



Statement of Commitment to our Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer (LGBTIQ) Community

INTRODUCTION

The City of Port Phillip has a stated commitment to the promotion of a fair, just, tolerant and inclusive community.

In recognition of this, and the significant lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) population within the City of Port Phillip, the Council has drawn up a Statement of Commitment to the LGBTIQ community.

The Statement of Commitment supports and recognises the contribution of the LGBTIQ community to economic, cultural and social development in the area. It also supports community and cultural development of LGBTIQ in the City of Port Phillip, and upholds their right to full access to all the services the City has to offer.

The Statement of Commitment springs from a long standing awareness by this city and its predecessors of the LGBTIQ community. In acknowledgement, Council hosted a community forum in May 1996 which was attended by members of the LGBTIQ community representing resident, cultural, community development and business interests.

This Statement of Commitment was one outcome of this Forum.

BACKGROUND

The LGBTIQ Statement of Commitment is built upon four major themes articulated at the Forum:

1. Establishment of the City of Port Phillip as a model council through its policies and strategies to promote inclusiveness of the LGBTIQ community.
2. Funding support by Council for LGBTIQ cultural and community support programs.
2. Provision by Council of facilities - performance/rehearsal space, events and office facilities.
4. Access to Council services, particularly for people with HIV/Aids.

CONSULTATION

Identifying and addressing the needs of the LGBTIQ community is an ongoing commitment by the City of Port Phillip. Council is committed to consult with its LGBTIQ community in planning and development of strategy at all times. An advisory committee comprising councillors, staff and members of the LGBTIQ community was established in 1996 to undertake research and consultation for the development and review of Council policies and strategies which are inclusive of the needs of the members of the LGBTIQ community.

The advisory committee's primary task is to ensure that a policy of inclusiveness is maintained in all areas of Council activity including: communications/community relations; human services; library services; arts and cultural development; and economic development.

SUPPORT

The City of Port Phillip offers tangible ongoing support for the contribution of the LGBTIQ community to the cultural and economic life of the City. The Statement of Commitment reflects the philosophy of the City of Port Phillip regarding its LGBTIQ resident and business population.

The Statement of Commitment pledges:

- The Council's policies and strategies are designed to promote inclusiveness of the LGBTIQ community.
- Council will, at all times, ensure access for LGBTIQ to the City's services and administration.
- Council supports the community and cultural development of LGBTIQ.
- The Council supports and recognises the contribution of the LGBTIQ community to the social, economic and cultural life and ongoing development of the City of Port Phillip.