

26 February 2024

Dr Helen Brown
Deputy Director-General
Clinical Excellence Queensland
Queensland Health

Assoc Prof Catherine McDougall
Chief Medical Officer
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By email: [REDACTED]

Subject: AMA Qld LGBTQIASB+ Working Group

Dear Dr Brown and Assoc Prof McDougall

AMA Queensland has recently formed an LGBTQIASB+ Working Group to promote excellence in LGBTQIASB+ health using a practical and collaborative approach.

AMA Queensland also recently released its Advocacy Priorities 2024-2026 and, for the first time, the LGBTQIASB+ community is identified as a core priority for the organisation.

Initial short to medium term advocacy priorities for the LGBTQIASB+ Working Group include:

- addressing the persistent gap in data on fatal LGBTQIASB+ suicide;
- representation within the principal committees of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC);
- representation with the Australian Medical Council and enhanced education and accreditation standards; and
- consultation and inclusion within all significant health organisations and peak medical bodies.

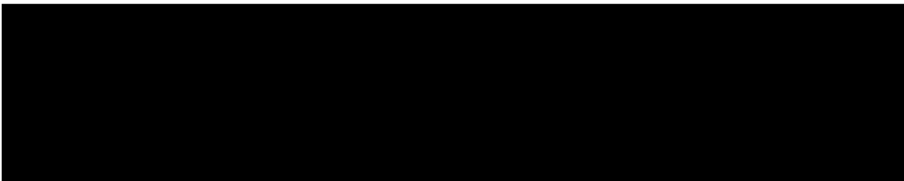
Measuring and responding to the wellbeing and retention of healthcare workers from within the LGBTQIASB+ community must also be a priority for both workforce retention and patient outcomes. It is vital that all healthcare professionals and organisations achieve cultural and technical competence to deliver safe care to this population, including the elimination of knowledge gaps and unconscious bias.

These are significant risks for harm and/or barriers to accessing healthcare services and cause ongoing disadvantage but can be addressed through reasonable and proportionate measures. Developing best practice care requires a sensitive approach, specialised knowledge and skill.

The LGBTQIASB+ Working Group wants to support health leaders and organisations in the fulfilment of their functions for the wellbeing of this diverse part of the Queensland community.

As such, the Working Group would welcome an opportunity to discuss these issues with you further.

Yours sincerely



Dr Maria Boulton
President
AMA Queensland

Dr Brett Dale
Chief Executive Officer
AMA Queensland



Dr Hashim Abdeen
Chair, LGBTQIASB+ Working Group
AMA Queensland