



Thank you senator Nick for the kind invite.

Rainbow Communities Tasmania (RCT Inc.) is a self-determined, principal advocacy organisation that assists LGBTIQ+ people to work for change in situations that oppress them. This work is at a personal, local, regional, national and international level. We would be grateful for your assistance to address issues at a national and international levels.

Tasmanian independent senator, Andrew Wilkie is renowned for his assistance, as are senators Penny Wong, retired senator Catryna Bylk, and senator Carol Brown.

Following are the issues we would like to meet with you to discuss or refer to at the meeting next Saturday. Pat Shaw, whose intersex son has represented intersex issues through RCT Inc. will represent our organisation and our current issues at the BBQ as follows:

- RCT Inc. has an LGBTIQ+ representative committee working on behalf of people who have discrimination issues in education and health; we are referring people to Working It Out.
- Transgender and intersex issues regarding these people's preference and rights to transition and respect, acknowledgment and celebration for their choice.
- Multicultural and LGBTIQ people who have experienced compounded racism in organisations. We have assisted many people through the *Office of the Tasmanian Anti-discrimination Commissioner and Tribunal* to resolve their issues and affect change in the discriminating organisations.
- RCT Inc. is working in the 76 countries that execute, imprison, persecute and torture LGBTIQ+ peoples, by visiting them and supporting their asylum passage with respect to the *UN Asylum Convention* and the articles referencing LGBTIQ+ peoples. There is a significant problem in the visa area regarding certain countries and protection visas. We are working with the human rights and racism commissioners. *Mala Crew*, barrister and president of the *South African Freedom Association*, has been very helpful in this area of representation, alongside *Sajini Suma*.

- RCT Inc. is also working with LGBTIQ+ migrants/asylum seekers who have reached Australia but are controlled by their expatriate countries in respect of anti-gay discrimination in their countries, which is illegal in Australia e.g., arranged marriages, conversion therapy, genital mutilation, etc. We are represented on local government multicultural committees, but have difficulties with the *Multicultural Council of Tasmania (MCOT)* and expatriate countries' representative organisations. These difficulties led to the physical bashing of two of our committee members at a recent MCOT meeting, which the Tasmanian Police are currently investigating.
- LGBTIQ+ prisoners before the courts or in prison. We have an arranged protection code that is being disregarded and is leading to bashings of our people in Tasmanian prisons.
- We have an arranged program of LGBTIQ+ support at local level Councils; worryingly, with the change of councillors over time, our *Coming Out Proud Program (COPP)* is losing direction.

These are some of the issues Nick, and there are a range of elected representatives and their staff including yourself who have provided us with excellent support, but the issue of co-ordinated representation in Canberra is a bit of a mystery to us.

We were members of Parliamentary Friends of the LGBTIQ in Parliament and went to Canberra on a number of occasions, but now this arrangement seems to be inactive. This is a very important area of knowledge. RCT Inc have a special connection with the Tasmanian Community Engagement Unit and Sergeant Phil Burton.