

Gender & the 2025 Federal Election

What do the major parties promise for women
and gender diverse Australians?



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As we head to the polls this weekend for the 2025 Federal Election, we wanted to understand how the major parties stack up on the **most urgent issues facing women and gender diverse Australians.**



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Executive summary

We analysed the gender equality commitments of Australia's major political parties ahead of the 2025 Federal Election. Our aim was to understand how each party plans to address persistent gender gaps and structural inequality in three key areas: preventing **violence** against women and gender diverse people, improving **health** access and outcomes, and boosting **economic** equality and participation.

Our analysis finds that while all parties acknowledge gender inequality to some degree, they differ significantly in how they propose to tackle it.

Labor has committed more than \$23 billion across a range of initiatives to support the economic security, health, and safety of women and gender diverse Australians. The Coalition has pledged to continue several existing services and has made targeted investments in women's health. The Greens propose a reform agenda centred on structural change, intersectionality, and accountability.

This summary highlights both the progress made and the challenges that remain. Women and gender diverse Australians continue to earn less than men, retire with fewer savings, and shoulder the majority of unpaid care work. Gender-based violence remains widespread and under-addressed.

The policy choices of our political leaders in this election will have a lasting impact on the lives of women and gender diverse people across the country.

As a non-partisan research institute, we have produced this resource to inform voters, policymakers, and advocates. We hope it serves as a useful tool for assessing how each party's platform supports the vision of a more equal, inclusive, and safe Australia for all.



Safety

What have the major parties
promised to keep women &
gender diverse Aussies safe?



What is **Labor** promising?

Since launching the *National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children* in 2022, Labor has committed more than **\$4 billion** to initiatives aimed at improving women's safety. In the 2025–26 Budget, this work continues with a mix of national programs and targeted support for specific communities.

Supporting First Nations communities

- **\$21.8 million over two years** for domestic and sexual violence services in high-need First Nations communities, through the **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan 2023–2025**.
- **\$842.6 million over six years** for services and infrastructure that support the safety and wellbeing of First Nations women, children and families, as part of the **Northern Territory Remote Aboriginal Investment**.

Crisis accommodation & frontline support

\$2.5 million to extend the **Safe Places Emergency Accommodation Program**, helping more women and children escape violence.

Justice system reform & survivor engagement

- **\$21.4 million over three years** for initiatives to improve how victim-survivors engage with the justice system and to help inform the government's response to the **Australian Law Reform Commission's Inquiry into Justice System Responses to Sexual Violence**.
- **\$1.2 million over two years** to extend and expand the Lived Experience Expert Advisory Group, strengthening input from survivors, experts and frontline workers.

Workplace safety & reporting

\$1.4 million in 2025–26 for the Workplace Gender Equality Agency and the Australian Public Service Commission to continue improving public sector reporting on workplace sexual harassment. This supports Recommendation 43 of the **Respect@Work** report.

What is **the Coalition** promising?

This week, the Coalition launched its *Plan to Address Family and Domestic Violence*. The plan focuses on improving legal protections, expanding support services, and strengthening safety measures for victim-survivors and their families.

Legal & justice reforms

- Establish a national **Domestic Violence Register** to allow police and agencies across Australia to share information on family violence convictions.
- Introduce new federal offences targeting coercive control, including the misuse of technology to harass or track someone.
- Tighten bail laws to prioritise the safety of victim-survivors.
- Increase the asset threshold to \$1.5 million (excluding super) for faster family law property settlements in cases without children

Support for victim-survivors

- Expand the **Safe Places Emergency Accommodation Program** to help more women and children escape violence.
- Provide emergency financial support through the **Leaving Violence Program**.
- Boost funding for domestic violence helplines to improve access to crisis support.
- Launch a mobile phone recycling program to stop abusers from using old devices to contact or track victim-survivors.

First Nations communities

Launch a Royal Commission into sexual abuse in Indigenous communities, aiming to improve safety and accountability.

Community awareness & education

Fund local organisations to deliver domestic violence education and training in the community.

Financial system changes

Reform tax, welfare, and superannuation systems to help address financial abuse and ensure fairer outcomes for victim-survivors.

What are **The Greens** promising?

The Greens have outlined a range of policies aimed at ending gender-based violence and improving safety and support for victim-survivors. Their approach focuses on long-term investment, early intervention, and better accountability.

