



Safer Together:

A guide to the rights and protections for LGBTIQ+ people in Australia and lutruwita/Tasmania



LGBTIQ+ refers to diverse gender and sexual orientation, and innate variations of sex characteristics. Scan the QR code or visit www.agmc.org.au/resources-support/lgbtiq_terminology to learn more about LGBTIQ+ terminology in your language.

In Australia, it is against the law to treat someone unfairly or badly because of their sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or sex characteristics. Racism and xenophobia are also unlawful. Unfortunately, these types of discrimination can still happen despite the laws.

This guide provides an overview of legal protections, where to access support and how to make a complaint if you are discriminated against.

Australian and Tasmanian legal rights and protections:

1. It is unlawful to discriminate because of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, innate variations in sex characteristics, race and others. These protections are covered by the Anti-Discrimination Act 1998 (Tas), the Human Rights (Sexual Conduct) Act and the Sex Discrimination Amendment Act 2013.
2. Adults in same-sex and opposite-sex relationships have equal rights as 'de facto' couples. They have the right to register a relationship, marry and have children by birth, adoption and surrogacy. These rights are covered by various laws including the Relationships Act 2003 (Tas), the Adoption Act 1988 (Tas), and the Marriage Amendment Act 2017.

LGBTIQ+ Ally

- Allies are people who may not identify as LGBTIQ+ themselves but who support and stand up for the LGBTIQ+ people in the community.
- This could be you, supporting your family and friends to access help, or standing up for them when they face discrimination.
- It's crucial for everyone to educate themselves about the issues and challenges faced by LGBTIQ+ people and work towards being active supporters.

Support to make a complaint:

- You can report discrimination to Equal Opportunity Tasmania.
- Migrant Resource Centre Tasmania (statewide) and
- Working It Out (statewide) can also support you to make a complaint regardless of your visa or migration status.

Support services:

Working It Out: free information, support and advocacy services for all LGBTIQ+ people and their families. Statewide. www.workingitout.org.au

Equal Opportunity Tasmania: administers the Anti-Discrimination Act (Tas) for anyone living in or visiting Tasmania. www.equalopportunity.tas.gov.au

QLife: anonymous and free LGBTIQ+ peer support and referral for people across Australia. QLife can use an interpreter. All people can access QLife regardless of visa and migration status. www.qlife.org.au

LGBTIQ+ Police Liaison Officers: provide private advice and support to LGBTIQ+ people on crimes and offences, and ensure reports to police are appropriately acted upon. www.police.tas.gov.au/what-we-do/lgbti-liaison-officers

Tasmanian Refugee Legal Service: provides legal support to anyone within Tasmania wanting to apply for a protection visa based on being LGBTIQ+. www.trls.org.au

Migrant Resource Centre Tasmania: provides confidential settlement support for individuals, families and young people. www.mrctas.org.au

This program is supported by:

