



13 August 2026

Dr Rosalie Woodruff
Leader of the Tasmanian Greens

Via email only: Rosalie.Woodruff@parliament.tas.gov.au

Conversion Practices Prohibition Bill 2026

Dear Dr Woodruff,

Tasmanian Labor welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission on the *Conversion Practices Prohibition Bill 2026*.

Labor has long supported legislation to prohibit conversion practices in Tasmania and has publicly committed to legislating a ban at recent elections.

Experiences shared publicly and with the Parliament by victim-survivors as well as evidence provided to the Tasmania Law Reform Institute (TLRI) confirms that these practices not only continue to occur in Tasmania, but that they cause significant and lasting trauma and harm.

The lived experiences of victim-survivors of conversion practices reinforces the need for a legislative framework that protects people from harm while promoting dignity, inclusion and respect.

Conversion practices are not merely a matter of differing beliefs or opinions - they are specific, targeted practices delivered specifically to alter somebody's sexuality or gender identity. They are based on the false view that LGBTIQ+ and gender diverse people are inherently 'broken' and that these pseudo-scientific 'therapies' can 'fix' them. They capitalize on stigma and shame and inflict lifelong harm to those subjected to them.

Most Australian jurisdictions except Tasmania have either legislated or are moving towards a legislated ban of conversion practices. Without a legislated ban here, there is a profound risk that Tasmania may become a "safe haven" for these dangerous practices, as they are increasingly prohibited elsewhere. Tasmanians deserve the same protections already afforded in most other Australian jurisdictions.

The draft Bill draws on the TLRI's recommendations, while also incorporating experiences from the legislative approaches adopted in other Australian jurisdictions including recent reviews of interstate legislation. This provides a strong basis for a framework that is informed by Tasmanian evidence and the experience of jurisdictions that have already introduced a ban.

Labor supports the freedom of religion and the right of Tasmanians to practise faith, including seeking religious guidance, pastoral support and care. Labor notes the draft Bill does not prevent religious expression, prayer or the provision of pastoral care and guidance on sexuality or gender identity.

We understand the intention of the draft Bill is not to prevent people from expressing their religious beliefs or personal views, including homophobic or transphobic beliefs or views. Similarly, we understand the intention is not to prevent religious leaders, teachers, health professionals, parents or carers from engaging in conversations with people about sexuality and gender identity.

Rather, the Bill seeks to address and prevent the organised targeted ‘therapy’ known as conversion therapy, aimed specifically at altering a person's sexual orientation or gender identity on the basis that their sexual orientation or gender identity is ‘wrong’. Conversion practices are not aimed at simply encouraging abstinence from engaging in or physically acting on sexual desire, but rather at specifically muting or altering somebody’s own sexual or gender identity.

Labor notes the concerns expressed by Tasmanian faith leaders in their joint submission on the draft Bill, that the definitions in the draft could inadvertently capture a broader range of conversations than intended. Labor understands the intent of the Bill is not to prevent people seeking counsel from religious leaders, or to prevent parents and carers supporting their young people and discussing issues of sexuality and gender identity with them.

We believe the draft Bill appropriately distinguishes between legitimate religious expression and practices that seek to change or suppress a person's sexual orientation or gender identity, however we note these concerns and encourage the drafters to ensure the final Bill achieves its intended purpose.

Labor’s conversations with religious leaders have been important in preparing this submission and we understand faith leaders also object to conversion practices, and are confident conversion practices do not occur within their organisations.

Evidence from victim-survivors demonstrates that some conversion practices are presented as pastoral care or are falsely cloaked in theology. This can cause significant harm to LGBTIQ+ people, including LGBTIQ+ people of faith. It also undermines and does a disservice to the important work of faith communities that genuinely support inclusion, dignity and the wellbeing of those seeking pastoral care.

Labor supports the draft Bill's focus on prevention, education and early intervention. The draft Bill appropriately recognises that preventing harm requires more than enforcement alone. By placing an emphasis on education and community awareness, the draft Bill seeks to support individuals, families, faith communities and service providers to understand the operation of the legislation and prevent conversion practices from occurring before harm occurs.

Clear guidance and education will be important to assist the community to distinguish genuine support and guidance, from conduct intended to suppress or alter a person's sexual orientation or gender identity.

Labor recognises the graduated enforcement framework proposed in the draft Bill. Consistent with the focus on prevention, the civil response scheme prioritises education, engagement and early resolution wherever appropriate. This reflects the objective of supporting behavioural change and resolving concerns at an early stage.

The Bill's enforcement provisions are appropriately framed as measures of last resort. Where serious, repeated or harmful conduct occurs, meaningful enforcement mechanisms must remain available to protect Tasmanians and ensure the legislation achieves its intended purpose. Labor supports this balanced approach, which prioritises prevention and education while recognising that effective legal protections require proportionate consequences where significant harm has occurred or there is an ongoing risk of harm.

There are opportunities to add to and improve the Bill including:

- A positive duty to prevent conversion practices from occurring

Labor notes that the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission (VEOHRC) has noted that there is a positive duty for organisations to prevent discrimination under Victorian legislation, and has recommended a similar provision to create a positive duty for organisations to prevent conversion practices in Victoria's conversion practices ban.

Labor believes a similar positive duty would be beneficial in Tasmania's ban. We note the Tasmanian *Anti Discrimination Act 1998* creates an obligation to take action against discrimination and that failing to do so is a contravention of the Act. A positive duty to prevent in Tasmania's conversion practices ban would be in line with this.

- A pathway for victim-survivors to seek redress

Labor notes recent civil redress schemes that have been implemented in Tasmania and around the country, for example for historic child sexual abuse, forced adoption and expunged convictions.

We believe there should be a civil pathway to redress for victim-survivors of conversion practices. Ideally through the Commissioner being empowered to award a remedy and a pathway to TasCAT if this is not complied with.

- Including protections for a-sexual, a-romantic and a-gender people

Tasmania was the first jurisdiction in the country to formally recognise a-sexual, a-romantic and a-gender people through the State Government's LGBTIQA+ Action Plan 2024-2027.

Evidence shows these people are also targeted for harmful conversion practices and they should also be protected in the Tasmanian ban.

- Referrals from other statutory authorities and organisations

In the recent review of the Victorian legislation, VEOHRC recommended there be provision made for relevant bodies such as the Ombudsman, Police Commissioner and Health Complaints Commissioner to mandatorily report instances of conversion practices. A similar provision in Tasmania's ban would complement the legislation and strengthen the focus on prevention and education.

Tasmanian Labor welcomes this proposed reform and looks forward to the next steps in progressing a ban on these harmful practices in our state.

Labor pays tribute to the Tasmanian victim survivors who have generously shared their stories in the interests of change and so that others do not have to endure what they have. Their brave advocacy has been crucial to Tasmania's parliament continuing on the pathway to a ban.

Yours sincerely



Ella Haddad MP
Shadow Attorney-General
Shadow Minister for Equality

Ella.Haddad@parliament.tas.gov.au
(03) 6212 2286