

NSW Election 2015 LGBTI Policy Survey

The NSW state election will take place on
SATURDAY 28 MARCH

To help inform your vote, ACON, the NSW Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby, Positive Life NSW, the Sex Workers Outreach Project, and Organisation Intersex International Australia have surveyed the three major parties as well as key independents on a range of issues relevant to the LGBTI communities and people with HIV. Find out how they responded to questions on key policy issues such as:

- HIV and blood borne viruses
- LGBTI health and wellbeing
- People with intersex variations
- Community safety and social inclusion
- Education
- Ageing
- Drug use and harm reduction
- Sex worker health

All responses provided by each party/candidate have been reproduced in their entirety without alteration or addition.

Check out the details on the ACON website
www.acon.org.au/election2015



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Liberal/National

Labor

Alex Greenwich

Greens

1. HIV AND BLOOD BORNE VIRUSES

- » Will you extend the current NSW HIV Strategy to 2020 and commit to the goals and targets contained in the strategy?
- » Will you maintain levels of investment in prevention, care and support programs for PLHIV and affected populations?
- » Will you commit to sustaining a wide variety of testing options, including community based HIV testing, and the trial of a home dry blood spot HIV testing service?
- » Will you ensure continued access to the Enhanced Medication Access Scheme to safeguard uninterrupted access to ARV should the Commonwealth Government's commitment to provide ART in community pharmacies not be assured in 2015?
- » Do you support making peer distribution of sterile injecting equipment legal and support programs to implement this model of distribution, including the re-training of the Police workforce? currently fulfil this commitment?

Liberal/National

Will you extend the current NSW HIV Strategy to 2020 and commit to the goals and targets contained in the strategy?

Yes, a re-elected Baird Government will work in partnership with the HIV sector to extend the current NSW Strategy to 2020.

Will your party maintain levels of investment in prevention, care and support programs for PLHIV and affected populations?

Yes, current levels of investment will be maintained and increased where necessary to strengthen HIV testing, treatment and prevention.

Will your party commit to sustaining a wide variety of testing options, including community based HIV testing, and the trial of a home dry blood spot HIV testing service?

- Access to HIV testing services have been greatly improved by providing a mixture of testing options, which includes rapid tests, Xpress clinics, after hours, drop in clinics and online booking.
- Funding of more than \$460,000 over two years has been provided to ACON to establish a community based HIV testing service on Oxford Street.
- The Baird Government supports TGA approval of HIV home testing devices.
- It is planned to further improve access to testing by investing in a pilot implementation of Dried Blood Spot self-testing for gay men.

Will your party ensure continued access to the Enhanced Medication Access Scheme to safeguard uninterrupted access to ARV should the Commonwealth Government's commitment to provide ART in community pharmacies not be assured in 2015?

The Commonwealth is working with State and Territories to provide patient access to ARV's at community pharmacies. The Enhanced Medication Access Scheme funding was extended to 31 July 2015 to provide a transition period prior to the introduction of community dispensing of ARV on 1 July 2015.

NSW Health will continue to work with the Commonwealth, SESLHD, Positive Life NSW and ASHM towards the 1 July 2015 implementation date.

Does your party support making peer distribution of sterile injecting equipment legal and support programs to implement this model of distribution, including the re-training of the Police workforce?

The NSW Ministry of Health engaged the NSW Users and AIDS Association (NUAA) to conduct a pilot project to investigate the public health benefits of allowing peer distribution of sterile injecting equipment. A steering committee was formed to oversee this pilot, and includes senior members of NSW Police. The Centre for Social Research in Health is conducting an evaluation of this pilot, with the report due to be finalised this year.

1. HIV AND BLOOD BORNE VIRUSES

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Labor

Will you extend the current NSW HIV Strategy to 2020 and commit to the goals and targets contained in the strategy?

Labor is proud of the world leading response to HIV/AIDS and other blood born viruses that has been in place for several decades.

We are committed to evidence based responses and support the current HIV Strategy to 2020.

Will your party maintain levels of investment in prevention, care and support programs for PLHIV and affected populations?

Yes

Will your party commit to sustaining a wide variety of testing options, including community based HIV testing, and the trial of a home dry blood spot HIV testing service?

Yes

Will your party ensure continued access to the Enhanced Medication Access Scheme to safeguard uninterrupted access to ARV should the Commonwealth Government's commitment to provide ART in community pharmacies not be assured in 2015?

Labor supports the Enhanced Medication Access Scheme. We believe that the Commonwealth should maintain it's commitment to this program. We will raise this issue with our federal counterparts and the Abbott government.

Does your party support making peer distribution of sterile injecting equipment legal and support programs to implement this model of distribution, including the re-training of the Police workforce?

If elected Labor will convene a Drug Summit similar to the highly successful Drug Summit in 1999 to reexamine the challenges and changing nature of drugs and drug use in our community.

Labor supports the role of needle and syringe exchanges and would look to the Drug Summit to provide recommendations about any further changes in this area.

Alex Greenwich

Will you extend the current NSW HIV Strategy to 2020 and commit to the goals and targets contained in the strategy?

I support the Strategy and its continued government support.

Will you maintain levels of investment in prevention, care and support programs for PLHIV and affected populations?

I support maintenance of these programs. We also need to maintain HALC's advocacy role so that people can challenge discrimination and exclusion.

Will you commit to sustaining a wide variety of testing options, including community based HIV testing, and the trial of a home dry blood spot HIV testing service?

I support these testing options all being available.

Will you ensure continued access to the Enhanced Medication Access Scheme to safeguard uninterrupted access to ARV should the Commonwealth Government's commitment to provide ART in community pharmacies not be assured in 2015?

I support continued availability of the Scheme and lobbying the Commonwealth to maintain access.

Do you support making peer distribution of sterile injecting equipment legal and support programs to implement this model of distribution, including the re-training of the Police workforce?

Yes

1. HIV AND BLOOD BORNE VIRUSES

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Greens

Will you extend the current NSW HIV Strategy to 2020 and commit to the goals and targets contained in the strategy?

The Greens wholeheartedly support the NSW HIV strategy and are committed to advocating for the strategy to be extended until 2020. We are also committed to the prevention and treatment goals and targets outlined in the strategy that are designed to effectively eliminate HIV transmission by 2020.

The Greens believe that the NSW government has a crucial role to play in achieving this goal. The extension of the strategy must be accompanied by additional funds to increase measures to prevent, diagnose and treat the disease. Such measures include increased access to antiretroviral medications and operation of needle and syringe programs.

With 400 new diagnoses of HIV each year in NSW, existing community organisations like ACON must have increased support and financial assistance from the NSW government to extend their services and invest in new initiatives.

Will your party maintain levels of investment in prevention, care and support programs for PLHIV and affected populations?

Yes. The Greens support maintained or increased funding for prevention, care and support programs, which are crucial to an effective HIV response.

We support better funding of HIV/AIDS services, a renewed focus on HIV prevention among men who have sex with men, greater provision of public housing, and enhanced measures to address HIV-related poverty.

Will your party commit to sustaining a wide variety of testing options, including community based HIV testing, and the trial of a home dry blood spot HIV testing service?

Initiatives such as the 'pop-up' community HIV testing sites have been successful in increasing the number of HIV tests undertaken in NSW. They should be supported and continued.

Will your party ensure continued access to the Enhanced Medication Access Scheme to safeguard uninterrupted access to ARV should the Commonwealth Government's commitment to provide ART in community pharmacies not be assured in 2015?

Yes. The health of PLHIV should be a priority of both the State and Federal Governments.

