

TAMMY FRANKS.

Member of Legislative Council

Varo L.E.
Board Chair
South Australian Rainbow Advocacy Alliance (SARAA)
Via email: chair@saraa.org.au

Wednesday, 19 January 2022

Dear Varo,

Re: Greens SA's LGBTIQ+ policy commitments in the 2022 SA Election

Thank you so much for sharing with the Greens SA the eleven commitments the South Australian Rainbow Advocacy Alliance are seeking support for in the upcoming State Election.

The LGBTIQ+ community has made many strides over the past several years, but we cannot ignore how much progress is still needed and how much additional support elected representatives must give to help the community achieve its goals. When it comes to the LGBTIQ+ community, failing to offer support simply is not an option; the costs of continued failure to provide the community sufficient legal protections, healthcare, and social protections is too steep. We acknowledge that resolving issues that affect the LGBTIQ+ community requires foresight, commitment, and long-term thinking - but, most importantly, it requires listening to the community itself, its experts, and those with lived experience.

While we will not be in Government come this next election, we will likely hold the balance of power in the Legislative Council - especially if we can elect Yesha Joshi, who is second on our Legislative Council ticket, alongside Robert Simms. As such, this will put us in a strong position to negotiate with whoever is in Government for better LGBTIQ+ policies. The Greens SA strongly agree that we - as a state, as a country, and as global citizens - must do more to ensure the wellbeing of the LGBTIQ+ community. On that note, thank you for sending us your election commitments and providing us with the opportunity to engage with and reflect on them.

Please find the Greens' responses to your eleven election commitments outlined below:

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Commitment	Greens SA Response
<p>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.</p>	<p>The Greens absolutely support this commitment. Conversion practices are terrible and damaging, and ought to be recognised and treated as the abusive practices they are. It is Greens policy to support legislation that bans conversion practices in all settings, including religious and health settings, and we have a long history of standing against these practices and the harm they cause. We have consistently joined calls from LGBTIQ+ survivors for these dangerous and discriminatory practices to be stamped out.</p> <p>We were heartened when Nat Cook on behalf of the Labor party announced that she was working on legislation that would ban conversion practices in South Australia. The Greens would of course support such legislation once introduced provided it is strong enough, and hope to see this legislation introduced following the State Election. We are committed to working with survivors and with the LGBTIQ+ community on making sure that legislation banning conversion practices is comprehensive and the best in the country. We have previously met at length with survivors of Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity Change Efforts (SOGICE) and the Brave Network to explore the best models for legislation that would ban conversion practices, and will work to ensure that any legislation put forward is effective and affirms the psychological equality of LGBTIQ+ people.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>The Greens support this commitment. The right of LGBTIQ+ individuals to employment, housing, education, health, and other essential services far outweighs the 'right' of religious institutions and individuals to discriminate in the provision of such essential services.</p>
<p>Make mainstream health and community services</p>	<p>The Greens support this commitment. Staff in health and community services should be trained</p>

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<p>safer and more inclusive for LGBTIQ+ people.</p>	<p>in LGBTIQ+ specific needs so those needs can be met. Additionally, The Greens note that many websites and materials for health and community services are very hetero-and-cisnormative in how they advertise and explain their services. It is our belief that the services provided, as well as how those services are advertised and explained, should reflect and include the diversity of South Australians.</p>
<p>Invest long-term in supporting the development of LGBTIQ+ community-controlled services and organisations who are experts in our health.</p>	<p>The Greens support this commitment. We cannot expect to make any progress in how we approach LGBTIQ+ issues without the input of the community itself. We are firm believers in grassroots democracy and in “nothing about us without us”. Supporting the development of LGBTIQ+ community-controlled services is the best way to ensure we are putting the community’s needs first.</p>
<p>Improve access to gender affirming healthcare for trans and gender diverse South Australians.</p>	<p>The Greens support this commitment. Gender affirming measures are integral for trans and gender diverse people, yet there are many barriers that prevent many people from accessing the medical, surgical, and legal gender affirmation they need. The Greens want to work to eliminate these barriers and approach gender affirmation as the important human right it is. The Greens have also announced Federally our plan to make gender affirming healthcare a permanent part of Medicare, which you can read more about here. We are also committed to increasing funding to establish and expand gender clinics at hospitals and health services.</p>
<p>Protect the autonomy of intersex children and adults and end medically unnecessary treatments on intersex people without their personal consent.</p>	<p>The Greens support this commitment. Unnecessary medical interventions on intersex people - especially infants - is an issue that should be combatted. The Greens recognise the Human Rights Commission’s extensive work on the matter, and believe medical intervention should only take place when necessary and when done with full consent of the intersex person. Further,</p>

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	<p>there should be adequate provisions in place to care for those who have undergone medical intervention. In the wake of the Human Rights Commissions' report on the rights of intersex people, we have asked the State Government to ensure that intersex people are treated with respect in our health system, and have written to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing on the same subject. We will continue following this issue and maintain our advocacy in this space.</p>
Strengthen HIV and STI prevention and support.	<p>The Greens support this commitment, and have recently introduced a motion for the South Australian Parliament to recommit to goals to end the HIV epidemic by 2030. Combating the stigma against HIV and STIs as well as better equipping our health system and staff in dealing with these matters are integral.</p>
Provide better support for and inclusion of LGBTIQ+ students and resources for teachers and leaders supporting them.	<p>The Greens support this commitment. We were disappointed with the Government's scrapping of SHINE SA's contracted Safe Schools program, and view what the Liberal Government has elected to do in its stead as a watered down pandering to homophobes in the community. To truly support and include LGBTIQ+ youth, we must be committed to providing that support without shying away or watering down our approach to better appeal to those against the community.</p>
Provide comprehensive and LGBTIQ+ inclusive sexual health and relationship wellbeing education in schools.	<p>The Greens support this commitment. LGBTIQ+ students deserve the same level of comprehensive sexual health and relationship wellbeing education as their cishet classmates.</p>
Improve the representation of LGBTIQ+ communities in government strategies and services	<p>We are committed to ensuring that Governments and their agencies consult with communities and representative groups of people with diverse sexualities, diverse gender identities and intersex variations, on the development of policies and programs relevant to them. We believe that Government and its agencies should act as model</p>

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	<p>workplaces, and are therefore committed to the development of education, training and accreditation programs directed at achieving diversity and inclusiveness and eliminating homophobia, biphobia, transphobia and prejudice based on intersex status in the workplace.</p>
<p>Count our identities properly when collecting data and statistics</p>	<p>The Greens have long supported the inclusion of LGBTIQ+ identities and questions in the collection of data and statistics, including in the national census. Greens LGBTIQ+ spokeswoman Senator Janet Rice has tried pushing for the inclusion of questions on gender and sexual orientation for many years now. Many LGBTIQ+ health groups have professed the need for the data that the census could provide, and The Greens believe the exclusion of questions on gender and sexuality despite this identified need is an issue that ought to be combatted. Organisations dedicated to assisting the LGBTIQ+ community should have access to updated and accurate data and statistics, and the Greens are committed to continuing to advocate for proper inclusion of LGBTIQ+ identities in data collection.</p>

Thank you again for your time in preparing these eleven election commitments, and for sharing them with the Greens SA and other political parties. We hope that our response is informative for you and your members. If you have any further questions, or would like us to provide any further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact my office on 8237 9296 or at franks.office@parliament.sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,



Tammy Franks MLC