

11 December 2025



Kellie Sloane MP

Leader of the Opposition of New South Wales
330 New South Head Road
Double Bay, NSW, 2028

Sent via email: liberal.leader@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Opposition Leader Sloane,

Re: Adopting the *Blueprint for Equality* – Dedicated Funding for a Statewide LGBTQIA+ Community Legal Service

On behalf of the NSW Chapter of Pride in Law, we write to urge the New South Wales Opposition to support the adoption and funding the recommendations set out in the *Blueprint for Equality: Resourcing LGBTQIA+ Community Legal Centres*, recently released by the Inner City Legal Centre (ICLC) and attached to this letter.

As a national network of LGBTQIA+ legal professionals and allies, Pride in Law works to connect, support, and celebrate the diversity of the legal profession, while advocating for fairness, inclusion, and justice for LGBTQIA+ communities. Our NSW Chapter stands alongside the ICLC and other community stakeholders in calling for sustainable funding to ensure that all members of our community, regardless of postcode, can access safe, inclusive and culturally competent legal assistance.

For more than four decades, the ICLC has been the de facto LGBTQIA+ legal service in NSW, providing expert, trusted support to clients facing discrimination, vilification, housing insecurity, and complex family law and identity documentation issues. The work of the ICLC has assisted some of the most vulnerable members of the LGBTQIA+ community and supported them to engage with the legal system. In particular we note the tireless efforts of the ICLC in assisting transgender members of the community be recognised as their authentic selves and change official documents to reflect their true identity.

Despite its significant impact, the ICLC has never received dedicated funding to deliver LGBTQIA+ services across the state. As a result, countless LGBTQIA+ people, particularly in regional and rural NSW, remain unable to access the justice system on equal terms. The absence of a statewide service disproportionately impacts LGBTQIA+ people outside Sydney, who face additional barriers including distance, stigma and local attitudes, and limited local services.



PRIDE IN LAW



AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL LGBTQIA+ LAW ASSOCIATION

Pride in Law is a National LGBTQIA+ Law Association that became a company limited by guarantee for a charitable purpose. Pride in Law is also registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission.

The *Blueprint for Equality* provides a clear and evidence-based roadmap to correct this inequity. It demonstrates that dedicated funding for a statewide, community-based LGBTQIA+ legal service will:

- **Enhance access to justice** for LGBTQIA+ people in all parts of NSW, not only within the inner-city catchment. As members of both the profession and LGBTQIA+ community, Pride in Law are acutely aware of the detrimental effect that a lack of properly resourced access to justice has on individuals, leaving them unproductive and isolated;
- **Deliver cost-effective outcomes** by addressing legal issues early and reducing systemic disadvantage. This will lead to a more productive state and ensure that more people across NSW feel included in and supported by the justice process; and,
- **Support the success of the NSW Government's LGBTQIA+ Inclusion Strategy**, which aims to position NSW as a national leader in equality, inclusion, and community wellbeing.

As legal professionals, we know that laws are only as effective as people's ability to exercise and enforce them. Recognition without resources means that equality exists on paper only. A properly funded LGBTQIA+ community legal service would give real effect to the rights and protections our Parliament has worked so hard to enshrine.

Accordingly, Pride in Law NSW respectfully calls on the NSW Government to:

1. **Adopt the recommendations of the *Blueprint for Equality*;**
2. **Provide dedicated, recurrent funding** to establish a statewide LGBTQIA+ community legal service that supports and strengthens the challenged work being undertaken in many community legal centres across NSW; and,
3. **Engage in meaningful consultation** with the ICLC, Pride in Law, and other legal sector partners to co-design an implementation framework that ensures best practice and sustainability.

New South Wales now has a pivotal opportunity to lead the nation in advancing LGBTQIA+ equality through providing fair and just access to justice. The NSW Chapter of Pride in Law and our network of legal professionals stand ready to support the Government in this critical work.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to building a fairer, more inclusive New South Wales. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss how the legal community can assist in progressing this essential initiative.


Kind regards,



Benjamin Koval
President



Laura Melrose
Vice President



Miku Nakamura
Advocacy Officer

NSW Chapter of Pride in Law



Lauren Devine
Advocacy Officer