Does your party support making peer distribution of sterile injecting equipment legal and support programs to implement this model of distribution, including the re-training of the Police workforce?

Yes. The Greens believe that needle and syringe programs are an effective method to reduce the transmission of blood borne viruses such as HIV.

2. LGBTI HEALTH AND WELLBEING

- » How will you address the disparities seen in the prevalence of mental health issues, alcohol and other drug dependence and smoking amongst LGBTI people?
- » Do you support the development of a whole of government LGBTI health strategy?
- » What strategies will you implement to improve the availability of data on PLHIV and LGBTI people across all health and wellbeing areas?
- » How will you address the social determinants of health, including housing, employment, stigma and discrimination and their impacts on the health and wellbeing of PLHIV and LGBTI people?
- » How will you ensure that all outsourced NSW Government services, including the Home Care Service of NSW, are delivered in a non-discriminatory way to LGBTI people and PLHIV?

Liberal/National

How will your party address the disparities seen in the prevalence of mental health issues, alcohol and other drug dependence and smoking amongst LGBTI people?

Mental Health:

In 2014, the Baird Government announced the Strategic Plan for Mental Health in NSW, a once in a generation overhaul of mental health care service delivery, including a \$115 million boost to mental health funding over three years to kick start the reforms. Under the Government commitment, there will be a major focus on enhancing mental health services in the community, including those available for LGBTI communities

The NSW Government provides mental health services and treatment to the LGBTI community through individualised client centred care offered through existing services.

Members of the LGBTI community can access individualised mental health support through their Local Health District, including:

- Individualised mental health services and treatment/care plans
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) for younger members of the LGBTI community up to 18 years of age
- Specialist Mental Health Services for Older People (SMHSOP) for members of the LGBTI community aged 65 years and over
- Inpatient mental health care in hospitals across NSW

Drug and Alcohol:

Since 2011, the NSW Government has increased funding to drug and alcohol services across the State, including those used by the LGBTI community. The Baird Government has delivered on its 2011 election commitment to provide an additional \$10 million (\$2.5 million per annum) to the NGO sector for Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services (DATS). This funding enhances drug and alcohol rehabilitation services and programs to reduce the number of people with drug and/or alcohol dependencies.

Does your party support the development of a whole of government LGBTI health strategy?

Yes, if re-elected, a Baird Government will develop a whole of government LGBTI health strategy.

What strategies will your party implement to improve the availability of data on PLHIV and LGBTI people across all health and wellbeing areas?

Progress against the NSW HIV Strategy 2012-2015 is reported on a quarterly and annual basis. The data reports are publically available on the NSW Health website.

The NSW Health Population Health Survey has expanded sexual health data collection to include questions regarding condom usage, HIV testing and sexual orientation.

How will your party address the social determinants of health, including housing, employment, stigma and discrimination and their impacts on the health and wellbeing of PLHIV and LGBTI people?

PLHIV with complex needs are case managed by Local Health District services, with specialist community outreach teams providing co-case management. This includes assessment and support across three specialist teams that provide geographical coverage across NSW.

How will your party ensure that all outsourced NSW Government services, including the Home Care Service of NSW, are delivered in a non-discriminatory way to LGBTI people and PLHIV?

It was the Liberal-National Fahey Government that introduced the Anti-Discrimination (Amendment) Act 1994 that made it an offence to discriminate against someone on the basis of their HIV/AIDS status.

This law remains in place and all NSW Government contracts must be delivered in line with anti-discrimination legislation.

The NSW Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 also addresses discrimination on the basis of sexuality.

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Labor

How will your party address the disparities seen in the prevalence of mental health issues, alcohol and other drug dependence and smoking amongst LGBTI people?

Does your party support the development of a whole of government LGBTI health strategy?

What strategies will your party implement to improve the availability of data on PLHIV and LGBTI people across all health and wellbeing areas?

How will your party address the social determinants of health, including housing, employment, stigma and discrimination and their impacts on the health and wellbeing of PLHIV and LGBTI people?

Labor will establish a whole of Government LGBTI ministerial advisory panel, with a justice subcommittee and a Health and Human Service subcommittee.

This committee will be asked to:

- develop a whole of government LGBTI health strategy that would include addressing the disparities between LGBTI people and the rest of the community in relation to mental health, alcohol & other drugs, smoking and other issues.
- examine current data available for PLHIV and LGBTI people and make recommendations for improved data collection across government

How will your party ensure that all outsourced NSW Government services, including the Home Care Service of NSW, are delivered in a non-discriminatory way to LGBTI people and PLHIV?

Labor does not support Home Care Services going to for profit providers. We will ensure that there is no discrimination against LGBTI people in the provision of these services.

2. LGBTI HEALTH AND WELLBEING

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Alex Greenwich

How will you address the disparities seen in the prevalence of mental health issues, alcohol and other drug dependence and smoking amongst LGBTI people?

Discrimination, marginalisation and exclusion have clear impacts, requiring a coordinated response including law reform to remove remaining discrimination and widespread community education, along with targeted services and programs. I support specific evidence-based programs developed with the community. All mainstream service providers must be required to apply non-discriminatory policies, develop inclusion programs and educate staff and volunteers.

Do you support the development of a whole of government LGBTI health strategy?

Yes, such an approach would help address the concerns above.

What strategies will you implement to improve the availability of data on PLHIV and LGBTI people across all health and wellbeing areas?

I will advocate for the community's identified data collection proposals.

How will you address the social determinants of health, including housing, employment, stigma and discrimination and their impacts on the health and wellbeing of PLHIV and LGBTI people?

Discrimination at a young age can have devastating impacts on someone's future wellbeing, whether they experience it first hand or witness someone else experience it. I am committed to introducing legislation to remove exemptions that allow private schools to discriminate against students and teachers. Other forms of discrimination will require ongoing community wide education programs and a better resourced Anti-Discrimination Board.

There are a broad range of factors that can negatively influence the health and wellbeing of people living with HIV and LGBTI people that include subversive discrimination and lack of targeted services and programs. I intend to move a motion in the new Parliament to set up a committee aimed at removing discrimination and achieving equality for all LGBTI people. The Parliamentary committee would look at a broad range of issues and make recommendations to government.

How will you ensure that all outsourced NSW Government services, including the Home Care Service of NSW, are delivered in a non-discriminatory way to LGBTI people and PLHIV?

I have already raised this concern with the minister, and support legislative backing to ensure non-discriminatory services.

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Greens

How will your party address the disparities seen in the prevalence of mental health issues, alcohol and other drug dependence and smoking amongst LGBTI people?

The Greens support fully funded, targeted and specialised health services available to LGBTI people. The NSW government must recognise that LGBTI people are disproportionately affected by mental health issues, drug dependence and smoking, and reallocate and invest in services to address this.

Does your party support the development of a whole of government LGBTI health strategy?

Yes. Any other strategy constitutes a piecemeal approach and risks not having a coordinated and consistent approach to LGBTI health. The strategy should also recognise the diverse needs within the LGBTI community.

What strategies will your party implement to improve the availability of data on PLHIV and LGBTI people across all health and wellbeing areas?

The Greens NSW recognise that LGBTI and PLHIV communities and individuals are diverse. While there are some shared experiences in relation to HIV, the factors that affect the health and wellbeing of LGBTI and PLHIV people and communities are multifaceted. It is critical to prioritise the collection and availability of health data on the characteristics and behaviours of PLHIV and LGBTI people and communities that can assist in developing both large scale and targeted responses.

