LGBTI – PRIDE IN LEAGUE

The NRL supports Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) people and are vocal supporters of eliminating discrimination against LGBTI people both on and off the field.

The NRL is proud to participate in the Pride in Sport (PIS) Index; a recently established benchmarking instrument designed to measure and advise on the creation of inclusive and equitable environments for LGBTI players, supporters and participants within participating Australian sporting codes and sporting clubs.

In 2014, the NRL became the first national sporting organisation to join ‘Pride In Diversity’ (PID) – Australia’s only non-profit workplace program aimed at assisting employers with the inclusion of LGBTQI staff.

In 2014, the NRL joined the AFL, Cricket Australia and the FFA in endorsing the PID Anti-Homophobia and Inclusion Frameworks.

In 2015, the NRL participated in the Mardi Gras for the first time.

In 2017, internationally acclaimed music artist, Macklemore, performed at the NRL Telstra Premiership Grand Final. As part of his performance, Macklemore took the opportunity to promote one of the Game’s core values – inclusiveness – via the song, ‘Same Love’.

In 2018, the NRL remains the only National Sporting Organisation to have a float and a significant presence as part of the Mardi Gras and is proud to be in its fourth consecutive year of being part of the celebration and occasion.
In 2018 the NRL continues to provide ongoing training and education support to our elite players and staff members on appropriate and inclusive behaviour amongst one another. Education occurs via a series called ‘Theatre Sports’ – where actors demonstrate real-life scenarios and appropriate ways to act, speak and learn from. Former NRL great, Ian Roberts (who was the first professional rugby league player to confirm publicly he was gay) is one of the actors as part of the Theatre Sports session and helped craft messages regarding homophobia, that form part of the education sessions.

In 2016, the NRL launched the ‘Better Choices’ education program – focussed on educating 16–18 year olds within junior rugby league clubs about the importance of developing and maintaining respectful relationships amongst one another and throughout the community.

**THE NUMBERS**

UP TO

11 in 100

Australians may have a diverse sexual orientation, sex or gender identity.

In 2011, there were 6,300 children living in same-sex couple families. 9 in 10 are in female same-sex couple families.

80% of homophobic bullying occurs at school.

GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER PEOPLE

3x more likely to experience depression.

6 in 10

Experience verbal homophobic abuse.

2 in 10

Experience physical homophobic abuse.

1 in 10

Experience other types of homophobia.

1.7%

Of the children born in Australia are estimated to be intersex.

PERCENTAGE OF LGBTI PEOPLE WHO HIDE THEIR SEXUALITY OR GENDER IDENTITY AT CERTAIN EVENTS

ACCESSING SERVICES 34%

SOCIAL & COMMUNITY EVENTS 42%

WORK 39%

6 in 10

Experience verbal homophobic abuse.

2 in 10

Experience physical homophobic abuse.

1 in 10

Experience other types of homophobia.

TRANSGENDER MEN AND WOMEN EXPERIENCE SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER RATES OF NON-PHYSICALS AND PHYSICAL ABUSE COMPARED WITH GAY MEN AND WOMEN

Percentage of gay and transgender people who experienced verbal abuse in 2012

26% GAY MEN

23% GAY WOMEN

47% TRANSMEN

37% TRANSWOMEN
The NRL’s codes of conduct require all participants (players, parents, coaches, referees, volunteers, spectators and officials) to maintain high standards of personal conduct and to be respectful at all times to LGBTI people.

There are a number of rules, policies and codes that apply across rugby league to assist in delivering a safe, positive and inclusive environment to everyone involved in the game. For more information about the NRL's Member Protection Policy, and National Code of Conduct go to the Rights and responsibilities section.