



Australian Labor Party Response Intersex Human Rights Australia Federal Election Survey

Thank you very much for writing to the Australian Labor Party and providing us with an opportunity to outline our policies on issues of interest to Intersex Human Rights Australia.

Please find our response below.

A Shorten Labor Government will deliver a fairer Australia for LGBTQ and intersex people by tackling discrimination and giving a stronger voice to all LGBTIQ Australians.

We recently released our Plan for a Fair Go for LGBTIQ Australians, which outlines practical steps which take us further along the journey towards equality, providing a more inclusive and fairer Australia. I have attached a copy of Labor's plan for your reference.

Labor has a proud record of promoting and defending the rights of LGBTQ and intersex Australians. In 2013, under the former Labor Government, Australia became the first country to protect people with variations in their biological sex characteristics from unlawful discrimination. When Labor was last in government, we made large strides towards ending discrimination against LGBTIQ people at a federal level. We amended 85 federal laws to ensure all couples regardless of gender, and their children, were treated equally when it came to taxation, superannuation, health, social security, child support, aged care, immigration, citizenship and veterans' affairs.

But there are still areas of the law that discriminate against LGBTIQ people. For instance, there are still statutes containing outdated and discriminatory language. The Fair Work Act contains no protections against adverse action for intersex employees, leaving them vulnerable. Labor will continue to work to remove all discriminatory measures against LGBTIQ people from Commonwealth law.

A Shorten Labor Government will also work collaboratively with LGBTIQ communities to develop Australia's first National LGBTIQ Health and Inclusion Strategy. The strategy will address a range of health issues including the specific rights and health needs of people with intersex variations.

Parents of intersex children can be pressured to hormonally or surgically intervene on their children if they don't receive medically correct advice, information or support about how to parent an intersex child.

Labor will ensure deferral of non-necessary medical intervention on infants and children with intersex variations until such time as the person concerned can give their informed consent. Labor commits to promote and support a human rights-based patient consent model for accessing lifetime medical treatments and procedures. Labor will prohibit modifications to sex characteristics undertaken for social rationales without informed consent and ensure an intersex person's right not to undergo sex assignment treatment is respected.

Schools must be safe environments for students to learn and for teachers to teach – including same sex attracted, intersex and gender diverse students and teachers. Labor will continue working with teachers, students and schools to stop bullying and discrimination, ensuring a safe place for LGBTQ and intersex students to learn by properly resourcing inclusion and anti-bullying programs and resources for teachers. Labor will continue to support national programs to address homophobia, biphobia, transphobia and anti-intersex prejudice in schools.

Labor will also continually review documentation requirements to make sure they are inclusive of all Australians.

Labor believes the best way to promote the rights of LGBTIQ Australians and develop policies that recognise their needs is by listening to and consulting with LGBTIQ Australians. That's why Labor will establish an LGBTIQ Ministerial Advisory Council. This council will include the active participation of an intersex representative.

Australian Labor Campaign Headquarters

www.alp.org.au

Authorised and printed by N. Carroll, Australian Labor Party, 5/9 Sydney Ave, Barton ACT 2600.