

The West Australian

Social Affairs | State Politics | WA News

🔒 EXCLUSIVE

LGBTQI community urges action on conversion therapy with Labor promising new laws after the March election



Kate Emery | The West Australian
Wed, 12 February 2025 10:40AM | +

✉ Kate Emery



📷 The State Government has promised to ban conversion therapy but new laws will not be passed until after the March election, which it is widely expected to win. Credit: 9nong - stock.adobe.com



The State Government’s failure to ban conversion therapy and remove barriers to surrogacy for gay couples is frustrating the LGBTQI community.



A survey of nearly 600 people by Rainbow Futures WA, the State’s peak LGBTQI body, found the top issues troubling the gay, trans and gender-diverse community were banning so-called conversion therapy – practices that attempt to change a person’s sexual orientation or gender identity – and strengthening anti-discrimination protections.

Equal treatment under surrogacy laws, banning early stage medical interventions on intersex people – those born with sex characteristics not necessarily easy to classify as male or female – and self-ID laws for trans people were other points of concern.



 Rainbow Futures chief executive Misty Farquhar Credit: Supplied

Rainbow Futures chief executive Misty Farquhar said the State election in March was an opportunity to seek commitments from WA's political parties to progress the issues that mattered to the community.

The Government has promised to ban conversion therapy but new laws will not be passed until after the March election, which it is widely expected to win.

Similarly, planned changes to the Equal Opportunity Act have been delayed until after the election – in part to avoid overlap with Federal anti-discrimination

reforms.

Of those surveyed by Rainbow Futures 96.5 per cent said ending conversion therapy was either “extremely” or “very” important.

Stronger anti-discrimination laws and removing exemptions for faith-based organisations were also considered a priority (94 per cent), as was removing obstacles that discriminate against male couples seeking surrogacy (87 per cent).

Concerns were also raised about the need for health, education and law services to be better at recognising and accommodating the needs of LGBTQI people.

Lengthy waiting times for gender-affirming care were also criticised.



WA NEWS

Is it last shout for buying a round at the pub?

Kate Emery



WA NEWS

Meet Perth’s first babies of 2025 and the first of gen Beta

Rachel Fenner

Get the latest news from thewest.com.au in your inbox.

[SIGN UP FOR OUR EMAILS](#)



FROM AROUND THE SITE

- ▶ [Homelessness advocacy group still fighting for shelter](#) +
- ▶ [PM’s awkward run-in with barista](#) +
- ▶ [Premier Roger Cook cut ribbon to open Magnium Collie](#) +
- ▶ [Pontoon removed following Lake Leschenaultia drowning](#) +

[Book Now](#)

Last chance to surprise a loved one!
Book your message in The West Australian by 4pm today and save 20%.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

- ▶ [Peter Sears' long battle for Bunbury Speedway accessibility](#) +
- ▶ [REVEALED: How voters think WA leaders stack up](#) +

OUR NETWORK

- West Rewards
- West Regional Network
- West Announcements
- West Classifieds
- WestBusiness Events
- West Travel Club
- The Game
- Media Education
- The Nightly
- PerthNow
- 7plus
- 7NEWS
- TV Guide
- Streamer

SUBSCRIBE TO

- The West Australian Newspaper
- The West Email Newsletters

OUR PARTNERS

- Real Estate View
- Healthengine
- Huddle Insurance
- Carbar
- CarExpert
- Raiz Invest
- Instichu
- Starts at 60
- MoneyMe
- Iseekplant

CONNECT WITH US

[Send us a message](#)



[Contact Us](#) [Frequently Asked Questions](#) [Editorial Policy](#) [Editorial Complaints](#) [Place an ad in the Classifieds](#)

[Advertise in The West Australian](#) [Corporate](#)

© West Australian Newspapers Limited 2025 [Privacy Policy](#) [Terms of Use](#)

The West Australian