



1 March 2023

Federal commitment to 10-year LGBTIQ+ Health and Wellbeing Action Plan is life-saving

LGBTIQ+ Health Australia (LHA) today welcome Federal Government commitment to a 10-year national action plan for LGBTIQ+ health and wellbeing, alongside an LGBTIQ+ Health Advisory Group and \$26 million for health research.

“This Action Plan will save lives. It is a crucial advance in addressing the serious inequities LGBTIQ+ people experience in health outcomes,” said LHA Chief Executive Officer Nicky Bath (she/her).

LGBTIQ+ people have poorer health outcomes than the broader community, particularly in regard to mental health and suicide, some cancers, and alcohol and other drugs use. LGBTIQ+ people are less likely to access health services due to experiences of stigma and discrimination.

For LGBTIQ+ people who are also part of other marginalised groups, these health inequities can be compounded by racism, ageism, ableism, and other forms of discrimination.

“A 10-year plan developed with input from an LGBTIQ+ Health Advisory Group will give government a blueprint for change. It is a foundation for improved policies, interventions and approaches to achieve equitable health and wellbeing outcomes,” Bath said.

Although LGBTIQ+ people have been identified as a priority population in many national strategies, for many years the disparities in health and wellbeing outcomes have persisted or worsened.

“New research funding is an essential component of the Government’s announcement. Current data collection does not accurately or adequately count LGBTIQ+ people and communities,” Bath said.

“Without adequate data and research, LGBTIQ+ communities are left out of health policy and program planning. This investment will help build adequate and effective research to guide public health policy and the Action Plan.

“LHA calls for this new investment to deliver much needed funds for the key LGBTIQ+ health and wellbeing research initiatives *Writing Themselves In* and *Private Lives*, which provide essential insight into ways government can improve access to services free from discrimination and stigma.

“Ahead of the 2022 federal election, LHA called on the major parties to commit to a 10-year National LGBTIQ+ Health and Wellbeing Action Plan. We are excited that the new Labor Government is providing vital leadership to deliver this plan for action and change and we look forward to working in partnership with the Government to deliver better health and wellbeing for all LGBTIQ+ Australians.” Bath said.

MEDIA CONTACT:

Nicky Bath, Chief Executive Officer

Pronouns: She/Her

Mobile: 0432 328 706 | Email: nicky.bath@lgbtiqhealth.org.au