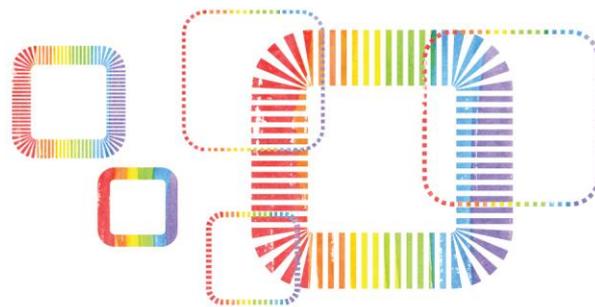


# Diversity in Queensland schools

## Fact sheet for students



## Fact sheet

Every student is welcome in our state schools, which are a reflection of Queensland's communities.

We are committed to providing a safe, supportive and inclusive environment for all students, including those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ+).

The Department of Education supports state schools to respond to the individual needs of all students, ensuring your wellbeing is nurtured and your learning is maximised.

This fact sheet provides LGBTIQ+ students with information about who you can speak to at school when you need assistance. It includes how you can access support from within your school and local community and how to speak up on important issues in the school community.

### Talk to someone

The best way to start thinking about the support you may need to feel safe and supported at school is to talk with a trusted person.

Tell the person how you are feeling, what you might need and ask for their advice.

For example, you may want to start by:

- speaking with your parents or carers
- making a time to talk with your school's Guidance Officer
- talking with a trusted teacher or other staff member who you feel comfortable with.

### Support at school

After talking to a trusted adult, you may want to think about the types of support that could be put in place at school to help you to feel more comfortable and supported.

A good place to start is reading [Diversity in Queensland schools – Information for principals](#) which schools use when supporting LGBTIQ+ students.

This document will give you and your parents or carers information about laws that exist to protect LGBTIQ+ students from discrimination, as well as things that schools can do to support you.

If you can, it would be great to have a conversation with your parents or carers about specific things the school could do to support you and your family.

Maybe you could write a list together based on the topics discussed in the document.



## Meeting with your school

After you and your parents or carers have talked and maybe you have written a list of ways your school could support you to feel more comfortable, your parents or carers or other support person might organise a meeting at your school to talk through how you can be supported.

Your parents or carers or support person will know the best way to do this and can get some tips from [Diversity in Queensland schools – Fact sheet for parents](#).

## School community participation

Diversity in Queensland's student population is celebrated and welcomed.

All students are encouraged to have an active voice in the school community and LGBTIQ+ students are no exception.

All students are welcome to join the schools' student representative group to advocate for and advise on, important issues.

## Other support

Sometimes it is hard to talk to an adult about how you are feeling and what you may need to feel supported.

If you need to talk to someone who is experienced in supporting students who may be having trouble or need some help and advice, you can contact the following organisations at any time:

- [ehespace](#) – an online counselling service that is confidential, free and secure. If you are aged 12 - 25 you can use this service to chat online, email or speak on the phone with a qualified youth mental health professional.
- [beyondblue](#) – providing information about support available to you by telephone, online, or in person.
- [Open Doors Youth Service](#) – counselling and support services for LGBTIQ+ young people aged 12 to 24 and their families who live in South East Queensland.
- [Kids Helpline](#) – a free and confidential counselling service for young people 5 to 25. You can talk to a counsellor on the phone, online or via email.