



LGBTIQA+ Actions in 2023

Supporting inclusive, respectful, compassionate health services for all LGBTIQA+ Tasmanians.



WORKING TOGETHER

The Department of Health (DoH) LGBTIQA+ reference group met in March, July and November to discuss and work on actions. There were also presentations on current research and issues.

The reference group includes:

- people from the Department of Health, including the Secretary
- people from key LGBTIQA+ organisations
- community members.

The actions shown in this report are from the workplan of the reference group.

DoH is working with other agencies and the community on a *LGBTIQA+ Action Plan*.

Department of Health representatives marching in the TasPride parade, Feb 2023.



LEARNING AND INFORMATION

The rollout of the DoH LGBTIQA+ Inclusive Healthcare learning resources continues as a key action.

3968 people have done the module since it was developed. This includes 368 people outside the Department (such as students /other workplaces).

People share what actions they will take after doing the module. Many people also go to the webpages for more stories and data.

A staff LGBTIQA+ Inclusive Healthcare Portal started in May. The portal gives staff easy access to information and resources to support our LGBTIQA+ community.



CHAMPIONS NETWORK

In 2023, an LGBTIQA+ Champions Network was set up. Anyone in the Department can be part of this.

Champions:

- promote learning
- talk with their teams
- share information.

Champions get support and training. In 2023 there were sessions: 'What is Intersex?' and 'Diving Deeper – ways to be inclusive' from Working It Out.



Michelle Towle, Health Promotion Consultant, North West and LGBTIQA+ Champion at Pride in the Park, Ulverstone, Nov 2023.



DATA COLLECTION

Work goes on to make our complex health systems more inclusive. Some changes have already been applied, including the way our patient information system captures personal information and relationships.

We have also been preparing for new technology. This is to make sure our new systems are ready to collect and present sex, gender and relationship information following the set standards.



MENTAL HEALTH

Rethink 2020 is the State's mental health plan. In 2023 DoH funded WIO to engage a consultant to look at what an LGBTIQA+ specific mental health service could look like.

Under the Reform Agenda for the Alcohol and Other Drug Strategy for Tasmania, the DoH funds peer navigators from Working it Out. The experienced peers give free information and help LGBTIQA+ Tasmanians to understand, find and use mental health services.

DoH also supported the Working it Out peer support buddy program. This is part of the *Tasmanian Suicide Prevention Strategy 2023-2027*.

For more information contact:
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