

Did You Know?

- Approximately 9-11% of young people identify as having same sex attractions
- Same sex attracted young people experience higher rates of alcohol and drug use, homelessness, family conflict, difficulties at school and self harming
- SSAIGD young people are at higher risk of experiencing abuse in their communities
- 18% of young people have experienced physical abuse and 61% verbal abuse because of homophobia
- 80% of the abuse occurred at school.
- Young people living in rural and remote areas are less likely to feel safe at school and in the community
- Research shows that discrimination as a result of sexual orientation and gender identity results in higher rates of self harm and suicidality in young people. Rural and remote young people have higher rates than young people in metropolitan areas
- 1 in 50 people might have strong feelings about identifying as a gender other than their birth gender
- 466,000 people in Victoria could be defined as gender diverse

WayOut is funded by the Victorian Government Department of Health under the Healthy Equal Youth (HEY) Project.

To find out more about the HEY Project and the work of WayOut please go to:
www.wayout.org.au



Contacts

Cobaw Community Health Service
47 Forest Street
WOODEND VIC 3442



54 211 666



wayout.org.au



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Embracing Diversity

Working with rural communities to support young people who are same sex attracted, intersex & gender diverse and their advocates





About WayOut

WayOut is a program of Cobaw Community Health Services.

WayOut works in rural communities across Victoria to promote mental health and wellbeing amongst same sex attracted and intersex and gender diverse (SSAIGD) young people.

WayOut works to;

- Develop leadership skills
- Create opportunities for social inclusion and engagement
- Address discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identification
- Raise awareness about the impact of discrimination on young people in rural communities who are SSAIGD

Our Services

WayOut provides a range of services including:

- Providing expertise in engaging with young people who are same sex attracted and sex and gender diverse in rural communities across Victoria.
- Professional training & resources to community organisations and schools.
- Supporting young people to engage with their community through the development of local diversity groups and creating social connections.
- Engaging young people in leadership and advocacy activities such as presenting at conferences and forums, participating in the OUTthere Rural Youth Council & engaging in media and social media.
- Working collaboratively with schools, community organisations and young people to enhance connectedness



WayOut Queer Straight Alliance Model

WayOut operates using a queer straight alliance model.

What is a Queer Straight Alliance Model?

A Queer straight Alliance (QSA) is a social, support and advocacy group established to bring people together to address issues of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender diversity. The aim of the Queer/Straight alliance is to educate the public, promote and encourage acceptance of young people's diversity through discussion and positive action, and to embrace everyone for who they are regardless of gender or sexual identity.

OUTthere Rural Youth Council (RYC)

OUTthere is a working model of a QSA. WayOut supports and facilitates the OUTthere RYC, the first of its kind in Australia. OUTthere aims to engage young people in higher level advocacy and social initiatives.