

Media Release

The Hon Harriet Shing MP
Minister for Housing
Minister for Water
Minister for Equality



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MERGER UNITES KEY COMMUNITY GROUPS ON BI+ VISIBILITY DAY

The Labor Government continues to support LGBTIQ+ Victorians this Bi+ Visibility Day with the merger of two leading organisations – Melbourne Bisexual Network and Bisexual Alliance Victoria – to form Bi+ Pride Victoria.

Minister for Equality Harriet Shing and Commissioner for LGBTIQ+ Communities Joe Ball today visited the Victorian Pride Centre to announce the merger that aims to strengthen support and advocacy for bi+ Victorians, and release Australian-first research highlighting the unique challenges of biphobia and bi-erasure.

The Labor Government invested \$32,000 in the *Victorian Budget 2023/24* to support the merger which marks a key step to advancing the interests of bi+ Victorians, while reducing duplication and expanding regional networks.

Bisexual Alliance Victoria, formed in 2010, has been dedicated to promoting the acceptance of bi+ people within and outside of LGBTIQ+ communities. Melbourne Bisexual Network, formed in 2017, has worked towards improving bi+ Victorians' health and wellbeing through advocacy, education and community engagement.

The nation-leading research released to coincide with the merger highlights the history and impact of bisexual community groups in Victoria while offering insights into the unique challenges of biphobia and bi-erasure, along with the crucial role these groups play in supporting the largest demographic within the LGBTIQ+ community.

Spaces to Be – A History of Bisexual Groups in Victoria is one of the first comprehensive histories of bisexuality in Australia, providing an invaluable overview of bi+ community building and activism in Victoria over nearly 50 years.

The report highlights lived experiences and recommends increased research, along with specific resources and supports for bi+ people, emphasising the critical role of dedicated groups in fostering connection and belonging.

Bi+ Visibility Day, also known as Celebrate Bisexuality Day, is held every year at the end of Bisexual Awareness Week and focuses on celebrating bi+ people and their resilience, diversity and histories, recognising that bi-erasure undermines their identities, experiences and wellbeing both within and outside of LGBTIQ+ communities.

Quote attributable to Minister for Equality Harriet Shing

“Here in Victoria, equality is not negotiable – and the merger to form Bi+ Pride Victoria will deliver and advocate for the issues that affect the bi+ community – highlighted through the nation-leading research launched today.”

Quote attributable to Commissioner for LGBTIQ+ Communities Joe Ball

“Congratulations, Bi+ Pride Victoria, on this important history of bi+ activism in Victoria. This research highlights bi+ people’s ongoing need for connection and community, important protective factors in their health and wellbeing.”

Quote attributable to Spaces to Be researcher Dr Hamish McIntosh

“Despite bi+ Victorians representing the largest population in our rainbow community, they continue to endure high rates of isolation from within and without queer spaces. This report sheds much-needed light on the ways that bi+ people have come together for solidarity and support over the last five decades in the face of this erasure.”

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