

● ***Pass a legislative ban to end harmful and damaging conversion practices that try to change or suppress our sexuality or gender identity, including in both health and religious settings.***

These practices are abhorrent, damaging and dangerous. Research on such efforts has disproven their efficacy, and also has indicated they are affirmatively harmful.

Studies conducted in Australia and overseas clearly demonstrate the significant harm that societal prejudice and family rejection can have on LGBTIQ+ people, particularly youth.

Furthermore, there is significant evidence of harm to LGBTQA+ people resulting from attempts to change their sexual orientation and gender identity.

Based on this body of evidence and the calls of LGBTIQ+ people themselves, SA-BEST absolutely rejects these practices.

SA-BEST further acknowledges the outstanding work of the Brave Network in developing an ethical framework for engaging with survivors of Sexual Orientation Change efforts.

SA-BEST strongly supports a legislative ban to stop any conversion or so called reparative or educative practices that try to change or suppress a person's sexuality or gender identity. We not only support a state-wide ban but also a federal ban.

● ***Close loopholes in our anti-discrimination law that allow religious institutions to fire, not hire and discriminate against us in education, health and community services.***

SA-BEST is strongly committed to working with SARAA to identify and address any loopholes in the state's anti-discrimination laws that allow anyone - including religious or faith-based institutions - to fire, not hire or discriminate against LGBTIQ+ people in any way and in any field or endeavour.

SA-BEST will pay particular attention to attempts to provide for discriminatory exemptions that disadvantage LGBTIQ+ people.

● ***Make mainstream health and community services safer and more inclusive for LGBTIQ+ people.***

SA-BEST voted in favour of the *Sentencing (Hate Crimes) Amendment Bill 2021* which amended the *Sentencing Act 2017* to expand certain motivational factors which must be considered in sentencing.

We are also strongly supportive of better training and education to make sure LGBTIQ+ people do not suffer stigma, misunderstanding or derogatory comments in any setting, including education, health and community services.

Medical services need to be accessible and tailored to the needs of LGBTIQ+ people in terms of peer led support and sensitive and appropriate practices.

LGBTIQ+ people must not be reluctant to access health care, education, employment or sporting opportunities and services providers must ensure their services are accessible, inclusive and non-discriminatory.

This includes ensuring there are suitable bathroom and change facilities that do not make LGBTIQ+ people feel like they are an exception or not entitled to safe and comfortable areas for their needs.

SA-BEST will ensure there is equal access and provision of such services for LGBTIQ+ citizens, and will continue to pursue it to ensure there is no exclusion.

SA-BEST is also a strong advocate for equal and non-discriminatory access to medical services such as IVF, surgery for intersex babies, and gender alignment for adults who wish to access it.

SA-BEST will call for more mental health services and more ready access to counselling and support services for LGBTIA+ people and is a strong advocate for LGBTIQ+ people to have equal access to adoption and fostering.

● ***Invest long-term in supporting the development of LGBTIQ+ community-controlled services and organisations who are experts in our health.***

Research has shown LGBTIQ+ people are most positive about accessing community-controlled services and organisations who are not only experts but have lived experience and knowledge of issues faced by LGBTIQ+ people.

SA-BEST supports ongoing and higher levels of health and support services for LGBTIQ+ people.

● ***Improve access to gender affirming healthcare for trans and gender diverse South Australians.***

See above.

● ***Protect the autonomy of intersex children and adults and end medically unnecessary treatments on intersex people without their personal consent.***

See above. SA-BEST strongly opposes any medical or other pseudo interventions and programs that have not been fully consulted with, and consented by, LGBTIQ+ people.

● ***Strengthen HIV and STI prevention and support.***

SA-BEST deplores the closing of many specialist sexual health clinics and services throughout the metropolitan and regional areas - and indeed, calls for these to be reinstated.

In particular, SA-BEST calls for the HIV and STI education programs to be reinstated, including as below in schools as part of sexual health and relationship education in primary and secondary schools.

SA-BEST introduced a Bill seeking to include stealthing as a factor negating sexual consent which was subsequently introduced and passed as a government Bill. It has significant ramifications regarding the prevention of HIV and STIs.

● ***Provide better support for and inclusion of LGBTIQ+ students and resources for teachers and leaders supporting them.***

As above, SA-BEST appreciates LGBTIQ+ people often experience severe trauma as students at all levels of the education system, and will support relevant initiatives to better resource, train and support leaders to ensure that LGBTIQ+ people have positive educational experiences and outcomes.

● ***Provide comprehensive and LGBTIQ+ inclusive sexual health and relationship wellbeing education in schools.***

As above, SA-BEST strongly supports this initiative. We also call for sexual health and relationship wellbeing education in schools to be expanded.

It is imperative students are equipped with knowledge and information to help them to guide their own lives in the direction they wish to take.

● ***Improve the representation of LGBTIQ+ communities in government strategies and services.***

As above, Connie introduced the *Gender Equality Bill 2021* which was passed by the Legislative Council late last year. This Bill is to ensure that LGBTIQ+ people are included and counted in gender equality targets and strategies in the public service.

Of course, SA-BEST is a strong supporter of diversity and inclusion in all walks of life.

● ***Count our identities properly when collecting data and statistics.***

SA-BEST strongly supports better and more accurate data and statistic collection so that policies and programs appropriately and accurately reflect the composition of our

community to ensure they meet everyone's needs regardless of their race, sex, age, religion or sexual predilection.