



Rainbow Votes

1. LGBTI youth

1.1 Education is essential to reducing high levels of violence and harassment against LGBTI students and ensuring young LGBTI people feel safe at school.

- **What steps are your party taking to combat homophobia, biphobia and transphobia occurring in schools?**
- **Will your party ensure funding of schools will include a requirement that schools actively combat prejudice and discrimination against LGBTI students?**
- **How will your party ensure LGBTI young people and young people with LGBTI parents feel safe at school?**

The Australian Labor Party strongly supports the Safe Schools Program as a vital tool to combat schoolyard bullying. Labor believes that all students have a right to be safe and secure at school regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Labor funded the national roll-out of Safe Schools and we will continue to tackle bullying and discrimination.

1.2 The national curriculum should include information relevant to the needs of LGBTI young Australians.

- **How will your party include LGBTI issues in the national curriculum?"**
- **Will your party adopt a National Health and Physical Education Curriculum that explicitly includes reference and education on diverse families, and LGBTI status?**

Labor believes that all children should have access to high-quality education that reflects the diversity of the Australian community.

Labor is committed to making relationships and sexuality education inclusive of all sexualities and gender identities. Labor will ensure the sex education curriculum is kept up-to-date and reviewed regularly by both nongovernment organisations and experts working in LGBTI health.

1.3 What support and information will your party commit to making available for the families of LGBTI children in order to ensure they have the best available information when making decisions for their child?

A Shorten Labor Government will work with the States and Territories and the community to make sure the families of LGBTI children are supported in the most appropriate way.

BILL SHORTEN AND LABOR. WE'LL PUT PEOPLE FIRST

2. Relationship recognition and marriage equality

2.1 Is your party committed to amending the Marriage Act to allow all adult couples, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex status, to marry in Australia?

A vote for Labor is a vote for marriage equality. A Shorten Labor Government will legislate for marriage equality within our first 100 days in office.

2.2 It has been proposed by some to hold a plebiscite on the matter of marriage equality.

- **Will your party commit to being a positive and courteous voice in the plebiscite campaign?**
- **Will your party campaign for yes on a plebiscite?**
- **What protections will your party put in place to ensure the mental health and wellbeing of LGBTI Australians and their families during a public vote campaign?**
- **If the Australian people endorse a change to the Marriage Act, will your party's members be bound by this result?**

The Labor Party opposes Malcolm Turnbull's hateful and divisive plebiscite on marriage equality. Rather than wasting \$160 million of taxpayers' money on a plebiscite that will create a platform for bigotry, Parliament should just do its job and pass a bill without further delay.

Labor is deeply concerned that a plebiscite could act as a lightning rod for the very worst of the prejudice so many LGBTI Australians endure – that it could turn into a platform for people to attack, abuse and demean Australians on the basis of who they love. The fact is, casual, unthinking discrimination and deliberate, malicious homophobia are still far too common in our society.

A Shorten Labor Government will protect the mental health and well-being of LGBTI Australians and their families by not holding a plebiscite. Labor will legislate for marriage equality within our first 100 days of the next Parliament.

2.3 In the event that plebiscite is not held and a bill is introduced to amend the Marriage Act to allow for marriage equality, how will your party vote – will it be compelled to vote in favour, will there be a free vote, or will all party members be compelled to vote against any legislation?

The Australian Labor Party grants its MPs and Senators a free vote on marriage equality. It is time for Malcolm Turnbull and the Liberal Party to do the same.

2.4 Is your party committed to repealing section 88EA of the Marriage Act to enable recognition of marriages performed overseas?

A Shorten Labor Government will amend the Marriage Act so that marriages performed overseas could be recognised under Australian law regardless of the gender of the parties to the marriage.

BILL SHORTEN AND LABOR. WE'LL PUT PEOPLE FIRST

PO BOX 6222, KINGSTON ACT 2604 ABN 38 318 251 221
T 03 8625 5000, Twitter: @AustralianLabor, facebook.com/LaborConnect, www.alp.org.au

Authorised by G. Wright, Australian Labor Party, 5/9 Sydney Avenue, Barton, ACT, 2600

2.5 There are already existing provisions in the Marriage Act that enable Ministers of Religion to perform religious marriage ceremonies in accordance with their doctrine. Will your party commit to not expanding these provisions to other areas such as service delivery or civil celebrants?

Under Labor there will be no expansion to religious exemptions.

BILL SHORTEN AND LABOR. WE'LL PUT PEOPLE FIRST

PO BOX 6222, KINGSTON ACT 2604 ABN 38 318 251 221
T 03 8625 5000, Twitter: @AustralianLabor, facebook.com/LaborConnect, www.alp.org.au

Authorised by G. Wright, Australian Labor Party, 5/9 Sydney Avenue, Barton, ACT, 2600

3. LGBTI representation and engagement

3.1 Will your party ensure that there is a Commonwealth Commissioner with specific responsibility for LGBTI rights, similar to the Victorian Commissioner for Gender and Sexuality?

