

## RAINBOW ISSUES

### Our vision

Labour believes that all New Zealanders have the same basic rights, regardless of sexual orientation.

Since homosexual law reform in 1986, great progress has been made, particularly under Labour Governments, to bring about formal legal equality for GLBTI New Zealanders. Future Labour Governments will continue this work, both to remedy the few outstanding areas of the law where discrimination persists, and to ensure that GLBTI New Zealanders can live in safety and with dignity.

### Bringing about formal equality before the law

New Zealanders in a same-sex relationship may enter into civil unions, which are not fully equivalent in a legal sense to marriage, and they may not enter into marriage. They may not offer themselves as the adoptive carers for children. Transsexual and Intersex New Zealanders face numerous barriers to full participation in society.

Labour will review laws and practices that offend s19 New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990. Specifically, we will:

- Modernise the law relating to the care of children to ensure that the widest pool of suitable adults is lawfully available to provide care to children in need;
- Review and update relationship and relationship property law; and
- Implement the 2007 Human Rights Commission Report, "To Be Who I Am".

### Promoting safety and dignity for all New Zealanders

Every New Zealander should be able to live a life of safety and dignity. Many GLBTI New Zealanders continue to be subject to insult, verbal and physical abuse, and to be made to feel inferior, most damagingly in schools. Too often, this results in high rates of self-harm and suicide amongst young GLBTI New Zealanders.

Labour will support safety and dignity for all, including in schools.

In order to support safety in schools, Labour will encourage the establishment of Queer Straight Alliances and other diversity groups in secondary schools.

Labour will require schools to operate policies that prevent anti-GLBTI bullying, and will audit and report publicly on the success of such policies.

Labour will assist organisations that support young GLBTI New Zealanders, such as Rainbow Youth and UNIQ.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Labour Government established a Rainbow Desk within the Ministry of Social Development to facilitate the planning and delivery of public services in a way that took account of the needs of GLBTI New Zealanders. This must continue.

Labour will ensure that the planning and delivery of public services continue to take account of require public services to take into account the needs of GLBTI New Zealanders. This includes the needs of an ageing population.

## **Promoting safety and dignity internationally**

Discrimination against GLBTI people worldwide continues. The worst manifestation of this is the criminalisation of consensual adult same-sex activity, and its punishment as a capital offence. As part of the broader family of progressive nations, Labour believes that New Zealand should raise its voice on these issues, including as an advocate on individual cases.

Labour will maintain and grow a strong New Zealand participation in international bodies dealing with Human Rights, especially at UN level. Specifically, Labour will oppose the criminalisation of consensual adult same-sex activity, and other instances of discrimination against GLBTI people.