

10 SEPTEMBER 2024



TRANSCEND - TRANS AND GENDER 101

Transcend Australia is a service provider and community support organisation that systemically advocates for improvements to systems and services so that the future for our youth is stronger and healthier. Transcend Australia works to uphold the rights of trans, gender diverse and non-binary young Australians and to support their families.

Elle Void is the Service Coordinator at Transcend Australia and a proud trans woman. With a decade of experience supporting and advocating for trans individuals, Elle has excelled in roles spanning support, service access, healthcare, health promotions, education, and project management. She is dedicated to creating trauma-free spaces as well as spaces for both personal and professional debriefing.

Register via the link or send an email to Loddon.communitypartnerships@dffh.vic.gov.au

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3 OCTOBER 2024



HEADSPACE - HEY DIVERSITY SUPPORT AND SAFE SCHOOLS

Maree Dixon is a registered life and career coach, who currently works as the HEY (Healthy Equal Youth) Diversity Worker at headspace Bendigo, specifically working with LGBTQIA+ young people and their families. She has been working in this area for the past 6.5 years and is very passionate and dedicated to her role, advocating for the community, promoting awareness through educating the wider community, being supportive of LGBTQIA+ rights and defending them against discrimination. With her lived experience, Maree has run a parent/carer support group for parents of Trans and Gender Diverse Young people for the last 8 years at headspace Bendigo, supporting parents/carers on their journey, as well as weekly diversity groups for LGBTQIA+ young people. She also identifies as part of the LGBTQIA+ community and a proud mum to a young person who identifies as part of the Trans and Gender Diverse Community. In 2023 Maree completed the Victorian State Governments LGBTQIA+ Leadership Program.

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8 NOVEMBER 2024



BODY SAFETY AUSTRALIA - CONSENT AND LGBTQIA+

Lauren French (She/Her) is a proud Karajarri woman who believes that every young person deserves a life filled with respectful relationships and equitable experiences. Lauren is a Sexologist and Head of Education with Body Safety Australia, a not-for-profit organisation specialising in child sexual abuse prevention, LGBTQIA+ equity and inclusivity, consent, and respectful relationships education. Since 2017 Lauren has facilitated hundreds of workshops across early childhood, primary and secondary school spaces with children, educators, and families. She's also the proud recipient of the 2023 Indigenous Achievement award in the 7News Young Achiever Awards (Victoria), was named one of Out for Australia's 2023 30 under 30 winners, and received a 2023 Churchill Fellowship which she has recently returned from.

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3 DECEMBER 2024



THORNE HARBOUR COUNTRY - HIV AND LGBTQIA+ MENTAL HEALTH

Thorne Harbour Country provides support, counselling, rapid HIV testing, resources and information around LGBTQIA+ wellbeing, HIV, Hepatitis C and sexual health across the Loddon Mallee. Operating out of the Community Hub, Thorne Harbour Country provides a safe place for the LGBTQIA+ community to connect and access information resources and referral services. This presentation as part of the Carers Forum Series and will explore the LGBTQIA+ acronym and inclusive practice for those living with diverse genders and sexualities, and HIV.

Damien Stevens-Todd (he/him/his) is the Program Manager and LGBTQIA+ Specialist Mental Health Manager at Thorne Harbour Country based in Bendigo, Victoria and for the past 20+ years he has worked to improve the lives of LGBTQIA+ people living "in the sticks". Damien lives with his husband, Cris, and their 6 year old daughter, Fletcher, in Shepparton, Victoria. Damien is involved in a range of other projects, leadership programs and organisations including OUTintheOPEN Festival and Goulburn Valley Pride in Shepparton, Uniting Network Australia for LGBTQIA+ people, their families, friends and supporters within the Uniting Church in Australia, and many more.

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