Penny Wong and Mark Dreyfus announced our commitment to a LGBTI Discrimination Commissioner at the launch of the Rainbow Labor Federal Election Campaign in May 2016.

Labor will appoint a permanent, dedicated full-time LGBTI Discrimination Commissioner, to ensure that the rights of LGBTI Australians have a new champion, and lesbian, gay, transgender and intersex Australians can feel safer, more secure and more included in Australian society.

This reflects the fact that LGBTI Australians continue to face discrimination in many areas of their life.

While Labor understands that this will not put an end to the discrimination experienced by many LGBTI Australians, having a dedicated Discrimination Commissioner is an important next step in the fight for a more equal Australia.

3.2 Does your party have or will your party develop a dedicated portfolio area, including spokesperson, for issues relating to the equality of LGBTI Australians?

Labor will appoint a permanent, dedicated full-time LGBTI Discrimination Commissioner, to ensure that the rights of LGBTI Australians have a new champion, and lesbian, gay, transgender and intersex Australians can feel safer, more secure and more included in Australian society.

3.3 Will your party commit to funding for LGBTI national peak bodies, including funding for the National LGBTI Health Alliance and other community groups?

Labor understands the important work that peak bodies like the National LGBTI Health Alliance do. They provide respected and representative advocacy for universally accessible, high quality and appropriate healthcare in Australia. In contrast, the Liberals have recently cut funding for 79 peak bodies, including the National LGBTI Health Alliance.

3.4 Will your party support a whole-of-government LGBTI Ministerial Advisory Group, including members of intersex, trans and gender diverse community organisations? If not, how will your party consult with LGBTI organisations and individuals?

Labor is committed to engaging and involving the LGBTI community in policy development and decisions that affect them.

Labor will work with LGBTI Australians and representative groups to support and engage with communities and stakeholders to provide input into government decision-making and ensure their engagement in the policy development of government.

BILL SHORTEN AND LABOR. WE'LL PUT PEOPLE FIRST

PO BOX 6222, KINGSTON ACT 2604 ABN 38 318 251 221
T 03 8625 5000, Twitter: @AustralianLabor, facebook.com/LaborConnect, www.alp.org.au

Authorised by G. Wright, Australian Labor Party, 5/9 Sydney Avenue, Barton, ACT, 2600

4. Equality and non-discrimination

4.1 LGBTI Australians deserve equality in all areas of life, including healthcare, education, employment and welfare.

• How will your party ensure equality under the law for LGBTI Australians and how will your party measure the success of this commitment?

In 2013 Labor amended the Sex Discrimination Act to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexuality, gender identity or intersex status for the first time ever under Federal law. This built on the earlier work of the Labor Government which amended close to 100 laws to remove discrimination against LGBTI Australians. The ALP has a proud history of delivering real reforms for the LGBTI community that is unmatched by any other party standing for election in 2016.

4.2 Recent changes to Commonwealth anti-discrimination laws include protections from discrimination for all LGBTI people accessing aged care services, regardless of whether the organisation is religious or secular.

• Will your party remove the permanent exemptions for religious organisations in service delivery, including in the education, housing, homelessness, health and welfare sectors?

• Will your party remove the current permanent employment exemptions for religious organisations? (Note: intersex status is not included within religious exemptions today).

All people are entitled to respect, equality, dignity and the opportunity to participate in society free of hatred or harassment and receive the protection of the law regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex status.

Consistent with this belief, in 2007 Labor audited Commonwealth laws to identify discrimination against same sex couples. In 2008, Labor passed laws to remove discrimination from 84 pieces of Commonwealth legislation. In 2013, Labor amended the Sex Discrimination Act to outlaw discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex status.

4.3 How will your party ensure publicly funded social welfare, health and community services contracted to non-government and religious-based organisations do not discriminate against LGBTI people in employment and service delivery?

Labor will review national anti-discrimination laws to ensure that exemptions do not place Australians in a position where they cannot access essential social services.

4.4 International approaches recognise the right of trans sportspeople to play sport in their affirmed gender and intersex people to play in their birth-assigned sex or affirmed gender, as appropriate.

• Will your party ensure that all trans people and intersex people are protected from discrimination in sport?