The current NSW HIV Strategy lists surveillance and research as a priority to better inform responses to HIV in communities across the state. The Greens strongly support this focus and will continue to advocate for increased government funding to ensure that this research is robust and takes into account all relevant factors. Data is central to improving the care of people living with HIV. We acknowledge that multiple factors affect a person's health and wellbeing and that high quality available data will facilitate coordinate care for the range of conditions that go beyond just one physician or service.

Increasing the availability of data in relation to PLHIV and LGBTI people will also facilitate the development of services for treatment that can help reduce the burden of HIV on individuals and communities and strategies to prevent the transmission of the disease. Privacy should be at the forefront of efforts to improve the availability of data on PLHIV and LGBTI.

How will your party address the social determinants of health, including housing, employment, stigma and discrimination and their impacts on the health and wellbeing of PLHIV and LGBTI people?

Social determinants of health are best addressed by ensuring that public services are properly funded and operated. For PLHIV and LGBTI people, this means well-funded and resourced public housing, real job opportunities, and strong anti-discrimination legislation across the board.

Greens policy supports "ensuring the provision of housing services, both crisis and long-term, that specifically support people on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status, with a particular focus on rural, regional and remote areas."

How will your party ensure that all outsourced NSW Government services, including the Home Care Service of NSW, are delivered in a non-discriminatory way to LGBTI people and PLHIV?

The Greens are opposed to the privatisation of Ageing, Disability and Homecare services by the NSW government. In November we presented a petition to NSW Parliament on behalf of over 25,000 NSW residents in support of retaining the provision of these services in public hands. Privatisation will make it more difficult to ensure quality and consistency in the service delivery and make instances of discrimination more difficult to regulate and respond to.

We are concerned that some non-government providers may bring with them prejudices and attitudes that will mitigate against the provision of services to people living with HIV and the LGBTI community. The Greens will be monitoring this process very carefully to expose instances of non-government providers who discriminate against any person on the basis of their health status or sexuality of gender identity.

The Greens have already begun seeking information regarding the Expression of Interest/tender process and consulting with stakeholders to identify potential concerns about the process. We will continue to raise any issues about ensuring that the process delivers appropriate outcomes and quality of service for Home Care clients, including ensuring that there are adequate protections against discrimination.

We will continue to raise this matter in parliament and in the media to pressure the NSW government into putting in place appropriate protections that have been negotiated with the communities and the organisations that advocate for them.

3. PEOPLE WITH INTERSEX VARIATION

- » How will you address stigma and discrimination and their impacts, particularly as they affect new parents and families of infants with intersex variations, and adults with experience of trauma?
- » Will you commit to implementing the cross-party Senate report on the 'Involuntary or coerced sterilisation of intersex people in Australia' by the end of 2016?
- » Will you support a ban on unnecessary "sex normalising" and sterilising interventions on minors with an intersex variation?
- » Will you fund peak intersex organisations to address stigmatisation, and provide counselling, peer support and information services to intersex persons and their families?

Liberal/National

How will your party address stigma and discrimination and their impacts, particularly as they affect new parents and families of infants with intersex variations, and adults with experience of trauma?

The NSW Government recognises the impact of stigma and discrimination on people with intersex variation. A re-elected Baird Government will examine the Senate report on the 'Involuntary or coerced sterilisation of intersex people in Australia' to identify key areas for reform.

The Baird Government will work closely with intersex communities to advance this work.

How will your party commit to implementing the cross-party Senate report on the 'Involuntary or coerced sterilisation of intersex people in Australia' by the end of 2016?

As above.

Will your party support a ban on unnecessary "sex normalising" and sterilising interventions on minors with an intersex variation?

As above.

Will your party fund peak intersex organisations to address stigmatisation, and provide counselling, peer support and information services to intersex persons and their families?

Yes, a re-elected Baird Government would encourage and support policy and advocacy from a peak intersex organisation in NSW. Funding may be available under the partnerships for health reforms to NGO funding.

Alex Greenwich

How will you address stigma and discrimination and their impacts, particularly as they affect new parents and families of infants with intersex variations, and adults with experience of trauma?

I support amendments to include intersex in the Anti-Discrimination Act and the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act. I am also considering legislation that would enable someone to change the sex on their birth certificate if they have not undergone sex affirmation surgery, which would enable people with intersex variations to change their birth certificate if it does not reflect the sex they identify with.

Will you commit to implementing the cross-party Senate report on the 'Involuntary or coerced sterilisation of intersex people in Australia' by the end of 2016?

I oppose forced sterilisation of intersex people and support protection against this.

Will you support a ban on unnecessary "sex normalising" and sterilising interventions on minors with an intersex variation?

Yes

Will you fund peak intersex organisations to address stigmatisation, and provide counselling, peer support and information services to intersex persons and their families?

I support funding for representative peak bodies for all segments of the LGBTI communities. I always work with community and advocacy bodies in developing policy and identifying reform.

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Labor

How will your party address stigma and discrimination and their impacts, particularly as they affect new parents and families of infants with intersex variations, and adults with experience of trauma?

Labor will review the Anti Discrimination Act with a view to ensuring that like the Federal Anti Discrimination Act Intersex variation is included in discrimination protections.

Will your party commit to implementing the cross-party Senate report on the 'Involuntary or coerced sterilisation of intersex people in Australia' by the end of 2016?

Will your party support a ban on unnecessary "sex normalising" and sterilising interventions on minors with an intersex variation?

Labor will ask the LGBTI Ministerial Advisory Committee to examine the specific issues for people with intersex variations and make recommendations on implementation of this report and other actions.

Will your party fund peak intersex organisations to address stigmatisation, and provide counselling, peer support and information services to intersex persons and their families?

Labor will consider funding a peak intersex advocacy body as part of our commitment to funding advocacy bodies for affected communities.

Greens

How will your party address stigma and discrimination and their impacts, particularly as they affect new parents and families of infants with intersex variations, and adults with experience of trauma?

The Greens support increased funding for intersex organisations to provide support, education and counselling for parents of newly born children with intersex variations, as well as adults with experience of trauma. We support a better understanding of intersex in society at large, as well as in the school system.

Will your party commit to implementing the cross-party Senate report on the 'Involuntary or coerced sterilisation of intersex people in Australia' by the end of 2016?

Yes. In 2014, the Greens moved a successful motion in the NSW Upper House calling on the NSW government to acknowledge the human rights of people with intersex variations, and work with the federal government to implement the important recommendations that came out of the report.

Will your party support a ban on unnecessary "sex normalising" and sterilising interventions on minors with an intersex variation?

The Greens NSW Sex Sexuality and Gender Identity policy states we will work towards "Administrative-only gender assignment of intersex newborns whose genitals vary from male or female ideals, until, having attained competence and having been fully informed by a team including intersex representatives, they may request genital surgery, hormone treatment or both; Newborns requiring lifesaving surgery should undergo that surgery."

Will your party fund peak intersex organisations to address stigmatisation, and provide counselling, peer support and information services to intersex persons and their families?

Yes. The NSW government must fund intersex organisations to carry out these important services.

4. EDUCATION

- » How will you combat homophobia, bi-phobia and transphobia in schools across NSW?
- » Do you support the NSW rollout of the national Safe Schools Coalition programme?

- » Will you commit to a responsive health and physical education curriculum and syllabus in NSW that makes explicit reference to lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex people, and includes a focus on positive relationships, bullying and discrimination, HIV and STIs?

Liberal/National

How will your party combat homophobia, bi-phobia and transphobia in schools across NSW?

The NSW Government is committed to supporting schools to address all forms of bullying, including homophobia, transphobia and bi-phobia.

NSW government schools implement the Bullying: Preventing and Responding to Student Bullying in Schools policy which requires protection and prevention strategies for all types of bullying.

