



#RainbowVotes

2016 LGBTI Federal Election Questionnaire

Responses from the Australian Greens

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?

The Greens believe that the education of our young people on respect, inclusion and celebrating diversity is incredibly important. The Greens will not only protect the Safe Schools program, we will expand its funding from \$2 million annually, to \$8 million annually. The Greens have long advocated for qualified mental health counsellors in schools as an alternative to the Chaplaincy Program.

- Will your party ensure funding of schools will include a requirement that schools actively combat prejudice and discrimination against LGBTI students?

The Greens will fund schools to promote positive and safe environments for LGBTI students, and to actively combat prejudice and discrimination in all forms.

- How will your party ensure LGBTI young people and young people with LGBTI parents feel safe at school?

The Greens commitment to expanding the Safe Schools program will help ensure LGBTI young people and young people with LGBTI parents have an organisation they can approach for support so they feel safe at school.

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?

The Australian Greens support the inclusion of LGBTI issues in the national curriculum, and would review the Australian Curriculum to ensure that it reflects contemporary learning needs. Our education system should provide age-appropriate information to students, and training and resources to teachers, about respectful relationships, safe sex, and the diversity of sexuality and gender identity.

- Will your party adopt a National Health and Physical Education Curriculum that explicitly includes reference and education on diverse families, and LGBTI status?

The Greens support reference to, and education on, diversity and LGBTI issues on a whole-of-school basis.

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?

The Greens are committed to supporting LGBTI families through a range of ways including an expansion of the Safe Schools program, inclusion of LGBTI issues in the national curriculum, mental health support, removing discriminatory laws, funding a Sexuality and Gender Identity Commissioner and our continued commitment to achieving full equality for LGBTI people.

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?

The Greens have been campaigning for marriage equality for more than a decade. We have listened to the community right from the start, and we've acted with courage, even at a time when both major parties were not contemplating this important reform. We are the only party that has voted for equality - every bill, every time. Momentum continues to build and the Greens won't rest until the community achieves marriage equality.

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?

The Greens believe that the most appropriate way to address this discrimination against LGBTI people is through legislating marriage equality in parliament, however, if a plebiscite does occur the Greens will certainly be a positive and courteous voice in the plebiscite campaign.

- Will your party campaign for yes on a plebiscite?

Yes. The Greens have campaigned for many years to achieve full equality for LGBTI people, and for a society that celebrates and encourages diversity. We always will. Marriage equality is an essential step to reducing discrimination currently faced by LGBTI people.

- 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?

The Greens have announced a mental health package that turns the system's focus to prevention and early diagnosis, with an additional \$1.4 billion in funding. This funding would provide critical support to ensure the mental health and wellbeing of LGBTI Australians and their families during a plebiscite.

Specifically, the Greens have committed to funding a \$40 million anti-stigma strategy to challenge the ongoing misunderstanding and misrepresentation of the lived experience of mental illness. This funding represents \$10 million a year to developing, implementing and evaluating a series of targeted anti-stigma campaigns, particularly in relation to at risk groups, such as the LGBTI community. This would help provide mental health and wellbeing support to the LGBTI community during a public vote campaign.

We want to see consumers and carers supported to play a major role in policy and program development, including people from LGBTI communities being involved in the development of programs and services provided for their needs.

- If the Australian people endorse a change to the *Marriage Act*, will your party's members be bound by this result?

The Greens have campaigned for many years to make marriage equality a reality in Australia. Australia is ready for marriage equality. It is an issue of basic fairness and every Greens MP will continue to vote for marriage equality – every bill, every time.

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 Greens have campaigned for more than a decade to achieve marriage equality in Australia. The Greens always have and always will vote for marriage equality.

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

Yes, the Greens have tabled the *Recognition of Foreign Marriages Bill* in the Senate which would legislate nationwide recognition of marriages performed overseas. The Greens brought on debate of this Bill as recently as February and remain committed to passing the reform.

The pain and trauma experienced by Marco Bulmer-Rizzi earlier this year when his husband passed away in South Australia, a state that does not recognise overseas same-sex marriages, highlights the urgency required in legislating this change.

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?

Yes the Greens can make this commitment. In addition, we are campaigning to remove religious exemptions from anti-discrimination laws.

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?

