

AUSTRALIA'S BBV AND STI NATIONAL STRATEGIES

Both the Liberal National Coalition (the Coalition) and the Australian Greens (the Greens) directly affirmed their commitment to developing and implementing the new National Strategies on HIV, blood-borne viruses (BBVs) and sexually transmitted infections (STIs). The Australian Labor Party (Labor) will establish a Ministerial Taskforce of community representatives to end HIV transmission, which involves restoring funding to AFAO and the National Association of People with HIV Australia (NAPWHA).

EQUITABLE ACCESS TO HIV PREVENTION, TESTING AND TREATMENT

The Coalition will continue following medical advice to expand PrEP access through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). The Greens note that better access to PrEP will avert new infections and save the government in health care costs – supporting the subsidisation of PrEP to all people in Australia irrespective of their visa status. The Greens also support waiving the co-payment for HIV treatment and prioritising communicable disease preparedness through research.

COMMUNITY-LED CAMPAIGNS AND PEER EDUCATION

Labor will introduce a pilot programme to develop new peer-led contact tracing and wrap-around clinical support, following the AFAO-led [Agenda 2025](#) consensus statement on ending HIV transmission. The Greens will match this commitment with an investment of \$300,000 annually to reach sub-populations at risk of being lost to care, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, women with HIV, and people with HIV not engaged in clinical care.

HIV LAW REFORM AND ANTI-DISCRIMINATION MEASURES

Labor has committed to enhancing protections per the human rights treaties that Australia has ratified. The Greens will direct the Australian Law Reform Commission or other relevant body to report on increasing uniformity between state and territory laws on HIV to ensure they align with public health goals. They will also invest \$6m annually to address stigma constraints on HIV prevention efforts. The Coalition notes they will collaborate with community-controlled organisations, with a particular focus on stigma reduction.

BLOOD DONATIONS

The Coalition aims to ensure the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) considers any proposed changes to donor deferral periods by Lifeblood as they are received. The Greens support measures that monitor the latest developments in science on the deferral period for blood donors. This includes a commitment of \$5m to the TGA to review the current framework and an additional \$1m annually to help overcome framework barriers.

LGBTIQ HEALTH

The Coalition notes that the Primary Health Care 10 Year Plan 2022-2032 will deliver better outcomes in Australia. Labor will provide AFAO with a grant to lead consultation on LGBTIQ health issues. The Greens have fully committed \$17.9m to implement a transition program to help LGBTIQ health organisations better access Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) and other sustainable funding to deliver more primary health care to communities. The Greens will also provide funding to establish a national LGBTIQ health and wellbeing action plan – and have committed to implementing the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2020 Standard on Sex, Gender, Variations in Sex Characteristics, and Sexual Orientation Variables in data collection and the next Census.

Labor will appoint an Ambassador for Human Rights tasked with advancing rights and protections for LGBTIQ communities, among other groups. Labor will also work with LGBTIQ communities to develop policy that strengthens Medicare and boost Q Life's peer support workforce.

GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA

The Coalition recognises the Global Fund as a partner in the fight against communicable disease and will make a funding pledge to the seventh replenishment later in the year. The Greens will commit \$450m from the development budget to ensure the Global Fund continues its work. They will also work with the sector to set aside contributions based on needs in recipient countries.

REGIONAL NETWORK OF LGBTIQ ORGANISATIONS

The Greens will establish a network of LGBTIQ organisations and partners to promote LGBTIQ human rights regionally and globally. The Coalition notes their latest Budget included \$1m over five years to provide grants to human rights organisations to advance Australia's human rights priorities.