

Media release



headspace Orange stands with LGBTIQ+ youth in purple pride

23rd August 2017 – In celebration of Wear it Purple Day 2017, **headspace** Orange, in conjunction with their Youth Reference Group, will be holding a morning tea and handing out purple balloons in support of Orange's young rainbow community.

Wear it Purple was founded in 2010 to show young Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Questioning and Asexual (LGBTIQ+) people across the world that there are people who support and accept them.

Verity Morris, **headspace** Orange Youth and Community Engagement Officer, says the centre's demographic of 12-25 years is a critical period in the development of a young person's character and a time when uncertainty and questioning of gender identity or sexual preference arise.

"Wear it Purple is a great event to visibly support our young LGBTIQ+ community. When dealing with the development of a young person's identity, it is important that we nurture and support them through any hardships they may face."

Morris also believes, given the current political landscape that seeks public debate about gay marriage, now is a critical time to stand together in solidarity with the rainbow young people of the Orange community.

"A report through ACON and the Centre for Social Research in Health¹ has warned that this highly prolific postal vote will spark uncensored, homophobic advertising and promotional materials that are damaging to the mental health of our young LGBTIQ+ communities. We already know that young people with diverse sexuality, sex and gender have significantly higher rates of depression, anxiety, substance abuse, self-harm, suicidal ideation and suicide² than the general public so now is the time to show our support and love to our LGBTIQ+ youth."

Members of the **headspace** Orange Youth Reference Group will be handing out purple balloons along Peisley and Summer Street in support of the LGBTIQ+ youth and to emphasise that they have a safe place to go should they need someone to talk to. Additionally there will be a morning tea at the centre in celebration of Wear it Purple.

Event details:

- 10:30am, Friday 25th August
- headspace Orange, 264 Peisley Street, Orange
- Community members welcome and encouraged to dress in purple

If you are a young person with something going on, please visit www.headspace.org.au/headspace-centres/orange/, drop into the centre at 264 Peisley Street or call 6369 9300.

– ENDS –

About headspace:

Marathon Health is the lead consortium partner for **headspace** Orange, Bathurst, Cowra and Dubbo. **headspace** helps 12 – 25 year olds through a tough time through a national network of over 95 headspace centres and online and telephone

¹ http://www.acon.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Marriage-Equality-Evidence-Review_web.pdf

² <http://lgbtihealth.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/SNAPSHOT-Mental-Health-and-Suicide-Prevention-Outcomes-for-LGBTI-people-and-communities.pdf>

counselling service eheadspace. **headspace** can help young people with general health, mental health, education and employment and alcohol and other drug services. **headspace** was established by the Australian Government in 2006. From 1st July 2016, headspace centres across Australia are now managed by Primary Health Networks. Primary Health Network's receive funding from the Australian Government to support headspace centres

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