

15 October 2021



To: [info@queenscliffe.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@queenscliffe.vic.gov.au)

To whom it may concern,

**Re: Queenscliffe Council Plan**

The Victorian Pride Lobby welcomes the opportunity to provide a response to the Queenscliffe Council Plan.

The Victorian Pride Lobby is a community based advocacy group that represents lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer and same sex attracted Victorians of all ages, including those who live, study, work and recreate in Queenscliffe. According to the Victorian Population Health Survey, 4.2% of Queenscliffe residents are LGBTIQ+, whom we represent. The LGBTIQ+ community faces particular health and wellbeing issues that should be addressed in the council plan.

In our initial submission, we submitted that Council should:

- work with the community and other levels of government to advocate on and support LGBTIQ+ rights, to challenge discrimination and address disadvantage, and to support access and inclusion of LGBTIQ+ community members - locally, state-wide, and nationally;
- address community aspirations through the development and implementation of an LGBTIQ+ Action Plan; and
- achieve Rainbow Tick accreditation for relevant Council services to support people who are LGBTIQ+ to feel welcome, confident, and safe to access services

Unfortunately, **there is no mention of the LGBTIQ+ community in the draft Queenscliffe Council Plan.**

To address this, we suggest the following:

- under Portfolio 1, Priority 3, insert an additional intended action as follows: "Create an LGBTIQ+ Action Plan that includes achieving Rainbow Tick accreditation for relevant Council services"
- under Portfolio 1, Priority 4, amend the intended action to replace "reduce social isolation in the community" with "reduce social isolation and foster inclusion in the community"
- under Portfolio 5, Priority 4, amend the intended action to replace "input from our community on key strategic matters" with "input from our community on key strategic matters through advisory committees and reference groups"

Through implementing these changes, Council can make sure the community is inclusive, equitable, and welcoming to LGBTIQ+ residents and visitors alike.

We stand ready to work with the Council on implementing these actions. Please reach out to us if you have any questions or would like any support.

Yours faithfully,

Nevena Spirovska and Evie Potter  
**Co-Convenors, Victorian Pride Lobby**