BILL SHORTEN AND LABOR. WE'LL PUT PEOPLE FIRST

PO BOX 6222, KINGSTON ACT 2604 ABN 38 318 251 221
T 03 8625 5000, Twitter: @AustralianLabor, facebook.com/LaborConnect, www.alp.org.au

Authorised by G. Wright, Australian Labor Party, 5/9 Sydney Avenue, Barton, ACT, 2600

Labor condemns sexual violence or derogatory behaviour, including towards women, or LGBTI Australians, such as at times exists in sporting culture and some major sporting events, and supports initiatives to eradicate such behaviour.

A Shorten Labor Government will:

- Work with all national sporting bodies to deliver gender and violence education programs and challenging prejudice programs, covering homophobia, biphobia and transphobia, for players, coaches, managers and promoters across all sports and levels; and,
- Require effective policies and practices to prevent discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex status (including women athletes with intersex variations), whether affecting participants in sport or their families, or employees and volunteers in the sector, including by making such action against discrimination a condition of Commonwealth funding.

4.5 What is your party's understanding of the diverse nature of modern Australian families?

The ALP recognises that in modern Australia families come in all sorts of different shapes and sizes. This includes traditional 'nuclear families', sole parent families, blended families and families with parents of the same gender.

BILL SHORTEN AND LABOR. WE'LL PUT PEOPLE FIRST

PO BOX 6222, KINGSTON ACT 2604 ABN 38 318 251 221
T 03 8625 5000, Twitter: @AustralianLabor, facebook.com/LaborConnect, www.alp.org.au

Authorised by G. Wright, Australian Labor Party, 5/9 Sydney Avenue, Barton, ACT, 2600

5. LGBTI data and research

5.1 Increasingly, studies are asking respondents, to identify if they are same sex attracted, gender diverse, and/or born with intersex characteristics, and in doing so are identifying health disparities in a range of areas including abuse of alcohol and other drugs, mental health and smoking.

• Will your party commit to ensuring that sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status indicators are included in all population-based data sets and clinical data, where appropriate, to ensure that LGBTI populations are visible and their needs are properly understood?

Labor supports the principle of independent research. We also strongly support LGBTI Australians being included and having their particular needs acknowledged in both mainstream and targeted service delivery.

That is why we support the collection of data about sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status where it is appropriate to do so and relevant to the nature of the research being conducted – for example in population health surveys and those exploring government service delivery. However, a blanket requirement to collect this data would run counter to the principle of independent research, which is also important to ensure that research findings have credibility and reliability.

5.2 Will your party commit to working with the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and Standards Australia to co-design a standardised set of questions that can be used by researchers to identify LGBTI people in subsets of data?

We are open to working with key agencies in government to develop more consistent approaches to identifying LGBTI Australians in survey research. In developing these approaches however, it will also be important to develop appropriate safeguards regarding their use to ensure privacy and anonymity are consistently maintained in the collection, storage and use of data, along with practical research protocols and guidance on the use of small data subsets within larger cohorts.

5.3 How will your party work with government bodies such as the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, along with research bodies and community groups, to increase understandings about LGBTI people across a range of socio-economic and health research datasets?

Labor has announced that in government, we will appoint a dedicated LGBTI Commissioner to the Australian Human Rights Commission. One of the roles of the Commissioner will be to ensure that LGBTI Australians are visible to service providers and government agencies where this is necessary to support their full access to appropriate services, and ensure they are not disadvantaged by virtue of their sexuality or gender identity. Working with government bodies like the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) to ensure appropriate, effective and anonymous data collection about LGBTI Australians is included in larger data activities is the kind of task that will be within the remit of the LGBTI Commissioner.

BILL SHORTEN AND LABOR. WE'LL PUT PEOPLE FIRST

PO BOX 6222, KINGSTON ACT 2604 ABN 38 318 251 221
T 03 8625 5000, Twitter: @AustralianLabor, facebook.com/LaborConnect, www.alp.org.au

Authorised by G. Wright, Australian Labor Party, 5/9 Sydney Avenue, Barton, ACT, 2600

6. LGBTI health

6.1 Research shows that LGBTI people can have poor mental health outcomes.

- **How will your party address the mental health of LGBTI people, including through the provision of specific programs targeting our communities?**
- **Will your party support the development of a National LGBTI Mental Health plan?**
- **Will your party provide ongoing support for the national LGBTI telephone support helpline, Q-Life?**

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer people live with higher rates of mental illness, self-harm and suicide.

Labor will support programs to prevent suicide, and for improved mental health, for high risk groups, including LGBTI Australians.

Labor believes that long term mental health reform focused on delivering a more integrated, cross-sector and whole-of-government mental health care system must be a national priority but it requires national leadership.

A Shorten Labor Government will build on Labor's strong legacy in mental health by ensuring investment goes to where it is needed most.

Labor's commitment to strengthening support for people with mental illness and improving mental wellbeing starts with the recommendations of the National Mental Health Commission.