NSW public schools address the needs of same sex attracted, gender diverse and bisexual students as guided by relevant policy and legislation, including the NSW Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998.

Schools work closely with students and their parents to ensure the needs of students are met in a timely and supportive way.

Does your party support the NSW rollout of the national Safe Schools Coalition programme?

The National Safe Schools Coalition Programme is available to all public schools in New South Wales through Family Planning NSW.

Will your party commit to a responsive health and physical education curriculum and syllabus in NSW that makes explicit reference to lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex people, and includes a focus on positive relationships, bullying and discrimination, HIV and STIs?

The NSW Government supports the mandatory Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE) Years 7–10 Syllabus which contributes significantly to the formation of student understanding and values related to difference and diversity.

The PDHPE curriculum for secondary schools currently includes a strong emphasis on relationships, sexual health, personal safety, and strategies for seeking help and support. The curriculum also explores the impact of discrimination and vilification on individuals and the community.

Labor

How will your party combat homophobia, bi-phobia and transphobia in schools across NSW?

Labor believes that homophobia, bi-phobia and transphobia has no place in our community. Labor has in the past supported targeted programs such as Proud Schools and other anti bullying initiatives to combat this type of bullying.

Labor will continue this work in government.

Labor will also look for ways to support grassroots initiatives such as Wear It Purple to support and empower young people across NSW.

Does your party support the NSW rollout of the national Safe Schools Coalition programme?

Yes

Will your party commit to a responsive health and physical education curriculum and syllabus in NSW that makes explicit reference to lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex people, and includes a focus on positive relationships, bullying and discrimination, HIV and STIs?

Labor will work with the national curriculum and ensure that the needs of LGBTIQ young people, HIV and STI prevention and positive relationships form part of curriculum delivery in NSW.

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Alex Greenwich

How will you combat homophobia, bi-phobia and transphobia in schools across NSW?

I've been advocating for all schools to be required to systematically address this bullying, abuse and violence based on prejudice, and will continue to do so. I lobbied all schools in my electorate to engage with the Safe Schools program as well as other resources to support inclusion and diversity. I've also been supporting student-based projects like Wear It Purple and ally programs that encourage a safe environment for all students.

I remain committed to introducing legislation that would remove exemptions that allow private schools to discriminate against LGBTI students and teachers – such discrimination encourages homophobia, bi-phobia and transphobia among students.

Do you support the NSW rollout of the national Safe Schools Coalition programme?

Yes

Will you commit to a responsive health and physical education curriculum and syllabus in NSW that makes explicit reference to lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex people, and includes a focus on positive relationships, bullying and discrimination, HIV and STIs?

I support these vital changes.

Greens

How will your party combat homophobia, bi-phobia and transphobia in schools across NSW?

Homophobia, bi-phobia and transphobia are unfortunately still a reality in schools across NSW. We support the facilitation of peer support groups for LGBTI students, the mandatory development and implementation of anti-homophobia, anti-biphobia, anti-transphobia and anti-intersexphobia policies and practices in all schools, and the mandatory establishment of adequate grievance procedures for LGBTI students.

Schools should be encouraged to set clear rules, including a 'no tolerance' approach to bullying, and train staff appropriately. Training school staff to develop the best skill-set to intervene when bullying or discrimination is taking place, including intervening when LGBTI students are targets of verbal or physical abuse.

The Greens are committed to removing exemptions in the NSW Anti-Discrimination Act in NSW that allow religious schools to discriminate against lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender or intersex individuals because of their sexuality or gender identity.

Does your party support the NSW rollout of the national Safe Schools Coalition programme?

Yes. Safe Schools is an incredibly important program and the rollout is an exciting and essential initiative.

Will your party commit to a responsive health and physical education curriculum and syllabus in NSW that makes explicit reference to lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex people, and includes a focus on positive relationships, bullying and discrimination, HIV and STIs?

Yes. Education on these matters is crucial from an early age. The Greens support age-appropriate provision of factual and affirming materials about sex, sexuality, gender identity and intersex status at all levels of the education system.

5. AGEING

- » Do you support the continued recognition of LGBTI people as a priority population in the NSW Ageing Strategy, including when it is renewed?
- » Do you commit to the ongoing provision of LGBTI awareness training of aged care services?
- » How will you support the social inclusion of older PLHIV and LGBTI people?
- » Do you commit to ensuring that older people with HIV receive specialist health care and support services?
- » What will you do to maintain the availability of social housing in inner city areas?

Liberal/National

Does your party support the continued recognition of LGBTI people as a priority population in the NSW Ageing Strategy, including when it is renewed?

The Baird Government acknowledges the challenges posed by an ageing LGBT population. The NSW Government has funded ACON to conduct research into these issues and hosted a Roundtable on Ageing in partnership with ACON. Further consultation will be undertaken to ensure the needs of LGBTI people are addressed in an updated NSW Ageing Strategy.

Does your party commit to the ongoing provision of LGBTI awareness training of aged care services?

Under the National Health Reform Agreement, the Commonwealth Government has responsibility for funding support for people 65 years and over, including those being supported in Residential Aged Care or through a Home Care Package. The National 2014 Aged Care and Assessment Program (ACAP) Guidelines identifies LGBTI as a Special Needs group. LGBTI awareness training is provided as required to Aged Care Assessment Team (ACAT) staff.

How will your party support the social inclusion of older PLHIV and LGBTI people?

The research funded by the NSW Government as well as the Roundtable will lead to further work to address the social inclusion of older PLHIV and LGBTI people in NSW. Social Inclusion is also supported through The Ministry of Health Funding and Performance Agreements 2014/2015 with ACON & Positive Life NSW, which include KPIs to ensure the provision of social inclusion programs.

Does your party commit to ensuring that older people with HIV receive specialist health care and support services?

The Ministry of Health Funding and Performance Agreement 2014/2015 with Positive Life NSW includes a KPI to explore the future service needs of PLHIV, including: disability support; aged care; and mental health mainstream services to support integrated service delivery into the future for PLHIV with complex care needs.

What will your party do to maintain the availability of social housing in inner city areas?

The NSW Government has released Social Housing in NSW; a discussion paper for input and comment, which sought community views about the future of the social housing system. The NSW Government plans to release a policy statement following community consultation later this year.

5. AGEING

- » Do you support the continued recognition of LGBTI people as a priority population in the NSW Ageing Strategy, including when it is renewed?
- » Do you commit to the ongoing provision of LGBTI awareness training of aged care services?
- » How will you support the social inclusion of older PLHIV and LGBTI people?
- » Do you commit to ensuring that older people with HIV receive specialist health care and support services?
- » What will you do to maintain the availability of social housing in inner city areas?

Alex Greenwich

Do you support the continued recognition of LGBTI people as a priority population in the NSW Ageing Strategy, including when it is renewed?

Yes

Do you commit to the ongoing provision of LGBTI awareness training of aged care services?

I support ongoing education and training programs.

How will you support the social inclusion of older PLHIV and LGBTI people?

New treatments have made a dramatic impact on the lives of people living with HIV, with positive changes to life expectancy. Privatising home care services threatens access to these supports and I've been calling for discrimination protections and assurances that costs won't increase, both in Parliament and directly with the Minister for Ageing. I have been supporting organisations like The Aged Care Rights Service, community legal centres and the HIV/AIDS Legal Centre to ensure there are strong advocates to help.

We should also remember the important role of community organisations like Harbour City Bears, Mature Age Gays and sport/recreation groups in providing peer support and social activities.

Do you commit to ensuring that older people with HIV receive specialist health care and support services?