The Greens want to ensure that full equality is achieved for LGBTI people and we are committed to establishing a Commonwealth Commissioner for Sexuality and Gender Identity. The Commissioner will provide critical support to the LGBTI community and will help Australia become a more inclusive and equal society.

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?

Yes, the Greens have two spokespeople dedicated to this portfolio area to help achieve equality for LGBTI Australians, they are:

Senator Robert Simms – Sexuality and Marriage Equality

Senator Janet Rice – Gender Identity & Intersex Issues

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?

The Greens recognise that the LGBTI national peak bodies and community groups provide critical support for the LGBTI community. We support relevant government bodies (e.g. Health Department) providing funding for these organisations so they can undertake important work that provides life changing outcomes for LGBTI people. For example, before funding was cut to the National LGBTI Health Alliance it worked with the government to ensure equitable outcomes for trans men

accessing testosterone, improved data collection standards on sex or gender and have advised on the implementation of government services to ensure that LGBTI needs are addressed.

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?

The Greens support the establishment of a whole-of-government LGBTI Ministerial Advisory Group which would include members from community organisations that represent and advocate for LGBTI people.

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?

The Greens have campaigned for many years to achieve full equality for LGBTI people, and for a society that celebrates and encourages diversity. We always will.

The Greens have tabled a number of bills before parliament which would have achieved marriage equality, unfortunately both the Coalition and Labor failed to support this important reform. The Greens have also been campaigning to remove exemptions to anti-discrimination laws that allow for discrimination against LGBTI Australians. It is completely unacceptable that these exemptions exist, for example, a religious school is able to refuse employment of a gay teacher.

The Greens will measure the success of our commitment by campaigning strongly to change any legislation that discriminates against LGBTI people until that discrimination in law is removed.

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.)

Yes, these outdated and discriminatory laws must change. Successive Coalition and Labor governments have maintained these exemptions, which mean that a religious hospital can refuse to employ a gay doctor, and a faith-based homelessness shelter can refuse to accept a transgender resident. The Greens have fought against these exemptions at every opportunity, and we believe they should be eliminated. Antidiscrimination laws should apply to everyone.

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?

By removing exemptions that allow for discrimination to occur we can ensure that LGBTI people are not discriminated against with regards to employment or service delivery. The Greens recently

released the 'Equality for everyone' initiative which highlights the party's commitment to strengthening anti-discrimination laws.

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?

The Greens will work to ensure that trans and intersex people are able to participate in sport without discrimination, at professional, amateur and community levels.

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

The Greens believe that LGBTI couples should have equal family rights. The Greens have been working hard to change laws so same-sex couples can access assisted reproduction techniques such as IVF. The Greens are also committed to changing outdated laws that currently prevent same-sex parents from having their parental rights recognised by law in some states.

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?

The Greens believe that the unique challenges and needs of LGBTI people must be well understood. Where appropriate, we are committed to ensuring that information on sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status indicators are captured. This information can then be used to better address any unique needs required by the LGBTI community so the necessary support is provided.

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?

Standardisation is very important when capturing and assessing information. The Greens can commit to working with the relevant organisations to co-design standardised questions that identify LGBTI people. Where appropriate, this will help the relevant organisation or government body provide support to the LGBTI community.

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?

We know from the limited data available that a disproportionate number of LGBTI people experience difficulties such as increased rates of bullying and negative mental health outcomes. Where appropriate, the Greens support government bodies working together with the LGBTI community to enhance our understanding of these challenges and how they can best be addressed to improve the quality of life for LGBTI people.

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?

The Greens have announced a mental health package that turns the system's focus to prevention and early diagnosis, with an additional \$1.4 billion in funding.

We have also backed the mental health sector's campaign to roll out twelve, large regional trials over three years as the first wave of a nationwide introduction of sustainable, comprehensive, whole-of-community approach to suicide prevention.

The Greens believe that when our health system is under pressure like never before, mental health funding should be seen as an investment, not a cost. A universal mental health system that is accessible regardless of income is a fundamental part of Australian society.

We want to see consumers and carers supported to play a major role in policy and program development, including people from LGBTI communities being involved in the development of programs and services provided for their needs.

- Will your party support the development of a National LGBTI Mental Health plan?

The Greens support an evidence-based and culturally appropriate approach to LGBTI mental health care. We would support the development of a LGBTI mental health plan to ensure a nationally consistent approach to LGBTI mental health service provision.

