

LGBTIQA+ Health and Wellbeing

The Australian Greens believe that all people have fundamental human rights and are entitled to equal protection of the law without any discrimination, including on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex variations. Below is the Australian Greens response to LGBTIQ+ Health Australia's election priorities.

A voice for LGBTIQA+ people in decisions

LGBTIQA+ issues need to be heard at the highest levels of government and implemented across portfolios. As part of our whole of government inclusion strategy, the Greens will:

- Appoint a Minister for Equality, supported within a Department, to ensure issues affecting LGBTIQA+ communities are represented in cabinet;
- Appoint an LGBTIQA+ Human Rights Commissioner, to ensure LGBTIQA+ people are protected from discrimination on the basis of sex, sexuality, gender identity and sex characteristics, and;
- Establish a Ministerial Advisory Group to provide strategic advice to all ministers, and ensure decisions regarding LGBTIQA+ communities are made only after meaningful consultation. The work of the group will be supported by working groups across departments that will ensure a whole of government approach to policy making.

Health and wellbeing of LGBTIQA+ people

LGBTIQA+ people have health care needs which are not always met by the current system. The Greens will provide dedicated funding to establish a national LGBTIQA+ health and wellbeing action plan. The Greens will provide \$285m to ensure all LGBTIQA+ people have access to holistic and comprehensive health services regardless of whether they live in a capital city or a rural town. It will include national standards and training for health professionals to ensure they can provide world class care to LGBTIQA+ patients, particularly patients who have intersex traits, or are transgender, gender diverse or non binary. As part of their work, the Minister for Equality would play a central role in ensuring that a National health and wellbeing plan is integrated into the work of other departments beyond the Health department, and coordinated with state and territory governments.

Improving data collection and recognition of LGBTIQ+ populations

The Australian Greens believe that the contribution of people with diverse sexualities, gender identities and intersex variations and their communities is unique and valuable to the Australian community. That's why we want to see the Australian Bureau of Statistics and other relevant agencies improve statistical data collection on people with diverse sexualities, gender identities, intersex variations and their families.

The Greens will allocate \$10m in dedicated funding to implement Australian Bureau of Statistics 2020 Standard on Sex, Gender, Variations in Sex Characteristics, and Sexual Orientation Variables in data collection across Government, including through the Census.

As part of the work of the Minister for Equality, the Greens will call for a review of the Australian Government Guidelines on the Recognition of Sex and Gender to allow people to update their gender markers through a simple, whole-of-government administrative process.

We will also provide \$600,000 per year in dedicated funding to support ongoing data collection on the needs and experiences of LGBTIQ+ communities, such as the Private Lives and Writing Themselves In projects.

Invest in LGBTIQ+ community controlled health

LGBTIQ+ community controlled health organisations are best placed to respond to the needs of the LGBTIQ+ community. The Australian Greens will provide \$70 million grants fund over four years from 1 July 2022 for LGBTIQ+ community-controlled health organisations; as part of that work, we will ensure that procurement and tendering processes appropriately prioritise LGBTIQ+ community-controlled organisations within the funding program.

We will also provide \$200,000 to LGBTIQ+ Health Australia (LHA) to partner with the PHN Cooperative on Guiding Principles that will support PHNs work to improve the health and wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ Australians and increase collaboration with LGBTIQ+ community-controlled health organisations.

Prioritise the mental health and wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ communities

Thanks to chronic underinvestment, and two years of lockdown, we now have a mental health crisis. Mental health care is expensive, hard to find, and appointments can take months to get because of

long wait lists. Most of the time, the Medicare rebate for mental health care doesn't cover the full cost of seeing psychologists and psychiatrists. Under the Greens plan for mental health, we will:

- Invest \$4.8 billion to ensure mental healthcare is fully covered under Medicare by providing unlimited; sessions with a psychologist or psychiatrist with no out of pocket fees so everyone can get the support they need, when they need it, at every stage of their mental health journey;
- Invest \$2.5 billion to implement a national rollout of the Individual Placement and Support program to help young people impacted by poor mental health find stable work;
- Increase the number of peer workers by 1,000 workers, so those with lived experience can provide invaluable support to those going through recovery, and;
- Advocate for the development of specialised, ongoing mental health training for medical students and GPs.

