

Media Release

The Hon Martin Foley MP
Minister for Health
Minister for Ambulance Services
Minister for Equality



Sunday, 6 February 2022

TEN-YEAR PLAN TO STRENGTHEN EQUALITY IN VICTORIA

Victoria will strengthen its push for equality, with the release of a landmark 10-year plan to drive inclusion for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and gender diverse, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ+) Victorians.

At the annual Midsumma Pride March today, Minister for Equality Martin Foley released *Pride in our future: Victoria's LGBTIQ+ strategy 2022-2032* – Victoria's first long-term plan for LGBTIQ+ equality.

Victoria has made great progress towards equality in recent years, removing discrimination from legislation, providing strong support for LGBTIQ+ organisations and events and delivering the Victorian Pride Centre, but there is always more to do.

The plan outlines four areas of reform - protecting equal rights and freedoms, making services more equitable, inclusive, and accessible, building evidence to drive decision making and ensuring LGBTIQ+ communities are safe and strong - which will underpin work across all Government services and organisations.

It also includes specific actions Government will take over the next decade to ensure that all Victorians feel safe, are healthy, have equal human rights and can live wholly and freely.

The Andrews Labor Government will kick the strategy off with an immediate \$6.5 million investment to make organisations safer and more inclusive for LGBTIQ+ Victorians, support the health and wellbeing of people with an intersex variation and continue peer support for trans and gender diverse Victorians.

This investment will also include campaigns to tackle discrimination, making sure those who have been long excluded from services and opportunities in the community because of who they are, feel included.

The strategy has been shaped by more than 1,600 contributions from LGBTIQ+ people, organisations and allies.

Progress on the impact of this landmark strategy will be formally tracked and reported over its ten-year lifetime.

Pride in our future: Victoria's LGBTIQ+ strategy 2022-2032 can be accessed at: vic.gov.au/pride-our-future-victorias-lgbtqi-strategy-2022-32.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Equality Martin Foley

"We're proud to stand with Victoria's LGBTIQ+ community in today's Midsumma Pride March, to send a message that in Victoria, equality is not negotiable."

"Every day we will continue to work to improve the lives of people who are part of our rainbow communities – ensuring that all Victorians feel safe and can live freely."

Quote attributable to Victorian Commissioner for LGBTIQ+ Communities Todd Fernando

"Our diverse LGBTIQ+ communities told the Victorian Government what support we needed to live the prosperous lives we deserve. This strategy is evidence that our experiences and ideas were heard and valued."

Media contact: Hannah Jenkins 0403 177 892 | hannah.jenkins@minstaff.vic.gov.au