

All Australians have a right to equality under the law and in dealings with government, and should be protected from discrimination and vilification. All relationships should be treated equally.

Services should be inclusive of and sensitive to the particular needs of people in same-sex relationships and their children.

Same sex attracted people still experience a degree of stigma in society and this has social and health ramifications that need to be addressed. For instance they are much more likely than heterosexual people to have ever been homeless, to have no contact with family, to smoke and use illicit drugs and to have a chronic health condition, psychological distress and have attempted suicide.

Polling in June 2010 shows that 85% of Australians support law reform to remove discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

The Rudd Government acted on many of the 96 laws identified by HREOC that discriminate against GLBTI people, thanks in no small part to the work of the Democrats over 30 years in pressing and, in many instances, achieving reform.

However, the Gillard Government still balks at same sex marriage and overseas adoption, ignored the recommendations of the Brennan inquiry to establish a charter of human rights and has no plan for inclusiveness of GLBTI people.

## Our Plan

- Introduce a **human rights charter** that enshrines the right of equality under law for GLBTI people.
- Move to repeal the Howard Government Civil Unions Act that prohibits **marriage** and **overseas adoption** for same sex couples
- Ensure that federally funded services are **inclusive of the children** of same-sex couples
- Apply the '**GLBTI lens**' to government policy development generally, starting with the removal of gender specific language from laws and regulations
- Develop a **national health plan** for GLBTI people with measurable targets and a priority on mental health
- Encourage the establishment residential **aged care** facilities for GLBTI people as a special needs group and ensure home and community services for the aged is sensitive to their needs.
- Conduct ongoing public promotion of inclusion and tackling **stigma** and **discrimination**
- Ensure sex and relationships **education in schools** is preventative against stigma and discrimination