To address the specific needs of LGBTIQ+ community members, under the National LGBTIQ+ Health and Wellbeing Plan, the Greens will provide \$200m in funding to go towards LGBTIQ+ health priorities. Responding to LHA's 2022 Federal Election Priorities, a specific component of this \$200m in funding will go to:

- Implementing the National LGBTIQ+ Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Strategy;
- Providing \$250,000 to build LHA's capacity to engage with the National Suicide Prevention Office and support its work for LGBTIQ+ people as an identified priority population, and;
- Establish a National Commissioner for LGBTIQ+ Suicide Prevention

Health and human rights for people born with variations in sex characteristics

The Australian Greens will provide \$132m in funding to implement the *Darlington Statement* developed by Australian and Aotearoa/New Zealand organisations and independent advocates for the rights of people with intersex variations. That implementation plan will include:

- Funding for the public service to examine and begin implementation of a redress scheme for people with intersex variations who have undergone forced or coercive medical practices;
- Work to examine a nationally consistent, legislated approach to preventing so-called 'normalising' medical interventions, undertaken without consent, on people with intersex variations;

- \$3m per year for additional funding to better understand and support the needs of people with intersex variations;
- \$4m in funding for community lead organisations, to support advocacy and peer-support, and;
- \$4m per year for additional funding for education of health, welfare and allied professionals in issues relating to intersex variations, including human rights issues.

Family, domestic and sexual violence

The Greens recognise that LGBTIQ+ people experience higher risk of family, domestic and sexual violence, and often struggle to access advice and support. The Greens have committed \$12 billion for the next National Plan, focusing on prevention, early intervention, frontline response and recovery services. The plan will fund dedicated, secure, long-term funding for specialist services, including for LGBTIQ+ victim-survivors, fund data collection and research bodies to better understand and address the drivers of violence, and strengthen and harmonise criminal justice responses.

We will also fund comprehensive, expert-led, age-appropriate Respectful Relationships Education in all public schools which will address gender diversity and same sex relationships.

We are committed to full implementation of all recommendations in Set the Standard, including strategies for greater diversity and inclusivity in parliament and parliamentary workplaces. We have also called for similar workplace inclusivity strategies for the Australian Public Service.

As part of our commitment to addressing family, domestic and sexual violence, the Australian Greens will commit \$30m towards:

- Including LGBTIQ+ people in the next National Plan, including funding targeted actions in the next National Plan that specifically address violence against LGBTIQ+ people, and;
- Engage with LGBTIQ+ community controlled organisations to deliver the recommendations made in the Australian Human Rights Commission report *Set the Standard*.

Health and wellbeing for trans, gender diverse and non binary people

There are significant gaps and barriers for people trying to access gender affirming healthcare. The Greens will provide dedicated funding of \$15 million to cover the out of pocket costs experienced by trans, gender diverse and non binary people in accessing gender affirming healthcare.

Equality and opportunity for LGBTIQ+ people with disability

Disabled people continue to fall through the cracks and are often denied the same rights as everyone else. Successive Liberal and Labor governments have perpetuated the discrimination of disabled people, often denying them access to inclusive education, meaningful employment, adequate services, and the support they need.

The Greens will remove the barriers, fix the systems, and eliminate the structural discrimination disabled people face. Our plan includes:

- Fully resource the NDIS so it meets the needs of disabled people, their families and carers
- Make disabled people's physical and digital worlds accessible, including by establishing a new \$3 billion Accessible Infrastructure Fund
- Champion inclusive education and employment by establishing a 20% quota for full disabled employee representation in the Australian Public Service by 2030
- Create more accessible housing and healthcare through co-designed planning, policies, and implementation of Liveable Housing Australia Silver Standard across the country
- Ensure disabled people are at the centre of decision-making, policy and planning through \$30 million increase in Commonwealth funding for disability advocacy organisations over four years

As part of these reforms, the Greens will ensure that the voices of LGBTIQ+ people with disability are central and their needs addressed and funded when implementing the findings of the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability.

Ensure safe and culturally appropriate aged care services

We have an ageing population and there is not enough care for older people in our community and they do not have access to treatment that is good enough. It's time that older people in our country are given the level of care they need. The Greens plan for Aged Care includes:

- \$6 billion per year to increase hours of care to 4 hours 18 minutes per resident per day, introduce staff to resident ratios, increase wages by 25% and improve conditions and training;
- Guaranteeing a human rights based approach to aged care and physical and chemical restraints, and;
- Investing \$260 million to keep the home care package waiting list clear.

As part of this approach, the Greens will work to ensure that the needs of LGBTIQ+ older Australians are met, including addressing barriers in accessing safe and culturally appropriate aged care services.

The Australian Greens also want core and ongoing funding to grow and support LGBTIQ+ community-controlled organisations that support people with diverse sexualities, gender identities and intersex variations. That's why we will provide a \$70 million grants fund for community groups, including establishing and consulting with the Ministerial Advisory group about priorities and a transparent allocation process. This funding will support groups that are engaging with the aged care sector such as LGBTIQ+ Health Australia's Silver Rainbow project, including exploring how they can broaden existing services to provide home support to older LGBTIQ+ people as part of My Aged Care.