

## **Leading Health Organisations call on the Royal Commission into Victoria’s Mental Health System to Consider LGBTI Mental Health**

27 June 2019 – All lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and gender diverse, and intersex (LGBTI) people deserve to live happy and healthy lives, and to enjoy the benefits of a mental health system that is respectful, safe, affirming and supportive.

The life experiences of LGBTI people are diverse and the majority of LGBTI Victorians are happy and content. However, a range of mental health outcomes are known to be associated with experiences of marginalisation, discrimination, stigma, violence and abuse.

Community-controlled LGBTI organisations, and experts in LGBTI health, have identified significant gaps in service delivery and policy frameworks that support the mental health of LGBTI Victorians.

This Royal Commission into Victoria’s Mental Health System represents an opportunity to make real change.

We, the undersigned, stand in support of LGBTI communities, and call upon the Royal Commission to address these gaps as a matter of urgency.

**We call for the complete de-pathologisation of people with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and sex characteristics. Difference is not a defect.**

**We call for the protection and promotion of human rights of LGBTI people, including the right to bodily integrity and autonomy for trans and gender diverse and intersex people. Human rights are non-negotiable.**

**We call for greater government investment in more general and specialist community-controlled and mainstream LGBTI mental health services, including in-person, phone-based and bed-based services.**

**We call for specialist family services to support people coming out or transitioning and their families.**

**We call for a comprehensive review of data gathering infrastructure, including coronial data, to better capture rates of mental health outcomes and suicide in LGBTI communities.**

**We call for greater inclusion and safety of LGBTI people within the general mental health system, supported by organisational accreditation and whole-of-workforce training.**

SIGNED BY:

Thorne Harbour Health

Rainbow Health Victoria

Switchboard Victoria

Access Health and Community

Cobaw Community Health Services

Northside Clinic

Alcohol and Drug Foundation

cohealth

Peninsula Health

Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association

DPV Health

Prahran Market Clinic

Australian Health Promotion Association

EACH

Public Health Association of Australia

Australian Medical Students Association

Equality Australia

Queerspace

Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association

Gateway Health

Rainbow Network

Australian Psychological Society

Headspace

Royal Australasian College of Physicians

Ballarat Community health

HEY Partners

SANE Australia

Black Dog Institute

Life Without Barriers

Star Health

Brophy Family Services

Lifeworks

Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association

Chronic Illness Alliance

Mental Health Australia

VicHealth

Mental Health Victoria

VincentCare

Merri Health

Your Community Health

Mind Australia

National LGBTI Health Alliance

Nothern District Community Health

