International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism and Transphobia

(IDAHOBIT) 2019

Cobaw Community Health, in partnership with Macedon Ranges Shire Council, raised the rainbow flag at the Town Hall in Kyneton today to acknowledge International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT).

An international celebration of sex and gender diversity, IDAHOBIT gives communities the opportunity to come together in a display of unity and support for those who are experiencing discrimination due to their sexual orientation or gender identity. The date, 17 May, was chosen to commemorate the World Health Organisation's decision in 1990 to declassify homosexuality as a mental disorder. IDAHOBIT is celebrated in more than 130 countries, including 37 where same-sex acts are illegal.

The event featured guest speaker Mary-Anne Thomas, MP for Macedon, along with staff from both Cobaw and Macedon Ranges Shire Council who were resplendent in their range of rainbow outfits. They were joined by students from Kyneton Secondary College's Pride Crew and members of the community.

"For an organisation like ours that works closely with young LGBTIQ+ people, it is important that we champion inclusion and work towards a more equal society," says Julie Cairns, Cobaw's General Manager of Community Services. "It is estimated that 75% of LGBTI Australian youth experience some form of discrimination. Prejudice and discrimination can have a significant detrimental effect on the health and wellbeing of people resulting in illnesses such as depression and anxiety."

The rainbow flag was also flown at the Council offices in Gisborne and at the clock tower in Woodend.

ENDS

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