Labor largely supports the National Mental Health Commission's recommendations and will outline our priorities for implementation within the first 100 days of a Shorten Labor Government.

Australia must deliver a system which is centred on early intervention and prevention as well as person-centred care and integrated support services for people living with mental illness.

A Shorten Labor Government will lead the negotiation on the development of the Fifth National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan.

The Plan will be based on the principles of National Leadership and Regional Integration which has been recommended by the National Mental Health Commission's review.

In recognition of the need for multi-departmental engagement and cross jurisdictional sign-off, Labor will seek agreement to the Fifth National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG).

A Shorten Labor Government will commit to the National Mental Health Commission's recommendation to reduce suicides by 50 per cent over the next ten years.

Labor will establish 12 regional initiatives – six urban, four regional and two remote - as the first stage in implementation of a comprehensive, whole-of-system approach to suicide

BILL SHORTEN AND LABOR. WE'LL PUT PEOPLE FIRST

PO BOX 6222, KINGSTON ACT 2604 ABN 38 318 251 221
T 03 8625 5000, Twitter: @AustralianLabor, facebook.com/LaborConnect, www.alp.org.au

Authorised by G. Wright, Australian Labor Party, 5/9 Sydney Avenue, Barton, ACT, 2600

prevention. Regions will apply for grants to fund place-based initiatives tailored to local community needs for services and support.

We will work with stakeholders and State and Territory Governments to identify these sites within the first 100 days of government.

Models of suicide prevention which involve multi-component, whole-of-community approaches have proven to reduce suicidal thinking, attempts and deaths.

A Shorten Labor Government will work with State and Territory Governments, people with lived experience and the mental health service sector to develop and implement a National Suicide Prevention Framework.

A National Suicide Prevention Framework will take an evidence-based approach to identifying what is working and to developing and expanding community-based and culturally-sensitive best practice models of suicide prevention.

In addition, a Shorten Labor Government is committed to making sure people with mental illness and their carers continue to be supported as the National Disability Insurance Scheme is rolled out and through the continuation of community based mental health services.

6.2 Will your party commit to developing LGBTI-inclusive preventative health approaches, particularly in the areas of smoking, diabetes and obesity?

Labor will address the particular health needs of LGBTI people, working in partnership with these communities and LGBTI health peak bodies, and continue to support LGBTI health peak bodies

6.3 Research shows bisexual people have worse health outcomes than both gays/lesbians and the general population.

• Will your party support and fund specific training, research and programs to increase equity in health outcomes for bisexual Australians?

When there are specific health needs, fairness demands suitably targeted programs.

Labor will address the particular health needs of bisexual people, working in partnership with the community and LGBTI health peak bodies.

6.4 Will your party commit to working with the Australian Medical Council, Allied Health Professions Australia and the Community Services and Health Industry Skills Council to ensure the inclusion of LGBTI issues within the courses for all health professionals?

Labor will support training for health care workers about issues of sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status.

BILL SHORTEN AND LABOR. WE'LL PUT PEOPLE FIRST

PO BOX 6222, KINGSTON ACT 2604 ABN 38 318 251 221
T 03 8625 5000, Twitter: @AustralianLabor, facebook.com/LaborConnect, www.alp.org.au

Authorised by G. Wright, Australian Labor Party, 5/9 Sydney Avenue, Barton, ACT, 2600

6.5 The Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence and recent Senate inquiries have highlighted the issues of LGBTI domestic and family violence.

• How will your party address barriers faced by LGBTI people in accessing appropriate support and reporting domestic and family violence?

Labor is committed to embedding within support services the diverse needs of victims of family violence, including LGBTI Australians.

Labor will commission a National Crisis Summit within 100 days of coming to government.

A National Crisis Summit on family and domestic violence is required for the Commonwealth, State and Territory governments to agree to urgently implement coordinated judicial and social services reform within their areas of responsibility to better deal with family violence.

A national crisis summit is the best way for stakeholders to openly and transparently lay down the key policy challenges for addressing family violence.

6.6 A national, co-ordinated approach is needed to address the health needs of LGBTI Australians.

• How will your party prioritise the health needs of LGBTI Australians, both within broader health policy and where appropriate through specific initiatives including the development of a whole of government LGBTI health strategy?

Labor believes in an inclusive health system which provides culturally appropriate care for all Australians, regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion or sexuality.

Labor will ensure that the health needs of LGBTI people are addressed, working in partnership with communities and LGBTI health peak bodies.

6.7 How will your party ensure services delivered by and funded by the National Disability and Insurance Scheme will be culturally appropriate for LGBTI Australians with a disability?

Labor recognises that LGBTI Australians have particular needs in accessing appropriate and supportive disability care.

