

# Rainbow Families 2019 NSW State Election Questionnaire

## Alex Greenwich Responses

### Exemptions to anti-discrimination legislation unfairly target our families

In government, will you:

1. Remove exemptions:

- (a) that allow permanency support providers which discriminate against prospective parents on the basis of sexuality or gender identity;
- (b) that allow non-government schools to discriminate against teachers, staff and students on the basis of their sexuality or gender identity; and
- (c) that allow religious organisations to discriminate in employment and service delivery?

OR

2. Ensure that all services funded by NSW government have, within their contracts, an agreement that they must not discriminate against LGBTIQ+ people?

I hope to introduce legislation to delete the ridiculous exemptions that allow faith based organisations and service providers to discriminate against clients, staff 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 vulnerable students based on sexuality and other factors 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.

### Extending the coverage of anti-discrimination laws

3. Do you have any policies or plans to ensure that bisexual people, people with intersex variations, and trans and gender diverse people are protected by the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977?

I have repeatedly called for a review of anti-discrimination protections, particularly following the Australian Human Rights Commission 2015 report 'Resilient Individuals: Sexual Orientation Gender Identity & Intersex Rights' found serious gaps in protection of LGBTI persons. I will push for anti-discrimination protections to cover bisexual people, people with intersex variations through a standalone protection, and all trans people including non-binary trans people.

### Surrogacy

In government, will you:

4. Commit to Release the Government response to the 2016 Legislative Review into surrogacy laws?

Yes.

5. Investigate options for a regulated surrogacy industry which would prevent exploitation, facilitate relationships between participants and provide counselling and other support?

I have serious concerns with commercial surrogacy that I am not confident can be addressed through regulation. If the next government initiates an investigation, I would be open to reviewing outcomes and reconsidering.

6. What policies or plans do you have to provide children born through surrogacy arrangements (federal) with the security of legal parentage so as to accurately reflect the legal, financial and emotional circumstances of their family, regardless of how their family was formed?

Notwithstanding my concerns with commercial surrogacy, I agree that children should be protected by having all their parents legally recognised, regardless of how their family was formed.

## Premier

If elected to Government, will you:

1. Develop and implement diversity and inclusion policies across all NSW government agencies that address the needs of LGBTIQ+ employees and their families?

Yes

2. Commit to a review of all NSW Government documents to ensure consistent use of inclusive language across all forms and resources?

Yes

3. Require NSW government agencies providing services to the public to undertake training in family diversity?

Yes

## Education

If elected to Government, will you:

4. Provide ongoing funding to develop an evidence-based anti-bullying program that specifically addresses LGBTIQ+ harassment and assault and supports students who identify as LGBTIQ+ or are from LGBTIQ+ families?

Yes

5. Provide specialist training for educators and other staff about family diversity, respecting the fact that children come from single parent families, LGBTIQ+ parented families, foster families and more.

Yes

6. Update school catchment policies to accommodate diverse family structures.

Yes

7. Standardise all paper and electronic enrolment forms to stipulate the more neutral "parents" as opposed to "mother" and "father."

Yes

## Health

If elected to Government, will you:

8. Establish a program for, and fund, LGBTIQ+ Liaison Officers at major NSW public hospitals to assist with providing health care to LGBTIQ-parent families and prevent discriminatory treatment that can have traumatic consequences?

Yes

I worked with the Minister for Health to gain development funding for ACON's LGBTIQ health centre, which promises to provide a centre of excellence where people can get dedicated expert

health treatment without fear of discrimination or stigma. This centre should also provide expert training and skills development for mainstream health services as discussed below.

9. Develop evidence-based family diversity training to medical professionals and health workers on family diversity?

Yes

See my response to Q9.

10. Establish and roll-out inclusive and where appropriate, specialised antenatal classes for the LGBTIQ+ community?

Yes

See my response to Q9

11. Encourage the development of public health information resources that reflect diverse family structures?

Yes

#### Attorney General

If elected to Government, will you:

12. Provide training for staff at the Office of Births, Deaths and Marriages around family diversity and non-traditional family structures and inclusive language?

Yes

13. Review Office of Births, Deaths and Marriages procedures to ensure accurate application of legislation relating to parentage, including procedures for children of trans parents updating birth certificates to reflect their parents legally affirmed identity?

Yes

14. Remove the need for LGBTIQ+ parents to complete a special registration of birth form; standardise all forms and make them available online.

Yes

15. Initiate legislative change that enables more than two parents to be listed on a child's birth certificate to reflect the diversity of family structures.

Yes

16. Co-operate with other jurisdictions to achieve consistency in laws relating to adoption?

Yes

#### Family And Community Services

17. Do you have any policies or plans to establish a process to match LGBTIQ+ identified youth at risk with openly identified LGBTIQ+ prospective parents?

This is an excellent idea that the new government should investigate further. The ultimate goal should be to provide the best family environment for the child.

18. Do you support funding of specialised services for LGBTIQ youth who are homeless or at risk of homelessness?

Yes.

19. Do you have any policies or plans to offer LGBTIQ+ inclusivity training for organisations working with permanency support providers? Do these plans relate to government or non-government organisations?

LGBTIQ+ parents have provided loving and supportive families for many children who cannot live with their biological parents. All permanency support providers, government and non-government should be trained in LGBTIQ+ inclusion.

#### Pride Centre

20. Will you fund a community organisation to offer welfare and support services to LGBTIQA+ families in NSW?

Like the dedicated health centre achieved through my advocacy, a community organisation providing broad welfare and support services will improve the wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ people and their families and I will support this if re-elected.