



RAINBOW TERRITORY 2016 - 2020 REPORT CARD (LONG VERSION)

Formed in September 2014, [Rainbow Territory](#) is an unfunded Northern Territory (NT) community group that advocates for the human rights of Northern Territorians who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer ('LGBTIQ'). Rainbow Territory aims to develop a safer, fairer and a more inclusive Northern Territory.

In 2016 we asked for changes to NT law and policy to improve the human rights of LGBTIQ Territorians. The table below is our long assessment of progress made in 2016 - 2020 by the government against our 2016 asks, it includes responses directly from Territory Labor. The short version is [here](#).

Rainbow Territory acknowledges that many gains towards LGBTIQ human rights in the NT have been achieved since the 2016 election, with support from the current Territory Labor government, and Opposition and Independent members of the NT Legislative Assembly.

These gains include changes in the Adoption of Children Act and the Births, Deaths and Marriages Act; in addition to the introduction of the Expungement of Historical Homosexual Offence Records Act, and the Chief Minister Michael Gunner's apology to our community for harms caused by previous laws. However, there is still more work to be done.

YES!	
Progress made in 2016 – 2020?	What NT Government said they did
Change the law to end discrimination based on the gender or marital status of a couple in relation to adoption	<p>Adoption</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Every Territory child deserves and family, and to live in a safe secure and happy environment - In November 2017, my Government introduced and passed legislation through Parliament to amend the <i>Adoption of Children (equality) Act</i> to enable defacto and same sex couples to adopt children in the Northern Territory.

Progress made in 2016 – 2020?	SOME (and more is needed!)	
	What we asked for in 2016	What NT Government said they did
	<p>Develop specific policies to address the mental health care of young LGBTQI people – who are at higher risk of poor mental health outcomes and death by suicide compared to other Australians – in urban, rural and remote NT</p>	<p>Suicide prevention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - My government recognises suicide is a devastating issue impacting our community. - The NT’s suicide statistics are, sadly, the highest in the country. We are continuing to work on our election commitment to halve suicide rates by 2027. - Currently funded under the Suicide Prevention Program area is the Indigenous LGBTQI Inclusive Practice Workshops program across the Territory. These are run by a local Aboriginal consultancy – [organisation name removed by Rainbow Territory] – and provide training specifically for Aboriginal Community Based Organisations including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Evidence-based Community Education and Training Workshops tailored to the mental health, suicide prevention and community and social services sectors to strengthen and enhance delivery; o Increase knowledge of the suicide risk for Indigenous and LGBTQI people; o Identification of the inherent health risks at the intersection of the dual experiences of being both Indigenous and LGBTQI identifying; and o Increase the knowledge and literacy of the needs of Indigenous LGBTQI people. - Following 2018 representation to the NT Minister for Health for the inclusion of LGBTQI people in the current Northern Territory Suicide Prevention Strategic Framework 2018-2023 and as part of the NT Department of Health (DoH) 2019 regional suicide prevention forum, a commitment was made to facilitate a targeted forum with Rainbow Territory to discuss suicide prevention issues as relevant to the NT LGBTQI community. Rainbow Territory was further invited to apply for a NT Suicide Prevention Community Grant. While neither were taken up, the DoH remains open to discussions on both. <p><i>[Comment from Rainbow Territory – Rainbow Territory is not a service provider and as such does not accept funding to deliver services. Rainbow Territory conducted an important LGBTQI community survey that was a key input to the Northern Territory Suicide Prevention Strategic Framework 2018-2023].</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In conjunction with the [organisation name removed by Rainbow Territory], [organisation name removed by Rainbow Territory] hosts a weekly sexual health clinic with testing for HIV and STIs. DoH is a member of the [organisation name removed by Rainbow Territory] Consortium Committee and has visibility of sexual health clinics and associated youth mental health issues.
	Supported the funding and	Safe Schools Implementation

	<p>implementation of the Safe Schools program, or similar programs that address bullying against LGBTQI children at school, in the NT?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All Territory students have the right to feel safe and supported in a learning environment that is fair and inclusive. - While Federal funding for the Safe Schools Coalition Australia program ceased in 2017, all Northern Territory schools have access to a suite of social and emotional learning resources. These resources support the social and emotional learning of students in the Early Years (Transition to year 2), Primary Years (Years 3-6), Middle Years (Years 7-9) and Senior Years (Years 10-12), and cover key topics affecting students' social and emotional wellbeing, including emotional literacy, personal strengths, positive coping, problem solving, stress management, help seeking, gender and identity, and positive gender relationships. - These resources are made available to all Territory teachers here: https://education.nt.gov.au/support-for-teachers/nt-social-and-emotional-learning
	<p>Change policy in relation to transgender and gender diverse prisoners in the corrections system to ensure that transgender and gender diverse prisoners are placed in prisons based on their gender identity rather than their biological sex</p>	<p>Transgender and gender diverse prisoner rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NT Corrections has a policy in relation to the management of transgender prisoners. - The policy was developed in 2015 and was reviewed in 2018 and 2020 – it is due for another review in 2022. - The policy is designed to assist with the management of, and placement of, transgender, gender diverse and intersex prisoners, in consultation with health professionals. - We have a diverse culture of people in the Territory and we will work to support all Territorians.

Progress made in 2016 – 2020?	NONE!	
	What we asked for in 2016	What NT Government said they did
	<p>Change the law to end discrimination in employment based on sexuality by religious educational institutions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Territorians want safe and inclusive communities and having strong anti-discrimination legislation is important to delivering that. - The Commonwealth Government has referred a number of recommendations following the Federal report into religious freedoms to the Australian Law Reform Committee. - Given the impact that Commonwealth legislation can have on the Northern Territory we await their report before any changes are considered. - The Law Reform Committee Report was originally due in April 2020, this date

		<p>has now been extended to follow passage of the Federal Religious Discrimination Bill.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is expected that the Report will be completed in 2021. - The Territory Labor Government is committed to making changes to modernise the Territory legislation based on feedback received.
	<p>Change in the law to end discrimination against people of diverse sexualities and gender identities accessing artificial fertilisation procedures?</p>	<p>Fertility services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Territory Labor Government recognises the joy that having a family can bring to the lives of Territorians - That is why we provide fertility services to all women regardless of sexuality or relationship. - All women with infertility problems can be referred to our public Gynaecology outpatient service irrelevant of their sexuality or relationship status. - Royal Darwin and Palmerston Hospitals can provide investigative care for infertility as well as a limited range of treatment options. - Complicated fertility treatment including accessing sperm donor programs and IVF is only accessible through Repromed privately.
	<p>Change the law to make vilification of people on the basis of their sexual orientation and gender identity against the law</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Territorians want safe and inclusive communities and having strong anti-discrimination legislation is important to delivering that. - The Commonwealth Government has referred a number of recommendations following the Federal report into religious freedoms to the Australian Law Reform Committee. - Given the impact that Commonwealth legislation can have on the Northern Territory we await their report before any changes are considered. - The Law Reform Committee Report was originally due in April 2020, this date has now been extended to follow passage of the Federal Religious Discrimination Bill. - It is expected that the Report will be completed in 2021. - The Territory Labor Government is committed to making changes to modernise the Territory legislation based on feedback received.