

LGBTI Taskforce - Health & Human Services Working Group

Communiqué – Meeting Two

On Friday 20 April, the LGBTI Taskforce - Health and Human Services Working Group held its second meeting for 2018.

Key areas of discussion for the Working Group included:

Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing

DHHS tabled information on the upcoming Nanyubak Yapaneyeputj – Aboriginal LGBTI Retreat scheduled for 18-20 May 2018.

The department's Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Branch will seek input from representatives of the LGBTI Taskforce and Working Group in supporting delivery of Strategic direction 5.2.5: Improve outcomes for Aboriginal LGBTI people of *Korin Korin Balit-Djak*: Aboriginal health, wellbeing and safety strategic plan 2017-2017. The work is expected to commence soon and will build on the structures and outcomes of the retreat in May 2018.

Review of Rainbow eQuality

Rainbow eQuality, an online guide to assist mainstream health and community service agencies to adopt LGBTI inclusive practices, was launched by the department in June 2016. The guide supports services to identify and adopt inclusive practices and become more responsive to the health and wellbeing needs of LGBTI individuals and communities.

The department is undertaking a review and update of the guide in 2018. This work will be supported by the Working Group. The department will also be looking at ways to strengthen the functionality and promotion of the guide

It is anticipated that the revised guide will be launched in August 2018.

Hospitals Forum 2018

DHHS is working alongside Alfred Health and other hospitals in the planning and delivery of the Hospitals Forum 2018, which has been confirmed for Friday 29 June 2018 to be held at the Alfred Hospital.

The delivery of the hospitals forum will also sit alongside the review of Rainbow eQuality and current input into future developments of the Hospitals Statement of Priorities and Policy and Funding Guidelines. One of the intended outcomes of the forum is the establishment of a community of practice for health service staff and practitioners and provide opportunities to meet with others and discuss LGBTI best practice, and approaches taken across different services.



Trans and Gender Diverse Service System Development Project

Representatives from Australian Healthcare Associates (AHA) presented on the key findings in the draft Final Report of the departments *Development of trans and gender diverse services in Victoria*.

In discussion with the Working Group, AHA identified the need for standardised data collection and strengthening of data collection systems as priorities.

The importance of co-production as well as co-design, and ensuring that trans and gender diverse people are engaged as clinicians in the delivery of services to the community has been identified as a priority. Co-design principles have been strengthened following feedback received on the Key Directions and Discussion Paper.

The department will receive the Final Report in early May 2018.

Intersex Policy and Resource Project

The department provided an update on developments with the Intersex Policy and Resource Project, noting that the development of the *Decision Making Principles for Health Services* is the next component of this work.

LGBTI Homelessness

A representative from the department's Homelessness and Accommodation and Support Unit presented on *Victoria's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Plan*. As part of Action Plan, the key areas identified are:

- Early intervention to prevent homelessness
- Providing stable accommodation as quickly as possible
- Support to maintain stable accommodation
- Effective and responsive service system

An Advisory Committee is being established to sit across the implementation of the Action Plan. Expressions of Interest will be sought in the formation of this committee.

The Working Group identified the need for the plan to address trans and gender diverse inclusive practice for service providers, noting work that is being undertaken by Launch Housing, Melbourne City Mission, Vincent Care along with a pilot project being initiated in West Melbourne by the department and Family Safety Victoria.

Future Planning

The Working Group discussed the upcoming release of *Safe spaces, inclusive services: service access and engagement by LGBTIQ Muslims* by Multicultural and Social Cohesion division of the Victorian Government. LGBTI multicultural and multifaith be included on the agenda for the next meeting of the Working Group.

A joint meeting of the Health and Human Services and Justice Working Group is scheduled for 1 June 2018

Next meeting

Joint meeting of the Health and Human Services and Justice Working Group – Friday 1 June 2018
LGBTI Health and Human Services Working Group - Friday 15 June 2018.