National investment & recovery support

- Commit to fully funding the National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children with a proposed **\$12 billion over 12 years**.
- Increase the Escaping Violence Payment and expand access to recovery services to better support people leaving abusive situations.

Safety in homes & relationships

- Expand the **Staying Home Leaving Violence Program** so more women can safely remain in their homes after experiencing abuse.
- Implement a national **Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme**, allowing individuals to ask police whether their partner has a history of violent offences — helping prevent harm before it occurs.

Online safety

Introduce a mandatory code of conduct for dating apps, requiring companies to meet consistent safety standards and take stronger action against abuse and harassment.

What are the Independents promising?

Some minor parties have not committed to the **Fair Agenda pledge** to address domestic or sexual violence. These include: Australia's Voice, Centre Alliance, Family First, Gerard Rennick People First, Jacqui Lambie Network, Katter's Australian Party, Pauline Hanson's One Nation, and Trumpet of Patriots.

In contrast, the David Pocock Party, Legalise Cannabis Party, and Socialist Alliance have pledged full commitment to tackling both issues. The Sustainable Australia Party has fully committed to addressing sexual violence and made a partial commitment on domestic violence.



Explaining the policies

The National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children (2022-2032) is a joint federal, state and territory framework to eliminate gender-based violence through prevention, early intervention, response, and recovery. [Find out more >](#)

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan was developed alongside First Nations leaders and organisations, this Plan supports community-led prevention and response efforts in areas of greatest need. [Find out more >](#)

The Northern Territory Remote Aboriginal Investment is a joint initiative with the Northern Territories Government and Aboriginal Peak Organisations to improve safety, health, and infrastructure in remote communities. [Find out more >](#)

The Safe Places Emergency Accommodation Program delivers emergency housing for women and children escaping violence, especially in locations where access to safe accommodation is limited. [Find out more >](#)

The ALRC Inquiry into Justice System Responses to Sexual Violence was a national review by the Australian Law Reform Commission focused on strengthening justice system responses and outcomes for people affected by sexual violence. [Find out more >](#)

The Lived Experience Expert Advisory Group is a panel of individuals with lived experience of violence, working alongside experts and stakeholders to inform policy design and delivery. [Find out more >](#)

The Respect@Work Report was a landmark 2020 report that found workplace sexual harassment to be widespread and called for major reforms across sectors. [Find out more >](#)

Recommendation 43 urges stronger public sector reporting on sexual harassment to drive transparency and accountability.

The Escaping Violence Payment is a government payment designed to help people leaving a violent relationship cover basic costs like housing, transport, and safety needs. [Find out more >](#)

The Staying Home Leaving Violence Program provides case management, safety planning and home security upgrades to help women stay safely in their own homes after experiencing violence. [Find out more >](#)

Health

What have the major parties
promised to support women &
gender diverse Australians' health?



What is **Labor** promising?

The Australian Labor Government has announced a \$573 million women's health package to improve the quality, accessibility, and affordability of healthcare for women and gender diverse Australians. These span reproductive health, menopause, chronic pain, maternal care, mental health, and support for diverse communities.

Menopause and perimenopause support

- Common hormone therapies for menopause will now be subsidised through the PBS, benefitting 150,000 women and gender diverse Australians annually.
- A new Medicare item will allow for dedicated menopause health assessments (longer GP appointments to support diagnosis and symptom management).
- Health professionals will receive new menopause training, supported by national guidelines.
- A public campaign will raise awareness and help reduce stigma.

Reproductive health and contraceptive access

- More contraceptive options will be subsidised under the **Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS)**, saving some women and gender diverse Australians more than \$250 per year.
- Increased Medicare rebates and bulk billing incentives for long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARCs) – ie contraceptives like implants and IUDs that don't need to be taken every day – available through GPs and nurse practitioners.
- Eight new LARC Centres of Excellence will train more health professionals to provide these options.

What is **Labor** promising?

Maternal and fertility health

- Improved access to IVF through PBS changes that make medications available sooner and for longer.
- Free immunisation for pregnant women to protect newborns from respiratory illness.
- A **\$662.6 million investment** in the maternity workforce: training, scholarships, and rural support to expand midwifery and maternity services, especially in areas with limited access.
- Continued investment in Birthing on Country, a culturally safe maternity care model for First Nations women and gender diverse people.

