



Rainbow Territory 2020 NT Election Asks

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.

The Rainbow Territory 2020 NT Election Asks reflect our law and policy reform platform during the 2014 – 2020 period and the responses from over 100 Territorians to our 2020 election survey conducted in July this year.

As Rainbow Territory did for the 2016 NT election, we have invited major parties and independents to respond to these asks. Responses will be published on social media for the community to consider when placing their vote.

ASK 1: LGBTIQ law reforms

- a. Consult on the development of human rights legislation similar to Victoria, Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory.
- b. Modernise the NT Anti-Discrimination Act based on Rainbow Territory's 2018 [submission](#) to the [2017 discussion paper on the modernisation of the NT Anti-Discrimination Act](#).
- c. Safeguard LGBTIQ Territorians from legislatively enshrined discrimination, should altruistic surrogacy be legalised in the NT.

ASK 2: LGBTIQ health and social services policy and service delivery reforms

LGBTIQ responsive and inclusive service delivery principles for health and social services

- a. With LGBTIQ Territorians, develop LGBTIQ responsive and inclusive service delivery principles for health and social services similar to the [APO NT Partnership Principles for Organisations working with Aboriginal organisations and communities in the Northern Territory](#).

LGBTIQ mental health and suicide prevention services

- b. Under the [NT Suicide Prevention Strategic Framework 2018-2023](#), fund programs to address the mental health and suicide prevention needs of LGBTIQ people in urban, rural and remote NT. From the LGBTIQ community, priority should be given to young LGBTIQ people and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTIQ people.
- c. In 2021, publish a halfway progress report of actions commenced specific to LGBTIQ communities across all three goals of the [NT Suicide Prevention Strategic Framework 2018-2023](#).

Create responsive and accountable health and social services that are informed by LGBTIQ Territorians

- d. By the end of 2020, publish a halfway progress report of outcomes from the [NT Health Inclusion Strategy Plan of actions 2019 - 2022 Respecting People with Diverse Sexualities and Gender Diversities](#).
- e. By the end of 2021,
 - i. develop and fund programs to upskill mainstream general practitioners, and other health and social service providers to respond to the needs of diverse communities of LGBTIQ people across the NT, including regional and remote centres and communities;
 - ii. develop and maintain an online directory of health and social services in the NT who have received training in responding to the needs of diverse communities of LGBTIQ people across the NT.

- f. Commit Territory funding towards LGBTIQ specialist health services that are not supported by Federal funding, including costs of accessing interstate services not available in the NT, such as gender-affirming support, treatment and surgeries.
- g. Expand eligibility of the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS) to enable LGBTIQ Territorians living in remote and regional centres and communities to access specialist general practitioner services in Darwin.
- h. Include conditions in all funding contracts between the NT Government and health and social services that providers will not discriminate based on the gender identity or sexuality of staff and people accessing the service.

ASK 3: Corrections and justice reforms

Places of detention are safe for LGBTIQ Territorians

- a. Publish all existing policies to which trans and gender diverse people are subject in NT correctional facilities and places of detention.
- b. In consultation with trans and gender diverse communities in the NT, review existing policies to which trans and gender diverse people are subject, in NT correctional institutions or other places of detention such as mental health inpatient units, quarantining facilities and asylum seeker accommodation.
 - i. Prioritise reviewing diversion from incarceration and detention, safety and wellbeing while in detention, and the use of solitary confinement as a last resort.
 - ii. Implement recommendations of the review.
- c. Repeal mandatory sentencing laws.

ASK 4: Respond to violence experienced by LGBTIQ Territorians

LGBTIQ safe policing

- a. Establish LGBTIQ police liaison officers, such as the [Victoria Police program](#), in Alice Springs, Darwin, Katherine and Tennant Creek.

LGBTIQ safe Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence (DHSV), emergency accommodation and other residential services

- b. In line with action 2.2 of [The Northern Territory's Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Reduction Framework 2018-2028 Action Plan 1](#), commit funding to research determinants of DHSV for LGBTIQ Territorians.
- c. Review existing DHSV services for LGBTIQ safety and accessibility, in particular for trans and gender diverse DHSV survivors. Implement the recommendations of the review.
- d. Review existing youth and adult emergency accommodation and other residential services for LGBTIQ safety and accessibility, in particular for trans and gender diverse people. Implement the recommendations of the review.

Northern Territory schools are safe for LGBTIQ students and staff in line with the *Northern Territory's Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Reduction Framework 2018-2028 Action Plan 1* actions 1.1d, 1.2d and 2.1e.

- e. Using the [NT Social and Emotional Learning](#) resources, all students in NT government and non-government schools are educated so that they understand gender and sexuality diversity, can identify respectful and disrespectful relationships, know how to respond to and prevent gender identity and or sexuality based bullying.
- f. Develop and implement a gender and sexuality diversity policy for all NT government and non-government schools.

ASK 5: Provide NT LGBTIQ communities with funding and in-kind support to connect with each other, prioritising regional and remote centres and communities, young people, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

ASK 6: Advocacy for federal law and policy reform

NT Government to advocate for LGBTIQ communities on a federal level

- a. Advocate for the inclusion of LGBTIQ people in the Census.
- b. Call for the federal Religious Discrimination Bill 2019 to be abandoned.