

## **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 will continue to work as I have since I was elected to parliament to promote equality, using all of the means available to me, including: helping individual constituents and community organisations; introducing private members' bills; promoting changes to our party platform; and making public comment, including in the parliament, in the press and at events such as rallies.

## **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?*

If we are elected I will ensure, as a first step, that the recommendations of the HREOC report [which showed 58 pieces of federal legislation discriminated against same-sex couples and their families] are enacted. I believe, however, that other federal laws also need to be amended to ensure full equality.

## **3. FORMAL RECOGNITION**

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

I support formal relationship recognition.

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

I will work with my state and territory colleagues to enact a nationally consistent system of relationship recognition that allows same sex couples the same rights and responsibilities as heterosexual couples. I will also support the equal treatment of heterosexual and same sex de facto relationships. Australian law has clear recognition of de facto relationships that does not exist in many other countries.

#### 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.

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

Adoption is an issue for the states, and I would oppose efforts by the federal government to interfere.

*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. Vote for such legislation.

*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?*

I support a legislated Australian Bill of Rights, which enshrines protection against all discrimination.

*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?*

I support training that makes clear that public servants are not to discriminate against their clients.

## **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. I already have, by supporting "Learn to Include"** [a series of children books written by Vicki and Brenna Harding with illustrations featuring same-sex families].

## **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?*

**I have publicly argued for this change in the past, and will continue to do so if re-elected.**

## **8. SELF-DETERMINATION AND PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING**

*Will you 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?*

**Always have; always will.**