Labor is committed to ensuring that the NDIS provides a model of care that focuses on the needs of the individual – person centred care and integrated support services, focused on the needs of the whole person, giving people choice and control in accessing disability care.

BILL SHORTEN AND LABOR. WE'LL PUT PEOPLE FIRST

PO BOX 6222, KINGSTON ACT 2604 ABN 38 318 251 221
T 03 8625 5000, Twitter: @AustralianLabor, facebook.com/LaborConnect, www.alp.org.au

Authorised by G. Wright, Australian Labor Party, 5/9 Sydney Avenue, Barton, ACT, 2600

7. LGBTI ageing

7.1 The first National LGBTI Ageing and Aged Care Strategy will expire in 2017.

- **How will your party ensure a culturally appropriate and safe aged care environment for LGBTI people?**
- **Will your party continue to deliver upon the goals and actions of the current National LGBTI Ageing and Aged Care Strategy? Will this commitment include specific funding for the continued training of aged care workers on LGBTI sensitivity?**
- **Will your party commit to the development of a new five-year strategy addressing the needs of older LGBTI people?**
- **Will your party commit to continued funding of aged care and LGBTI sector organisations to assist in the delivery of the actions identified through the current (first) and new (second) strategies?**

In government, Labor introduced the Living Longer Living Better (LLLBB) package of aged care reforms. The reforms are phased in over ten years from 2012, with a review legislated to be tabled in parliament in mid-2017.

The previous Labor Government adopted the National LGBTI Ageing and Aged Care Strategy and provided \$24.4 million to assist older Australians with diverse needs, their families and carers to access information and aged care services that are sensitive to their backgrounds. This included people from the LGBTI community.

In addition, the previous Labor Government provided \$2.5 million to support older people from the LGBTI community by delivering specific sensitivity training for people who work in aged care. The Aged Care Principles 1997 were amended to include people in the LGBTI community as a special needs group, to further enable access to appropriate care suitable to their needs.

Labor remains committed to the goals and principles outlined in the Strategy. That includes the annual reporting, review and consultation to set priorities for future work.

In addition, a Shorten Labor Government will establish the Active Ageing Fund, utilising current flexible funds, and continuing that funding beyond the forward estimates with indexation. The Active Ageing Fund will provide support to communities for innovative projects that enable older Australians to age well in their own communities. In particular, these projects will utilise community-specific approaches to active ageing, including LGBTI communities.

Labor understands that LGBTI individuals have experienced barriers to entering the health and aged care systems. A Shorten Labor Government is committed to investing in communities that support older Australians, including unique and diverse communities.

Labor's Active Ageing Fund will support communities to engage their senior citizens, recognise the unique needs of their community, and ensure all members of the community live well.

BILL SHORTEN AND LABOR. WE'LL PUT PEOPLE FIRST

PO BOX 6222, KINGSTON ACT 2604 ABN 38 318 251 221
T 03 8625 5000, Twitter: @AustralianLabor, facebook.com/LaborConnect, www.alp.org.au

Authorised by G. Wright, Australian Labor Party, 5/9 Sydney Avenue, Barton, ACT, 2600

A Shorten Labor Government will develop a Workforce Strategy in consultation and collaboration with aged care providers, workers, unions, consumers, specialists and special interest groups.

We are aware of the dissatisfaction with the training and development of aged care workers, particularly the variance in the quality of the Certificate courses provided by Registered Training Providers. It is expected that the Strategy will include making this training, along with the higher levels of qualifications, more consistent and provide specific training in dementia care, recognising elder abuse and cultural sensitivity, including LGBTI sensitivity.

The previous Labor Government promised to include the LGBTI Strategy in the broader statutory review of LLLB. A Shorten Labor Government is committed to a thorough, independent and transparent review of the aged care reforms and will include the progress of the LGBTI strategy over the next five years of aged care reforms.

Labor remains committed to funding specific LGBTI aged care initiatives now and through the next five years of reforms.

7.2 Currently, some aged care providers are legally able to discriminate against LGBTI employees under the Sex Discrimination Act. This impacts on the culture of the organisation and may generate fear and mistrust by LGBTI older Australians receiving services from this organisation.

• Will your party work towards eliminating the law allowing discrimination against LGBTI employees in aged care?

In government, Labor abolished the religious exemption in anti-discrimination law as it applied to aged care facilities.

BILL SHORTEN AND LABOR. WE'LL PUT PEOPLE FIRST

PO BOX 6222, KINGSTON ACT 2604 ABN 38 318 251 221
T 03 8625 5000, Twitter: @AustralianLabor, facebook.com/LaborConnect, www.alp.org.au

Authorised by G. Wright, Australian Labor Party, 5/9 Sydney Avenue, Barton, ACT, 2600

8. Trans and gender diverse issues

8.1 Access to stage 2 hormone treatment for people under 18 requires Family Court approval, making Australia the only country in the world where accessing stage 2 hormones is a legal rather than a medical decision.

