

SURVEY RESPONSES

1. Promptly implement the National Strategies on HIV, STIs, hepatitis B and C and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Blood-borne Viruses and STIs Strategy for the period 2018-2022.

LIBERAL NATIONAL COALITION	AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY	AUSTRALIAN GREENS
<p>"Will invest an additional \$45.4 million to support implementation of the National Blood-borne Viruses (BBVs) and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) Strategies (2018-2022)."</p>	<p>"Will implement the National Strategies on BBVs and STIs that were recently agreed by all jurisdictions. Welcomes the 2019 Budget measures on HIV, BBVs and STIs and will deliver this funding if elected."</p>	<p>"Will work to ensure that the National Strategies are implemented and funded."</p>

2. Commit to the enduring principles of partnership, harm reduction and non-partisanship that are a globally recognised foundation of Australia's response to HIV, other BBVs and STIs.

LIBERAL NATIONAL COALITION	AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY	AUSTRALIAN GREENS
<p>"Our approach to funding and implementing these strategies will continue to include an ongoing commitment to principles of partnership, harm reduction and a community-led response."</p>	<p>"The principles that would guide a Shorten Labor Government in response to HIV, other BBVs and STIs are partnership, harm reduction and non-partisanship."</p>	<p>"Fully support the enduring principles of partnership, harm reduction and non-partisanship. Believe in strong and effective civil society and recognise that the community-based and peer-led work of AFAO, NAPWHA and their partners is crucial in ensuring the fight to eliminate HIV maintains momentum and focus."</p>

3. Strengthen the national HIV response through prevention, testing and treatment campaigns and national workforce and program support for peer-based organisations.

LIBERAL NATIONAL COALITION	AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY	AUSTRALIAN GREENS
<p>"\$45.4 million funding will support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> national awareness and prevention strategies to reduce the impact of BBVs, such as HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C, and STIs, with a specific focus on syphilis, gonorrhoea and chlamydia projects that improve diagnosis and treatment options health professional and community education". 	<p>"Will invest \$39 million to step up the fight against HIV and tackle the stigma associated with HIV that is holding back success. Labor's commitment will see \$10 million a year to renew Australia's HIV response by investing in HIV peak organisations, including AFAO, NAPWHA, Scarlet Alliance, the Australian Illicit and Injecting Drug Users League (AIVL) and the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO)."</p>	<p>"Will invest \$10 million a year to organisations that work on prevention, testing and treatment campaigns, peer support, education and community outreach, planning and service re-development."</p>

4. Develop specialised programs to engage with 'hidden' populations at risk of being left behind, including people with unsuspected HIV, late HIV presenters and those not being treated.

LIBERAL NATIONAL COALITION	AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY	AUSTRALIAN GREENS
<p>"\$45.4 million funding includes targeted assistance to diverse and vulnerable populations including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) populations."</p>	<p>"Labor's commitment includes \$3 million a year to target people who aren't diagnosed with or treated for HIV, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, and people from CaLD backgrounds. Labor's investment will improve prevention, testing and treatment for these groups."</p>	<p>"Know that particular populations are at risk of being left behind, including people with unsuspected HIV, late HIV presenters and those who are not being treated. Because these groups are unlikely to be receptive to awareness and media campaigns that are targeted at more engaged populations, we will commit \$3 million per year to develop these campaigns targeting these populations."</p>

5. Plan and implement an improved and sustained response to HIV and STIs among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

LIBERAL NATIONAL COALITION	AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY	AUSTRALIAN GREENS
<p>"\$45.4 million funding includes targeted assistance to diverse and vulnerable populations including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and CaLD populations."</p>	<p>"Will invest \$20 million in sexual health promotion making it a health priority in northern Australia to address sexual health issues, including the syphilis outbreak across northern Australia. Will invest \$1.8 million in the 2Spirits Program to support HIV prevention and peer-to-peer programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Queensland."</p>	<p>"Will ensure we have a plan to implement and sustain a response to HIV and STIs among this population and invest \$15 million a year to help close the gap and ensure the needs of all First Nations peoples, including brotherboys, sistersgirls and LGBTI people are met in public health prevention efforts and service provision. We will ensure this funding is culturally appropriate for and community controlled by First Nations peoples."</p>

