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LGBTQ AWARENESS AND INCLUSIVE SERVICE DELIVERY

The HNECC PHN – The PHN





ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We recognise the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, their experiences, cultures, languages and practices, and the richness of their contributions to the places where we work, live and play.

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet,

We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging, and extend our respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people attending today. • Ask ME questions you wouldn't/shouldn't ask anyone else

• No wrong questions – respectful curiosity is wonderful

• We all have different lived experiences and beliefs be careful who is listening

Suicide

Service

Call Back

- Some of this may be a bit uncomfortable
- Your EAP provider
- ACON Pride Counselling
- Lifeline: 13 11 14 (24-hours)
- QLife: 1800 184 527 (3pm-midnight)
- Suicide Call Back Service: 1300 659 467 (24-hours)
- Beyond Blue: 1300 22 4636 (24-hours)

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(a) if o

Beyond Blue

Assistance • Y

Safe Space

Aim Staff

- Explain why LGBTQ inclusion is important to an organisation
- Explain the differences between sex, gender identity, gender expression and orientation
- Outline some of the unique challenges faced by LGBTQ people
- Respond to some of the common views questioning the need for inclusion initiatives
- Overview of the barriers to accessing care and health disparities related to LGBTQ communities
- Understand the role that Staff play in creating a more inclusive culture

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Trans and Gender Diverse Health **Equity** (TransHub) HIV Prevention (a[test] testing service, peer workshops) **HIV Support** (Newly diagnosed workshops, peers support counselling, retreats, care coordination, home-based care, meal service) **Sexual Health** (screening, workshops) Mental Health (Counselling) **Preventative Health** (Smoking & cancer screening) **Disability** (QueerAbility - NDIS Toolkit)

Alcohol & Drugs (NSP, Substance Support Counselling, Rovers) **Regional Services** (Offices in Newcastle & Lismore, regional outreach) Safety & Inclusion (Historical violence, legal advice, Welcome Here) Domestic & Family Violence (Say it Out Loud) Ageing (Community Visitor Scheme, Community Support Network. LOVE Project) **Pride Inclusion Programs** Pride Training (training for professionals)

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Who are we?

Established in 2010	NFP member organisation	300+ members	National reach	Public and private sector
Transition support services	Training / Consulting	policy, procedure & practice review	Benchmarking (HWEI)	Pride in Practice annual conference



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We don't have a problem here - no complaints

Sexual orientation – not relevant here

We treat everyone the same

We don't have enough LGBTQ service users

We are raising one group above all others

Biology is only man or woman

Is it really necessary?

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So why is LGBTQ inclusion important?

Sexual orientation and gender identity...

Apply to us all Are at the core of who we are But some people are asked to or feel like they have to keep this hidden

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So why is LGBTQ inclusion important?

Remove LGBTQ barriers to services Reduce LGBTQ health disparities Inclusion normalises discussion and visibility of sexuality and gender

Get personalised and personcentred care

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References: 1-1000 Intel Integrates: Parke Intelnet: - Veltering inclusional and Ital. - 2014 Intelnet. - 20





- Not everyone is the same
- One solution wont work for everyone
- Treat everyone as individuals
- Must be in place
 before it is needed

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LGBTQ inclusion is:	LGBTQ inclusion is not:
About behaviour	About beliefs
Providing awareness	Changing personal values
Inclusive	Exclusive
Demonstrating organisational and service values of inclusion across all diverse groups	Valuing one diverse group over another
Creating a safe and caring environment	Tolerating behaviours that are damaging to individuals
Creating an inclusive culture for all LGBTQ people regardless of whether or not they verbalise if they are LGBTQ (disclose)	Forcing people to come out or disclose

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Inclusion



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"Diversity is being invited to the party. **Inclusion** is being asked to **dance**."

Verna Myers

Belonging is dancing like no one is watching!

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Sex Characteristics, Gender, Expressions & Sexual Orientation

Sex Assigned at Birth	Gender	Gender Expression	Sexual Orientation
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Male	Man	Masculine	Women		
HETERONORMATIVE BINARY					
Female	Woman	Feminine	Men		

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Sex Characteristics, Gender, Expression & Sexual Orientation

Sex Assigned at Birth	Gender Identity Gender Expression Sexual Orientation Intersex Variations
Male	Man Intersex people are born with physical sex characteristics that do not fit medical norms for female or male bodies. We are a hugely diverse population, with at least 40 different underlying traits
Female	known to science. Intersex variations can become apparent at many different life stages, including prenatally through the use of genetic screening technologies, at birth and in early childhood, at Woman puberty, and later in life – for example when trying to conceive a child – IHRA
Intersex Variations	Intersex Human Rights Australia – www.ihra.org.au Intersex Peer Support Australia – www. isupport.org.au

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Legal Sex Classification



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Binary Genders

- Man/Male
- Woman/Female

Non-binary Gender - someone who is not exclusively male or female.