I support targeted strategies and services for older people with HIV, including advocacy agencies. However, mainstream services also need to be inclusive and this will require ongoing education and best practice strategies to be applied, along with ongoing support for HALC in case of discrimination.

What will you do to maintain the availability of social housing in inner city areas?

I have been fighting against sales of inner city social housing, and have been working with the Millers Point, Dawes Point and The Rocks community on their campaign. I've also been pushing the government to commit to maintaining social housing in other parts of my electorate like Woolloomooloo and Darlinghurst. My submissions to Parliamentary Inquiries and the current 'Social Housing Discussion Paper' are on my website.

I've been advocating for increased funds, new housing bonds and innovative arrangements that encourage private investment in low cost housing. The State government must work with the Commonwealth to improve housing affordability and the availability of low cost housing. People with serious health impacts from HIV that make it impossible for them to use the private market must continue to be a priority for social housing, with recognition that they may also need protection from abuse and violence from some neighbours.

5. AGEING

- » Do you support the continued recognition of LGBTI people as a priority population in the NSW Ageing Strategy, including when it is renewed?
- » Do you commit to the ongoing provision of LGBTI awareness training of aged care services?
- » How will you support the social inclusion of older PLHIV and LGBTI people?
- » Do you commit to ensuring that older people with HIV receive specialist health care and support services?
- » What will you do to maintain the availability of social housing in inner city areas?

Labor

Does your party support the continued recognition of LGBTI people as a priority population in the NSW Ageing Strategy, including when it is renewed?

Yes – ageing for the LGBTI community is bringing new challenges and opportunities in services delivery and keeping the people well and supported. The needs of the LGBTI community require specialised attention and Labor will ensure that the needs of this community are included in the current and any renewed strategy.

Does your party commit to the ongoing provision of LGBTI awareness training of aged care services?

Yes

How will your party support the social inclusion of older PLHIV and LGBTI people?

As part of the development of and LGBTI Health Strategy the social inclusion needs of older PLHIV and LGBTI would be included and form part of any actions arising from the strategy.

Does your party commit to ensuring that older people with HIV receive specialist health care and support services?

Yes

What will your party do to maintain the availability of social housing in inner city areas?

Labor supports keeping social housing across NSW and is committed to supporting older people being able to stay in their community. Labor is committed to keeping social housing in inner city areas and Labor will not sell off social housing in the inner city.

Greens

Does your party support the continued recognition of LGBTI people as a priority population in the NSW Ageing Strategy, including when it is renewed?

Yes. Older LGBTI people must remain to be of key concern within of the NSW Ageing Strategy to ensure their specific needs are met.

Does your party commit to the ongoing provision of LGBTI awareness training of aged care services?

Yes and across all providers.

How will your party support the social inclusion of older PLHIV and LGBTI people?

The Greens support specialised and inclusive services for older PLHIV and LGBTI people. This means involving older PLHIV and LGBTI people in the development of programs and initiatives that affect them. Supporting social inclusion is also possible through alleviating poverty and ensuring that specialist health services are available.

Does your party commit to ensuring that older people with HIV receive specialist health care and support services?

Yes. Everyone has the right to receive the appropriate health care and support services to suit their needs, and services ought to be funded adequately in order to provide for this.

What will your party do to maintain the availability of social housing in inner city areas?

The Greens support new social housing and, where a need is identified, the implementation of housing targets for state and local government. We must ensure high budget priority is given to social and affordable housing. The Greens have stood shoulder to shoulder with inner city communities to oppose sell-offs of social and affordable housing such as that at Millers Point in 2014.

6. COMMUNITY SAFETY

- » How will you support continuing the work of the Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officer (GLLO) program across the state, including expanding regional GLLO sponsors?
- » Do you support the ongoing implementation, renewal and continuous improvement of the Mardi Gras Accord agreement that has demonstrated results in improved policing and safety outcomes at parties and community events?
- » Do you commit to the ongoing implementation of Fair Play, an initiative intended to ensure appropriate policing at parties and community events?
- » Do you commit to funding targeted interventions to address LGBTI family and domestic violence?

Liberal/National

How will your party support continuing the work of Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officer (GLLO) program across the state, including expanding regional GLLO sponsors?

The GLLO Program was first established by the Liberals and Nationals under the Greiner Government in 1990 and is the oldest program of its kind in Australia.

There are now more than 200 GLLOs working across almost every Local Area Command in NSW. Regular training programs are conducted to increase GLLO numbers and to embed the principles of equality and inclusiveness across NSW Police. The GLLO program is also enhanced through training provided to every student of the NSW Police Academy.

However, it is important to note that all members of the LGBTI community will be assisted by any police officer, whether they are a GLLO or not. Regional Sponsors have been in place for the past 12 months across every Region in NSW and act as a coordination point for GLLO support and specific community engagement activities.

Further strategies are being proposed regarding the Regional Sponsor, including allocating a member to every Local Area Command Senior Management Team to allow specific local focus on areas of diversity. The Baird Government will continue to ensure that relations between the NSW Police Force and the LGBTI community remain strong and harmonious.

Does your party support the ongoing implementation, renewal and continuous improvement of the Mardi Gras Accord agreement that has demonstrated results in improved policing and safety outcomes at parties and community events?

The Baird Government is a proud supporter of the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras and has provided nearly \$2 million in funding to the festival over our first term.

As part of this, we strongly support the Accord agreement to promote cooperation, communication and transparency between Mardi Gras and NSW Police. Safety is the number one priority for Police and Mardi Gras organisers who work closely to create a safe and inclusive environment.

The agreement has been developed in conjunction with key stakeholders and is designed to ensure the best outcomes for the community and the success of the festival.

Does your party commit to the ongoing implementation of Fair Play, an initiative intended to ensure appropriate policing and parties and community events?

Yes, the Baird Government also supports the Fair Play initiative to ensure appropriate levels of policing and event support, including fair and equitable enforcement, particularly around alcohol and drug use.

Does your party commit to funding targeted interventions to address LGBTI family and domestic violence?

LGBTI communities are as likely to experience domestic and family violence at similar rates to the wider community, but are less likely to identify the experience as abuse, report violence to police, or seek assistance out of fear of prejudice and discrimination.

Sometimes services may not understand the needs of an LGBTI person or the nature of their relationship, or support workers may have preconceived ideas about sexuality, gender or family.

Under 'It Stops Here', the NSW Government's Domestic and Family Violence Framework, the NSW Government has funded TAFE NSW to develop a strategy to build the capacity of the sector to respond to the needs of victims of domestic and family violence.

The strategy's main objective is to improve awareness of, and access to, education and training opportunities, as well as recognition of prior learning for frontline domestic and family violence workers. There is a particular emphasis on building the sector to support groups with specific needs or who are particularly vulnerable, including the LGBTI community.

The NSW Police Force actively supports Interagency Domestic and Family Violence strategies as they relate to members of the LGBTI community. Surry Hills Local Area Command has appointed the Domestic Violence Liaison Officer.

This appointment is significant because it recognises the impact of domestic and family violence within the LGBTI community and facilitates support services, including the referral of GLLO's to victims of abuse.

6. COMMUNITY SAFETY

- » How will you support continuing the work of the Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officer (GLLO) program across the state, including expanding regional GLLO sponsors?
- » Do you support the ongoing implementation, renewal and continuous improvement of the Mardi Gras Accord agreement that has demonstrated results in improved policing and safety outcomes at parties and community events?
- » Do you commit to the ongoing implementation of Fair Play, an initiative intended to ensure appropriate policing at parties and community events?
- » Do you commit to funding targeted interventions to address LGBTI family and domestic violence?

