

Lifesavers
withPRIDE



Out on the Fields (2014) undertook research involving nearly 9500 LGBT people and identified the following statistics from its Australian results;

- 80% have witnessed or experienced homophobia in sport
- 75% believe an openly gay person would not be very safe as a spectator at a sporting event
- The most likely location of homophobia is watching sport from the sidelines
- 50% of gay men and 48% of lesbians have been personally targeted in sport
- Of those targeted 85% have heard verbal slurs such as "Faggot" or "Dyke"
- 34% of gay men, and 19% of lesbians have been bullied within their sport
- 80% believe that sport is more homophobic than the rest of society
- 70% believe youth (under 22) team sport is not safe for LGBT people, and
- 80% of young LGBT people are completely or partially in the closet while playing sport, fearing discrimination from players and officials

LWP is actively ensuring that lifesaving is not a contributor to these statistics by working with key stakeholders and administrators.

Lifesavers with Pride is the LGBT advocacy group within the surf life saving community. We represent gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender lifesavers and want to show lifesaving as a welcoming, progressive and inclusive organisation.

We have two goals;

- We want to encourage more LGBT community members to join the lifesaving family, to harness their good will and community spirit, and ensure that lifesaving truly represents the community that it serves, and
- We want to be sure that surf clubs and the organisation itself provides a secure, safe and embracing environment for their LGBT members.

Our goals can only be reached when all our clubs work towards creating an embracing environment, and ensuring that all members of our community strive for our young LGBT members to feel included, valued and welcome. Let's all do our part and be the change we want. The ocean doesn't discriminate, why should we?

   lifesaverswithpride

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Australia's Surf Life Savers not only help and assist all beachgoers, but they also represent all of us through their diversity of members.

Australian lifesaving is an iconic brand that has grown over the years to include women, nippers, cultural diversity, indigenous representation and the LGBT community. So what you see in the red and yellow caps is a reflection of everyone else down on the beach.

Lifesavers with Pride (LWP) works with the national and state offices of lifesaving as well as surf clubs to ensure we are making lifesaving a progressive, inclusive and welcoming organisation for our LGBT members and any potential LGBT recruits.

So why should you join your surf club, and how will your club provide a safe and secure environment? The ocean doesn't discriminate, so why should we?

Surf Life Saving Australia's values include equity, social responsibility and volunteerism. Furthermore an environment is created that values safety and support, caring and camaraderie, trust and teamwork, and respect and responsibility.

Nationally, lifesaving has a *Member Protection Policy* which all clubs operate under. The policy aims to "create a safe fair and inclusive environment for everyone associated with SLS." It also ensures that everyone "is treated with respect and dignity and protected from discrimination, harrasment and abuse." The policy informs everyone of "the standards of behaviour expected." It stresses the commitment "to the health, safety and general wellbeing of everyone involved in SLS."



Our clubs provide strong leadership as an example to others. They welcome people of all genders, ethnicities and sexual orientation, and provide full support to members who chose to identify as LGBT. Clubs will demonstrate their support at functions and events, such as through usage of inclusive language, and challenging any homophobic instances. They will ensure that competitors, trainers, officials and administrators not only represent their club in competition, but their inclusive policies and position at all times.

When competing, our clubs have a robust position on spectator behaviour restricting anti-LGBT name calling or anti-LGBT chants. We want everyone participating to feel included and part of the team, so using LGBT phrases or slurs as an insult or derogatory comment is off limits.

We want to both retain all our current members and grow with new recruits. Using inclusive actions, commentary and events are the best way to show that everyone is welcome, now and always.

INCLUSIVE

PROGRESSIVE

WELCOMING



Each surf club has a range of policies to ensure that all members are treated with respect and dignity. Check that your club has a non-discrimination policy which includes sexual orientation to support the SLSA Member Protection policy. Also check that they have an anti-bullying policy that includes sexual orientation. And ask about your club's grievance procedures should actions occur against existing policies.

All our staff, coaches, officials and administrators are given clear guidance on anti-bullying policies, and non-discrimination frameworks which ensure all members are treated equally and respected

We want you to feel your local club is somewhere you are comfortable as yourself, and not feel the need to remain silent about your sexuality. Somewhere you are valued for being yourself, not someone else you think you should be.

