

# 2019 NSW STATE ELECTION

## Questionnaire

ACON, GLRL, Positive Life NSW, SWOP

### HIV, Blood-borne Viruses, Sexually Transmitted Infections

If elected, will you:

1) Maintain existing investment levels in HIV programming in NSW – including prevention and support for PLHIV?

☒ YES ☐ NO Comment: I have long supported continued funding for HIV prevention and support and getting to zero transmissions by 2020. I have raised this with successive health ministers since being elected.

2) Create an affordability access scheme for people who are not eligible for Medicare which covers PrEP and HIV treatments?

☒ YES ☐ NO

3) Improve access to HIV testing and inclusive LGBTQ healthcare for culturally and linguistically diverse community members?

☒ YES ☐ NO

4) Oppose the introduction of mandatory testing of people whose bodily fluids come into contact with police (“spitting laws”)?

☒ YES ☐ NO

5) Repeal and replace Section 79 of the Public Health Act 2010 with a statement that is proportionate and reflects the science and community expectations about harms caused by the criminalization of STIs by October 2020?

☒ YES ☐ NO Comment: I opposed this provision when it was introduced and my successful amendments moved during debate will ensure they get reviewed within two years.

6) Grant a permanent legal exemption to allow members of the community to exchange sterile injecting equipment to reduce the transmission of HIV and other blood-borne viruses?

☒ YES ☐ NO

7) Support the trial of a needle syringe program in a NSW correctional facility?

☒ YES ☐ NO

8) Provide funding to cover the shortfall after federal cuts of \$2.3 million, to address the higher impacts of STIs and later HIV diagnoses in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities?

☒ YES ☐ NO

### Leadership for Equity and Inclusion

If elected, will you:

9) Support a coordinated ‘whole-of-government’ plan to improve inclusion, health and wellbeing of our communities, including routine public reporting on the implementation and progress of the plan?

☒ YES ☐ NO Comment: In Parliament I have asked for a comprehensive LGBTQ action plan with whole-of-government strategies that address inequality, discrimination and unfair treatment. The government should also include budget statement for vulnerable groups including LGBTQ communities.

10) Require all government departments, government-funded services and government-funded research to include LGBTQ data collection as standard data items so that the health, wellbeing and inclusion of our communities can be better understood and improved?

☒ YES ☐ NO

11) Work towards three year funding grants for LGBTQ community organisations to ensure representation and continuity of service?

☒ YES ☐ NO

12) Fund an online survey open to NSW residents identifying as LGBTQ so as to hear their experiences living in their communities and accessing public services?

☒ YES ☐ NO Comment:

13) Support the development of culturally appropriate peer education in line with principles of self determination and empowerment to enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to be leaders and advocates?

☒YES ☐NO Comment:

### LGBTQ Health

If elected, will you:

14) Commit to work towards, and commence the establishment of, an integrated, multi-disciplinary, community based health centre located in the Inner West of Sydney led by ACON – in the first half of the next term of Government (by 2021)?

☒YES ☐NO Comment: Many LGBTQ people suffer poorer health, mental health and welfare than the wider population due to a range of factors including discrimination. I have asked the current health minister to provide a centre and am committed to working with ACON and my parliamentary colleagues to achieve this outcome and progress policies to improve LGBTQ health.

15) Support and provide funding for a suicide prevention campaign and community-based specific mental health services for people in NSW LGBTQ communities?

☒YES ☐NO

16) Mandate state-wide LGBTQ sensitivity and inclusion training for existing mental health services.

☒YES ☐NO

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17) Support and provide funding for LGBTQ community-based drug and alcohol services?

☒YES ☐NO

18) Mandate state-wide LGBTQ sensitivity and inclusion training for existing drug and alcohol services?

☒YES ☐NO

19) Provide funding for smoking cessation programs for LGBTQ communities, including PLHIV?

☒YES ☐NO

20) Support and provide funding for the Health Centre to prioritise service provision for LGBTQ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, in view of documented higher rates of mental illness, suicide, HIV transmission via shared injecting equipment and cancer related mortality rates?

☒YES ☐NO

### Trans and Gender Diverse People

If elected, will you:

21) Establish specific funding for trans and gender diverse community research, advocacy, health promotion and programs to address wider discrimination in schools, workplaces and other social settings?

☒YES ☐NO

22) Ensure that trans and gender diverse people are included as a priority population in health planning to document and address health disparities and inequalities in NSW, including within the NSW HIV response?