• Will your party commit to legislating to ensure that accessing stage 2 hormone treatment does not require court authorisation?

Labor acknowledges the right of all Australians, including transgender and gender diverse people to live their gender identity.

Labor is aware that young Australians under 18 years of age who want access to Stage 2 hormone treatment currently require Family Court approval.

Labor understands that the court process creates difficulty for transgender children and their parents.

A Shorten Labor Government will examine this issue and work towards a more streamlined approach to access to Stage 2 hormone treatment.

8.2 Trans and gender diverse people face attempted suicide rates of up to 50%. Surgery can be lifesaving for some trans and gender diverse people. Prohibitive out-of-pocket financial costs for surgery can therefore be a barrier to life.

• Will your party commit to implementing full public funding of medical treatments including surgeries?

Labor's National Platform states:

“Labor acknowledges the right of all Australians, including transgender and gender diverse people, to live their gender identity. For many, this includes accessing specialist health services and for some people can involve gender affirmation surgery. Cost should not be a barrier to accessing these services and/or surgery, and Labor commits to removing, wherever possible, out-of-pocket health expenses for transgender people incurred in relation to their gender identity.”

8.3 Accessing health services can be extremely difficult for some trans and gender diverse people as large numbers of providers may lack knowledge of trans and gender diverse issues.

• Will your party commit to policies and funding programs to work with all relevant health professionals to ensure barriers to accessing services are removed, therefore increasing health equity for trans and gender diverse people regardless of where they live?

Labor supports training for health care workers about issues of sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status.

Labor is committed to providing better for the needs of young lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex Australians, particularly in rural, regional and outer urban areas.

BILL SHORTEN AND LABOR. WE'LL PUT PEOPLE FIRST

PO BOX 6222, KINGSTON ACT 2604 ABN 38 318 251 221
T 03 8625 5000, Twitter: @AustralianLabor, facebook.com/LaborConnect, www.alp.org.au

Authorised by G. Wright, Australian Labor Party, 5/9 Sydney Avenue, Barton, ACT, 2600

8.4 Will your party review policies and regulations around the use of hormones under the pharmaceutical benefits scheme that create artificial barriers for trans people in accessing critical treatments?

In 2013 the previous Labor Government announced the removal of gender discrimination from Medicare, which involved removing gendered references used to describe about 6,000 clinical services covered by Medicare.

Labor will continue to ensure that Medicare and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme implement anti-discriminatory policies for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex Australians and that same sex couples and their families are not discriminated against in their access to or use of Medicare or the PBS.

BILL SHORTEN AND LABOR. WE'LL PUT PEOPLE FIRST

PO BOX 6222, KINGSTON ACT 2604 ABN 38 318 251 221
T 03 8625 5000, Twitter: @AustralianLabor, facebook.com/LaborConnect, www.alp.org.au

Authorised by G. Wright, Australian Labor Party, 5/9 Sydney Avenue, Barton, ACT, 2600

9. Intersex issues

9.1 The UN states that “intersex people are born with sex characteristics (including genitals, gonads and chromosome patterns) that do not fit typical binary notions of male or female bodies”. Intersex people have very some specific and distinct health needs.

- **How will your party protect the rights of intersex people?**
- **Will your party ensure that children born with atypical sex characteristics are not subjected to medical interventions to modify their sex characteristics without their personal consent, when undertaken for social or cultural reasons such as marriage prospects, gender incongruity or parental distress?**
- **Will your party ensure that people with intersex traits have the right not to undergo sex assignment treatment?**
- **Will your party offer redress to intersex people who have been sterilised without evidence of medical necessity?**
- **Will your party ensure that intersex children, adults and their families have access to independent community-based support?**

In 2013 the Gillard Labor Government amended the Sex Discrimination Act to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexuality, gender identity or intersex status for the first time ever under federal law. Labor believes that all Australians deserve the same respect and opportunity to participate in public life.

Labor will ensure the deferral of non-necessary medical intervention on infants and children with intersex variations until such time as the person concerned can give informed consent and prohibit modifications to sex characteristics undertaken for social rationales, without informed consent.

Labor will ensure that intersex persons’ right not to undergo sex assignment treatment is respected.

Labor recognises that in the past, many intersex Australians suffered harm as a result of unnecessary and invasive medical interventions. While these procedures were considered appropriate at the time, we now recognise that in many cases they violated the rights and bodily integrity of the intersex people concerned.

The question of redress is a legally complex one requiring consultation with the community, States and Territories.

