

Response from **Lindsay Peters**, Greens candidate for Bennelong

1. EQUALITY

a) Are you committed to equality for lesbians and gay men?

Yes.

b) How will you work within your party (if applicable) to secure equality for lesbians and gay men?

The Greens are already committed to equality for LGBTI people. I will promote these policies at public forums – and have already agreed to such a forum in Bennelong (which was subsequently cancelled, unfortunately).

2. DE FACTO RECOGNITION

a) Do you support the equal treatment of same-sex couples with heterosexual de facto couples across federal law?

Yes.

b) If so, how have you or will you demonstrate this commitment?

I have promoted The Greens policy at public forums and have distributed leaflets explaining this policy.

3. FORMAL RECOGNITION

a) Do you support marriage equality and/or a civil union scheme for same-sex couples in Australia?

Yes.

b) If so, how have you or will you demonstrate this commitment?

As above.

4. PARENTING

a) Do you support the recognition of same-sex families, through the recognition of lesbian co-mothers and gay co-fathers in federal laws? What is your position on same-sex adoption?

I support it. Good parenting is the important issue, not the sexual orientation of the parents.

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c) Do you support non-discriminatory access to fertility services for lesbian couples and single women?

Yes.

e) Do you support Medicare-funded fertility services that do not discriminate on the basis of medical and 'social' infertility?

Yes.

5. PROTECTION FROM DISCRIMINATION

a) Do you support the enactment of federal legislation similar to the Sex Discrimination Act which would provide lesbians and gay men with comprehensive and effective protection from discrimination on the grounds of their sexuality? If so, how have you or will you demonstrate this commitment?

Yes. Demonstrated by leafleting and forums, as mentioned above.

b) Do you support a Bill of Rights for Australia that enshrines the right of all Australians to be protected from discrimination and treated equally before the law on the basis of their sexuality? If so, how have you or will you demonstrate this commitment?

Yes! Demonstrated only last Thursday at a forum in Bennelong where I promoted The Greens' "Bill of Rights" policy.

c) Do you support funding for equity and diversity training for all Commonwealth Employees to ensure that gay and lesbian clients and customers are treated appropriately when accessing Commonwealth agencies and services? If so, how have you or will you demonstrate this commitment?

Yes. Demonstrated as indicated above.

6. EDUCATION – NATIONAL CURRICULA

a) Do you support teaching materials that include anti-homophobia and inclusive sexuality education in the development of any national curricula? If so, how have you or will you demonstrate this commitment?

Yes. Demonstrated as indicated above.

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7. HIV & IMMIGRATION

Recently people living with HIV/AIDS applying for permanent residency have automatically had their applications fail at the primary stage because of the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DICA) refusal to exercise the health waiver. This has led to consuming and costly appeals to the Migration Review Tribunal. Given that many people living with HIV/AIDS have their applications for permanent residency succeed upon appeal, do you support giving DICA discretion at the primary stage of the application process?

Yes.

8. SELF-DETERMINATION AND PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING

a) Will your consult and meet with lesbian and gay rights groups and community organisations on issues affecting lesbians and gay men in Australia in the next Parliament and beyond?

Absolutely.