☒YES ☐NO

23) Amend the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act by repealing Section 2A, 32B and 32C to:

- Allow for access to amended identity documentation, which must not depend on surgery or other medical treatment or interventions;
- Allow for access to amend identity documentation and must not depend on approval by doctors or other medical professionals, and;
- Allow for access to amended identity documentation and should be granted on the basis of self-identification, through a statutory declaration?

☒YES ☐NO Comment: My draft 2015 Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Amendment (Transgender Persons) Bill aimed to achieve this change and I intend to work further to progress this reform. During debate on the transitional provisions for marriage equality which included removal of forced trans divorce laws, in response to my calls to repeal surgical requirements on trans people who want to update their state documents, the Attorney General committed to considering the matter further. While I agree that identity documentation should not depend on the approval of a medical professional, I will take a pragmatic approach and if passage of reform depends on this, I will progress changes with this requirement.

## Ageing

If elected, will you:

24) Continue to recognise LGBTI people as a priority population in the next NSW Ageing Strategy?

☒ YES ☐ NO

25) Fund social inclusion programs for older isolated LGBTQ people?

☒ YES ☐ NO

26) Deliver more social housing that is appropriate for older people living with HIV across NSW?

☒ YES ☐ NO

27) Ensure that older people living with HIV receive specialist health care and support services?

☒ YES ☐ NO

28) Commit to improving NSW performance against the Close the Gap targets, particularly mortality rates?

☒ YES ☐ NO

## Education

If elected, will you:

29) Update the NSW Anti-Bullying Strategy website to comprehensively address biphobic, homophobic and transphobic bullying in NSW schools?

☒ YES ☐ NO Comment: I continue to talk to my colleagues about achieving this urgently needed change. It is a disgrace that it was not done before the marriage equality plebiscite.

30) Work with LGBTQ communities to develop new resources to support teachers, parents and students, including training in LGBTQ issues and family diversity, to help deliver the anti-bullying program?

☒ YES ☐ NO

31) Update the school catchment policy to accommodate diverse family structures including where parents live apart?

☒ YES ☐ NO

32) Standardise all enrolment forms to stipulate “parents” instead of “mother” and “father”?

☒ YES ☐ NO

33) Provide specialist training for teachers and educators in family diversity, respecting the fact that children come from single parent families, LGBTIQ parent families, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family structures, foster families and more?

☒ YES ☐ NO

## Safety and Justice

If elected, will you:

34) Support legislative and non-legislative action to eradicate the practice of “LGBTQ conversion therapy” and improve support for those who have experienced this type of practice?

☒ YES ☐ NO Comment: I moved a motion in Parliament condemning this practice and hope it can be ceased soon.

35) Fund LGBTQ-specific domestic and family violence prevention and support programs?

☒ YES ☐ NO Comment: I have asked a number of questions in Parliament on this important issue.

## Legal Protections

36) Support the development of a Human Rights Act for NSW?

☒ YES ☐ NO

37) Amend the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 as follows:

- Include Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity as a protected attribute to allow for the inclusion of bisexual people and non-binary people;
- Introduce a stand-alone protected attribute of ‘sex characteristics’;
- Harmonise the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 and framework to be consistent with the NSW Anti-Vilification framework, and;
- Repeal sections 56(c) and (d) which currently allow religious organisations as service providers, including in aged care, schools, hospitals, domestic violence and homelessness services, to refuse service on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity?

- Repeal section 59A, which currently allows faith-based adoption agencies to refuse service on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity?

☒ YES ☐ NO Comment: I hope to introduce legislation to delete these ridiculous provisions that allow faith based organisations and service providers to discriminate against staff, clients and students well beyond what is required to protect religious freedoms. In 2014 I introduced legislation to remove the right for private schools to discriminate against LGBTI and other vulnerable students which got the government to ensure that the NSW Education Standards Authority investigates complaints about discrimination and potentially deregister any school not providing a safe and inclusive education environment for all students.

### Sex Workers

38) Remain committed to the successful and long-standing policy of decriminalised sex work in NSW and not support policies such as client criminalisation (commonly known as the 'Nordic model') that undermine and/or reverse current policy?

☒ YES ☐ NO Comment: As a member of the Select Committee on the Regulation of Brothels, I provided a dissenting view against regulation, and I am pleased that the government ultimately agreed with this position.

39) Ensure that adequate resources are provided in order to formalise the development of Sex Worker Liaison Officers at key Local Area Command Police stations?

☒ YES ☐ NO

40) Support the inclusion of sex work as a protected ground under the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 (NSW)?

☒ YES ☐ NO

41) Support specialised services targeting most at-risk forms of sex work, such as sex for favours, which disproportionately effects Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people?

☒ YES ☐ NO