



Statement of Commitment

Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender, Intersex & Queer (LGBTIQ)ⁱ

Background

Ballarat Community Health (BCH) recognises and celebrates the diversity of our community, and works in partnership with the community to create opportunities and supportive environments that empower all people to develop and maintain optimal health and wellbeing.

BCH is proud to have been awarded Rainbow Tick accreditation in 2017 and strives to continue to provide services to the LGBTIQ community that are responsive, appropriate, safe and inclusive. This commitment has been demonstrated through a number of existing initiatives, including the establishment of a Trans and Gender Diverse Clinic.

BCH welcomes legislation and policy initiatives that reduce discrimination and provide protection of individual rights for LGBTIQ community members. Similarly, we condemn any legislative or policy changes that would restrict or diminish these rights and protections.

LGBTIQ communities face a range of barriers to attaining good physical and mental health, including discrimination and isolation, and are less likely to access health services than the general population. BCH is a committed ally and advocate, shining a light on specific challenges and opportunities, and amplifying community voices. In recognition of this, BCH makes the following commitment to our communities, our stakeholders, and our staff.

Our Commitment

BCH will work with local LGBTIQ communities to ensure that systemic and social inequities that perpetuate discrimination and create barriers to good health and wellbeing are identified and addressed, both within our service and the broader community.

BCH will provide responsive, appropriate, safe and inclusive services for LGBTIQ community members, and actively seek client feedback to continuously improve.

BCH will implement a systematic approach to delivering inclusive services, as per the standards set out below, which form part of the 'Rainbow Tick' a National Accreditation:

1. Organisational capability
2. LGBTI cultural safety
3. Professional Development
4. Consumer Consultation and participation
5. Disclosure & Documentation
6. Access and Intake processes

Further information about our services can be found at www.bchc.org.au

ⁱ LGBTIQ is the term that has been used in this commitment statement. Some other terms used in community include LGBTI, LGBTIQ+, LGBTIQA or LGBTIQQA+. The variants include dropping the Q for Queer or Questioning and adding A for Asexual with the + sign used by people who feel none of the specific letters apply to them but equally do not identify as heterosexual. In this statement LGBTIQ is intended to cover all of these terms.