This includes people who have:

- No binary gender at all (e.g. sit entirely outside of male or female)
- people who have some relationship to binary gender, such as some trans feminine and trans masculine people.

Some people might identify across binary and non-binary genders.

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Gender

Gender Experience

Cisgender – Person who identifies their gender as the same as the sex that was assigned to them at birth

Transgender & Gender Diverse

- Transgender and

Gender Diverse - people who identify their gender as different to the sex that was assigned to them at birth

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Sex Characteristics, Gender, Expression & Sexual



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Sex Characteristics, Gender, Expression & Sexual Orientation

Sex Assigned at Birth	Gender	Gender Expression	Sexual Orientation
Male	Man	Masculine	Other
		Androgynous	
Female	Woman	Feminine	Same
	Gender Experience		
Intersex Variations	Cisgender / Transgender		

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Gender Expression



wellbeing of Australian LGBTQ communities



Would a man in a skirt, stockings or heels be considered masculine in Australia today?

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Sexual Orientation

Straight - Someone who identifies as a male who is predominantly attracted to women or someone who identifies as a female who is predominantly attracted to men and they have a sexual and/or intimate relationship.

Lesbian - Someone who identifies as a female who predominantly has romantic, sexual and/or intimate relationships with other women.

Gay - Someone who identifies as a male who predominantly has romantic, sexual and/or intimate relationships with other men.

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Sexual Orientation

Bisexual - Someone who is attracted to some people of their own gender and some people of a different gender.

Queer - an umbrella term used to be inclusive of anyone whose gender and/or sexual orientation does not fit within the 'norm'. A reclaimed slur.

Pansexual - Someone who is attracted to others based on different attributes regardless of gender or sex.

Asexual - term used by people not sexually attracted to anyone.



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Best Practice Note:

- Let people describe themselves
- "What does that mean to you?"



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Which acronym is right?

People with diverse genders and sexualities

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Most LGBTQ people have good health and are resilient and diverse

- Part of every demographic/community
- Draw strength from within community
- Pride & inclusion creates positivity and good mental health
- Have loving relationships



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What we know - 2022

- 20% increase in productivity of staff who are out at work
- 20% of LGBTQ postponed or cancelled care because they thought they wouldn't be accepted

HEALTH + WELLBEING EOUALITY INDEX

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- Popular culture
- Society/politics
- Invisibility
- Lack of data/research
- Systems designed for majority

- Staff not trained
- Gendered services
- Lack of suitable forms
- Past experiences
- Confidentiality

INDIRECT BARRIERS

DIRECT BARRIERS

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How would you address this person?

How about now?



What is your Gender? F/M?

BE SPECIFIC about what you need to know and why your asking!



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LGBTQ

INCLUSIVE PERSON-CENTERED SERVICE PROVISION MODEL

Supporting organisations to be educated and trained in LGBTQ inclusive service delivery





The power of inclusion...



Using a transgender youth's chosen name at work, at school, with friends, and at home: *



Strauss et al, 2017

Bauer et al 2015

Russell et al, 2018

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MENTAL HEALTH



- **60% diagnosed with depression** at some point in their life
- **47% suffered from generalized anxiety** disorder
- 42% had considered suicide in the last 12 months
- **75% considered suicide** ever in their life
- **5% attempt at suicide** in the last 12 months (14% trans men 11% trans women) compared 0.4% general pop.

• Rates of Illicit drug use among LGB people is higher than heterosexual people.

• Methamphetamine:

- 6 x higher Gay and Bisexual men
- 3 x higher Lesbian and Bisexual women
- 3 x higher Trans & Gender Diverse people.
- Trans & Gender Diverse people 2x more likely to use Illicit drugs

• Cocaine:

- 3.7 x higher Gay and Bisexual men
- 6 x higher among Lesbian and Bisexual women.
- Alcohol use is higher among LGB people than the heterosexual populations.