- Will your party provide ongoing support for the national LGBTI telephone support helpline, Q-Life?

The Greens recognise the benefits of the Q-Life helpline service for LGBTI people seeking support, especially for people who are geographically or otherwise isolated.

We are continuing to consult widely on the impacts and proposals involved in the government's e-mental health reforms, and as part of that we are committed to working with Q-Life to ensure their work is recognised and supported.

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

The Greens spokesperson for health, Senator Richard Di Natale, is a former GP and a strong advocate of preventative health measures including tobacco control, physical activity, and measures to address obesity, including in our LGBTI communities.

The Greens will be announcing a range of preventative health commitments before the election.

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?

The Greens want to ensure that health service providers are properly trained, educated and equipped to deliver the best quality services to bisexual people. We support the appropriate

resourcing of programs and training to ensure health professionals and services remove barriers to health access for bisexual people.

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?

Yes the Greens will work with relevant medical and health bodies to progress the inclusion of LGBTI issues in courses and training for health professionals, to ensure best-practice health services provision for LGBTI people.

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?

The Greens want accessible and inclusive family and domestic violence prevention programs and services for people with diverse sexualities, gender identities and intersex variations and their families.

We have committed to a ten year, \$5 billion plan to address Australia's domestic violence crisis (further information is at greens.org.au/domestic-violence). This plan includes dedicated funding for women and children from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, women and children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, women and children with disabilities, young women, LGBTI people, older women and women and children in rural and regional areas.

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?

The Greens are committed to ensuring Australia's health system will always be accessible, affordable and universal for everyone, including LGBTI people.

The Greens see health as an investment, not a cost. Ensuring that our health system will always be accessible, affordable and universal is our priority. The Greens will invest in our hospitals and lock in a long-term funding formula to prevent reckless cuts in the future and stop cost-shifting between governments.

We believe that all LGBTI people should have access to the therapies and treatments they need, including mental health services, hormone therapy and gender affirmation surgeries.

The Greens support the development of an LGBTI health strategy that has a broad scope taking in relevant areas of public policy.

In addition, we will continue to work on these specific measures:

- Ensure better access to HIV-prevention medication, Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP). The Greens have called on the Government to list it under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

- Lift bans on blood and bone marrow donation. The Greens believe that your capacity to donate blood or marrow should not be determined by your sexuality, especially when HIV screening and other medical interventions have advanced so far.
- Change laws so same-sex couples can access assisted reproduction techniques such as IVF (in-vitro fertilisation).
- Remove barriers to stage 2 hormone treatments for trans and gender diverse young people.

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?

The Greens spokesperson for disability and community services, Senator Rachel Siewert, has been a vocal advocate for the needs of people with disability and their families as the NDIS has rolled out. We want to see appropriate service provision for LGBTI people who are part of the scheme, and we support the involvement of LGBTI people, their families, and representative bodies in program design and evaluation to ensure high quality services.

Senator Rachel Siewert has been an active members of the Joint Standing Committee on the National Disability Insurance Scheme, monitoring the rollout and implementation of the scheme to ensure that it meets the needs of Australians with disabilities, including LGBTI Australians.

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?

The Greens recognise that LGBTI people have been marginalised when it comes to accessing aged-care services, there has been significant process in addressing this issue but there is still work to do. We will keep working toward an end to discrimination on the basis of sexuality, gender and intersex status for older people. We want to ensure the needs of LGBTI people are included in all training and planning aspects of aged care. As Greens spokesperson on ageing and aged care, Senator Rachel Siewert has worked closely with GRAI to address discrimination, and improve aged care for LGBTI people.

- Will your party continue the 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?

Yes we support the ongoing delivery of the National LGBTI Ageing and Aged Care Strategy, and support the provision of training for aged care workers on LGBTI sensitivity. The Australian Greens initiated an inquiry into the aged care sector workforce, including ‘the challenges of creating a culturally competent and inclusive aged care workforce to cater for the different care needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, culturally and linguistically diverse groups and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people’. The Greens believe that Australia needs an aged care sector workforce strategy to ensure there is a workforce with the right skills and training, and will have specific announcements on this issue during the campaign.

- Will your party commit to the development of a new five-year strategy addressing the needs of older LGBTI people?

