

Purpose

Family Planning Alliance Australia (FPAA) is a national peak body in reproductive and sexual health. FPAA promote advances in public health through policy insight and advocacy, and represent leading health and education agencies across Australia. FPAA recognises that compared to the general population, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer or asexual (LGBTIQA) people in Australia experience poorer levels of health and wellbeing across a range of health indicators. Discrimination based on sexuality, sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex status results in LGBTIQA people facing barriers to accessing healthcare and other services.

FPAA recognises that heteronormativity, discrimination and social exclusion have detrimental effects on the health, well-being and safety of LGBTIQA individuals and communities. FPAA is committed to acknowledging and redressing the negative discrimination that is directed both intentionally and inadvertently towards LGBTIQA people.

This Position Statement aims to ensure:

- a coordinated approach is taken by FPAA in advocating for sexual and reproductive health rights of LGBTIQA people
- FPAA is a culturally safe and inclusive organisation for LGBTIQA workers and clients
- FPAA acknowledges the unique roles of community-based organisations and groups which have direct links with LGBTIQA communities.

FPAA recognises the leadership and expertise of LGBTIQA organisations such as the National LGBTIQ Alliance, national peak health organisation in Australia. FPAA seeks the input of specialist LGBTIQA organisations and works alongside these services in meeting the purpose of this Position Statement.

Background

FPAA recognises and respects diversity of sex, gender, bodies and sexual orientation and/or expression. FPAA also recognises that people define their identity in many different ways, which can change over a person's lifetime. While some people will identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer or asexual (LGBTIQA), other people will not and may use a range of other terms to describe their sexuality, gender, relationships, bodies, identity and/or experience. FPAA also acknowledges that there is diversity across other factors such as age, culture, disability and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status within LGBTIQA communities.

FPAA recognises that terminology has the power to both include and exclude members of LGBTIQA communities and that language is changing and can be very personal and specific to the individual. Even the use of the acronym LGBTIQA is not intended to exclude other bodily, sexuality and gender diverse people. There are many excellent resources which provide an overview of language and terminology, for example, *Including You: A Practical Guide to Engaging with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer (LGBTIQ) Communities and Developing LGBTIQ Inclusive Services*.⁽¹⁾

FPAA is committed to advocating for high quality services for LGBTIQA people, the right of LGBTIQA people to access to a full range of health services and to live their lives free from discrimination, marginalisation, stigma and social exclusion.

Family Planning Alliance Australia Position

FPAA believes:

- Healthcare systems should provide equitable access and outcomes irrespective of sexuality, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or intersex status
- Healthcare professionals should provide inclusive, culturally relevant and safe, quality services to LGBTIQA people

FPAA will strive for LGBTIQA communities to access inclusive, culturally safe services by:

- seeking to understand the challenges faced by LGBTIQA people to ensure FPAA approaches address the diverse need of community members
- working in partnership with individuals, groups and organisations to promote the sexual health rights of LGBTIQA people and to build culturally safe and inclusive organisations for LGBTIQA workers, clients and visitors
- calling for the Australian Government to implement policies to minimise health inequalities experienced by LGBTIQA communities
- advocating for the government to implement more inclusive policies, practices and programs which lead to greater consideration of sexuality, sex, body and gender identity issues
- supporting meaningful and appropriate collection of data that captures LGBTIQA populations at a national level and within health and social services to better understand the needs of LGBTIQA people in the health system

This Position Statement has been endorsed by the National LGBTIQ Alliance(2), the national peak health organisation in Australia working to improve the health and wellbeing of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people, and for sexuality, gender and bodily diverse people and communities.

References

1. Including You: A Practical Guide to Engaging with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer (LGBTIQ) Communities and Developing LGBTIQ Inclusive Services https://dhs.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/37071/Including-You-Guide_FA-web.pdf
2. National LGBTIQ Health Alliance: lgbtihealth.org.au/



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Family Planning Alliance Australia has taken every care to ensure that the information contained in this publication is accurate and up-to-date at the time of being published. As information and knowledge is constantly changing, readers are strongly advised to confirm that the information complies with present research, legislation and policy guidelines. FPAA accepts no responsibility for difficulties that may arise as a result of an individual acting on this information and any recommendations it contains.

Other State / Territory sexual health and family planning organisations



Western Australia
SHQ (Sexual Health Quarters)
shq.org.au



Northern Territory
Family Planning Welfare
Association of NT
fpwnt.com.au



South Australia
SHINE SA
shinesa.org.au



Queensland
True
true.org.au



ACT
Sexual Health and Family
Planning ACT
shfpact.org.au



New South Wales
Family Planning NSW
fpnsw.org.au



Victoria
Family Planning Victoria
fpv.org.au



Tasmania
Family Planning Tasmania
fpt.asn.au