Making medicines more affordable

From 1 January 2026, the PBS co-payment will drop from \$31.60 to \$25, saving some households more than \$300/year. As the majority users of prescription medicines in Australia, this change is expected to particularly benefit women.

Endometriosis and pelvic pain

- Expansion of Endometriosis and Pelvic Pain Clinics from 20 to 33 nationwide, with added services like menopause support. These clinics are designed to be a one-stop services that provide care for complex, often underdiagnosed pain conditions affecting many women and gender diverse Australians.
- Subsidies for new treatments to manage chronic pelvic pain.
- Medicare will now cover specialist ultrasound imaging to detect severe cases of endometriosis.

Mental health

- A **\$272.1 million investment** for psychosocial support programs – community-based services that help all people with mental illness manage day-to-day life.
- Additional mental health services tailored to First Nations women and mothers.

Support for diverse communities

First Nations Women

- Ongoing support for culturally safe care through Birthing on Country programs.
- **\$24.7 million** for culturally safe mental health programs, plus support for psychology students.
- **\$21.4 million** to train a nutrition workforce in remote community stores.
- **\$11.4 million** to improve or build community laundries in 12 remote areas.
- Investments in hearing, oral health, rheumatic heart disease detection, and **Deadly Choices**, a First Nations-led program promoting healthy lifestyle choices and preventive health checks.

CALD women

A **\$5.4 million** extension of the **Health in My Language (HiML)** program, a health education program co-designed with migrant and refugee communities, which delivers sexual and reproductive health education in multiple languages.

The LGBTQIA+ community

- **\$0.4 million in 2025–26** to continue peer-led support and referrals through QLife—a national peer-led counselling service.
- **\$15.5 million over four years** for a National Action Plan to fund targeted health services, research, and community initiatives.
- Support for peer-led programs like **InterLink**—a service run by and for people with variations in sex characteristics, offering rights-based health support.

Women in rural and remote areas

- Boosted bulk billing incentives of up to 103% for GPs in remote communities.
- Expansion of Medicare Urgent Care Clinics, so 80% of Australians live within 20 minutes of urgent care.

Disabled women—nothing specific

What is **the Coalition** promising?

The Coalition's election promises include targeted investments in women's healthcare and mental health, with a focus on access and affordability. Key commitments include matching Labor's **\$573 million** women's health package, funding a review of healthcare gaps, and making PBS medicines cheaper. However, there are few specific pledges for diverse groups or reproductive healthcare.

General policies

- Matching Labor's **\$573 million** commitment to boost women's healthcare services.
- Undertake a **\$5 million** review of women's healthcare items to identify gaps in services and subsidised medications for women.

Nothing specifically pledged for **maternal and fertility health** or **reproductive health & contraception access**.

Mental health

Permanently increase the number of subsidised mental health sessions from 10 to 20 per year. While not specifically target at women and gender diverse Australians, this would benefit people of all genders.

Making medicines more affordable

Match the \$690 million pledge to cut the cost of PBS-listed medicines to \$25 to make essential medications more affordable.

Women in remote & regional areas

Improve healthcare in regional and rural areas by attracting and retaining health workers, so women outside the cities can access quality care.

Menopause, perimenopause & endometriosis support

Fund best-practice training for health professionals to better support women's health issues such as endometriosis, menopause and peri-menopause.

Support for diverse communities

Nothing specific for the LGBTQI+ community, First Nations Women, CALD women or disabled women.

What are **The Greens** promising?

The Greens have outlined a wide-ranging health policy platform focused on improving access to reproductive, mental, and culturally appropriate care. Key commitments include free contraception and abortion services, expanded IVF access, support for menopause care, and inclusive public health campaigns.

Menopause & perimenopause support

Supporting people going through menopause with subsidised hormone therapy, better diagnostic tools for GPs, and national education campaigns.

Maternal & fertility health

Expanding access to IVF by removing the requirement to prove infertility and doubling Medicare rebates, ensuring fairer access for LGBTIQ+ people and altruistic surrogacy arrangements.

Mental health

Trauma-informed services & expanded access for women & gender-diverse individuals.

