

# **LGBTIQ+ Health Australia**

Candidate survey – Andrew Wilkie MP, Independent Member for Clark

## **1. National Action Plan**

*Will you / your party commit to developing an implementation strategy and adequately funding implementation of the National Action Plan for the Health and Wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ People 2025–2035 in collaboration with LGBTIQ+ people and organisations to incorporate their feedback into policy development and implementation?*

As an independent candidate I can't commit to developing and funding a national implementation strategy, but if I am re-elected I will certainly advocate for it with whoever forms government. I agree that development in collaboration with LGBTIQ+ people and organisations is critical.

## **2. Stigma and discrimination**

*What specific initiatives will you / your party support to address systemic discrimination against LGBTIQ+ populations and ensure that LGBTIQ+ people are visible, included, and protected in all areas of society?*

I've consistently defended the rights of LGBTIQ+ people in the Parliament, and one of the enduring highlights of my parliamentary career was voting to finally end marriage discrimination in 2017. But we can't call that job done, because there is much more that needs to be done to ensure LGBTIQ+ are and feel visible, included and protected.

Systemic discrimination requires systems change, and that is why I have twice introduced the *Australian Bill of Rights Bill* into the Parliament which, if passed, would have provided national legislative basis for the protection of LGBTIQ+ rights, among others. It would also have allowed for the Australian Human Rights Commission to inquire into any act or practice, done by the Commonwealth or a state or territory government, that may infringe on a right or freedom in the Bill of Rights.

I have also advocated more recently for the Australian government to introduce comprehensive vilification protections and appoint an LGBTIQ+ Human Rights Commissioner and an LGBTIQ+ Equality Minister.

If re-elected I will continue listening to the LGBTIQ+ community and groups and take my cue from them on what to pursue and support in the next parliament.

### **3. Mental health and suicide prevention**

*What action will you / your party take to enhance mental health services for LGBTIQ+ Australians, particularly for trans and gender-diverse people, in alignment with the National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan and the National Suicide Prevention Strategy 2025-35.*

Should I be re-elected I will advocate for targeted funding for actions to support and enhance mental health services for LGBTIQ+ people under the National Suicide Prevention Strategy.

### **4. Gender-affirming healthcare**

*How will you / your party ensure equitable access to gender-affirming healthcare, including Medicare coverage?*

I will advocate for increased investment in Medicare and in workforce planning and development which is targeted to ensure gender affirming healthcare is accessible and affordable for those who need it.

### **5. Domestic and family violence**

*What steps will you / your party take to ensure safe, culturally competent support services for LGBTIQ+ individuals experiencing domestic and family violence, in line with the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032?*

I recognise that LGBTIQ+ people who are experiencing domestic and family violence may need targeted support and will advocate with whoever forms government to ensure that this is well-planned and funded.

### **6. Ageing and aged care**

*How will you / your party address barriers to inclusive aged care for LGBTI older people, considering the Aged Care Quality Standards and the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety?*

I will continue to push to implement the reforms which the Aged Care Royal Commission highlighted as necessary to address the barriers to safe and affirming aged care for older LGBTIQ+ people.

## **7. Sexual and reproductive healthcare**

*What measures will you / your party implement to improve access to sexual and reproductive healthcare for LGBTIQ+ people, such as inclusive fertility and parenting support?*

I believe access to sexual and reproductive healthcare is a basic human right. I will advocate for funding to ensure barriers to access to LGBTIQ+ people are understood and addressed.

## **8. Innate variations in sex characteristics**

*How will you / your party protect the rights and health of Intersex people, particularly concerning informed consent and access to necessary treatments, as recommended by the Australian Human Rights Commission's report Ensuring health and bodily integrity: towards a human rights approach for people born with variations in sex characteristics?*

I support the recommendations contained in the AHRC's report. I have advocated with the Government to address them and, in doing so, to protect the rights and health of Intersex people. If I am re-elected I will continue to advocate on this matter with whoever forms government.

## **9. LGBTIQ+ people with Disabilities**

*How will you / your party enhance support for LGBTIQ+ individuals with disabilities to ensure access to inclusive healthcare and disability support services, in accordance with Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability and the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) LGBTIQ+ Strategy?*

I support inclusive healthcare and disability support services for LGBTIQ+ people with disabilities and will advocate for the implementation and funding of inclusive strategies and services which align with recommendations from the Disability Royal Commission.

## **10. LGBTIQ+ community-controlled organisations**

*Will you / your party provide sustainable funding for LGBTIQ+ Health Australia (LHA) and strengthen community-controlled organisations to meet specific needs and work with mainstream providers, as highlighted in the National Action Plan for the Health and Wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ People 2025–2035?*

As an Independent MP, I cannot commit to providing any funding, but should I be re-elected, I will certainly advocate for it with whoever forms government.

## **11. Data collection and research**

*Do you / your party commit to improving data collection across federal health agencies through implementing the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) standard for data collection, including counting people with innate variations of sex characteristics?*

As an Independent MP I cannot commit to achieving this alone, but I strongly support and will continue to advocate for it with whoever forms government, should I be re-elected. I was quick to weigh in on the recent controversy surrounding relevant census questions, and can be counted on to do so again if necessary.