

Dear Rodney and team,

Please find Ms O'Connor's answers below, on behalf of the Greens.

Warm regards,

Alice Giblin

Senior Adviser

Office of Cassy O'Connor MP | Leader of the Tasmanian Greens

Parliament House, Hobart TAS 7000

T: 03 6212 2283 | 0429 402 283

W: <http://mps.tas.greens.org.au>

LGBTIQ+ ELECTION SURVEY RESPONSE

The Greens have a long, proud history of standing with LGBTIQ+ Tasmanians, going back decades. We campaigned for the decriminalisation of homosexuality, then Greens' Justice spokesperson, and now Senator, Nick McKim tabled the nation's first marriage equality legislation in 2006, and we have long advocated strongly for marriage justice.

In 2017, we tabled a motion for the Tasmanian Parliament to give its support to marriage equality, which was passed unanimously. In 2019, we worked cooperatively with advocates, the Labor Party and Speaker, Sue Hickey to change Tasmania's Births, Deaths and Marriages laws and succeeded, against the will of the government of the day.

Conversion practices

Q: Will you vote for legislation to prohibit efforts to change or suppress sexual orientation or gender identity, including criminal penalties for persistent change or suppression efforts?

Yes, the ban on conversion practices is Greens' policy. So-called conversion therapy causes profound harm to LGBTI people. It is homophobic, religious whackery dressed up as 'healing'.

Intersex surgeries

Q: Will you vote for legislation to prohibit non-medical surgeries on infants and children with variations of sex characteristics?

Yes. The evidence is overwhelming that unnecessary surgery on infants and children with variations in their sex characteristics can cause lifelong harm. These infants and children don't have a voice in these decisions, and that's a denial of their basic human rights.

Human Rights Act

Q: Will you vote for a Human Rights Act to protect the human rights of all Tasmanians including LGBTIQ+ Tasmanians?

Yes. The Greens have released our plan for a Human Rights Act, enshrining the rights of all Tasmanians in law

- <https://tasmps.greens.org.au/green-new-deal/human-rights-act>

Discrimination and bullying

Q. Do you support the retention of the Anti-Discrimination Act in its current form, including:

- a) the prohibition of discrimination against LGBTIQ+ people in faith-based schools, hospitals and other services, and
- b) section 17 which prohibits bullying conduct such as humiliating, intimidating, ridiculing, insulting others?

Tasmania's Anti-Discrimination Act is the strongest in the nation. The Greens support retaining the strong legislative protections in the Anti-Discrimination Act, absolutely.

Q: Will you speak out against any further attempt by the Federal Government to weaken section 17 or any other section of the Tasmanian Anti-Discrimination Act?

Yes, we have and will continue to do so, as will our Australian Greens' colleagues.

Gender recognition

Q: Do you support the retention of Tasmania's 2019 gender reforms in their current form, including the choice available to Tasmanian parents to include or remove gender on their child's birth certificate?

The Greens are proud to be part of making Tasmania a kinder, happier place for transgender and intersex people. We would not undo that good work, ever.

Expungement of historical convictions

Q: Will you implement the recommendations of the review into the expungement of historical LGBTIQ+ criminal records, including compensation for those who were convicted?

No person should have a criminal record for simply being who they are. We support expunging the records and compensating Tasmanians who were convicted under these terrible laws, for the harm this homophobic policy and law inflicted on them.

Coroner's Act

Q: Will you amend the Coroner's Act to ensure there is a clear process for determining senior-next-of-kin and that same-sex partners are not treated differently to other partners in determining senior next of kin?

The Ben Jago case made it clear we need real changes to ensure same-sex partners are equal under the law. We strongly support amending the *Coroner's Act*.

State schools

Q: Will you ensure there is sufficient funding to allow all teachers in state schools to have professional learning in LGBTIQ+ issues, and so all state schools can ensure their LGBTIQ+ students are supported?

Yes, all students should be supported in their school environment. The Greens back teachers and support staff in schools to provide just that.

Independent schools

Q: Will you ensure that all independent schools are meeting their legal obligation not to discriminate against LGBTIQ+ students?

Yes, we will do our best. No entity should be able to discriminate against a young person in their care based on their sexuality or gender identity.

Mental health

Q: Will you ensure there is sufficient funding to address the much higher than average levels of stigma-related anxiety, depression and suicide ideation in the LGBTIQ+ community, with a focus on prevention and support?
Will you also ensure the bulk of this funding goes to LGBTIQ+ specific organisations?

The Greens want to see more resources going in to the entire mental health system, so no suffering person is left without support. We are particularly concerned to see young LGBTQIA Tasmanians get the support they need early, at home, in schools and in the community, so mental health problems can be avoided.

Health care

Q: Will you ensure there is professional development for all health care workers in Tasmania so they are able to meet the health needs of LGBTIQ+ people?

Yes. This professional development should be implemented across the public and community sectors.

Q: Will you also ensure health care facilities have a gender affirming health care policy?

In principle, but this may be able to be achieved through leadership and the development of reformed workplace practices, and gender affirming policy as a priority.

Government reference groups

Q: Do you support retaining these groups and ensuring they are adequately resourced?

Yes, as our record in Parliament and government affirms. It is critical government agencies have LGBTIQ+ reference groups so they are aware of the impact policies and programs can have on the community.

LGBTIQ+ Framework

Q: Do you support having an LGBTIQ+ Framework, updating it based on the findings of the current survey, and ensuring the Government response to the findings of the survey is properly funded?

Yes. Government should have a way to listen to the community, receive feedback and act accordingly. The Greens have been consistent supporters of all communities having engagement with government and shaping policy.

Peak body funding

Q: Do you support funding for an LGBTIQ+ peak body?

Yes.

Warmest regards,

Cassy O'Connor MP
Tasmanian Greens Leader