Labor will investigate establishing a National Gender Centre for support and advocacy for transgender and intersex Australians, which could have an education and training role to promote awareness about transgender and intersex issues to the wider public.

BILL SHORTEN AND LABOR. WE’LL PUT PEOPLE FIRST

PO BOX 6222, KINGSTON ACT 2604 ABN 38 318 251 221
T 03 8625 5000, Twitter: @AustralianLabor, facebook.com/LaborConnect, www.alp.org.au

Authorised by G. Wright, Australian Labor Party, 5/9 Sydney Avenue, Barton, ACT, 2600

Labor will support national intersex-led organisations to provide support to intersex persons and their families, and advocate on intersex issues.

9.2 Research published in 2016 shows 18% of people born with atypical sex characteristics fail to complete secondary school, compared to an Australian average of 2%. This can be attributed to bullying on the basis of their physical sex characteristics and assumptions about identities, medical interventions during puberty, and a lack of inclusive curricula and support in schools.

• **How will your party address these issues?**

The Australian Labor Party strongly supports the Safe Schools Program as a vital tool to combat schoolyard bullying. Labor believes that all students have a right to be safe and secure at school regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. If we win the election on 2 July 2016 we will continue to support Safe Schools, as we did when last in government.

9.3 Will your party remove sex/gender classifications from official documents except where there is a legitimate policy requirement?

Labor will review documentation requirements, including passports and birth certificates, as they affect transgender and intersex people, to facilitate their equal enjoyment of human rights without discrimination and to promote identification options beyond binary male / female.

Labor will ensure that all people with intersex variations are able to exercise autonomy regarding sex/gender markers, and obtain identification options that match their sex characteristics and/or gender identities, as preferred.

10. Foreign affairs and immigration

10.1 Under Australian law today, people fleeing persecution on their basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex status can be granted asylum, however there remains numerous problems in the process undertaken to assess these claims.

• **Will your party ensure that people involved in the assessment of refugee claims are trained on best practice in determining refugee status based on sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex status?**

Labor will ensure that asylum seekers who self-identify as LGBTI will be assessed by officers who have expertise and empathy with anti-discrimination principles and human rights law.

In assessing asylum claims where the fear of persecution arises from a person's LGBTI status, the fact that the country the person is fleeing has criminal penalties for engaging in consensual homosexual sex is sufficient of itself to establish that fear of persecution is well-founded, and any assessment of the asylum seeker's identity and fear must take account of the very different manifestations of LGBTI identity that other cultures, especially ones profoundly hostile to LGBTI people, necessarily engender.

BILL SHORTEN AND LABOR. WE'LL PUT PEOPLE FIRST

PO BOX 6222, KINGSTON ACT 2604 ABN 38 318 251 221
T 03 8625 5000, Twitter: @AustralianLabor, facebook.com/LaborConnect, www.alp.org.au

Authorised by G. Wright, Australian Labor Party, 5/9 Sydney Avenue, Barton, ACT, 2600

10.2 Does your party support or oppose resettlement of LGBTI refugees in countries that criminalise people on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression?

A Shorten Labor Government will act to ensure the safety of asylum seekers and refugees in our direct and indirect care. The Turnbull Liberal Government should give the same assurance.

10.3 Australia currently allows individuals to change the gender on their passport based on the certification by a medical professional that they are a particular gender. This pathologises trans people and is inconsistent with the fact anyone who has known a person for more than 12 months can verify their identity.

• Will your party change the requirement from a medical certificate to a person who has known that person for more than 12 months, consistent with the passport process for verifying identity?

Under the former Labor Government, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) introduced new guidelines for gender identification on passports, enabling Australians to identify their gender of choice – Male, Female, or X – where previously only individuals who had undergone gender reassignment surgery were able to change their gender on their passport.

Labor will continue to review documentation requirements, including passports and birth certificates, as they affect transgender and intersex people, to facilitate their equal enjoyment of human rights without discrimination and to promote identification options beyond binary male / female.

10.4 The European Union, United Kingdom and United States all committed to including LGBTI rights as a core part of their foreign affairs policies, particularly issuing involving criminalisation, persecution and other human rights abuses against LGBTI people.

• Will your party include LGBTI rights as a core part of your foreign affairs policy, making public and private representations on sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status matters where appropriate at the Ministerial and Ambassadorial level?

Labor considers the promotion of universal human rights, including LGBTI rights, to be a core foreign policy objective and we will continue to pursue effective human rights diplomacy at every appropriate opportunity.

