human rights of people with intersex variations, including adopting and providing \$198m over ten years to fund the Darlington statement developed by advocates in Australia and New Zealand. This will include funding for:

- Community based research,
- Peer and family support services,

- Training for health professionals,
- Grants to empower community organisations, and;
- Work to develop a redress scheme.

The Greens will work with states and territories to implement Australia's human rights obligations on ending forced or coerced medical interventions on people with intersex variations without personal consent.

SUPPORTING LGBTIQ+ PEOPLE HERE IN AUSTRALIA AND AROUND THE WORLD

The Greens will ensure that we are striving for equality in immigration and foreign policy through changes in policy and boosting funding by \$55.5m over four years. That will include training for departmental staff assessing claims and a specific intake target for LGBTIQ+ refugees who have fled persecution from their home countries because of their sexuality, gender identity or intersex variations, and support for resettlement here in Australia.

We will ensure Australia advocates for LGBTIQ+ rights in our region and around the world, including through specific aid funding.

FIND ALL OUR POLICIES:

greens.org.au/platform