



9 May 2022

Adj Prof Darryl O'Donnell
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations
Email: darryl.o'donnell@afao.org.au

Dear Adj Prof O'Donnell,

Thank you for the election questionnaire you have sent to the Australian Labor Party. As the responsible Shadow Minister, I am responding on behalf of the Opposition. I want to thank you and AFAO for the important work you do, and for the advocacy you have brought to end Australia's HIV epidemic.

Thank you also for your invitation for Labor to participate in your jointly-hosted National LGBTIQ+ Election Forum, at which the Opposition was represented by Senator the Hon Penny Wong. Labor believes all Australians deserve the same human rights, equality, respect and safety as each other.

Indeed, Labor is the primary architect of the anti-discrimination law framework in Australia. We will continue to defend and enhance that framework to ensure that it is fit for purpose, accessible and promotes equality. We will seek to enhance protections in a way that brings Australians together, drawing on the bonds of our common humanity, as expressed in the human rights treaties that Australia has ratified, and that Labor continues to champion.

We are a diverse nation and we need to respect every Australian for who they are. We don't want to see anyone treated unfairly.

An elected Albanese Labor Government will appoint an Ambassador for Human Rights to restore Australia's leadership on human rights around the world. The Ambassador will advance the rights and protections for people living with a disability, ethnic and religious minorities, and LGBTIQ+ individuals and bolster Australia's support for the UN human rights architecture and international law.

Labor will work closely with LGBTIQ+ Australians and advocates to develop policy that will ensure equality before the law and strengthen Medicare so that LGBTIQ+ Australians have full access to our treasured universal healthcare system.

An Albanese Labor Government will consult on the unique health issues and barriers to access that LGBTIQ+ Australians may face. To that end, we will be pleased to provide a grant to AFAO to assist with this consultation with the community.

Further, an Albanese Labor Government will accelerate efforts to end Australia's HIV epidemic. We will establish a Ministerial Taskforce of community representatives, including AFAO, medical experts and officials who will be charged with removing bottlenecks and driving progress to end HIV transmission. As part of this, we will restore funding to AFAO and National Association of People with HIV Australia (NAPWHA).

As a down payment, Labor will fund a pilot to develop models for peer-led contact tracing and wrap-around clinical and peer support at diagnosis, as proposed through AFAO's Agenda 2025. An elected Albanese Labor Government will also boost Q Life's peer support workforce to help them reach more LGBTIQ+ Australians in crisis. Labor's commitment will enable Q Life to employ four permanent team leaders (one across each service delivery organisation) to boost recruitment, training and retention of volunteer peer support workers, with the goal of increasing Q Life's call answer rate by 10 per cent.

Again, I want to thank you and AFAO for the important work you do and for the advocacy you have brought on this issue. I look forward to continuing working with you on these important matters.

Yours sincerely,



Hon Mark Butler MP

Shadow Minister for Health and Ageing