



Dear National Policy Forum,

Thank you for extending to members the opportunity to contribute to the consultation draft of the National Platform.

I support the changes proposed by Rainbow Labor NSW, aimed to provide the strongest protections possible for LGBTIQ+ Australians.

Rainbow Labor NSW supports statements in the National Platform that identify the need to defend anti-discrimination laws, assert the rights of LGBTIQ+ Australians, acknowledge the specific needs of LGBTIQ+ refugees and to expand the services our communities rely on.

We believe the Platform must go further in key areas including: recognising that the majority of LGBTIQ employees in Australia choose not to be out at work due to the fear of workplace harassment, the specific challenges our community faces with mental health, the needs of older LGBTIQ people particularly in relation to aged care, and the need for LGBTIQ parented families to be treated equally under the law.

We also feel stronger language is required to underscore our party's commitment to equal access to education and to banning gay conversion therapy.

The National Platform's recognition of LGBTIQ+ people would be strengthened by amending the statements below:

Chapter 5	Amend to read: 30. Labor will work closely with LGBTIQ Australians to develop policy to: a. Ensure they enjoy equality before the law and have access to public services without discrimination; b. Strengthen laws and expand programs against discrimination, harrasment <i>and violence</i> on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, sex characteristics and queer status; c. <i>Acknowledge the specific challenges LGBTIQ Australians face in workplaces and promote programs that enhance inclusion and keep LGBTIQ workers safe at work;</i> d. Expand integrated advice, health, <i>mental health, suicide prevention and other</i> support services, <i>both frontline and non-frontline</i> , available to LGBTIQ Australians, including to those with particular needs, those who are young, those who are first Nations people, those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, <i>older LGBTIQ people</i> , and those living in rural, regional and remote Australia;
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	<p>e. <i>Ensure LGBTIQ parented families enjoy equality before the law;</i></p> <p>f. <i>Expand inclusive aged care options for older LGBTIQ people;</i></p> <p>g. Support national intersex-led organisations to provide support to intersex persons and their families, and advocate on intersex issues; and</p> <p>h. Review documentation requirements, including passports and birth certificates, as they affect transgender and intersex people, to facilitate their equal enjoyment of human rights without discrimination and to promote identification options beyond that of the binary choice of being male or female.</p>
	<p>31. Labor will ensure schools are welcoming and supportive environments for all students and teachers, regardless of their gender identity and sexuality. <i>We will ensure all programs in schools, including anti-bullying and pastoral care programs, promote understanding, acceptance and respect for all students, irrespective of their gender identity and sexuality..</i></p>
	<p>32. Labor opposes <i>physically, psychologically, or sexually damaging</i> “reparative” or “gay conversion” therapies. Labor will work with advocates <i>and organisations</i> to <i>ban</i> such therapies, and <i>to</i> promote justice for those affected by such practices.</p>

Thank you again for considering our proposals. If you wish to contact Rainbow Labor NSW, please email: rainbow.labor@gmail.com