

We take pride in our LGBTIQ+ communities

Celebrating diversity in our community

As a community health service, we welcome and value diversity. We have zero tolerance for discrimination on the basis of sexuality, sex or gender. LGBTIQ+ health and equity is our priority.

You're welcome at our service

Our community health service is proud to support and provide care for all lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and gender diverse, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ+) staff, clients and communities.

We are committed to making our services welcoming, safe and respectful for everyone.

We know that health service environments can at times be uncomfortable or challenging. All community members to have the right to receive the best health care.

We are continually working to make our services more welcoming and inclusive for LGBTIQ+ people.



Stock photo posed by models

We all have unique healthcare needs

Many people choose not to share information about their sexual orientation, gender or intersex variations when accessing healthcare services.

However, there may be times when your care provider can provide you with more suitable care by knowing this information about you, should you wish to provide it.

If you feel comfortable about being open with your providers, this can help us avoid making assumptions about your needs.

Talk to your health professional or find out more information by visiting <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/rainbowequality>

Life can impact on your health

Your health can be affected by what is happening around you. This can include age, work, where you live and your relationships and supports. Some examples include:

- Many ageing community members have experienced the effects of long-term invisibility or discrimination.
- Confronting sexuality or trans and gender diverse issues can be challenging for young people.
- You might be being bullied or harassed at school.
- Social isolation or exclusion from family and friends can cause anxiety and depression.
- Family or intimate partner violence or sexual assault can erode feelings of self-worth.

Talk to us if you need some support.

We are not all the same.
But we all deserve equal
healthcare.

LGBTIQ+ health and equity
is our priority.

Discrimination affects health

We recognise that experiencing discrimination negatively impacts a person's health and wellbeing.

You don't have to deal with discrimination alone. Talk to us if you need support and we may be able to connect you, your family or carer to:

- counselling services
- local support groups or networks (for individuals or families and carers)
- other appropriate services
- online support.

In Victoria, it is against the law for someone to discriminate against you because of your sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or lawful sexual activity.

Find our more information by visiting the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission
<https://www.humanrights.vic.gov.au>

Confidentiality and disclosure

Your privacy and safety is our priority.

You have the right to a confidential health service, and any issues you discuss with us about your sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex variations remain confidential.

Talk to us – your feedback matters

We are always looking for ways to improve services for the LGBTIQ+ community.

We welcome feedback from LGBTIQ+ community members about any part of our service.

Talk to our staff, or go to our website to provide confidential feedback, or get involved and work with our service as a consumer, family member or carer of an LGBTIQ client to further improve our services.

Support services

- Better Health Channel
<<https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au>>
- Bisexual Alliance Victoria Inc
<<http://www.bi-alliance.org>>
- LGBTI National Health Alliance
<<https://www.lgbtihealth.org.au>>
- Living Positive Victoria
<<https://www.livingpositivevictoria.org.au>>
- MindOut
<<https://www.lgbtihealth.org.au/mindout>>
- Minus 18
<<https://www.minus18.org.au>>
- Monash Health Gender Clinic
<<https://monashhealth.org/services/gender-clinic>>
- Parents of Gender Diverse Children
<<https://www.pgdc.org.au>>
- QLife
<<https://qlife.org.au>>
- Rainbow eQuality
<<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/rainbowequality>>
- Rainbow Families
<<https://www.rainbowfamilies.com.au>>
- Rainbow Health Victoria
<<https://www.rainbowhealthvic.org.au>> (previously known as GLHV)
- Royal Children's Hospital Gender Service
<<https://www.rch.org.au/adolescent-medicine/gender-service>>
- Safe Schools
<<http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org.au>>
- Switchboard
<<https://www.switchboard.org.au>>
- Thorne Harbour Health (formerly Victorian Aids Council)
<<https://www.thorneharbour.org>>
- Transgender Victoria
<<https://tgv.org.au>>
- Val's LGBTI Ageing and Aged Care
<<https://www.latrobe.edu.au/arcshs/health-and-wellbeing/lgbti-ageing-and-aged-care>>
- YGender
<<https://www.ygender.org.au>>
- Zoe Belle Gender Collective
<<https://zbgc.org.au>>

To receive this publication in an accessible format email: partnerships.primary@dhhs.vic.gov.au

Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne © State of Victoria February 2021 (2102906)
Available at <<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/primary-and-community-health/community-health/pride-lgbtiq-inclusive-practice-resources>>
ISBN 978-1-76096-334-7 (pdf/online/MS word)