

AUSTRALIA'S BBV AND STI NATIONAL STRATEGIES

All parties will implement and fund the latest suite of National Blood-borne Viruses (BBVs) and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) Strategies. The Liberal National Government has allocated an additional \$45.4 million for BBVs and STIs from 2019-2020. Labor welcomed the measure and will deliver this funding, if elected. The parties are committed to principles of partnership, harm reduction and a community-led response. The Greens highlight that community-based and peer-led work is crucial to the focus and momentum of Australia's HIV response.

'HIDDEN' POPULATIONS

All parties have recognised the specific needs of 'hidden' populations and committed to developing specialised approaches to engage with these communities.

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE

All parties have committed to an improved and sustained response to HIV and STIs among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The Liberal National Coalition included \$20 million in the 2019 budget. Labor has committed a further \$20 million with a specific focus on northern Australia and the syphilis outbreak, and \$1.8 million to reinvest in the 2Spirits Program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Queensland. The Greens will invest a further \$15 million per year and highlight that funding for this response should be culturally appropriate and community controlled by First Nations peoples.

HIV AND STI PREVENTION, TESTING AND TREATMENT

All parties have committed to strengthening HIV prevention, testing and treatment campaigns, and national workforce support for peer-based organisations. The Liberal National Coalition placed a specific focus on priority STIs including syphilis, gonorrhoea and chlamydia. Labor highlighted efforts needed in northern Australia and to address the syphilis outbreak. The Liberal National Coalition will list a rapid HIV testing device and the Greens will list an HIV self-testing device on the Medical Benefits Scheme, if recommended by the Medical Services Advisory Committee.

EQUITABLE ACCESS TO HIV TREATMENT AND PrEP

The Greens support access to HIV treatment and PrEP for people ineligible for Medicare. Labor will work to ensure HIV point of care, self-tests, treatment and PrEP are available to all who can benefit from it.

PRESCRIBING HIV TREATMENT

The Greens will work to understand unmet need in HIV treatment prescribing and work with the medical and health

sector to support improved understanding of this issue. Labor will work to ensure treatment is available to all that can benefit from it. The Liberal National Coalition have committed to health professional education.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES RESEARCH

Both the Liberal National Coalition and the Greens are committed to prioritising BBVs and STIs through the Medical Research Future Fund, fund the strengthening of surveillance and will work with the sector to enable better use of data. This includes PrEP Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme data for the Greens. Labor recognises Australia's leadership in HIV research and the importance of timely surveillance and breakthrough science.

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION MEASURES

All parties have committed to addressing HIV stigma and discrimination. Both Labor and the Greens will ask the Australian Law Reform Commission to report on options to increase uniformity of laws on HIV between states and territories.

BLOOD DONATIONS

Both Labor and the Greens have committed to act on advice from the Australian Red Cross Blood Service and the Therapeutic Goods Administration to reduce the sexual activity deferral period for men who have sex with men.

GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA

The Greens will pledge \$300 million to the Global Fund and program 5% of the pledge for strengthened community responses to HIV in Asia and the Pacific. The Liberal National Coalition will pledge to the Global Fund for 2020-2022.

2021 UN HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON HIV AND AIDS

The Greens will commit to Australia playing a leading role in the UN High-Level Meeting and support participation of civil society in the meeting. The Liberal National Coalition and Labor are committed to work with and support civil society.

REGIONAL NETWORK OF LGBTI ORGANISATIONS

The Greens will support the establishment of a regional network of LGBTI organisations through an investment of \$200,000 per year. The Liberal National Coalition will continue to call out LGBTI human rights abuses in appropriate forums and consult with LGBTI organisations. Health and gender equality are central to Australia's international development program for Labor.