

LGBTIQ+ INCLUSIVE PALLIATIVE CARE

Palliative care services and any health professional who works with people accessing palliative care can become more inclusive for LGBTIQ+ people in the following ways:

01

Consider every person you first encounter, who is seeking to access palliative care, might be LGBTIQ+. Watch how this changes the assumptions you make and the language you use.

02

LGBTIQ+ people are diverse and have different life experiences. There is no 'one size fits all' approach to providing inclusive palliative care.

03

LGBTIQ+ people may never tell you they are LGBTIQ+. Some people will choose not to tell you, and this is their choice. Regardless of what people decide to communicate, creating safe and inclusive palliative care is still essential.

04

LGBTIQ+ may seek support and care from their chosen family rather than their family of origin. LGBTIQ+ people are also more likely to experience social isolation and have less support.

05

Recognise that LGBTIQ+ people have often been stigmatised and discriminated against in a health care settings and this may impact how safe they feel to access care. This may also impact their trust in health professionals and the time it takes for them to seek palliative care.

06

Ensure that any health care forms that you ask people to complete as part of their care, are inclusive of diverse genders, sexualities and bodies. e.g intake forms, assessments, records that include correct pronouns.

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07

Be aware that there may be conflict between a person's chosen family or carer/partner and family of origin, especially around care and treatment decisions.

Recognise and affirm the LGBTIQ+ person's wishes in this space.

08

Support LGBTIQ+ people to understand their legal rights and what is available to them in terms of advance care planning options.

09

Consider your organisation's environment and how LGBTIQ+ people might be able to see themselves in your services e.g. brochures, posters, information.

10

Think about your organisational policies and practices. Are LGBTIQ+ people's rights considered in any way?

Engage LGBTIQ+ organisations to help you review your approach.

11

Have you or your staff members completed any training on LGBTIQ+ inclusive care? Reach out to LGBTIQ+ organisations who are able to provide this education.