

Media Release

Improving the health and wellbeing of LGBTI people

WA Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA) has committed to doing all it can to improve the health and mental health of LGBTI (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex) people, in a recently issued [position statement](#).

The evidence overwhelmingly confirms that the social exclusion, discrimination, stigma and marginalisation experienced by LGBTI people increases the risk of adverse impact on their health and mental health and creates barriers to accessing health and social care services.

WAPHA's three core principles are to:

- Commission services that improve inclusion and healthcare access for our LGBTI communities;
- Value and celebrate diversity within our community and affirm the right to equality, fairness and decency for LGBTI Western Australians; and
- Ensure our workforce reflects the diversity within the communities it serves to provide better insight into policy and program development and the achievement of improved service outcomes for the community.

WAPHA's chief executive officer Learne Durrington says it is now widely recognised that LGBTI people experience significantly worse mental and physical health outcomes when compared with the wider community.

“WAPHA's aim has always been to improve health equity for Western Australians, particularly for people at risk of poor health outcomes. The current environment of debate has promoted us to develop a definitive position and approach to health and wellbeing issues impacting LGBTI people.

“Everyone involved in caring for the health of LGBTI people should pause and think about how they can improve their understanding of the issues and respond sensitively and effectively,” Ms Durrington said.

WAPHA is supporting its staff, commissioned service providers and others such as GPs and allied health professionals to promote better understanding and responsiveness to the needs of the LGBTI community and remove the barriers they face in accessing health care

Resources for health professionals

Fact sheets and the position statement are available to [download here](#).

Media contact

Fiona Clark, Corporate Affairs Adviser - 0437 563 735 - fiona.clark@wapha.org.au