



RE: Strengthening outcomes for LGBTIQ+ Queenslanders

The Queensland Government has released the following survey to hear from you about the opportunities for change for LGBTIQ+ communities to lead a safe, supported and equal life.

<https://yoursay.chde.qld.gov.au/strengthening-outcomes-for-lgbtqi-queenslanders>

This survey closes at **5:00pm on 19 July 2023**. Pride in Law encourages everyone (including allies) to submit a response to the survey. To assist you with preparing your responses, Pride in Law has prepared the below draft responses to be copy pasted, amended or to spark ideas for you.

Pride in Law thanks the Queensland Government for creating this opportunity for the LGBTIQ+ community and allies to help shape better outcomes in future.

1. In one sentence, what is your vision for LGBTIQ+ communities in Queensland?

Pride in Law has drafted this sentence: “I believe that LGBTIQ+ people deserve to feel safe and respected at school, in the workplace, when receiving healthcare, and in broader community settings and this all requires equal protection under the law and the right to be free from discrimination.”

Please feel free to type this same sentence (only question that cannot be copy pasted), amend or draft your own sentence to best represent your vision.

Questions 2-11 ask the ‘what’ and ‘why’ for your top 5 priorities for change that would lead to an inclusive Queensland for LGBTIQ+ communities. We set out our suggested priorities below. Please feel free to copy and paste, amend or draft your own submissions to best represent your priorities.

2. What is your first priority?

I request the surrogacy laws are updated to be more streamlined and inclusive. This will align with the former Attorney-General’s media statement to “better recognise contemporary family and parenting in our modern society”. Currently, Queensland requires the parents to apply for a parentage order after the child is born. This process can take several months which has consequences if the child requires medical care before the parents are legally recognised.

3. Why is this your first priority?

This is my first priority because it is a logical next step following passage of the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill that allows birth certificates to have same-sex, transgender and non-binary parents. Surrogacy is a pathway to creating a family that should be open to all Queenslanders. LGBTIQ+ people and others should not have to face the significant costs of Court proceedings, the risk of losing their child to the person who gives birth nor the risks associated with not being a legal parent until several months after a child is born.

4. What is your second priority?

I request a taskforce is set up to make recommendations to the Queensland Government and Queensland Police Service on essential reforms required to be more inclusive and supportive to LGBTIQ+ victims and survivors of domestic and family violence. I recognise the improvements that



have already been achieved by the “Hear her voice” report. There are intricacies for the LGBTIQ+ community that need to be explored and reformed.

5. Why is this your second priority?

I understand recent statistics suggest 50% of LGBTIQ+ people experience domestic and family violence in their lifetime and 72% of LGBTIQ+ people who experience domestic or family violence do not report the abuse to anyone. There is a lack of education, social support and inclusive legislation to address these significant statistics. A taskforce producing a report would give clear guidance on the next best steps that can be taken to hopefully reduce these statistics.

6. What is your third priority?

I request the Queensland Government efficiently progresses consultation with stakeholders and community to introduce new anti-discrimination legislation and implement the other reforms recommended by the Building Belonging Report. The impact of discrimination and sexual harassment toward LGBTIQ+ people can be profound and devastating at an individual and societal level.

7. Why is this your third priority?

The Building Belonging Report highlights the importance of this reform to create a more inclusive community for LGBTIQ+ people. For example, the Queensland Council for LGBTIQ Health highlighted that a major contributor to the poor mental health of LGBTIQ+ communities is the ongoing impact of stigma and discrimination, and this affects social and emotional wellbeing. LGBTIQ+ people, especially transgender, intersex and gender diverse people, face significant barriers to accessing health care without this legal reform.

8. What is your fourth priority?

I request the Queensland Government follows the Australian Capital Territory to introduce legislation to protect the human rights of people with innate variations of sex characteristics in medical settings. The Australian Human Rights Commission recommended this reform in 2021. There should be consultation with intersex people, clinical, community and human rights stakeholders.

9. Why is this your fourth priority?

The Australian Human Rights Commission report titled “Protecting the human rights of people born with variations in sex characteristics in the context of medical interventions” highlights the importance of this reform to create a more inclusive community for intersex people. I support bodily autonomy for everyone and no one should be subject to deferrable procedures without their consent.

10. What is your fifth priority?

I request the Queensland Government audits all legislation to identify where LGBTIQ+ people are not afforded equal treatment under the law. The commitment by the Queensland Government to do this in the context of the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill is a great start but I think there needs to be reasonable satisfaction the LGBTIQ+ community is treated equally before we can talk about improvements to health, social services, education and other areas.

11. Why is this your fifth priority?

I believe society requires the foundation of equal treatment under the law to then build greater inclusion for the LGBTIQ+ community. For example, I understand there are issues with the current



drafting of criminal and domestic or family violence legislation because they refer to sex or gender characteristics without acknowledging the intricacies of LGBTIQ+ people. This results in poorer outcomes for LGBTIQ+ people. The language we use matters.

12. What is working well for support services you access in your region? (healthcare, education, aged care, NDIS)

Pride in Law has not drafted a response for this question as we consider it is personal to your circumstances. We encourage you to think about whether there is a depth of understanding of your circumstances, easy access to any medication (i.e. PrEP and hormone therapy) and anything else that you think works well. We acknowledge it will often be a better experience for those in city centres so we do encourage our regional and remote colleagues to be very detailed in their answers to this question. If you are an ally, we encourage you to ask your LGBTIQ+ colleagues or alternatively say “I defer to the comments made by LGBTIQ+ people in my area”.

13. What needs to be improved for support services you access in your region?

Pride in Law has not drafted a response for this question as we consider it is personal to your circumstances. In addition to what we say for question 12, we encourage you to think about there is a lack or complete non-existence of support services for your region. For example, is there enough emergency housing that is supportive of LGBTIQ+ adults and youth in your area that are experiencing domestic or family violence?

14. How strong are your social networks within the community?

Pride in Law has not drafted a ranking for you to pick as this is a personal choice for you.

15. Is there anything else you'd like to share with us about your vision for LGBTIQ+ Queenslanders?

Pride in Law has drafted this sentence: “I am grateful the Queensland Government is accepting feedback. I appreciate the goodwill in wanting to make a more inclusive society for LGBTIQ+ Queenslanders but I believe the Queensland Government must start with reforming the laws.”

Please feel free to copy paste, amend or draft your own words for this question.

The rest of the questions are personal about you so Pride in Law has not drafted responses to these.