

LOCAL SOCIAL GROUP COORDINATOR: information sheet

What is it?

Local Family Catch-ups are casual gatherings that take place around Australia, organised and run by dedicated local volunteers supported and promoted by the Rainbow Families team. Meeting other rainbow families in your local area is both a lot of fun and helps break through some of the isolation and discrimination LGBTQ+ parents, carers and their children experience.

Who is it for?

The Rainbow Families social groups are open to all LGBTQ+ parents and their children. We welcome gay dads, lesbian mums, trans/gender diverse parents, and people who became parents through adoption, fostering and/or surrogacy.

What does the Local Social Group Coordinator do?

The Local Social Group Coordinator is responsible for organising the catch up event and being there on the day to set up and greet people. Essentially, you'll set the dates, times and locations for the catch ups (that way you can make them as convenient as possible for you!). It can be as simple as meeting at a park with a playground for the kids. The Rainbow Families team will help you promote the catch up via our website, social media and eNewsletter.

The Coordinator also co-manages, alongside the Rainbow Families staff team, the local area Rainbow Families closed Facebook group. The online group allows people who can't always make it to every in-person catch up to be connected, as well as promote upcoming catch ups.

How much time does it take?

We recommend that the catch ups go for two-hours on a weekend. The frequency of these is up to you - our current groups hold catch ups anywhere from monthly, bimonthly and quarterly. Outside of the catch ups there is some time required to co-manage the Facebook group and communicating with Rainbow Families staff with six weeks lead time the date, time and location of your upcoming catch ups so that they can promote it for you.

What are the requirements?

Our volunteers will identify as LGBTQ+ and will have lived experience of raising children as a rainbow family. Volunteers will also be asked to commit to a minimum of 2 catch ups per year, provide a valid working with children check, and agree to comply with Rainbow Families Code of Conduct, Privacy and Confidentiality Policy and the principles of inclusion, acceptance and diversity.

How do I get involved or get more information?

To become a Local Social Group Coordinator or for more information email info@rainbowfamilies.com.au.



LOCAL SOCIAL GROUP COORDINATOR: catch up checklist

DATE:	
TIME (include start and end times):	
LOCATION:	

Task	Additional Information / Tips	
Choose a date, time and location for the catch up.	<p>We recommend that you choose a time, date and location that is convenient to you - make it easy for yourself!</p> <p>Tip: we recommend that the catch up runs for 2 hours, choose somewhere local to you (like a park) and you choose a weekend day to get more people.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Give Rainbow Families staff the details of the catch up	<p>It is essential that you give Rainbow Families staff the details of your catch up at least SIX WEEKS BEFORE the catch up date so that they are able to promote it.</p> <p>Tip: if you give the team sufficient time your catch up will be included on the website, social media and in the eNewsletter. Rainbow Families may also arrange targeted paid advertising as well as media releases, etc with enough notice.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Remind people of the event in the Facebook Group	Be sure to post about the event in the lead up. Families are busy so the reminders will help parents and carers plan!	<input type="checkbox"/>
DAY OF EVENT: Set up and have fun!	Tip: It's a good idea to arrive a little early to ensure that you get the spot/area that you wanted and so that you are there to greet people. For some, this will be the first time meeting any other local rainbow families in their area, so they might be nervous. Grab their names and as others arrive, introduce them to ensure everyone feels welcomed and included.	<input type="checkbox"/>

General Tips / Suggestions:

- Do yourself a favour and make the catch ups easy: choose a location near your house that your kids like going to, make it a time that suits you and remember to have a start and finish time.
- At the beginning it can take a while to build up regular attendees - don't be disheartened! Choosing a place and time that you and your children enjoy will alleviate disappointment if initial turnout is low. And remember: the Rainbow Families team will help you with promotion!
- Ask your attendees for feedback - was this time / place convenient? Is there a place they'd like to suggest for the next catch up? Informal feedback will help to plan the next one but also make conversation! You can use the Facebook group for this kind of thing too.
- Relax and have fun! There are no expectations - do what you are comfortable with and enjoy meeting other families like yours. You are doing a wonderful thing; bringing people together and creating community.