

News Release

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LGBTIQ SOUTH AUSTRALIANS RECEIVE APOLOGY FOR PAST WRONGS

Rainbow Labor has welcomed today's apology by South Australian Labor Premier, Jay Weatherill, to South Australian lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer people.

The apology, seconded by the Leader of the Opposition, recognises the discrimination LGBTIQ people have suffered under South Australian laws.

"Laws aren't just words, they impact on our everyday lives, they matter," said Rainbow Labor SA Co-Convenor Belinda Marsden.

"They determine access to services and ensure people can go about their lives freely expressing their identity."

"Today's apology is a moving statement that we too belong, that we are welcome, and that we are equal," said Rainbow Labor SA Executive Member, Joseph Scales.

"While the harm of past discrimination and past acts of hatred will never be undone, this is an important statement of our State's modern values."

The apology comes as the South Australian Parliament considers the raft of legislation introduced by the Labor Government which will:

- Establish a relationship register, making it easier for non-heterosexual couples to have their relationships recognised;
- Allow same-sex couples to adopt children and access surrogacy arrangements;
- Allow lesbian couples to access assisted reproductive treatment; and
- Make it easier for gender diverse South Australians to change their legal gender.

The four bills before parliament formed part of the key objectives of Rainbow Labor SA when founded six years ago.

Years of campaigning by LGBTIQ people in South Australia, including by Rainbow Labor SA inside the Labor Party, have led to this historic week.

When these Bills pass, it will draw a line in the sand for many LGBTIQ South Australians and with the Premier's Apology, clears the way to heal from past harm.

This is a proud day for LGBTIQ members of the Labor Party.

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