

LGBTIQ Health Leaders Call for LGBTIQ Specific Findings and Recommendations in the Productivity Report into Mental Health

Dear Commissioner

Thorne Harbour Health and Rainbow Health Victoria welcome the Productivity Commission's interim report into mental health, and note its inclusion of LGBTI people as a population with specific needs.

As leaders in LGBTIQ mental health, we strongly urge the inclusion of LGBTI-specific findings and recommendations in the final report. These findings and recommendations are critical if we are to build upon the evidence provided, as well as highlight the unique experiences of LGBTIQ people and the social and systemic factors driving poorer mental health and suicide rates.

Meaningful action is urgently needed. Priority must be placed on recommendations that urge:

- Increased ongoing funding and improved access to community-controlled LGBTIQ mental health services¹
- The meaningful inclusion of LGBTIQ inclusion and safety in broader service design and workforce development strategies, including LGBTIQ-led training of mainstream mental health services
- Peer programs supporting both LGBTIQ people and their families
- An LGBTIQ mental health prevention strategy to end the structural inequality, stigma and discrimination that continues to drive poor mental health and increased risk of suicide
- Improved existing data gathering frameworks to better capture LGBTIQ mental health and experiences accessing services.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact:

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Regards,

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¹ 'Community-controlled' organisations are run by and for particular communities.