ATAGDSHS 2018 & AIHW 2017





- Discrimination and stigma
- Experienced trauma
- Loneliness and Social Isolation
- Closeted
- Inequitable treatment
- Older gay, and bisexual men experience mental health distress 1.42 X higher than heterosexual men.
- 1.35 X higher for older lesbians and bisexual women compared to older heterosexual women
- Lack of staff education.



AGEING



Hughes, M. (2016).

- LGBTQ people are less likely than the general population to attend Cancer screening
- 66% of LBQT women 40 years and older had ever had a mammogram. However, 55% were overdue - more than two years ago, 30% never had a mammogram or were not sure if they had been screened.
- Barriers with access to gender affirming healthcare
- Gay and Bisexual men and Trans women have higher rates of anal cancers (higher in HIV positive men)



PREVENTATIVE HEALTH





TRANSGENDER PEOPLE

- **5 times** more likely to be diagnosed with depression
- **3 times** more likely to be diagnosed with an anxiety disorder.
- **18 x** more likely to attempt suicide
- Almost half had attempted suicide
- 7 / 10 people have been subjected to discrimination
- 6.5 x more likely to self harm
- Less likely to disclose their trans experience to a GP
- Under screened for cervical, prostate, breast/chest cancers
- **3 x** more likely to use an illicit drug



TRANSGENDER PEOPLE

- Inadequate access to gender affirming treatments
- **30%** report being threatened with violence
- 19% report being physically attacked
- **64%** report modifying behaviour due to fear of discrimination
- 22% report housing instability/homelessness
- **41%** report employment issues
- 69% report transphobic discrimination

First National Mental Health Study, 2013; A Closer Look At Private Lives 2, 2015; Trans Pathways, 2017



Homelessness



- Rejection by family and the community

 main driver of homelessness in
 LGBTIQA youth
- LGB respondents were at least **twice** as likely as heterosexuals to experience homelessness.
- Almost ¼ had ever experienced homelessness and 11% in the past year
- 26% reported homelessness was related to their identity
- LGBTI elders are 7x more likely to live alone and 60% don't know where to go for assistance or information about housing.

Staying home: A youth Survey report on young people's experiences of homelessness 2020. Writing themselves in 4: 2021 Out of the Close, Out of Options; older LGBTI people at risk of homelessness. 2020

- 1 in 3 LGBTQ people experience violence from a partner, ex-partner or family member.
- LGBTQ people are just as likely as people in the general population to experience DFV.
- LGBTQ people are less likely to find support services that meet their specific needs.

SayitOutLoud.org.au AnotherCloset.com.au

DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE



Disability Support



- **39%** of WTI4 identified as having a disability or long term health condition
- LGBTQ people with a disability have TWICE the rates of anxiety and distress than LGBTQ people without.
- LGBTQ people with a disability are more likely to experience VIOLENCE than the broader population of people with a disability which is already higher than the general population
- TGD people 3-6x more likely to be autistic than cigender people

Writing Themselves in 4 – La Trobe 2021 More than Ticking a Box Deakin 2020 Elevated rates of autism other neurodevelopmental and psychiatric diagnoses and autistic training in TGD individuals, Warrier et al 2022

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Be Informed:

- Attend training sessions
- Talk to LGBTQ people
- Read LGBTQ research
- Measure your inclusion

EQUALITY





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Acknowledge **LGBTQ** Days of Significance

WE SUPPORT HEALTH + WELLBEING SERVICE PROVIDERS TO BE INCLUSIVE www.prideinhealth.com.au



Be Part of the Solution:

- Talk about pronouns
- Advocate for inclusive language
- Take a stand against slurs, jokes etc
- Call out non-inclusive processes

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Use correct pronouns



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Provide inclusive options

We know some great LGBTQ inclusive support groups if you are interested....

My name is Claire. I use She/her pronouns. How would you like me to refer to you?

> How would you like me to refer to you body?

Who is your next of kin or who do you turn to for support?

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Be Visible:

- Promote yourself as an ally
- Wear a pin, lanyard, flag
- Share your ally story
- Celebrate days of significance

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health being

Measure your inclusion

- Benchmarking index
- Staff survey
- Client survey
 - Free
 - National
 - Confidential
 - Close 1 Feb





How well would you rate your LGBTQ inclusive service provision?



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Claire Allen

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Videos:

https://youtu.be/M4KjyDYLSVI

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q5-7t_qBw14

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