

# 2020 ACT Election

## How the next ACT Government can contribute to a welcoming and inclusive community for the HIV+ community and LGBTIQ+ people and their families

Objective	Actions required by government
<b>Continue building a welcoming and inclusive Canberra</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continue demonstrating commitment to LGBTIQ+ inclusion by supporting policy and legislation that advances equality.</li><li>• Maintain an adequate budget for the Capital of Equality Strategy.</li><li>• Ensure that Canberra-based HIV and LGBTIQ+ peer-led organisations have adequate and consistent funding to provide community-controlled, tailored services and support to PLHIV and LGBTIQ+ communities in the ACT.</li><li>• Consider the role of a LGBTIQ+ commissioner in the ACT Government.</li></ul>
<b>Prevent HIV and other BBVs and STIs and ensure PLHIV have access to quality treatment and support</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increase investment in prevention, care, and support programs for PLHIV and at-risk populations.</li><li>• Fund peer-led organisations to deliver peer-navigation services for PLHIV.</li><li>• Increase the variety of testing locations and options, including introducing community-based rapid HIV testing.</li><li>• Introduce dry blood spot testing.</li><li>• Continue to support the rollout of PrEP.</li><li>• Support social prescribing or links from general practice into community care.</li><li>• Incentivise general practice to work with the most vulnerable and marginalised communities including Opiate Replacement Therapy.</li></ul>
<b>Ensure policy decisions are informed by LGBTIQ+ people's needs and experiences</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continue to invest in mechanisms that give LGBTIQ+ people a voice in the creation of policy and legislation that affects them, including the Ministerial Council and its expert advisory group.</li><li>• Ensure government decisions are informed by accurate data about LGBTIQ+ people's needs and experiences, including by:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Facilitating and promoting the inclusion of LGBTIQ+ Canberrans in national social and epidemiological studies.</li><li>◦ Commissioning epidemiological and social research into LGBTIQ+ communities in the ACT, to be undertaken in partnership with local communities and peer-led organisations.</li><li>◦ Supporting ACT Government-funded health and community services to ensure their data-collection practices effectively capture data on people with diverse genders, bodies, and relationships.</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Improve access to safe and inclusive health services for LGBTIQ+ people</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fund LGBTIQ+ peer-led organisations to provide specialist psychosocial services for LGBTIQ+ people.</li><li>• Fund LGBTIQ+ peer-led organisations to deliver LGBTIQ+ inclusion training to government, community, and private service providers, including in aged care settings, to equip them to deliver inclusive and competent services to LGBTIQ+ people.</li><li>• Support the development and delivery of family therapy and support services to respond to the specific needs of LGBTIQ+ families.</li><li>• Fund the expansion of outreach sexual health services (including testing).</li><li>• Fund an intersex peer-led position in the ACT to provide affirmative peer support to people with intersex variations and to implement the Darlington Consensus Statement.</li><li>• Ensure adequate and consistent funding for Canberra's only peer-based gender clinic – The Friday Centre.</li></ul>

<b>Create safe and inclusive schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commit to the ACT Safe and Inclusive Schools Initiative.</li> <li>• Include LGBTIQ+ inclusion and competency training in professional development activities in ACT Government schools.</li> <li>• Undertake a review of policies and procedures designed to protect students from discrimination in schools, including transitioning at school policies and access to bathrooms.</li> </ul>
<b>Remove discrimination from laws and policies in the ACT and legislate against discrimination</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reform the ACT Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act to enable gender diverse and transgender people to amend their identity documents.</li> <li>• Maintain opposition to and legislate against so-called conversion therapies practiced by health and education professionals, individuals, and community groups.</li> <li>• Support the inclusion of church-based health and community services in anti-discrimination legislation.</li> <li>• Support the inclusion of LGBTIQ+ anti-discrimination requirements in the licensing and quality standards for aged care facilities and services.</li> <li>• Decriminalise altruistic surrogacy in the ACT.</li> </ul>
<b>Increase LGBTIQ+ people's access to safe, inclusive spaces</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure adequate and consistent funding of safe spaces for LGBTIQ+ people, such as the Canberra Pride Hub.</li> <li>• Improve access to appropriately trained workers in health, education, and policing to liaise with the community.</li> <li>• Support and expand Canberra's pride events, including SpringOUT and CBR Fair Day.</li> </ul>
<b>Ensure family violence prevention strategies and services are inclusive of LGBTIQ+ people and their experiences</b>	<p>Framing family violence as an issue that only affects women in heterosexual relationships and their children is problematic. LGBTIQ+ people are equally impacted by family violence. It is essential to ensure family violence prevention, early intervention, and education campaigns are LGBTIQ+ inclusive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fund LGBTIQ+ peer-led organisations to deliver LGBTIQ+ inclusion training to government and non-government domestic violence and other relevant services.</li> <li>• Fund LGBTIQ+ specific family violence prevention and education campaigns.</li> <li>• Ensure family violence training for service providers and ACT Police is LGBTIQ+ inclusive.</li> <li>• Fund LGBTIQ+ programs and services for victims and perpetrators of family violence, and establish referral pathways to link LGBTIQ+ victims and perpetrators of family violence with these services.</li> </ul>
<b>Remove barriers to homelessness and housing support services for LGBTIQ+ people</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a community-controlled LGBTIQ+ homelessness and housing support service.</li> <li>• Build crisis accommodation and housing to tackle LGBTIQ+ homelessness and housing insecurity.</li> <li>• Work with the Federal Government to fund an LGBTIQ+ safe housing network of community-controlled LGBTIQ+ homelessness and housing support services.</li> <li>• Develop best practice guidelines on LGBTIQ+ inclusive support for housing and homelessness services, including how to respond to the unique needs of trans and gender diverse Canberrans.</li> <li>• Provide ongoing LGBTIQ+ training to mainstream services and Community Services Directorate staff working in the areas of housing and homelessness.</li> </ul>
<b>Decriminalise sex work</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commit to the full decriminalisation of sex work by 2025.</li> </ul>

## ACRONYMS

**HIV+** – HIV positive

**BBV** – blood borne viruses

**LGBTIQ+** - lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, intersex, queer +

**PLHIV** – people living with HIV

**STI** – sexually transmissible infection

**PrEP** – pre-exposure prophylaxis