

28 April 2025

Mr James Zanotto
Policy, Research and Communications Director
LGBTIQ+ Health Australia
Via email: james.zanotto@lgbtiqhealth.org.au

Dear Mr Zanotto,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the Coalition's views on the important issues facing your members. A response to your questions is attached.

Under Labor, Australia's economy is weak, inflation and interest rates have stayed too high for too long, housing is unaffordable, and our country is less safe.

Under Labor, Australians are paying on average 13% more for food, 18% more for rent, and over 30% more for power and gas and young Australians have seen their dream of home ownership slip away.

The Coalition will get Australia back on track by delivering:

1. **Strong economy with low inflation.** We will rein in wasteful spending and reduce tax, red-tape and union control over small businesses.
2. **Cheaper energy.** We will ensure a balanced mix, including more renewables, more gas, and (in seven locations) replace retired coal plants with zero-emissions nuclear energy.
3. **Affordable homes.** We will fund critical infrastructure required for housing, assist first home buyers, restrict foreign investors, and rebalance Labor's record migration intake.
4. **Safer communities.** We will get tough on violent crime by non-citizens, boost our defence and border security, and improve online safety for children.
5. **Quality healthcare.** We will fund more GPs to address current shortages and increase bulk billing and the number of Medicare-subsidised mental health sessions.

Thank you for communicating our response to your members. Further information about the Coalition's election policies can be found at www.liberal.org.au/our-plan.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrew Hirst".

Andrew Hirst
Federal Director

The Coalition's Response to LGBTIQ+ Health Australia

2025 Federal Election Questionnaire

Health

LGBTIQ+ people have poorer health outcomes, particularly regarding mental health and suicide, some cancers, and alcohol and other drugs use. These disparities are directly linked to stigma, discrimination, and violence. Some LGBTIQ+ populations need specialised services, especially trans and gender diverse people, and people with innate variations of sex characteristics.

The Coalition supports the National Action Plan for the Health & Wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ people and a Dutton Government would work with key stakeholders around its implementation.

In particular, improving health literacy, improving research, data, and evaluation and ensuring workforce capability and capacity will be key areas of focus.

A Dutton Coalition Government will invest \$9.4 billion into Medicare to fix Labor's primary healthcare crisis and restore bulk billing back up to Coalition levels and to invest in mental health.

This investment includes our \$500 million commitment already announced to restore critical Medicare funding for mental health support, after it was slashed in half by the Albanese Government.

We will also address the workforce crisis through a substantial and comprehensive suite of measures. This includes extra medical student places, extra places for postgraduate GP training, nursing scholarships and incentives for junior doctors to pursue a career in General Practice.

The provision of public gender services to young people in Australia is exclusively led by states and territories who are responsible for the relevant services and employ the relevant clinicians.

The Coalition supports the National Health and Medical Research Council undertaking a comprehensive review of the Australian Standards of Care and Treatment Guidelines for Trans and Gender Diverse Children and Adolescents in Australia.

When last in Government, the Coalition launched the fourth National Strategy for blood-borne viruses (BBV) and sexually transmissible infections (STI).

The Coalition took a critical step in helping end the transmission of HIV infection in Australia with listing of tenofovir with emtricitabine ((also known as Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Schedule (PBS).

In 2021, the Coalition invested over \$50 million in new funding to extend access to HIV treatment in Australia and to support activities that will support the health and mental wellbeing of people living with blood borne viruses and sexually transmissible infections.

This included \$39 million over 5 years to support people living with HIV in Australia, who are not eligible for Medicare, to access the treatment they need

The Coalition will continue to work with key stakeholders to progress the elimination of HIV in Australia.

Several laws related to public health services including the treatment of intersex individuals are a matter for States and Territories.

The Australian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis & Sexual Health Medicine and LGBTIQ+ Health Australia are two organisations received funding under the third round of the Health Peak and Advisory Bodies Program that was originally established by the Coalition in 2016.

