

Responses to Fair Agenda's election survey: Australian Sex Party

PAGE 3: Funding for family violence services

Q5: Inadequate and unpredictable funding for family and domestic violence services limits the capacity of specialist agencies to respond to the urgent and ongoing needs of those affected. Would your party support the implementation of guaranteed, long-term funding for family violence services, delivered through a dedicated Commonwealth funding stream?

Yes

Q6: Would your Party commit the additional federal funding needed for family and domestic violence related services to meet unmet demand – estimated at \$2 billion annually?

Yes

Q7: The Family Violence Prevention Legal Services provide specialist and culturally safe services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, but are currently limited to just 14 locations. Would your Party provide the funding needed to ensure national coverage – estimated at an additional \$28 million annually?

Yes

Q8: Community Legal Centres provide vital free legal advice to people experiencing family violence. The top two areas of work CLCs do nationally are family law and family violence related. Would your Party commit to reverse the scheduled \$34.83 million cuts to CLCs between 2017-2020, and provide additional funding?

Yes

Q9: Would your Party provide additional federal funding to expand perpetrator responses and intervention such as men's behaviour change programs, estimated by No To Violence to require an additional \$37 million of federal funding annually?

Yes,

Further information:

While we support MBC programs, we would like to see more resources committed to preventing violence against women and children through a national sex, sexuality and respectful relationships curriculum taught from Foundation Year through to Year 10.

Q10: Our Watch is the National Foundation for the Prevention of Violence Against Women and their Children. It oversees and leads the implementation of the national strategy to prevent violence against women. Does your Party support the provision of long term, core funding of Our Watch of \$5 million annually until at least 2022 (the final year of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children)?

Yes

Q11: Would your Party support investment to build the capacity of practitioners in community groups, government, organisations and key sectors to ensure they have expertise in the prevention of violence, and are able to expand the reach of current primary prevention activities?

Yes

PAGE 4: Policies to improve the safety of women and children in the family court system

Q12: Would your Party implement a policy to place domestic violence specialists in family court registries to undertake risk assessments at the very earliest stages of a case and provide recommendations on interim care arrangements for children?

Yes

Q13: Would your party amend the Family Law Act 1975 to introduce legislative protections to stop a victim being directly cross-examined by their abuser?

Yes,

Further information:

We support these legislative protections regardless of the sex or gender of the victim or perpetrator.

Q14: In 2012 a Co-Ordinated Family Dispute Resolution pilot which incorporated specialist domestic violence lawyers and social workers into the Family Court system was tested in a number of locations, and was highly successful at ensuring the best interests of children were met in matters. Would your Party ensure the national roll out of this model?

Yes

Q15: Right now family violence is not legislated as a relevant consideration when the Family Court determines a property settlement. In 2001 The Family Law Council advised the Attorney-General to amend the Family Law Act 1975 to require courts to consider family violence when determining a property division. Would your party implement this recommendation?

Yes

Q16: Family Report Writers are professionals (such as a social workers or psychologists) who are responsible for preparing reports to the Family Court on matters related to children's best interests. These reports are often very influential in Court decisions, and can have dangerous implications if they do not recognise or take into account family abuse or violence. Would your party establish a national accreditation and monitoring scheme for all family report writers; with mandatory training on domestic violence, cultural competency and working with victims of trauma?

Yes

Q17: Further information:

We refer Fair Agenda to the Australian Sex Party's submission to the Royal Commission into Family Violence at <http://www.rcfv.com.au/getattachment/86DC8EBD-7F99-4164-902C-8B18F7D8D3F1/Patten,-Fiona---Member-for-Northern-Metropolitan-Region>

PAGE 5: Policies for women's economic equality: paid parental leave

Q18: The World Health Organisation recommends that the minimum period of exclusive care for optimal maternal and infant health outcomes is 26 weeks. The current paid parental leave system was introduced in line with recommendations from the Productivity Commission and allows an eligible parent to top up the minimum government provided leave (of 18 weeks at the minimum wage) with additional leave they have negotiated into their employment arrangements. It has recently been proposed that cuts be made to this paid parental leave system, reducing the amount of government provided leave available to a new parent if their employer also provides paid parental leave. Would your party vote to protect the current paid parental leave system?

No policy.

Further information on your policy (if relevant):
We support a minimum of 18 weeks' paid parental leave.

Q19: The Senate Standing Committee on Economics recently recommended that the superannuation guarantee* should be paid on the Commonwealth Paid Parental Leave system. Would you support this change?*The Superannuation Guarantee requires employers to contribute a percentage of an employee's earnings into a superannuation fund.

No policy

PAGE 6: Other policies for women's economic equality

Q20: On average women retire with approximately half the level of retirement savings of men. The Senate Standing Committee on Economics recently recommended that the concessional superannuation contributions of lower income earners not be taxed at a higher rate than their ordinary income, through the retention of the Low Income Superannuation Contribution beyond June 2017. Do you support the retention of the LISC or similar mechanism?

No policy

<p>Q21: The Senate Standing Committee on Economics recently recommended that the Australian Government amend the Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act 1992 to remove the exemption from paying the superannuation guarantee in respect of employees whose salary or wages are less than \$450 in a calendar month. Would your Party support removing that exemption?</p>	<p>No policy</p>
<p>Q22: Will your Party invest in measures to support women's participation in traditionally male dominated industries?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Q23: Early Childhood Australia say that two days per week is the minimum amount of time children need in early childhood education for early learning benefits. The Parenthood are calling for a minimum of 2 days of childcare subsidy to be available for every child aged 0 - 5 (at the current rate or more), regardless of parents' working circumstances. Would you support this policy?</p>	<p>No policy</p>
<p>Q24: Would your Party support removing or reducing entitlements to Family Tax Benefit Part B from single parents when their youngest child turns 13?</p>	<p>No policy</p>

PAGE 7: Reproductive rights

<p>Q25: Do you have a party position on matters relating to a woman's legal right to terminate a pregnancy?</p>	<p>Yes, Further information: The right to safe, accessible and legal abortion is core policy for our party.</p>
<p>Q26: If your party has a unified position, does it recognise a woman's legal right to decide whether to continue or terminate her pregnancy?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Q27: The Federal Parliament has the power to make changes to Medicare. Currently there is a small medicare rebate for surgical termination of pregnancy. Would your party support any restrictions on access to Medicare rebates for services related to pregnancy termination?</p>	<p>No. We would protect the current Medicare arrangements</p>
<p>Q28: Right now there is no medical rebate specifically for pregnancy options counselling or medical termination of pregnancy. Nor is there a rebate for sexual or reproductive health consultations aimed at educating patients about safe sex practices and contraception. Would your party support the creation of new Medicare item numbers to cover; pregnancy options counselling by medical practitioners or suitably trained nurses, medical termination of pregnancy, or a sexual and reproductive health education consultation rebate?</p>	<p>Yes</p>