

Media Release

The Hon Vicki Ward MP

Minister for Emergency Services

Minister for Natural Disaster Recovery

Minister for Equality



Tuesday, 14 October 2025

CONNECTING OLDER LGBTIQ+ VICTORIANS

The Allan Labor Government is supporting older LGBTIQ+ Victorians to stay connected across East Gippsland, Wodonga, Warrnambool and Golden Plains with the appointment of four Regional Coordinators.

Minister for Equality Vicki Ward announced the positions as part of Pride in Ageing, a pilot program led by Switchboard and co-designed with older LGBTIQ+ Victorians. The program will boost visibility, inclusion and wellbeing through local events, peer networks and community partnerships.

The four Regional Coordinators will lead local initiatives to reduce isolation and expand opportunities for older LGBTIQ+ Victorians to feel safe and respected in their communities.

Older LGBTIQ+ Victorians often face barriers to accessing services and experience higher levels of loneliness, discrimination and poor mental health.

This initiative delivers on *Pride in our Future: Victoria's LGBTIQ+ Strategy 2022-2032* as well as the *Ageing Well Action Plan 2022-2025*, prioritising safe, healthy and socially connected ageing for all Victorians.

To get involved or to find out more, visit switchboard.org.au/prideinageing.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Equality Vicki Ward

"In Victoria, equality is not negotiable. We're focused on making sure older LGBTIQ+ Victorians in regional communities can age with pride, strong community and social connections and dignity."

"Older LGBTIQ+ Victorians have a wealth of ideas and experience to share, and I look forward to seeing the thoughts and solutions that come out of this program as it unfolds."

Quotes attributable to Minister for Ageing Ingrid Stitt

"We want to make sure older LGBTIQ+ Victorians not only remain connected members of their own communities but also have services that are safe and welcoming for them."

"All Victorians have a right to safely age in place, maintain their independence and take part in their community."

Quotes attributable to Switchboard CEO Jenna Tuke

"Through a co-design approach, we ensure that the voices and lived experiences of older LGBTI+ people – and those who care for or support them – are at the centre of the design, planning and delivery."