



9 May 2022

Nicky Bath
Chief Executive Officer
LGBTIQ+ Health Australia
Email: info@lgbtiqhealth.org.au

Dear Ms Bath,

Thank you for the election questionnaire you have sent to the Australian Labor Party. As the responsible Shadow Ministers, we are responding on behalf of the Opposition. Thank you also for your invitation for Labor to participate in your jointly-hosted National LGBTIQ+ Election Forum, at which the Opposition was represented by Senator the Hon Penny Wong.

Labor believes all Australians deserve the same human rights, equality, respect and safety as each other.

Indeed, Labor is the primary architect of the anti-discrimination law framework in Australia. We will continue to defend and enhance that framework to ensure that it is fit for purpose, accessible and promotes equality. We will seek to enhance protections in a way that brings Australians together, drawing on the bonds of our common humanity, as expressed in the human rights treaties that Australia has ratified and that Labor continues to champion.

We are a diverse nation and we need to respect every Australian for who they are. We don't want to see anyone treated unfairly.

An elected Albanese Labor Government will appoint an Ambassador for Human Rights to restore Australia's leadership on human rights around the world. The Ambassador will advance rights and protections for people living with a disability, ethnic and religious minorities, and LGBTIQ+ individuals and bolster Australia's support for the UN human rights architecture and international law.

Labor will work closely with LGBTIQ+ Australians and advocates to develop policy that will ensure equality before the law and strengthen Medicare so that LGBTIQ+ Australians have full access to our treasured universal healthcare system. An Albanese Labor Government will consult on the unique health issues and barriers to access that LGBTIQ+ Australians may face. To that end, we will be pleased to provide a grant to LGBTIQ+ Health Australia to assist with this consultation with the community.

Further, an elected Albanese Labor Government will boost Q Life's peer support workforce to help them reach more LGBTIQ+ Australians in crisis. Labor's commitment of a one-off grant will enable Q Life to employ four permanent team leaders (one across each service delivery organisation) to boost recruitment, training and retention of volunteer peer support workers, with the goal of increasing Q Life's call answer rate by 10 per cent.

An Albanese Labor Government will also accelerate efforts to end Australia's HIV epidemic. If elected, we will establish a Ministerial Taskforce of community representatives, medical experts and officials charged with removing bottlenecks and driving progress to end HIV transmission.

Following the recent debate on the Morrison Government's Religious Discrimination Bill, Anthony Albanese committed that a future Labor Government will:

- Prevent discrimination against people of faith, including anti-vilification protections.
- Act to protect all students from discrimination on any grounds.
- Protect teachers from discrimination at work, whilst maintaining the right of religious schools to preference people of their faith in the selection of staff.

Anthony Albanese and Labor see the extension of our anti-discrimination laws to include people of faith as an opportunity to unite the nation, rather than to divide it. Labor has consistently said that in doing so we must not diminish protections for other people in our society.

We appreciate that your election questionnaire includes a series of specific issues. However, we are not in a position to work through detailed policy proposals or to consult fully upon them with the wider Australian community on the eve of an election.

An elected Albanese Labor Government would welcome the opportunity to consult further with you on these important matters.

Yours sincerely,



Hon Mark Butler MP
Shadow Minister for Health and Ageing



Hon Mark Dreyfus QC MP
Shadow Attorney-General