



IDAHOBIT 2022

A CALL TO ACTION

This year, IDAHOBIT is just days before the 2022 Federal Election. IDAHOBIT is observed on 17 May each year and aims to raise awareness for ending discrimination against LGBTIQ+ people. Ending stigma, discrimination, and violence against LGBTIQ+ people and communities requires systemic change and specific support for diverse LGBTIQ+ communities.

Join LGBTIQ+ Health Australia in calling on all candidates for Federal Parliament to commit to nine priorities to improve the health and wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ people and communities. These commitments address the fundamental change needed for our communities to live healthy and happy lives. To support LHA's election priorities visit www.lgbtiqhealth.org.au/electionactions

WHAT IS NEEDED FOR SAFE, AFFIRMING & CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE CARE FOR LGBTIQ+ PEOPLE?

1. Develop and invest in a national LGBTIQ+ health and wellbeing action plan

A 10-year National LGBTIQ+ Health and Wellbeing Action Plan, which draws upon priority actions from existing national strategies and identifies key gaps is needed to provide the strategic framework for Australia's response to improve LGBTIQ+ health and wellbeing. To support the development, implementation and governance of a National Action Plan, a dedicated office is needed within the Department of Health to enable cross department and agency coordination, dedicated engagement with LGBTIQ+ people and communities, and support for implementation and evaluation.

2. Count LGBTIQ+ people and communities in data collection

Current data collection through national and jurisdictional surveys, including the Census, does not accurately or adequately count LGBTIQ+ people and communities. Questions that accurately record sexual orientation, gender diversity, or variations of sex characteristics are not consistently included. This data is critical to inform policy development and health planning. LGBTIQ+ Health Australia is seeking government coordination and investment to ensure the 2020 ABS Standard is included in the 2026 census and in datasets across the health system. Invest in LGBTIQ+ community-controlled health

3. Invest in LGBTIQ+ community-controlled health

Community-controlled organisations governed and operated by and for LGBTIQ+ communities are often best placed to deliver trusted and culturally appropriate services. Investment in the community-controlled health and wellbeing sector to increase organisational sustainability, enhance capacity, meet demand and expand geographical reach is needed.

4. Prioritise the mental health and wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ communities

A disproportionate number of LGBTIQ+ people experience poorer mental health outcomes and have higher risk of suicide compared with the broader population. LGBTIQ+ Health Australia is calling for:

- Implementation of the [Beyond Urgent: National LGBTIQ+ Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Strategy](#) which provides a roadmap over the next five years to deliver a mental health and suicide prevention system that delivers equality of outcomes for LGBTIQ+ communities
- Establishment of a National Commissioner for LGBTIQ+ suicide prevention to focus on the devastating rates of suicide in LGBTIQ+ communities.
- Funding to build LHA's capacity to engage with the National Suicide Prevention Office

5. Protect the human rights of people with innate variations of sex characteristics

Intersex people are the experts on their own lives, their lived experience, and in understanding the health implications of being subjected to medicalisation and/or medical interventions. Investment in intersex-peer led support programs is needed to provide access to independent, psychological support and peer support for people with intersex variations and their families. Investment in Intersex Human Rights Australia is also needed to facilitate systemic advocacy, legislative reform, research and policy development.

6. Ensure the rights and needs of LGBTIQ+ people in the next national plan to prevent all forms of family, domestic and sexual violence

LGBTIQ+ people need to be included in the next National Plan to reduce and prevent all forms of domestic, family, and sexual violence, across all areas including prevalence data, research to understand of drivers of violence, the role of LGBTIQ+ community-controlled organisations, and in evaluation. LGBTIQ+ Health Australia is also calling for engagement with LGBTIQ+ community-controlled organisations to deliver on recommendations made in the Australian Human Rights Commission's *Set the Standard: Report on the Independent Review in Commonwealth Parliamentary Workplaces* related to LGBTIQ+ people.

7. Deliver gender affirming care in the public health system

Research continues to demonstrate that access to gender affirming care has led to reduced mental health risks and improved quality of life for trans and gender diverse people. Investment is needed to develop and coordinate a national approach towards gender affirming care.



8. Equality and opportunity for LGBTIQ+ people with disability

LGBTIQ+ people with a disability experience multi-layered discrimination, including from both disability and LGBTIQ+ communities. LGBTIQ+ is seeking commitment to ensure that the voices of LGBTIQ+ people with a disability are central, and that their needs are addressed and funded when implementing the findings of the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability.



9. Ensure safe and culturally appropriate aged care services

Discrimination experienced by LGBTI older people requires specific attention and action. LGBTIQ+ community-controlled organisations are essential for developing and delivering LGBTI inclusive practices and in home services, through direct service provision and providing capacity building and training to generalist organisations to deliver safe and inclusive mainstream services. Investment in LGBTIQ+ community-controlled organisations to explore how to broaden existing services to provide home support to older LGBTI people as part of My Aged Care, and investment in a National LGBTI Aged Care Volunteer Visitors scheme is needed. LGBTIQ+ Health Australia is also calling for:

- action to ensure response to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety addresses the barriers experienced by LGBTIQ+ people in accessing safe and culturally approached aged care services; and
- mandating the Aged Care Diversity Framework and underlying Action Plans as part of the review of the Aged Care Quality Standards



To find out about the Parties' commitments to these priorities, visit www.lgbtiqhealth.org.au/electionsurvey