

Dear Queers

We are LGBTIQ+ people with intellectual disability.

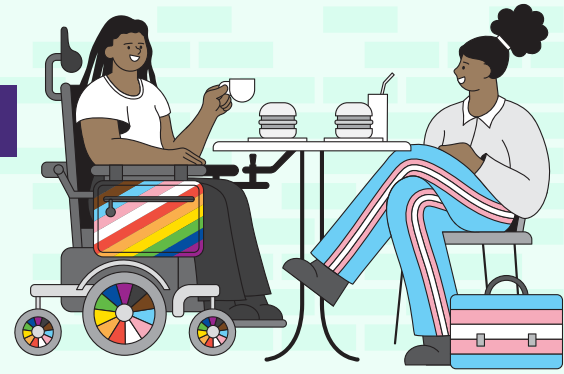
We belong in the LGBTIQ+ community!

Sometimes you only see our disability. You may not realise we are LGBTIQ+ like you. Sometimes we are excluded from LGBTIQ+ events or services. This means we do not always get to be a full part of the LGBTIQ+ community!

We want you to consider everyone who is LGBTIQ+. We are not all the same. Some of us need support so that we can really belong.

We may need you to change the way you do things, so we aren't excluded. But when you do, we can be even more our fabulous selves!

This letter has ways that you can ensure that LGBTIQ+ people with intellectual disability can participate fully.



Include us from the start

We belong, right from the start. Make sure we are on your boards, committees, and reference groups. Find out how you can support our participation by visiting: ***Voice at the Table*** - voiceatthetable.com.au

When we are on your planning committee, make sure that everyone gets the chance to speak and there are notes in easy language.

Make use of our skills and knowledge. Hire people with intellectual disability when you are planning events or looking for artists, staff, or performers and caterers.

Make it clear that people with intellectual disability are welcome. Explain how things will be accessible.



Communicate clearly

Communicate clearly using a range of methods. Learn how to communicate with AAC users. Book Auslan interpreters and make sure you have a budget to pay for them properly.

Provide your information and resources in multiple formats, including Easy English or easy read versions. Include images of us in your promotional material. So we can see ourselves and know that we belong.

Don't make assumptions about our needs, opinions, or identities based on what we look like.

Understand we may need support people with us. When we do, still speak directly to us, not to the people with us.

Speak to us how you want to be spoken to, don't talk down to us.

Make things affordable

Consider whether the cost of your events and services are preventing us from joining you. Provide free entry for carers and support workers, a concession rate, or just affordable ticketing for everyone.



Make spaces accessible

We all need to be able to use a space with ease. Access is a lot more than just getting inside the front door. Ask yourself, can people with disability:

- ? Get to the bar easily? Order a drink?
- ? Go to the toilet?
- ? Understand signs easily?
- ? Use gender neutral toilets?
- ? Get onto the stage?
- ? Move across uneven surfaces like grass?
- ? Move around without people bumping into us if the area is full?
- ? Rest in a quiet space?



The impact you can make

We rely on the LGBTIQ+ community as much as you do – maybe more! Many people do not see our queerness, our gender diversity, our sexuality. Some people who support us are not very LGBTIQ+ friendly. Some people in our lives treat us like we don't know who we are.

But we do know who we are!

We are gay and queer and transgender and lesbian and non-binary and bisexual, just like you. So don't forget us. Don't assume you know who we are because we have an intellectual disability.

We want every LGBTIQ+ person to know that they belong in our LGBTQ+ community.

We want everyone to be their fabulous selves!

What next?

1. Read, use, and share our Rainbow Inclusion website with other LGBTIQ+ people. We have made this as LGBTIQ+ people with intellectual disability, for everyone to share.
[📄 Rainbow Inclusion – **rainbowinclusion.org.au**](https://rainbowinclusion.org.au)
2. Use a range of resources to see how accessible your service is and take action. Check out:
[📄 Voice at the Table – **www.voiceatthetable.com.au**](https://www.voiceatthetable.com.au)
[📄 Arts Access – **www.artsaccess.com.au**](https://www.artsaccess.com.au)
[📄 UnderCurrents – **Accessibility Information for venues and events**](#)
3. Celebrate LGBTIQ+ people with intellectual disability. We're awesome!

Rainbow Inclusion

Your very rainbow and disability friendly place



From LGBTIQ+ people with intellectual disability

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From our hearts, we acknowledge the First People of Australia, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

We show our respects to Elders past, present and future and to Mums and Dads, Aunties, Uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews and family. Brotherboys and Sistergirls are part of the rainbow flag.

For all the self advocates who are people with intellectual disability: Nothing about us without us.