The Greens support 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?

The Greens support maintaining funding levels allocated in the forward estimates. It is important that community organisations are appropriately resourced; the Greens will have specific announcements on community sector funding in the coming weeks.

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?

The Greens will keep working toward an end to discrimination on the basis of sexuality, gender and intersex status for older people. The Greens have fought against exemptions to anti-discrimination laws at every opportunity, and we believe they should be eliminated. Anti-discrimination laws should apply to everyone.

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?

The Greens recognise that transgender and gender diverse young people seeking hormone treatment are currently required to submit a complicated application to the Family Court for approval, even when everyone agrees that it is in their best interest.

The Greens believe that young transgender people shouldn't have to go through this expensive and time consuming legal processes. There's no reason that we should continue subjecting young people to this cruel bureaucratic process.

Greens Senator Janet Rice has taken a lead role in the campaign to amend the Family Law Act and remove court oversight of hormone treatment for people under the age of 18 where they, their parents/ guardians and medical practitioners agree. We recognise that this should be a matter for young people, their parents and doctors, not judges and lawyers.

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?

The Greens are committed to ensuring Australia's health system will always be accessible, affordable and universal. The Greens see health as an investment, not a cost. Ensuring that our health system

will always be accessible, affordable and universal is our priority. The Greens will invest in our hospitals and lock in a long-term funding formula to prevent reckless cuts in the future and stop cost-shifting between governments.

We believe that all transgender and gender diverse people should have access to the therapies and treatments they need, including hormone therapy and gender affirmation surgeries. The Greens recognise that these procedures are often prohibitively expensive or categorised as cosmetic procedures, and we want to see those barriers removed in order to ensure accessible and affordable treatment and surgeries, no matter what a person's income may be.

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?

The Greens want to ensure that health service providers are properly trained, educated and equipped to deliver the best quality services to trans and gender diverse people. We support the appropriate resourcing of programs and training to ensure health professionals and services remove barriers to health access for trans and gender diverse people.

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?

The Greens support reviewing policies and regulations to ensure that essential treatments, like hormones, are accessible for all trans people who wish to access them. We would work with trans people and peak representative bodies of the trans community to ensure that a review was undertaken in consultation with affected people.

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?

The Greens recognise and support the rights of intersex people. We believe no one's body should be stigmatised, and that the rights of people with intersex variations must be upheld. The Greens will continue to campaign strongly to change any legislation that discriminates against all LGBTI people until that discrimination in law is removed.

- 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?

The Greens support the rights of intersex people to bodily integrity, including personal consent to medical or surgical interventions. In the case of children, any medical intervention should, wherever possible, be deferred until the child is able to give full and informed consent. The Greens want to ensure that high quality support services are available to intersex people and their families.

- Will your party ensure that people with intersex traits have the right not to undergo sex assignment treatment?

As noted above, the Greens support the rights of intersex people to bodily integrity, including personal consent to medical or surgical interventions.

- Will your party offer redress to intersex people who have been sterilised without evidence of medical necessity?

The Greens support redress for intersex people who have been subject to sterilisation without evidence of medical necessity. We commit to working with affected people and their families to understand the redress measures that are most appropriate, and to advocating on their behalfs in the parliament and in the community.

- Will your party ensure that intersex children, adults and their families have access to independent community-based support?

The Greens want to ensure high quality independent community-based support available to intersex people and their families. We are committed to working with intersex people and representative groups to make sure this support is available to those who need it, when they need it.

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 Greens believe that the education of our young people on respect, inclusion and celebrating diversity is incredibly important. We want to see an end to bullying, exclusion and discrimination in schools on the basis of young people's bodies, sexualities and genders.

We have committed \$32m to the Safe Schools education program, which is a vital program that educates and builds respect in all students, thereby making school settings safer for young people with diverse sexualities, genders and physical sex characteristics.

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

The Greens want to see improvements to reporting and personal data collection on sex and gender, recognising that intersex people have many ways in which their sex and gender may be understood and self-reported. We support the removal of sex/gender classifications from official documents except where there is a legitimate policy purpose identified.

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?

