

# SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY POLICY



## PRINCIPLES

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1. Freedom of sex, sexuality and gender identity are fundamental human rights.
2. Acceptance and celebration of diversity are essential for genuine social justice and equality.
3. People have the right to their self-identified gender which is integral to people's lived experiences as citizens and members of the community.
4. Discrimination and vilification on the basis of sex, sexuality and gender identity is a significant cause of psychological distress, mental illness and suicide.
5. The health needs of all Australians should be provided for without discrimination of any kind; everyone has the right to have their specific health needs met with equity and respect.
6. Society should be free of harassment, abuse, vilification, stigmatisation, discrimination, disadvantage or exploitation on the basis of the actual or assumed sex, sexuality or gender identity of a person or someone they are associated with.
6. Accurate information, appropriate referrals and counselling from the intersex community for intersex people and their parents and carers.
7. To ensure that intersex and transgender people are able to easily alter their sex on all official documents, consistent with how they live and identify, and irrespective of their marital status.
8. Permanent medical intervention for people born with an intersex condition to occur only when they are able to make the decision for themselves, unless it is determined to be in the best interest of the child and necessary for the maintenance of health or the preservation of life.
9. Governments and their agencies to consult with communities and representative groups of people with diverse sexual orientation and gender identities, on the development of policies and programs relevant to them.
10. The removal of convictions for homosexual acts between consenting adults from legal records. Where a person has been charged under laws in the past against homosexual acts that are now legal, this should be removed from the criminal record.

## AIMS

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The Victorian Greens Victoria will work towards:

1. All de facto relationships to have equal status in law and government policy regardless of sex, sexuality and gender identity.
2. Equal access and parenting rights to adoption, fostering, surrogacy and assisted reproductive treatment regardless of sex, sexuality and gender identity and marital status.
3. The education system to provide age-appropriate, non-discriminatory information about sex, sexuality, relationships and identity, and assistance and resources for teachers to explore these issues in the classroom.
4. Access to the full range of medical and health services required by people with needs related to their sex, sexuality and gender identity.
5. Accurate information, appropriate referrals and counselling for individuals, parents and carers of young people, in relation to issues of sex, sexual orientation and gender identity.
11. Adequate funding for services to support and protect people of diverse sexual orientation and gender identities, especially young people, in areas such as suicide prevention, peer support, coming out, counselling, housing services and programs, gender transitioning and reassignment, and HIV/AIDS testing and support, especially in regional areas.
12. Government should take full responsibility for defending the dignity, humanity and rights of all people and their families, free of any discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.
13. To support programs and facilitate conditions which overcome the instance of speech motivated by hate or prejudice on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.
14. Legislate to abolish all discrimination in areas of Victorian law on the basis of sexual orientation and gender diversity.
15. Amend the Equal Opportunity Act 2010 to remove exemptions for religious organisations to discriminate on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity.
16. Amend the Equal Opportunity Act 2010 to remove blanket exemptions allowing the exclusion of people of certain sex or gender identity from competitive sporting activities.

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17. The provisions of the Yogyakarta Principles on sexual orientation and gender identity to be incorporated into the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities and proper funding to ensure the human rights of persons of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities are promoted and protected.
18. Ensure the Victorian Education system is inclusive in its acceptance of family diversity.
19. Encourage blood banking services to adopt the least discriminatory blood donor criteria possible, while maintaining the current low risk of transfusion-associated infection.
20. To engender public acknowledgement and respect for the important role and contribution of same-sex attracted people, and transgender and intersex people, in Victorian society, by all Victorian political, civic and corporate leaders.
21. Training programmes and awareness-raising aimed at improving police and prison services' knowledge of and sensitivity towards sexual orientation and gender identity issues.
22. So far as is reasonably practicable, protective measures to be put in place for all prisoners vulnerable to violence or abuse on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity, and access provided to medical care and counselling appropriate to the needs of prisoners of diverse sexual orientation and gender identity.
23. Expand gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans-gender and intersex cultural and community events, and recognising and supporting tourism associated with such events.
24. Establish formal, permanent, adequately resourced liaison groups between gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex community groups and government agencies, to consult, to advise, and to develop and implement policies and programs relevant to persons of diverse sexual orientation and gender identity.
25. Ensure laws and processes for the legal recognition of gender use empowering terminology.
26. Ensuring laws and processes for the legal recognition of gender do not require sexual reassignment surgery or hormonal therapy.