

Re: FROCK IT OUT 2020

We're hosting our annual Frock It Out events for 2020. Our events not only helps raise awareness regarding LGBTIQ+ issues and lack of services in our rural community but also provides a platform for our community to come together, celebrate diversity and welcome all community members to enjoy a fun filled event on a significant day.

We're proud to announce that this year's events have two elements to our LGBTI projects. On the 16th May we will be hosting a Dinner & 3 hour Drag show at the Moama Bowling Club, followed by our IDAHOBIT Family Inclusion festival on the 17th May which will be at the Hopwood Gardens / Port area of Echuca.

Our Family Inclusion day will kick off with our first time Fella's in Frock's Dash, this event encourages local businesses, companies and community groups to nominate a male representative to run in our 100 metre Dash, their runner will have the opportunity to fundraise towards their nominated local charity who will take home all funds raised by the runner. This event additionally raises awareness of homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism and transphobia issues that occur in our local community and Australia.

Other community initiatives we are working on are with hopefully with our local schools and kindergarten's to provide decorated bikes to showcase the kid's creativeness around inclusion and community participation. We will have fun friendly activities at the festival such as Monster crocodile inflatables, outdoor wooden games area, information tables, Keep in Touch van (KIT), face painting, kids interactive play area, food stalls, live music, and Victorian police vehicle & dog demonstrations. We hope to secure more funding to expand and provide more fun interactive activities to our community who will attend our Family Day.

We hope that more community members take part in all our events in May, we are seeking volunteers, people wanting to help organise the events, sponsors, Dash runners and a huge crowd on Sunday to our Family Day.

Hosting our LGBTI projects/events in the community will provide an opportunity for our townships to have an opportunity to help build a more inclusive community and break down barriers and stigma, we hope to foster a sense of pride, and promote the large amount of diversity we have in our wonderful township. Our events are a welcoming space for everyone, we want to be supporting each other no matter what background, culture, sexual orientation or gender we are. Our events bring people together to celebrate indifference's as a strength not a weakness. We also want to highlight our townships to visitors or prospective visitors that we are inclusive and welcome all people to visit our region of Victoria and New South Wales.

Any funds made from our Frock it our Dinner will help us produce a LGBTIQ+ documentary about identifying as LGBTIQ+ and living in rural communities, this video was inspired by a documentary called LGBTI Seniors Untold Histories, the documentary film directed by Issie Soudy, which explores the lived experiences of senior members of the LGBTI community living in central Victoria. Personal stories detail the struggle for LGBTI rights and acceptance over the last five decades.

I think it would be fantastic to produce this type of film in Echuca/Moama to showcase perspectives from all ages from our LGBTIQ+ community, this would include discussing barriers they may have faced and what its like living in regional Victoria or new south wales. We hope it also highlights their hopes and dreams for their community to be more inclusive and what that may look like. I know personally I would like to see more LGBTIQ+ support services and having an LGBTIQ+ hub or liaison worker here as most support for LGBTIQ+ people are sourced from Bendigo, Shepparton or Melbourne.