



## NSW election survey: intersex human rights and health issues

Responses from Alex Greenwich MP, Independent Member for Sydney.

### **Bodily integrity, and freedom from harmful practices**

- Protect infants, children and adolescents born with intersex variations from forced/deferrable medical interventions intended to modify our sex characteristics?

Yes. I advocate the position that cosmetic procedures to 'normalise' genitals among infants should be postponed until adulthood or adolescence when the person can make an informed decision. I have raised this in Parliament and convened a meeting between then OII, AIS Support Group Australia and NSW Health to promote this position.

- Ensure the established lifetime standards of care for healthcare pathways for people born with intersex variations, devised and reviewed with meaningful consultation with peer-led intersex organisations?

Yes.

- Ensure effective, independent human rights-based oversight for all relevant medical interventions?

Yes. The Australian Human Rights Commission, the World Health Organization and the Council of Europe have set the framework for a human rights approach to medical interventions for people born with sex characteristics that don't fit medical norms for female or male bodies. Governments must implement this approach.

- Ensure that individuals, parents and families are able to access adequately resourced, independent and affirmative peer support?

Yes. Parents and families should be provided with information from people who have lived experience with non-binary sex characteristics and access to support through organisations that represent and advocate for them.

- Resource intersex-led organisations to provide peer and family support, and systemic and individual advocacy?

Yes. Intersex Human Rights Australia and AIS Support Group Australia should receive government funding to provide peer and family support and continue their advocacy work. The advice and insight of these organisations has been most helpful to me as a representative.

- Make a formal apology to individuals who have undergone forced or coercive medical practices intended to make our bodies more typically female or male?

Yes, however this will need to occur after current practices to be abolished.

- Provide redress to people who have undergone such forced or coercive medical practices?

Yes.

- Provide resourced access to ongoing medical, psychological, and reparative treatments for individuals who need them?

Yes.

### **Freedom from discrimination**

- Implement reforms to anti-discrimination law to protect intersex and other people on grounds of “sex characteristics”?

Yes. I welcomed extension of the anti-vilification laws to intersex people in the Crimes Act and all other anti-discrimination protections must follow.

- Ensure that no religious exemptions are created?

Yes. I have a strong position against religious exemptions from anti-discrimination law and intend to make the removal of existing exemptions a priority in the next term if I am re-elected.

- End exemptions that discriminate in sport against women born with intersex variations who have lived their entire lives as women?

Yes.

- Ensure that intersex people who need it are able to access reasonable adjustments in workplaces?

Yes.

### **Education**

- Ensure that school biology and human development curricula include respectful material on intersex variations?

Yes.

- Promote teacher training on intersex-inclusive education?

Yes.

- Ensure that intersex students are supported in schools through access to appropriate psychosocial supports including peer support?

Yes.

### **Sex/gender recognition and data collection**

- Ensure that intersex people are not treated as a third sex, by ensuring that guidelines and policies in relation to sex and gender refer to a third classification as “nonbinary” and not terms such as “intersex/indeterminate/unspecified” which refer to intersex?

Yes.

- Ensure that government guidelines make sure that individuals who need to correct or change registration details are able to do so without proof of surgery?

Yes. My draft 2015 bill aimed to achieve this change and I intend to further progress this reform if re-elected. In response to my calls to repeal surgical requirements to update state documents during debate on the transitional provisions for marriage equality, the Attorney General committed to considering the matter further.

- Ensure that data on sex and gender is only collected when and where necessary for a legitimate purpose?

Yes.

- Resource research on effective inclusion and data collection with meaningful community input?

Yes.

- Ensure that publicly-funded research on people born with intersex variations benefits from meaningful community input?

Yes.

### **Whole of government**

- Acknowledge the Darlington Statement as a guide to intersex policy development in Australia?

Yes. I strongly support the Darlington Statement and will use it to help form intersex policy.

- Commit to meaningful and effective consultation and inclusion of intersex-led organisations in policy development, both within and outside LGBTI frameworks?

Yes. I look forward to continuing to work with Intersex Human Rights Australia and AIS Support Group Australia to reform laws to protect people with sex characteristics that don't fit medical norms for female or male bodies.