Yes, the Australian Greens believe that this type of training would ensure best practices are applied in determining refugee status based on sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex status. The

Greens are concerned that under the current 'fast track' processing model imposed on people seeking asylum in Australia who arrived by boat, a number of the checks and balances that regulate the fairness of the decision making process regarding the assessment of protection claims have been removed, including a limited ability to appeal a decision. This is particularly dangerous for people seeking asylum based on their sexual identity as decision makers may not be adequately equipped or trained to properly assess the person's situation. The Australian Greens will fight to ensure that all people seeking asylum have their claims processed fairly, by receiving adequate legal aid throughout the claims process and ensuring they have access to essential appeal rights.

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

The Australian Greens oppose the resettlement of LGBTI refugees in countries that criminalise people on this basis. The Greens are supportive of welcoming LGBTI refugees in Australia and would increase Australia's annual intake of refugees to 50,000 people per year (up from the current intake of 13,750).

The Greens are deeply concerned that Australia continues to send refugees and people seeking asylum to Nauru and Manus Island, including people who have fled their country of origin due to suffering persecution on the basis of their sexuality. Currently, refugees living in Nauru are unable to openly identify as gay as they face a criminal sanction of 14 years hard labour. The Greens have led the fight to end offshore detention and bring refugees to Australia and are the only party committed to bringing all refugees currently on Nauru and Manus Island to Australia, where they can build their lives free from harassment on the basis of their sexual preference.

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?

The Greens support changing this requirement to a person who has known that person for more than 12 months.

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?

The Australian Greens believe that a central goal of Australian diplomacy must be promote human rights, specifically including LGBTI rights. Australia should use our bilateral relationships and multilateral forums to ensure all countries act to prevent violations of LGBTI rights. This absolutely includes making public and private representations on sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status matters at the Ministerial and Ambassadorial level.

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 our rights-based approach to foreign affairs and diplomacy, the Greens strongly support the inclusion of sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status matters in bilateral and multi-lateral dialogues and forums. We strongly believe that transparency and accountability in the area of LGBTI rights would be enhanced by an annual report completed by diplomatic staff.

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?

The Greens will continue to be a strong voice on the decriminalisation of homosexuality. The promotion and protection of LGBTI rights, including particularly the removal of criminal sanctions against homosexuality, is something that the Greens would pursue as a central tenet of foreign policy advocacy if in Government.

The Australian Greens are part of the Global Greens which is an international network of Greens parties which has a membership of 91 parties. The Global Greens Charter states our strong support for LGBTI rights as a global network, and our goal of decriminalisation around the world. Australian Greens will use this global network to continue to advocate for the decriminalisation in the 79 countries that still have this outdated and bigoted law.

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?

The Greens support the right of same-sex couples to adopt and would work to ensure that same-sex couples have the same rights, and are not discriminated against under any of Australia's inter-country adoption agreements.

The Greens believe that regardless of family composition, intercountry adoption should be through Hague signatory countries, and only when in the best interest of the child. All safeguards against coerced or forced adoption must be in place and there must be appropriate post adoption support services to the relinquishing family, the child and the adoptive family.

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?

Programs established to help support the LGBTI community and to educate people on respect, inclusion and celebrating diversity are incredibly important. Programs like Safe Schools provide a way of informing people within a community about LGBTI rights and issues, irrespective of their faith or cultural background. The Greens are committed to supporting these programs that support culturally diverse and religious LGBTI people, groups and organisations. Through this educational approach we can develop a more inclusive community that embraces LGBTI people irrespective of religious or cultural backgrounds.

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

Australia is a multicultural country. We live in a society where people follow different religions and have different cultural backgrounds. The Greens recognise that while people may have different religious or cultural backgrounds, this should never allow for discrimination to occur. The Greens will continue to campaign to remove exemptions to anti-discrimination laws that allow for discrimination against LGBTI Australians based on religion.

The Greens have a plan to keep LGBTI rights firmly on the agenda; in the community and in our political debate. This will help cultivate a more inclusive community that understands and respects the rights of LGBTI people in Australia.

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

The Greens are committed to removing laws that allow for LGBTI people to be discriminated against based on religion. We are also committed to cultivating a more inclusive community by working to achieve full equality for LGBTI people.

Australian Greens LGBTI spokespeople:

Senator Robert Simms – spokesperson for sexuality and marriage equality

greens.org.au/robert-simms

Senator Janet Rice – spokesperson for gender identity and intersex issues

greens.org.au/mps/janet-rice