Liberal/National

With regard to the impact domestic violence can have on homelessness, all of the 157 new specialist homelessness services in NSW are accessible to the LGBTI community who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of becoming homeless.

In particular, two services in the Sydney District target the LGBTI community and provide state-wide support:

- The LGBTI Youth Homelessness Service operated by Twenty10 provides targeted support to young people under 25 years in the inner Sydney area.
- The Transgender Homelessness Support Service, operated by The Gender Centre Inc. provides support to transgender people aged over 25 years who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless.

Labor

How will your party support continuing the work of the Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officer (GLLO) program across the state, including expanding regional GLLO sponsors?

Labor fully supports the GLLO program and the important role it has played in improving relationships and support to the LGBTI community.

Labor would look to roll out this program further.

Does your party support the ongoing implementation, renewal and continuous improvement of the Mardi Gras Accord agreement that has demonstrated results in improved policing and safety outcomes at parties and community events?

Yes

Does your party commit to the ongoing implementation of Fair Play, an initiative intended to ensure appropriate policing at parties and community events?

Yes

Does your party commit to funding targeted interventions to address LGBTI family and domestic violence?

Labor believes that there are specialised interventions needed to combat family and domestic violence within the LGBTI community. Labor will include the needs of the LGBTI community in any response, programs and initiatives that are funded to address family and domestic violence – this includes targeted funding.

6. COMMUNITY SAFETY

- » How will you support continuing the work of the Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officer (GLLO) program across the state, including expanding regional GLLO sponsors?
- » Do you support the ongoing implementation, renewal and continuous improvement of the Mardi Gras Accord agreement that has demonstrated results in improved policing and safety outcomes at parties and community events?
- » Do you commit to the ongoing implementation of Fair Play, an initiative intended to ensure appropriate policing at parties and community events?
- » Do you commit to funding targeted interventions to address LGBTI family and domestic violence?

Greens

How will your party support continuing the work of the Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officer (GLLO) program across the state, including expanding regional GLLO sponsors?

The Greens support cultural awareness and procedural training in LGBTI issues for police at all levels, based on consultation with, and also involving, LGBTI communities. The GLLO program is a vital initiative across NSW, but it must be funded adequately so that it is responsive to the needs of the LGBTI community including in rural and regional areas.

The Greens have long pushed for an independent police oversight and an end to police investigating police. This needs to happen now and we need a well-resourced and well-funded independent body to carry out the job

Does your party support the ongoing implementation, renewal and continuous improvement of the Mardi Gras Accord agreement that has demonstrated results in improved policing and safety outcomes at parties and community events?

The Greens welcome the improved responsiveness of the police to the LGBTI community's long-held concerns through the Mardi Gras Accord, and we note that Mardi Gras in 2014 was significantly better than the 2013 event in relation to overpolicing and violence. However, we remain opposed to police tactics such as the use of sniffer dogs that continue to be deployed at parties and community events including Mardi Gras.

Does your party commit to the ongoing implementation of Fair Play, an initiative intended to ensure appropriate policing at parties and community events?

Yes. Fair Play's focus on education and awareness around police powers is a welcome initiative. Police must work with and listen to LGBTI people to ensure they are responsive to the needs of the community.

Does your party commit to funding targeted interventions to address LGBTI family and domestic violence?

Yes. The Greens NSW election policy on domestic and family violence includes commitments to investing in violence prevention initiatives across all parts of society, and investing in programs and services that meet the specific needs of at-risk groups.

6. COMMUNITY SAFETY

- » How will you support continuing the work of the Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officer (GLLO) program across the state, including expanding regional GLLO sponsors?
- » Do you support the ongoing implementation, renewal and continuous improvement of the Mardi Gras Accord agreement that has demonstrated results in improved policing and safety outcomes at parties and community events?
- » Do you commit to the ongoing implementation of Fair Play, an initiative intended to ensure appropriate policing at parties and community events?
- » Do you commit to funding targeted interventions to address LGBTI family and domestic violence?

Alex Greenwich

How will you support continuing the work of the Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officer (GLLO) program across the state, including expanding regional GLLO sponsors?

I've been working with the Police LGBTI Corporate Spokesperson and attend the regular liaison group meetings to share information, identify concerns and take coordinated joint action. I strongly support this program and will continue to do so. The Anti-Violence Project must be maintained and continue to develop education programs as well as respond to individual incidents.

Do you support the ongoing implementation, renewal and continuous improvement of the Mardi Gras Accord agreement that has demonstrated results in improved policing and safety outcomes at parties and community events?

I led action in response to the 2013 Mardi Gras incidents that resulted in major reforms, meeting with the minister and senior police and working with community advocates. This must be maintained. We need an independent agency to investigate and act on police complaints to rebuild community confidence in fair policing.

Do you commit to the ongoing implementation of Fair Play, an initiative intended to ensure appropriate policing at parties and community events?

I strongly support Fair Play and will continue to promote it with senior police and the government.

Do you commit to funding targeted interventions to address LGBTI family and domestic violence?

Domestic and family violence is grossly under-funded and needs government at all levels to collaborate on education, prevention and support services. I worked with the SOS Women's Services campaign to successfully retain funding for key inner city services and strongly support specific strategies and services for LGBTI family and domestic violence. As above, I support the vital role of the AVP.

7. SOCIAL INCLUSION

- » Will you commit to a review of the NSW Anti-discrimination Act (1997), including looking at removing religious exemptions, introducing protection for intersex people, and removing inconsistencies with the Commonwealth Sex Discrimination Act (1984)?
- » Will you amend the Births, Death and Marriages Registration Act 1995 to allow for the recording of M, F and X on NSW birth certificates on a voluntary basis, opt-in for persons able to consent?
- » Will you maintain the provisions contained in the Surrogacy Act (2010)?
- » Will you end the requirements of surgery and divorce for people wishing to change their birth certificate to reflect their gender or sex?
- » How will you ensure that infants and children are not subjected to medical treatment in order to assign any sex classification?

Liberal/National

Will your party commit to a review of the NSW Anti-discrimination Act (1997), including looking at removing religious exemptions, introducing protection for intersex people, and removing inconsistencies with the Commonwealth Sex Discrimination Act (1984)?

NSW is currently contributing to a Commonwealth consultation with the States and Territories in relation to the appropriate scope of the replacement exemption of the Federal Sex Discrimination Regulations 1984 (SDA). NSW is also considering what State legislation may need to be updated to address the new provisions in the SDA.

Will your party amend the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1995 to allow for the recording of M, F and X on NSW birth certificates on a voluntary basis, opt-in for persons able to consent?

As mentioned in our response to People with Intersex Variation, a re-elected Baird Government will examine the Senate report on the 'Involuntary or coerced sterilisation of intersex people in Australia' and will work closely with intersex communities to review these issues.

Will your party end the requirements of surgery and divorce for people wishing to change their birth certificate to reflect their gender or sex?

The Baird Government recognises this requirement primarily affects married transgender people who have undergone surgery to change their sex to align with their gender identity. It is not yet clear if the State of NSW has the power to legislate for this change, or if this is a matter for the Commonwealth. As a result, this is a matter for ongoing consideration.

How will your party ensure that infants and children are not subjected to medical treatment in order to assign any sex classification?

As mentioned in our response to People with Intersex Variation, a re-elected Baird Government will examine the Senate report on the 'Involuntary or coerced sterilisation of intersex people in Australia' and will work closely with intersex communities to review these issues.

Will your party maintain the provisions contained in the Surrogacy Act (2010)?

