

Media Release

For immediate release

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Mind Australia welcomes ALP \$2 million commitment to LGBTIQ health

Mind Australia warmly welcomes the Australian Labor Party's election commitment, announced yesterday, to invest \$2 million in a new LGBTIQ health clinic in Northcote in conjunction with local health service provider, Your Community Health (<https://www.pennywong.com.au/media-releases/labor-will-establish-lgbtig-health-clinic-in-northcote/>). We are encouraged by the recognition of the need for dedicated health services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) Victorians.

In our area of expertise, psychosocial disability, an established body of research indicates that LGBTIQ people are at increased risk of a range of mental health problems, including depression, anxiety disorders, self-harm and suicide, due to their experiences of heterosexist discrimination and abuse.

Responding to the high need for LGBTIQ-specific mental health and wellbeing support, Mind has significantly invested in the creation of the Mind Equality Centre, a specialised service in North Fitzroy offering a range of counselling, therapies and support services for the LGBTIQ community.

Mind congratulates Your Community Health in being the designated agency to deliver the proposed service. We welcome the news that the proposed service would work with other local providers to coordinate support for LGBTIQ people and welcome any future partnership opportunities this commitment might provide to expand the delivery and reach of our expertise in improving mental health and wellbeing in the LGBTIQ community.

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