Reproductive health, contraceptive access & endometriosis

- Introducing 12 days of paid, gender-inclusive reproductive health leave each year under the **National Employment Standards** and modern awards.
- Providing free period products in all public schools and other public spaces such as hospitals, libraries, and transport hubs.
- Making all contraceptive options free by covering TGA-approved contraceptives, procedure fees, and counselling through public funding.
- Offering free abortion care through the public health system to improve access across Australia.
- Doubling the number of Medicare-subsidised allied health sessions for people managing chronic pain, increasing access from five to ten sessions per year

Support for diverse communities

First Nations women

Establishing and funding five culturally appropriate Birthing on Country maternity hubs for First Nations families, aimed at reducing maternal and infant deaths.

The LGBTQIA+ community

- All health policies inclusive of trans, gender-diverse, and intersex individuals.
- Expanding access to IVF by removing the requirement to prove infertility and doubling Medicare rebates, ensuring fairer access for LGBTQIA+ people and altruistic surrogacy arrangements.

Supporting marginalised communities

Running inclusive public health campaigns to improve sexual health knowledge in marginalised communities, ensuring that education reflects the diversity of experiences and identities

Disabled women

All health policies inclusive of disabled people.



How much are the major parties pledging for women's health?



\$792.9m

over 5 years
by Labor

\$578 m

by the Coalition

No total figure
from The Greens
but multiple
major funding
commitments

The economy

What have the major parties promised to boost economic equality?



What is **Labor** promising?

Labor's election plan includes more than **\$23 billion** in targeted investments to improve economic security and ease cost-of-living pressures for all Australians, including policies with a focus on closing gender gaps in pay and retirement that will particularly benefit women and gender diverse Australians.

The **gender retirements savings gap** currently sees women aged 60–64 retiring with around \$57,000 less than men.

The **gender pay gap** persists at 11.9% in base salary (with women earning \$246.30 less than men per week) and 21.8% in total remuneration (includes bonuses and super).

Parental leave

- Paid Parental Leave will increase to 24 weeks in July 2025, then increase to 26 weeks in July 2026 – with 4 weeks reserved for each parent and flexible use over two years.
- From 1 July 2025, superannuation will be paid on government-funded Paid Parental Leave—a policy designed to close the **gender retirements savings gap**.

Gender pay gap reporting

- Employers with 100+ employees must publicly report gender pay gaps.
- Employers with 500+ staff must set and report on gender equality targets to access government contracts.

Tax income support

Tax cuts starting in 2024–25 will benefit all taxpayers, with low- and middle-income women gaining the most proportionally.

- **\$1.8 billion** in funding for \$150 energy rebates rebates for over 10 million households.
- Rent Assistance has increased, with **52%** of recipients being single women.
- 20% reduction in HELP student loan debt before indexation on 1 June 2025, and a new repayment system from 1 July 2025. Around **1.8 million** women (61% of HELP holders) are expected to benefit.

What is **Labor** promising?

Housing security

Continued funding for :

- The **Safe Places Emergency Accommodation**, which provides housing for women and children escaping violence.
- The **Social Housing Accelerator** – which funds new public and community housing – and the **National Housing Accord** – a long-term plan to increase housing supply. Both these policies will particularly benefit vulnerable and low income women and gender diverse Australians, and support those escaping violence.
- The **Home Guarantee Scheme**, which helps eligible buyers purchase a home with a smaller deposit and has been accessed by more than **74,900 women** since May 2022.

Women in trades and non-traditional roles

- **Australian Skills Guarantee** introduces gender targets on major public projects.
- **Building Women's Careers Program** supports women entering trades.
- Tripartite pilot grants fund workplace gender equity efforts.
- Free **TAFE (Technical and Further Education)** – a government funded provider of vocational education and training – will become permanent from 2027, with priority access for women, First Nations Australians, people with disability, and low-income individuals.

Unpaid carers

From 20 March 2025, Carer Payment recipients will have more flexibility to work or study while keeping their payments. This aims to address the economic impact of unpaid care, which is a major barrier to women's financial security.

While Labor has acknowledged that Women from CALD backgrounds, LGBTIQ+ communities, and regional areas earn less on average, there are few specific measures to close these income gaps. Similarly, while they note that disabled people face barriers such as discrimination and disrupted employment, there are no new targeted funding or programs proposed.

What is **The Coalition** promising?

The Liberal Party's federal *Our Plan* does not explicitly outline a dedicated strategy for women's economic equality and security. However, several of their broader economic and social policies may indirectly impact women's financial wellbeing.

