

Promoting the Safety of Same sex Attracted, Intersex and Gender Diverse Children and Young People

Within Victoria and at the Commonwealth level, it is illegal to discriminate against a person based on their sexual orientation, inter-sex status or gender identity e.g. *Sex Discrimination Act 1984* (Cth). Promotion of the safety and wellbeing of young people including those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) is addressed in the:

- Victorian Child Safe Standards
- National Catholic Safeguarding Standards
- National Principles for Child Safe Organisations

Catholic communities, including parishes and schools, are religious contexts in which the Catholic Church welcomes persons and families from a wide variety of backgrounds and diverse experiences. Given the different kinds of domestic environments in which members of the Catholic community live, it is important to retain the long-standing Christian commitment to welcome and hospitality, so that all people with whom we interact can be free of humiliation, exclusion and abuse of all kinds.

A national study on sexual health and wellbeing indicated that same-sex attracted and gender questioning young people found that:

- 61% of LGBTI young people reported experiencing verbal homophobic abuse
- 18% reported physical homophobic abuse
- 69% report other types of homophobia, including exclusion and rumours

Hillier et al 2010

USEFUL RESOURCES

There are a range of useful resources available in the community to help inform and support the safety and inclusion of children and young people who identify as LGBTI.

Catholic Education Melbourne provides useful definitional information and key considerations in relation to supporting children and young people.

Policy 2.30 Sexual Orientation

Website: <https://www.cem.edu.au/About-Us/Policies/Sexual-Orientation.aspx>

Intersex Human Rights Australia is an independent support, education and policy development organisation, by and for people with intersex variations or trait.

website: www.ihra.org.au

Youthbeyondblue provides information, resources and support for young people dealing with depression and/or anxiety.

phone: 1300 22 46 36 (24 hours, 7 days)

online chat: www.youthbeyondblue.com (3pm–12am)

Headspace (National Youth Mental Health Association) provides in person, online and telephone support and counselling to young people (12–25 years)

The Archdiocese of Melbourne is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children, young people and vulnerable adults.

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phone: 1800 650 890

website: <https://headspace.org.au>

REFERENCES

Hillier, L, Jones, T, Monagle, M, Overton, N, Gahan, L, Blackman, J & Mitchell, A 2010, *Writing themselves in 3: the third national study on the sexual health and wellbeing of same sex attracted and gender questioning young people*, ARCSHS.



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