There are no current plans to amend the Surrogacy Act. The Act is currently under statutory review in accordance with section 60 of the Act.

Labor

Will your party commit to a review of the NSW Anti-discrimination Act (1997), including looking at removing religious exemptions, introducing protection for intersex people, and removing inconsistencies with the Commonwealth Sex Discrimination Act (1984)?

Labor is committed to a full review of the NSW Anti Discrimination Act and will examine all issues of discrimination within that review.

Will your party amend the Births, Death and Marriages Registration Act 1995 to allow for the recording of M, F and X on NSW birth certificates on a voluntary basis, opt-in for persons able to consent?

Labor will examine these changes and seek advice from the LGBTI Ministerial Committee on the implementation of birth certificates.

Will your party end the requirements of surgery and divorce for people wishing to change their birth certificate to reflect their gender or sex?

Labor will examine the requirements of surgery and divorce for people wishing to change their birth certificate to reflect their gender or sex and take advice regarding potential constitutional considerations.

How will your party ensure that infants and children are not subjected to medical treatment in order to assign any sex classification?

Labor will refer this to the LGBTI Ministerial Advisory Group for advice about current practices and recommendations about how this issue can be addressed.

Will your party maintain the provisions contained in the Surrogacy Act (2010)?

Yes

7. SOCIAL INCLUSION

- » Will you commit to a review of the NSW Anti-discrimination Act (1997), including looking at removing religious exemptions, introducing protection for intersex people, and removing inconsistencies with the Commonwealth Sex Discrimination Act (1984)?
- » Will you amend the Births, Death and Marriages Registration Act 1995 to allow for the recording of M, F and X on NSW birth certificates on a voluntary basis, opt-in for persons able to consent?
- » Will you maintain the provisions contained in the Surrogacy Act (2010)?
- » Will you end the requirements of surgery and divorce for people wishing to change their birth certificate to reflect their gender or sex?
- » How will you ensure that infants and children are not subjected to medical treatment in order to assign any sex classification?

Alex Greenwich

Will you commit to a review of the NSW Anti-discrimination Act (1997), including looking at removing religious exemptions, introducing protection for intersex people, and removing inconsistencies with the Commonwealth Sex Discrimination Act (1984)?

I support expansion and alignment of anti-discrimination provisions to provide clear and broad protection across Australia. The current exemptions cannot continue. The government did not support my bill to remove exemptions that expose students at private education providers to discrimination, and I am committed to introducing amendments to remove exemptions for students and teachers in the next Parliament.

Will you maintain the provisions contained in the Surrogacy Act (2010)?

Yes

Will you amend the Births, Death and Marriages Registration Act 1995 to allow for the recording of M, F and X on NSW birth certificates on a voluntary basis, opt-in for persons able to consent?

I support these amendments and will work with the trans* and intersex communities and the Attorney General to determine and potentially introduce appropriate legislation.

Will you end the requirements of surgery and divorce for people wishing to change their birth certificate to reflect their gender or sex?

Yes I have already introduced a bill to remove forced trans* divorce provisions and am considering legislation that would enable someone to change the sex on their birth certificate without undergoing surgery.

How will you ensure that infants and children are not subjected to medical treatment in order to assign any sex classification?

This will require education of medical practitioners and changes to the law to allow more flexibility in sex classification on birth certificates including allowing for variations and future changes. I will work to achieve legislative changes and will advocate for education of doctors. These matters could be considered by the parliamentary committee I intend to set up.

7. SOCIAL INCLUSION

- » Will you commit to a review of the NSW Anti-discrimination Act (1997), including looking at removing religious exemptions, introducing protection for intersex people, and removing inconsistencies with the Commonwealth Sex Discrimination Act (1984)?
- » Will you amend the Births, Death and Marriages Registration Act 1995 to allow for the recording of M, F and X on NSW birth certificates on a voluntary basis, opt-in for persons able to consent?
- » Will you maintain the provisions contained in the Surrogacy Act (2010)?
- » Will you end the requirements of surgery and divorce for people wishing to change their birth certificate to reflect their gender or sex?
- » How will you ensure that infants and children are not subjected to medical treatment in order to assign any sex classification?

Greens

Will your party commit to a review of the NSW Anti-discrimination Act (1997), including looking at removing religious exemptions, introducing protection for intersex people, and removing inconsistencies with the Commonwealth Sex Discrimination Act (1984)?

Yes. The Greens believe all state anti-discrimination legislation should be removed with an aim to fully protect the rights of LGBTI people, without any exceptions, and support the extension of existing NSW legislation to include bisexual and intersex people.

Will your party maintain the provisions contained in the Surrogacy Act (2010)?

The Surrogacy Act (2010) was a small step forward, but problems remain in NSW law. The Greens support a review of the Surrogacy Act to reconsider the current criminalisation of international commercial surrogacy, with a view to harmonise laws across Australian states in this area. Best practice regulation that respects the best interests of the child and fully respects the rights and interests of the natural mother must be seriously considered by policy makers, including thorough detailed public consultation.

Will your party amend the Births, Death and Marriages Registration Act 1995 to allow for the recording of M, F and X on NSW birth certificates on a voluntary basis, opt-in for persons able to consent?

Yes. The Greens recognise that sex is more than just male and female. People should be able to opt-in to a category other than 'M' or 'F'.

Will your party end the requirements of surgery and divorce for people wishing to change their birth certificate to reflect their gender or sex?

Yes. Last year the Greens in NSW Parliament introduced a bill that would remove the 'forced divorce' aspect of the NSW legislation. We intend to reintroduce this bill into the new parliament and also to address the surgical requirement aspect, which should similarly be removed from the Act.

How will your party ensure that infants and children are not subjected to medical treatment in order to assign any sex classification?

The Greens support the recommendations of the Commonwealth Government's 2013 report into the involuntary or coerced sterilisation of intersex people in Australia. This report recommended that medical treatment must take place under guidelines that favour "deferral of normalising treatment until the person can give fully informed consent". Treatment must be managed by "multidisciplinary teams within a human rights framework". Such guidelines must be rolled out in hospitals across NSW and Australia.

8. DRUG USE AND HARM REDUCTION

- » Will you end the use of drug sniffer dogs, which have been shown to be ineffective in policing and harmful to individuals, by NSW Police?
- » How will you address the need to reform drug and alcohol service provision and develop a strategic, coordinated response to alcohol and other drug issues in NSW?

Liberal/National

Will your party end the use of drug sniffer dogs, which have been shown to be ineffective in policing and harmful to individuals, by NSW Police?

The NSW Government remains committed to the enforcement of NSW drug laws.

How will your party address the need to reform drug and alcohol service provision and develop a strategic, coordinated response to alcohol and other drug issues in NSW?

Since 2011, the NSW Government has increased funding to drug and alcohol services across the State, including those used by the LGBTI community.

The Baird Government has delivered on its 2011 election commitment to provide an additional \$10 million (\$2.5 million per annum) to the NGO sector for Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services (DATS). This funding enhances drug and alcohol rehabilitation services and programs to reduce the number of people with drug and/or alcohol dependencies.

The Baird Government's election policy on Ice includes funding for three new stimulant services in Western Sydney, the Mid North Coast, the Illawarra and the expansion of services currently offered at St Vincent's Hospital. These services will provide specialist treatment for stimulant users. As part of this, additional funding will also be available for the Non-Government sector to provide new services.

Labor

Will your party end the use of drug sniffer dogs, which have been shown to be ineffective in policing and harmful to individuals, by NSW Police?

How will your party address the need to reform drug and alcohol service provision and develop a strategic, coordinated response to alcohol and other drug issues in NSW?

