

## Response from **Susan Jarnason**, Greens candidate for Wentworth

### 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?*

I fully support the Greens policy to remove the 58 laws as per HREOC which discriminate against members of this community. I will work through ongoing consultation with members of the gay and lesbian community, further development of policy as well as speak widely of the importance of no discrimination based on gender and sexual identity.

### 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?*

By fully supporting Greens policy and speaking widely of the importance of no discrimination.

### 3. FORMAL RECOGNITION

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

The Greens support full equality including access to marriage.

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

Both in my political and private life I support members of this community being able to enjoy the same rights and freedoms regarding their relationships that I myself enjoy.

### 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?*

Yes

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*b) What is your position on same-sex adoption?*

**No Discrimination for same sex couples.**

*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. Conveying the importance of this legislation in protecting the rights of this community despite varying community or govt attitudes.**

*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. By supporting the Greens in their ongoing efforts in government to see this goal to fruition.**

*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. By supporting The Greens in securing this funding to provide this essential training. No one should be subject to judgemental attitudes when accessing govt services.**

### **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?*

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Yes. In consultation with both this community and the educators to deliver this info where it is most needed. Perhaps as part of sex education ie. Units on sexual identity and gender.

### **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?*

No but I would need to consult with other Greens on who best to address this discriminatory practice. Maybe a special panel.

### **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?*

Yes, absolutely as there are many members of this community in my electorate and they continue to need advocacy until they enjoy lives free of discrimination based on their sexual identity or gender.