A Shorten Labor Government will:

- Promote and protect human rights at home and abroad as a vital part of achieving a peaceful and secure world where people can live in freedom and dignity.
- Support stronger international mechanisms and processes for monitoring human rights violations.
- Continue to raise concerns, privately and publicly, about human rights abuses overseas. Commercial and trading relationships have not prevented Labor speaking out on these

BILL SHORTEN AND LABOR. WE'LL PUT PEOPLE FIRST

PO BOX 6222, KINGSTON ACT 2604 ABN 38 318 251 221
T 03 8625 5000, Twitter: @AustralianLabor, facebook.com/LaborConnect, www.alp.org.au

Authorised by G. Wright, Australian Labor Party, 5/9 Sydney Avenue, Barton, ACT, 2600

issues in the past and will not prevent a Shorten Labor Government from speaking out in the future.

Australia should be forthright about human rights violations overseas. Labor will raise these with the governments concerned, including through bilateral representations and formal bilateral human rights dialogues, as well as appropriate multilateral avenues.

10.5 Will your party provide a directive to all diplomatic and international development and aid staff globally to include sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status matters in bilateral and multi-lateral dialogues and forums, and publish an annual report on the work completed by the diplomatic staff?

As part of Labor's commitment to the promotion of human rights as a core foreign policy objective, a Shorten Labor Government will raise LGBTI rights issues in informal bilateral conversations, formal bilateral human rights dialogues and multilateral meetings.

Where appropriate, we will raise the concerns in public.

10.6 How will your party use Australia's diplomatic influence to remove criminal sanctions and stop the criminalisation of homosexuality in 79 countries internationally?

Labor in government raised concerns, privately and publicly, about LGBTI rights in other countries. We will continue to do so.

We believe that private human rights diplomacy can be enhanced by, where appropriate, public diplomacy, advocacy, reporting and condemnation of human rights abuses.

10.7 Will your party work to increase the number of inter-country adoption agreements (like South Africa's) that permit adoption by same-sex couples?

Where adoption arrangements already exist between Australia and other countries, Labor will seek to ensure these arrangements are expanded to allow for inter-country adoption by LGBTI parents on an equal basis to cisgender heterosexual people. Where Australia seeks to enter into new intercountry adoption arrangements, Labor will seek to ensure all new agreements treat LGBTI parents equally.

BILL SHORTEN AND LABOR. WE'LL PUT PEOPLE FIRST

PO BOX 6222, KINGSTON ACT 2604 ABN 38 318 251 221
T 03 8625 5000, Twitter: @AustralianLabor, facebook.com/LaborConnect, www.alp.org.au

Authorised by G. Wright, Australian Labor Party, 5/9 Sydney Avenue, Barton, ACT, 2600

11. Intersectionality – LGBTI, faith and culture

11.1 How will your party support capacity building, inclusive services, education and programs for culturally diverse and religious LGBTI people, groups and organisations?

Labor will work with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex Australians and representative groups that support lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex Australians with particular needs, including those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

11.2 How will your party approach faith based and culturally diverse people, particularly recently arrived and emerging people, to increase the understanding and acceptance of LGBTI people in Australia?

Australia should be a society that embraces diversity. Labor will support lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex Australians and ensure they are safe, valued and respected.

Labor will support Australia's social cohesion by encouraging universal respect for Australia's democratic beliefs and laws, and the rights, responsibilities and privileges of Australian citizenship.

Australia is a proud multicultural country. We have welcomed people from around the world. Making our multicultural society a success means investing in new migrants as they become part of the Australian community.

A Shorten Labor Government will invest \$7.5 million in human capital support for people working in the community sector with new migrants.

From community leadership to volunteer management to bilingual engagement, the skills needed to support new migrants settle are critical. For too long, these skills have been undervalued.

This investment will help further build this human capital, to grow the capacity of the settlement sector, supporting those who help guide our new migrants.

11.3 How will your party reduce discrimination and violence towards LGBTI people occurring within interfaith and culturally diverse communities?

Labor believes that no faith, no religion, no set of beliefs should ever be used as an instrument of division or exclusion, and condemning anyone, discriminating against anyone, vilifying anyone is a violation of the values we all share, a violation which can never be justified by anyone's faith or belief.

Labor condemns sexual violence, or any derogatory behaviour and harassment towards all people. Labor recognises the harm such actions cause and will pursue policies to prevent discrimination.

Everyone has the right to a safe home, workplace and community.

We will support strong, diverse communities, free from discrimination, violence and abuse, by confronting intolerance and promoting respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.

BILL SHORTEN AND LABOR. WE'LL PUT PEOPLE FIRST

PO BOX 6222, KINGSTON ACT 2604 ABN 38 318 251 221
T 03 8625 5000, Twitter: @AustralianLabor, facebook.com/LaborConnect, www.alp.org.au

Authorised by G. Wright, Australian Labor Party, 5/9 Sydney Avenue, Barton, ACT, 2600