



To: secondactionplan@dss.gov.au

Dear Minister Plibersek, Minister Gallagher and Assistant Minister Kearney

**Second Action Plan for the *National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children, 2022-2032*:
key considerations for LGBTIQA+ communities**

I write in my capacity as Victorian Commissioner for LGBTIQA+ Communities to support inclusion for LGBTIQA+ communities in the Second Action Plan.

Ending gendered violence is one of the most pressing challenges facing Australia. Gendered violence is sustained by gender inequality, rigid gender norms and cultures that excuse, minimise or normalise violence. These same forces can also manifest as homophobia, biphobia and transphobia and contribute to violence experienced by LGBTIQA+ people.

LGBTIQA+ inclusion should therefore not sit at the margins of the Second Action Plan. It should be embedded across prevention, early intervention, response and recovery.

The Victorian Government's approach is guided by [Pride in our future: Victoria's LGBTIQ+ strategy 2022–32](#), [Free from Violence: Victoria's strategy to prevent family violence](#), the Third Action Plan [Until every Victorian is safe](#), and [Everybody Matters: Inclusion and Equity Statement](#).

Drawing on my role, engagement with LGBTIQA+ communities and organisations across Victoria, and the evidence emerging from my work, I encourage the Australian Government to consider the following priorities in developing the Second Action Plan.

1. Build genuine choice into the family, domestic and sexual violence system

- LGBTIQA+ victim survivors and their families of choice and origin need access to a genuine range of safe and appropriate responses. This includes sustainable community controlled and specialist LGBTIQA+ services, alongside inclusive mainstream and place based services.
- Mainstream family violence systems can remain structured around a binary understanding of women as victim survivors and men as perpetrators. The reality of LGBTIQA+ people's experiences is more complex.
- Inclusion therefore requires more than recognition or awareness raising. Services need the capability, eligibility settings, workforce development and resources necessary to respond effectively to LGBTIQA+ people.

2. Embed intersectionality throughout prevention and response

- LGBTIQ+ people are not a homogenous population. Many experience intersecting forms of discrimination and disadvantage relating to gender, race, disability, age, geography, migration status, socioeconomic circumstances and other factors.
- The Second Action Plan should recognise these intersections in its design, implementation, data collection and evaluation.
- Particular attention should be given to trans women, including trans women of colour, who can experience compounding forms of gendered violence, stigma and discrimination.

3. Strengthen responses for LGBTIQ+ children, young people and families

- LGBTIQ+ young people can experience family violence and abuse within families of origin, and are disproportionately represented in out of home care and youth homelessness services.
- There is an opportunity for greater national investment in early intervention that helps families create safe and accepting homes for LGBTIQ+ children and young people.
- Most parents want to love and support their children. Some, however, need support to navigate external pressures, including from families, communities or faith environments. Parents should not be placed in a position where they believe they must choose between supporting their child and belonging to their faith or community.
- Some headspace services are already providing parent support groups on an unfunded or ad hoc basis. A national program or grants stream supporting families of LGBTIQ+ young people warrants consideration.
- There is also a need to strengthen understanding of LGBTIQ+ young people's experiences of family violence across systems, including within the federal family law system.

4. Address significant gaps affecting bi+ communities

- There remains a lack of services and interventions tailored to bisexual and other bi+ people.
- This is particularly concerning given evidence of high rates of family, domestic and sexual violence experienced by bi+ women, while stigma surrounding bisexuality can create additional barriers to disclosure and help seeking, including for bi+ men.
- The Second Action Plan provides an opportunity to ensure bisexuality is visible within research, prevention, service design, workforce development and responses to violence.

5. Strengthen responses to sexual violence

- Australia needs a stronger and more integrated response to sexual violence, including violence affecting adolescents and young people.
- As this work develops nationally, LGBTIQ+ inclusion should be built into its foundations rather than added retrospectively. This includes prevention, specialist response, workforce capability, data and research.

6. Include gay, bisexual, trans and other LGBTIQ+ people in work with people who use violence

- There is also an important opportunity to strengthen LGBTIQ+ inclusion within Men's Behaviour Change Programs and the broader perpetrator intervention system.
- At the same time, gay and bisexual men can themselves experience men's violence.
- In Victoria, we have seen significant tech facilitated abuse, harassment and hate motivated offending directed towards gay and bi+ men through dating apps. Evidence provided to the [Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into anti-LGBTIQ+ hate crimes](#) reinforces the importance of connecting violence prevention with efforts to challenge homophobia, biphobia, transphobia, misogyny and rigid gender norms. This includes:
 - ensuring violence prevention and early intervention programs explicitly challenge anti-LGBTIQ+ prejudice and rigid gender norms, particularly programs reaching boys and young men;
 - strengthening action to protect young people from harmful online content and algorithmically amplified hate; and
 - improving digital literacy and safety resources for parents and carers, schools and community leaders.

7. Invest in specialist capability and evidence

- LGBTIQ+ specialist organisations are frequently expected to provide secondary consultation, workforce development, policy expertise and advocacy without sustainable funding for this work.
- A nationally effective system requires specialist LGBTIQ+ capability to be treated as essential infrastructure.
- There also remain significant gaps in research and data, particularly concerning trans and gender diverse people and people with intersex variations. The Second Action Plan should identify and invest in closing these evidence gaps.
- Victoria has developed resources and approaches that could inform national implementation, including [MARAM assessment tools developed for trans and gender diverse communities](#), [Rainbow Health Australia's work with refuge and family violence services](#), and [Transfemme's practitioner resources](#).

I encourage the Australian Government to ensure the Second Action Plan:

- explicitly embeds LGBTIQ+ communities across prevention, early intervention, response and recovery;
- funds both specialist LGBTIQ+ services and the capability of mainstream services;
- strengthens responses for LGBTIQ+ children, young people and their families;
- addresses the particular experiences of bi+ people, trans and gender diverse people and people with intersex variations;
- incorporates LGBTIQ+ people into sexual violence and perpetrator intervention reforms; and
- invests in the research, data and specialist infrastructure necessary to measure progress.

Ending violence against women is everyone's responsibility, including gay, bisexual, trans and intersex people. Many of these people have also experienced different forms of gendered violence. These are not competing concerns. Challenging misogyny, rigid gender norms, homophobia, biphobia and transphobia is part of the same work of building a society free from violence.

Thank you for considering these matters as the Second Action Plan is developed. My office would welcome the opportunity to provide further advice, including a summary of relevant evidence and recommendations arising from the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into anti-LGBTIQ+ Hate Crimes.

Thank you for your consideration of the matters outlined above.

If you would like to discuss these matters or continue the conversation, please reach out to me via email at lgbtqacommissioner@dffh.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Joe Ball
Commissioner for LGBTIQ+ Communities
9 September 2026