

Press Release: The LGBTIQ+ Village Christmas Day Breakfast in the Park

In Australia throughout our lives we are told that Christmas is a special time for everyone. Everywhere we look now there are images and commentary about Christmas and family. For a lot of people, the Christmas period doesn't spark joy or result in fun holidays with family. This can feel very isolating, especially in the LGBTIQ+ communities. For some, this relates to being disconnected from our families of origin, for others it reminds us that our faith or culture can feel foreign and leaves us feeling disconnected form the community we live in.

Karen Field, CEO of Drummond Street and Queerspace, says "It's not uncommon for people who are LGBTIQ+ to find Christmas an intense period, with many being estranged from their family, or dread the idea of seeing family due to being unaccepted or misunderstood because of their sexuality or gender identity. Whatever the reason, we know that we see heightened levels of distress, social isolation and loneliness. It can also be a time of our diverse faith and race communities feeling disconnected from the broader community. This is a breakfast for all LGBTIQ people to come together and feel connected and loved."

Drummond Street Services and Queerspace want to invite all from the LGBTIQ Village to help ease some of the pain heightened during the Holiday season by hosting a big community breakfast for people who are LGBTIQ+ and allies on the morning of Christmas Day. We want people to come together and start the day with friend's families of origin and choice and enjoy the strength of our connections.

If you would like to come or even volunteer and help put this breakfast on, then:

We invite you to join us for a morning of feasting, socialising and fun with the LGBTIQ+ community. Breakfast foods and drinks will be provided. Tuesday December 25th 9.30am-12:00pm (Midday) Flagstaff Gardens If you would like access Drummond St Services contact call us on 03 9663 6733 Are you in crisis? Call Lifeline on 13 11 14.

PO BOX 651 Carlton South 3053 03 9663 6733 enquiries@ds.org.au www.ds.org.au Carlton 100 Drummond St VIC 3053 Collingwood 253 Hoddle St VIC 3066 Geelong Co-located Western Primary Health Network Level 1, 131 Myers St VIC 3220 Werribee Wyndham Medical Centre, Level 1, 242 Hoppers Lane VIC 3030 Outreach locations Whittlesea Brimbank