Housing security

- The **Tax Relief for First Home Buyers** plan proposes allowing first home buyers to claim a tax deduction on interest payments for new builds, which could assist women and gender diverse Australians entering the housing market.
- The Coalition proposes enhancing the **Home Guarantee Scheme**, allowing single parents and first-home buyers to purchase homes with deposits as low as 2–5%. This initiative aims to make homeownership more accessible, particularly benefiting women who are disproportionately represented among single-parent households.

Small business support

Aiming to create **350,000** new small businesses over four years, the plan includes tax offsets for newly incorporated businesses, potentially benefiting women entrepreneurs, who receive disproportionately less funding than their male counterparts.

There are no specific policies to benefit either women in general or other minoritised groups who disproportionately experience financial insecurity, such as CALD and First Nations Communities, LGBTQI+ Australians and disabled people.

What are **The Greens** promising?

The Greens are proposing a range of reforms aimed at improving economic security for people in caring roles and addressing structural gender inequality in the workforce. These policies focus on superannuation, fairer paid parental leave, and more transparent pay reporting, with particular benefits for women and gender-diverse Australians.

Unpaid care work

- Provide an annual **\$500** superannuation top-up for primary carers earning under \$37,000 while caring for young children or children with disability.
- Pay super on Carer Payment, working with Carers Australia to develop a system that recognises unpaid caring work as contributing to retirement savings.
- Formally recognise the economic value of unpaid care work, which is disproportionately performed by women, and ensure this work is reflected in economic and social policy planning.

Pay equity and transparency

- Extend gender pay gap reporting to businesses and public sector employers with 50 or more staff, helping drive transparency and accountability.
- Support selected union proposals for wage increases to address the gender pay gap and protect against real wage cuts, particularly in undervalued sectors.
- Enforce policies to eliminate the gender pay gap by ensuring equal pay for work of equal value, including structural changes across undervalued and feminised industries.
- Work with any future government to secure additional revenue to fund these initiatives.

Tax income support

Double the low-income super tax offset by raising the cap to **\$1,000** and the income threshold to **\$45,000**, helping more women and part-time workers build super.

What are **The Greens** promising?

Parental leave

- Expand Paid Parental Leave to 52 weeks, allowing families to share care more equally over a full year.
- Increase the “use it or lose it” component for secondary carers to encourage shared parenting responsibilities and make it fairer for LGBTQI+ couples.
- Include superannuation payments on Paid Parental Leave to help close the retirement savings gap.
- Expand eligibility to make the scheme more accessible to a wider range of families.

Support for First Nations communities

The Greens support economic justice for First Nations peoples through reparations and policies that recognise the economic impact of colonisation. They advocate for structural changes that centre First Nations voices and support self-determined economic development.

Supporting LGBTQI+ communities

Provide funding and support for LGBTQI+-led businesses and services as a way to strengthen community economic participation.

Support for disabled women

- Increase the Disability Support Pension to ensure a liveable income that reflects the higher cost of living for disabled people, particularly disabled women.
- Ensure the NDIS is properly funded and supports access to services that enable economic participation.

Supporting diverse communities

- Strengthen employment protections and promote inclusive workplaces to increase job opportunities for diverse people.
- Support access to inclusive education and training pathways that reduce barriers to education and subsequent employment opportunities for diverse communities.

The policies

Labor

- Building Australia's Future
- Building Australia's Future: Labor's Commitment to Women
- Labor Women's Budget



The Coalition

- Our Plan to get Australia back on track
- Our Plan to address family and domestic violence



The Greens

- Greens politics: Election platform
- Gender equality and empowerment of women
- Disability rights and services
- LGBTQIA+ Australians
- First Nations



Lippy

Lippy is an adjective often prescribed to women who ‘back talk’ and are seen as cheeky, insolent or disrespectful. Lippy in this context is also a play on words about the lip service often paid to women’s safety.

Hannah Fearnside is a lawyer, a Master of Public Policy student at ANU and GIWL Research Affiliate who runs Lippy Agenda, a women’s safety accountability project that aims to platform family, domestic and sexual violence advocacy asks, monitors campaign promises for women’s safety and keeps the next parliament accountable.

You can find out more about the project by following [@lippy_agenda](https://www.instagram.com/lippy_agenda) on Instagram.



**Read all our research on gender
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