Labor is committed to holding a Drug Summit modelled on the successful 1999 Drug Summit that will include all stakeholders to review, analyse and advocate for a whole of government approach to respond to alcohol and other drug issues in NSW.

Alex Greenwich

Will you end the use of drug sniffer dogs, which have been shown to be ineffective in policing and harmful to individuals, by NSW Police?

I do not support the use of drug sniffer dogs which has shown to subject innocent people to invasive strip searches, encourage drug bingeing before events and to target LGBTI patrons. The Ombudsman review showed that drug detection dog operations do not address drug dealing and are largely ineffective. I support wider drug law reform based on evidence and research: drug use should be dealt with as a health concern, with law enforcement focussed on drug dealing and supply.

How will you address the need to reform drug and alcohol service provision and develop a strategic, coordinated response to alcohol and other drug issues in NSW?

I support large increases to funding for alcohol and drug services, which must be available for people with substance use problems to get help when they seek it, rather than be turned away. We need evidence-based approaches developed in partnership with drug user representative bodies who know how to reach and help their communities.

8. DRUG USE AND HARM REDUCTION

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- » How will you address the need to reform drug and alcohol service provision and develop a strategic, coordinated response to alcohol and other drug issues in NSW?

Greens

Will your party end the use of drug sniffer dogs, which have been shown to be ineffective in policing and harmful to individuals, by NSW Police?

Yes. It is Greens policy to cancel the failed drug dog detection program.

How will your party address the need to reform drug and alcohol service provision and develop a strategic, coordinated response to alcohol and other drug issues in NSW?

Drug and alcohol service provision is most effective when it is based on harm minimisation principles and delivered without judgement or the threat of legal sanctions.

Prohibitionist drug laws and politicians with pseudo-moral attitudes have impeded the development of a comprehensive, strategic and coordinated response to the harms caused by the misuse of alcohol and other drugs.

Despite these barriers, a number of highly effective services have prospered in NSW, creating an impressive track record of harms avoided and individuals and communities empowered to deal with substance abuse.

The Greens recognise that drug misuse can also indicate the presence of underlying mental and physical health problems, all of which need to be treated in order to ensure optimum health and wellbeing.

The Greens believe there is a strong case for a formal consultation with drug and alcohol service providers, the representatives of affected communities and independent experts to develop a new, coordinate strategy that ensures that the range of treatments and support are available and work together as seamlessly as possible.

We are also committed to moving NSW drug laws to an evidence basis by removing penalties that do nothing to promote harm minimisation and opening up more opportunities for treatment and support for users.

The Greens acknowledge that the primary drivers of harmful consumption of legal drugs such as alcohol and tobacco are price, availability and promotion. These three factors must be effectively managed to minimise the harmful impacts of over-consumption.

While these factors are applicable to the rates of smoking and drinking in the general population in NSW, specific measures to target these behaviours in the LGBTI and PLHIV communities should be prioritised.

Such measures include additional training and resources to equip health practitioners in the area of HIV to have conversations about drug consumption and mental health and enable them to refer patients to other services to get the help they need. Other measures include specific advertising targeting LGBTI and PLHIV communities to prevent the uptake of smoking and dangerous drinking behaviours in the first instance.

9. SEX WORKER HEALTH

- » Will you commit to continued funding for the Sex Workers Outreach Project of NSW, the peer lead specialised HIV/STI prevention and health promotion service for sex workers in NSW?
- » Do you support the long-standing policy of decriminalised sex work in NSW?
- » Will you commit to adding sex work as a protected ground to the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 (NSW)?
- » Will you include sex workers and SWOP in the decision making process on all matters that affects sex worker communities?

Liberal/National

Will your party commit to continued funding for the Sex Workers Outreach Project of NSW, the peer lead specialised HIV/STI prevention and health promotion service for sex workers in NSW?

The Ministry of Health funds SWOP to deliver HIV and STI prevention, education and health promotion for sex workers across NSW.

Sex workers are an identified priority population under the NSW HIV Strategy 2012-2015, the draft NSW STI Plan, the Seventh National HIV Strategy 2014-2017 and the Third National Sexually Transmissible Infections Strategy 2014-2017.

“Sustaining the virtual elimination of HIV in the sex industry” is an explicit target in both the NSW and National HIV Strategies.

In 2014, the virtual elimination of HIV transmission within the NSW sex industry has been maintained.

Does your party support the long-standing policy of decriminalised sex work in NSW?

Yes, a re-elected Baird Government will continue to support a system of decriminalization in NSW.

Will your party commit to adding sex work as a protected ground to the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 (NSW)?

If re-elected, a Baird Government will establish a parliamentary inquiry into the regulation of brothels across NSW. As part of this, the Inquiry will review this matter.

Will your party include sex workers and SWOP in the decision making process on all matters that affect sex worker communities?

The 2014/2015 Funding and Performance Agreement between the Ministry of Health and SWOP includes a KPI which mandates SWOP’s contribution to an enabling environment for HIV & STI prevention and health promotion, by ensuring that policy and research efforts incorporate the needs and perspectives of NSW sex workers.

This includes:

- Work to remove barriers to access to health and safety for sex workers
- Work to increase the evidence base for effective responses
- Work to address structural determinants of vulnerability to HIV & STI infection among NSW Sex Workers Participate in interagency and associated committees, as required.

Labor

Will your party commit to continued funding for the Sex Workers Outreach Project of NSW, the peer lead specialised HIV/STI prevention and health promotion service for sex workers in NSW?

Yes

Does your party support the long-standing policy of decriminalised sex work in NSW?

Yes

Will your party commit to adding sex work as a protected ground to the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 (NSW)?

Labor is committed to a full review of the NSW Anti Discrimination Act and will examine all issues of discrimination within that review.

Will your party include sex workers and SWOP in the decision making process on all matters that affects sex worker communities?

Yes

9. SEX WORKER HEALTH

- » Will you commit to continued funding for the Sex Workers Outreach Project of NSW, the peer lead specialised HIV/STI prevention and health promotion service for sex workers in NSW?
- » Do you support the long-standing policy of decriminalised sex work in NSW?
- » Will you commit to adding sex work as a protected ground to the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 (NSW)?
- » Will you include sex workers and SWOP in the decision making process on all matters that affects sex worker communities?

Alex Greenwich

Will you commit to continued funding for the Sex Workers Outreach Project of NSW, the peer lead specialised HIV/STI prevention and health promotion service for sex workers in NSW?

I support ongoing funding for SWOP.

Do you support the long-standing policy of decriminalised sex work in NSW?

Yes

Will you commit to adding sex work as a protected ground to the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 (NSW)?

I support this reform.

Will you include sex workers and SWOP in the decision making process on all matters that affects sex worker communities?

Affected communities must be included in the development of policies and services relating to them and I support this approach.

Greens

Will your party commit to continued funding for the Sex Workers Outreach Project of NSW, the peer lead specialised HIV/STI prevention and health promotion service for sex workers in NSW?

Yes.

Does your party support the long-standing policy of decriminalised sex work in NSW?

Yes.

Will your party commit to adding sex work as a protected ground to the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 (NSW)?

The Greens support the rights of sex workers and the decriminalisation of sex work. We will consider amendments to the Anti-Discrimination Act based on appropriate consultation.

Will your party include sex workers and SWOP in the decision making process on all matters that affects sex worker communities?

Yes. The Greens believe consultation is essential to all government decision-making, and is only genuine when involving the relevant groups affected by a decision.



Published March 2015

Check out the details on the ACON website
www.acon.org.au/election2015