6. Develop evidence-informed and long-term community-led campaigns to reduce the incidence of STIs

LIBERAL NATIONAL COALITION	AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY	AUSTRALIAN GREEN
<p>"\$45.4 million funding includes national awareness and prevention strategies to reduce the impact of STIs, with a specific focus on syphilis, gonorrhoea and chlamydia".</p>	<p>"In addition to the \$39 million investment in HIV, Labor will invest \$20 million in northern Australia to address sexual health issues, including the syphilis outbreak."</p>	<p>"Will commit \$1.75 million per year to develop evidence-informed and long-term community-led campaigns to reduce the incidence of STIs."</p>

7. Seek a sponsor and provide MBS listing for rapid HIV testing.

LIBERAL NATIONAL COALITION	AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY	AUSTRALIAN GREENS
<p>"Will reduce the cost of testing by implementing a Medical Benefits Scheme (MBS) listing for this device following a recommendation from the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC)."</p>	<p>"Labor will work to ensure PrEP, HIV point of care and self-tests, and treatment are available to all who can benefit from them based on expert advice."</p>	<p>"Recognise the importance of rapid HIV testing and note the recent development of effective tests in this area. While we strongly support the independence of the MSAC process, we would in principle support MBS listing of self-testing if recommended by MSAC."</p>

8. Develop and implement a sustainable model of access to HIV treatment and PrEP for people who are ineligible for Medicare.

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No response.	"Will work to ensure PrEP, HIV point of care self-tests, and treatment are available to all who can benefit from them based on expert advice."	"Would support the development and implementation of a sustainable model to access to HIV treatment and PrEP for people in this situation."

9. Increase the number of clinicians able to prescribe HIV treatment and strengthen clinical training and support on HIV, STIs and viral hepatitis.

LIBERAL NATIONAL COALITION	AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY	AUSTRALIAN GREENS
"\$45.4 million funding includes health professional and community education."	"Will work to ensure PrEP, HIV point of care self-tests, and treatment are available to all who can benefit from them based on expert advice."	"Would work to overcome the problem of the number of clinicians able to prescribe HIV treatment by working with the medical and health sector to address unmet needs in this area."

10. Provide access to de-identified PBS data to enable comprehensive observation of PrEP initiation and patterns of use across Australia.

LIBERAL NATIONAL COALITION	AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY	AUSTRALIAN GREENS
"We will work with the sector to enable better use of data to inform and support health policy decision making related to BBVs and STIs."	"We recognise the importance of timely HIV surveillance and breakthrough science and will work with research to ensure access to data."	"We would work with the research community and the Department of Health to ensure that appropriately de-identified Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) data is made available to enable comprehensive observation of PrEP initiation and patterns of use across Australia."

11. Ensure infectious diseases, including HIV, other blood-borne viruses and STIs are recognised as strategic priorities by research funding bodies including the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF).

LIBERAL NATIONAL COALITION	AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY	AUSTRALIAN GREENS
"Is committed to continuing investment in essential research on hepatitis B, hepatitis C, HIV, and sexually transmitted infections and will work with the community to develop options for the prioritisation of initiatives through the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF)."	"Recognises Australia's global leadership in HIV research – from basic science through to implementation research and understands the importance of timely surveillance and breakthrough science."	"Would ensure these infections are prioritised by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and MRFF."

12. Further strengthen and support high quality and timely HIV surveillance and annual community-based behavioural surveillance from every state and territory

LIBERAL NATIONAL COALITION	AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY	AUSTRALIAN GREENS
"Will provide up to \$24.3 million over four years from July 2019 for epidemiological and social surveillance activities".	"Recognises Australia's global leadership in HIV research – from basic science through to implementation research and understands the importance of timely surveillance and breakthrough science."	"To ensure that the community sector has adequate support to undertake high quality and timely HIV surveillance across the nation, we would provide \$400 000 per annum."

13. Challenge stigma and discrimination through targeted communication.

LIBERAL NATIONAL COALITION	AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY	AUSTRALIAN GREENS
<p>"We will work closely with the community to address stigma and discrimination and improve quality of life, with a particular focus on actions to address the stigma that leads to delays or prevents people from seeking diagnosis, treatment, and ongoing support."</p>	<p>"Addressing the stigma associated with HIV that is holding back success will be a significant part of the \$39 million investment to fight HIV."</p>	<p>"Will commit an additional \$1 million a year into specific communications and campaigns that break down stigma and discrimination, encourage safer sex and encourage early testing."</p>

14. Direct the Australian Law Reform Commission to report on options to increase uniformity between state and territory laws on HIV, given developments in HIV prevention science.

