



MARRIAGE AND MORE

Standing Up for Full Equality

The Greens will continue to fight for LGBTIQ rights – every MP, every vote, every time.

The ACT Greens believe in a Canberra that recognises and celebrates diversity. We understand that acceptance, celebration and representation of diversity are essential for genuine social justice and equality.

The ACT Greens believe that freedom of sexual orientation and gender identity are fundamental human rights. We understand that acceptance, celebration and representation of diversity are essential for genuine social justice and equality; and we believe in a Canberra that recognises and celebrates diversity.

Canberra is a vibrant and diverse city, and we are richer because of our diversity. Sadly, there is still bigotry and intolerance in our community and in our laws. The ACT Greens believe that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer people should be treated equally under our laws and in our community.

> **Recognising Love**

The ACT Greens will continue to fight for marriage equality under Australian law and stand with the LGBTI community against the damaging and divisive plebiscite. As we continue to campaign and advocate to end discrimination under our laws, we will introduce legislation to the Legislative Assembly to allow formal recognition of same sex couples who were married overseas. The change will allow married same sex couples to formally reflect their marital status in various ways – such as on official forms and documents.

Same-sex couples who are married will no longer have to declare that they are not married, ensuring a greater level of recognition for many in our community.

> **Banning Dangerous ‘Conversion’ Therapy**

Reparative Therapy, or ‘Conversion’ Therapy as it is often referred to, is a dangerous tactic that often leads to anxiety, depression, substance abuse and suicide among LGBTI people. The ACT Greens will legislate to ensure that Reparative Therapy is banned in the Territory.

> **A Gender Health Clinic**

The ACT Greens celebrate diversity, and recognise that a social inclusive society must also support diverse responses to unique issues.

We understand that some members of the broad LGBTI community face stigma and barriers to accessing certain health services, and that in particular, the intersex community often struggle to find appropriate specialist medical and psychosocial support services in Canberra.

That is why the ACT Greens will:

- » Create a new “Gender Health Centre’ that brings together specialists and services across different medical areas, including primary health and mental health, and takes a lead advocacy role in the development of training of health professionals and creating enhanced supportive trans-sexual health pathways; and
- » Increase funding to expand the reach of LGBTI generalist health services and ensure access to long term and affordable specialist health and counselling services. The ACT Greens will invest in increased access to community based rapid testing and work to ensure that the ACT is able to take advantage of any new technologies such as PrEP as they become available.

The ACT Greens have already committed to:

- » Support a public “yes” campaign in the ACT if the Federal Government’s plebiscite goes ahead;
- » Dedicate up to \$500,000 of additional funding to LGBTI support services (above and beyond any other funding increases) for the purpose of supporting LGBTI people who are subjected to discrimination or harassment as a result of the “no” campaign; and
- » Establish a new ACT Commissioner for LGBTI people to hear and help resolve complaints about discrimination and vilification faced by LGBTI people in the ACT.

Canberra was the first place in the country to legalise same sex marriage - and while it was quashed by the High Court, the fight is not over. The Greens will always support marriage equality - every vote, every MP, every time.

However, marriage equality is not the only challenge that young LGBTI people are facing.

Disappointingly, prejudice still exists within our homes, schools, universities and workplaces; and LGBTI youth disproportionately suffer from mental illness and are at risk of suicide and self-harm.

The wasteful, damaging plebiscite; and the Turnbull Government’s reckless willingness to expose LGBTI people to a harmful “no” campaign poses a real threat to our LGBTI community. The ACT Greens will stand with the LGBTI community against this threat.