Protecting LGBTIQ+ people from discrimination and vilification

It is simply unacceptable to advocate force or violence against someone because of their personal characteristics or the groups they belong to. No LGBTIQ+ Australian should ever be subject to violent attacks or hate because of who they are.

The Coalition provided bipartisan support to strengthen the criminal code for those committing hate crimes, particularly around advocating the use of force or violence and the display of hate symbols.

We strengthened this Bill to ensure that those who are advocating force or violence against a particular group of people, including the LGBTIQ+ community, would be captured under the criminal code.

This legislation was an important step in ensuring that all Australians are protected, no matter their background, religion or the community they belong to.

The Coalition will continue to consult across the community to ensure that all Australians are protected from discrimination, and will take a measured, consultative approach to that issue.

Domestic Violence

The Coalition believes that Australians' safety and security are the first responsibility of government.

Across Australia, reported incidents of domestic and family violence continue to rise. Recorded sexual assaults reached a three-decade high in 2024 and 45,000 children remain in out-of-home care. Women are calling helplines every four minutes, with police responding to a domestic violence incident every six minutes.

The Coalition will always be committed to addressing this terrible scourge.

In government, we invested more than \$3.5 billion in women's safety. Our initiatives meant more frontline support, emergency accommodation and access to legal and health services for women and children in need. We have a strong track record on online safety and cracking down against image-based abuse.

The Coalition supports the 10-year *National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032*. The National Plan sets out a path to end violence against women in one generation. It is an ambitious goal, but one our country must strive to achieve.

A Dutton Coalition Government will:

- Implement a National Domestic Violence Register, allowing police across Australia and relevant agencies to access and share information about previous family violence convictions to better manage risk and avoid future offending.
- Take strong action against perpetrators of family and domestic violence through specialist early and behavioural intervention programs and tougher monitoring measures.
- Establish new domestic violence offences with tough bail laws.
- Lift the threshold for fast-track property settlements in the family law courts, so that separating couples with an asset pool of up to \$1.5 million (excluding superannuation) can quickly and fairly resolve matters that do not involve children.

Suicide Prevention

An elected Dutton Coalition Government will continue our proud legacy of supporting life saving research into suicide prevention by investing \$15 million to continue the National Suicide Prevention Research Fund.

Disappointingly, the Albanese Labor Government has cut funding for this crucial Research Fund, throwing ongoing research efforts into complete uncertainty.

The Coalition will restore funding for the Suicide Prevention Research Fund because we are fully committed to working towards zero suicides.

The National Suicide Prevention Research Fund, led by Suicide Prevention Australia, was proudly established by the Coalition in 2016 and then extended in 2022 by the former Coalition Government.

It has led to important research developments that are making a meaningful difference to save lives.

Every life lost is one too many.

The Leader of the Opposition, the Hon Peter Dutton MP, has said the Coalition will reverse Labor's mental health cuts, and ensure Australia continues to work towards the goal of zero suicides.

Disability

The Coalition is focused on ensuring the NDIS remains fit for purpose and sustainable for future generations to come.

The Coalition was and remains committed to a fully funded National Disability Insurance Scheme as a demand driven scheme and has always been clear that the NDIS needs to be sustainable to ensure it delivers for generations to come.

Labor promised to get the NDIS ‘back on track’, however eight months since the *NDIS Legislation (Bill No. 2)* passed Parliament, and over their three-year term, there is little evidence of any improvements in the scheme.

It is extremely concerning how little action has been taken against the allegedly illegal, fraudulent and criminal activity taking place within the Scheme, putting providers, support workers and other vulnerable participants at risk of harm.

A Dutton Coalition Government will eradicate fraud and waste from the NDIS to deliver value for taxpayer dollars and provide ongoing support to those with permanent and significant disabilities and protect the safety of workers and providers.

Improving data collection and recognition of LGBTIQ+ populations

The Coalition will consider any advice provided by the public service with a view to ensuring that data collection and record keeping processes remain fit for purpose, including in relation to intersex people.

Supporting LGBTIQ+ community organisations

The Coalition will continue to support community organisations including through grant programs across the Government