LIBERAL NATIONAL COALITION	AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY	AUSTRALIAN GREENS
<p>No response.</p>	<p>"Will also ask the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) to examine laws that hold back Australia's HIV response and make recommendations to assist all jurisdictions to harmonise laws."</p>	<p>"Regulatory and legal changes are also required to ensure that there is uniformity across states and territories, and to ensure best practice science in regulation and practice. We would direct the ALRC to report on options to increase uniformity between state and territory laws on HIV, given developments in HIV prevention science".</p>

15. Implement the Australian Red Cross Blood Service's recommendations to reduce the sexual activity deferral period.

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<p>No response.</p>	<p>"Labor's National Platform includes a commitment to act urgently on any advice from the Red Cross Blood Service and the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) to reduce the deferral period for men who have sex with men (MSM). Labor understands that updated Blood Service and TGA advice will be provided to Government in the coming months and hopes that advice will allow a Shorten Labor Government to reduce the inequality and social harm caused by this discriminatory policy."</p>	<p>"To ensure best practice science in regulation and practice, we would pursue a reduction in the sexual activity deferral period through the Australian Red Cross Blood Service to reduce the deferral period for MSM. The Greens believe the maintenance of this restriction contravenes the evidence on the risks of HIV transmission and represents unnecessary discrimination."</p>

16. Renew Australia's commitment to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria with a pledge of \$300m for 2019 to 2021.

LIBERAL NATIONAL COALITION	AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY	AUSTRALIAN GREENS
<p>"Will pledge to the Global Fund for 2020-2022."</p>	<p>No response.</p>	<p>"We recognise that Australia's contribution to the Global Fund is critical and will commit \$300 million over the next three years from Australia's development budget to set a strong example and ensure the Global Fund can continue its work in a sustainable and consistent way."</p>

17. Leverage Australia's track record of civil society and government partnership by programming 5% of Australia's Global Fund contribution for strengthened community responses to HIV in Asia and the Pacific.

LIBERAL NATIONAL COALITION	AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY	AUSTRALIAN GREENS
No response.	No response.	"We would allocate \$15 million of this over three years specifically for strengthened community responses to HIV in Asia and the Pacific."

18. Commit to Australia playing a leading role in the 2021 United Nations General Assembly's High-Level Meeting on HIV and AIDS, including support for civil society participation in the meeting and in the negotiation of an updated UN Declaration of Commitment to Ending HIV.

LIBERAL NATIONAL COALITION	AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY	AUSTRALIAN GREENS
"Will continue to ensure that consultation with civil society, advocacy for civil society participation in UN processes, and promotion of the rights of civil society and human rights defenders will be strong features of our term on the Human Rights Council (2018-2020)."	"We are committed to working with and supporting civil society. We will increase the annual base grant funding for fully accredited NGOs in the Australian NGO Cooperation Program at a cost of \$32 million over the forward estimates."	"Will commit to Australia playing a leading role in the 2021 United Nations General Assembly's High-Level Meeting on HIV and AIDS, including support for participation by people living with HIV/AIDS and civil society in the meeting, and in the negotiation of an updated UN Declaration of Commitment to Ending HIV."

19. Support the establishment of a network of LGBTI organisations, development agencies, human rights organisations, philanthropy and academia to promote and protect the rights of LGBTI people regionally and across the globe.

LIBERAL NATIONAL COALITION	AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY	AUSTRALIAN GREENS
"Is committed to continue to call out abuses of LGBTI human rights in appropriate international forums and will continue to consult with LGBTI organisations, development agencies, human rights organisations, philanthropy and academia, given the value we place on civil societies' contribution to international human rights discussions relating to LGBTI people."	"Health and gender equality and inclusion, in addition to education, climate change and infrastructure, will be central themes for Australia's international development program under Labor."	"We will support the establishment of a network of LGBTIQ+ organisations, development agencies, human rights organisations, philanthropy and academia to promote and protect the rights of LGBTIQ+ people regionally and across the globe through an investment of \$200,000 per annum."