



Statement of Commitment to

Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender and Gender Diverse, Intersex, Queer or Questioning, Asexual and More (LGBTIQ+) People

Background

LGBTIQ+ is an abbreviation for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex, asexual and more. These terms are used to describe a person's sexual orientation or gender identity. We acknowledge that there are many, less common terms and identities not included in this list that are equally as valid, and many people have different meanings or even words they prefer depending on the age, background, culture, or experience of the person using them.

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 and may have health needs arising from a history of discrimination and exclusion.

A respectful and welcoming environment enables positive engagement and the best health outcomes for all.

In providing services to people who identify as LGBTIQ+, recognition of orientation (if so disclosed) is important, as is respect for the individual.

Our commitment

Ballarat Community Health (BCH) recognises, respects and celebrates the diversity of our community including the LGBTIQ+ community as a whole.

BCH will provide responsive, appropriate, safe and inclusive services for LGBTIQ+ community members, and actively seek client feedback to continuously improve. This includes only collecting information relevant for the service being delivered and only using the information collected for the purpose intended, consistent with Australian Privacy Principles and the Victorian Health Records Act 2001.

BCH seeks to achieve improved health and wellbeing for all people and strives to continue to provide services to the LGBTIQ+ community that are responsive, appropriate, safe and inclusive. This commitment has been demonstrated through existing initiatives, including our ongoing regional partnership in the Trans and Gender Diverse in Community Health Program. BCH will continue to seek and advocate for funding for services that improved the health and wellbeing LGBTIQ+ community and to contribute to the evidence-based research outcomes on service needs and benefits.

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.

BCH is a committed ally and advocate, shining a light on specific challenges and opportunities, and amplifying community voices and working 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. We support policies and initiatives that advance the rights and well-being of the LGBTIQ+ community.

BCH is actively working towards creating a safe and inclusive environment, where staff and clients within the community feel valued and respected for all. To do this we are working to eliminate discrimination, harassment and unconscious bias through our learning & development framework. By providing these learning opportunities, we can build a more informed environment. We are also ensuring that our policies and procedures reflect our commitment to inclusion.

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