

How to be an Active Ally

An Ally is someone who stands up for, encourages and supports the people around them. In the context of the LGBTIQA+ community, the term ally refers to someone who is heterosexual and/or cisgender, but who tries to make the world a better place for people who identify as LGBTIQA+.

An ally supports equal rights for everyone regardless of race, gender identity, sexuality, religion or cultural background. An Ally calls out discrimination and fights for equality and always strives to stand alongside people who identify as LGBTIOA+.

Being willing to stand up for the community no matter what happens - Michael

Some ways you can be an Ally to the LGBTIQA+ community are:

- Be supportive during someone's identity journey
- Learn about issues that are important to LGBTIQA+ people
- Call out discrimination, bullying and/or ignorance
- Consider resources and materials that show your support
- Be respectful of the terms someone uses

Things Allies should avoid doing:

- Speaking on behalf of LGBTIQA+ people
- Expecting LGBTIQA+ people to answer all your questions
- Make assumptions about people's LGBTIQA+ identity

Where can I go for more Information?

For more information or support with your LGBTIQA+ identity journey, please speak to your VACCA worker. VACCA staff have access to LGBTIQA+ training, resources, referral pathways and can provide you with culturally appropriate and inclusive support.

For information about developing your identity and services that could support you in this process, you can visit Deadly Story - https://www.deadlystory.com/

For information about LGBTIQA+ Inclusion initiatives at VACCA or what else VACCA as an organisation is doing to support the rainbow community, you can contact VACCA's Snr Quality Advisor, LGBTIQA+ by emailing rainbow@vacca.org or visit VACCA's LGBTIQA+ and Inclusion webpage - https://www.vacca.org/page/stories/LGBTIQA-inclusion-at-VACCA

