

**Legislative Council Legal and
Social Issues Committee
Inquiry into anti-LGBTIQA+
hate crimes in Victoria**

May 2026

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

Safe and Equal is based on Wurundjeri Country. We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional and ongoing custodians of the lands on which we live and work, and we pay respects to Elders past and present. We acknowledge that sovereignty has never been ceded and recognise First Nations peoples' rights to self-determination and continuing connections to land, waters and community.

Honouring Victim Survivors

Safe and Equal acknowledges the strength and resilience of adults, children and young people who have experienced family violence and recognises that it is essential that responses to family violence are informed by their expert knowledge and advocacy. We pay respects to those who have not survived and acknowledge the lasting impacts of this preventable violence on families and communities.

About Safe and Equal

Safe and Equal is the peak body for Victorian organisations that specialise in family and gender-based violence across the continuum, including primary prevention, early intervention, response and recovery. Our vision is a world where everyone is safe, respected and thriving, living free from family and gender-based violence.

As a peak, we work with and for our members to prevent and respond to violence, building a better future for adults, children and young people experiencing, at risk of, or recovering from family and gender-based violence. While we know that most family violence is perpetrated by men against women and children, we recognise that family violence impacts people across a diversity of gender identities, social and cultural contexts, and within various intimate, family and other relationships. We apply an intersectional feminist lens in our work to address the gendered drivers of violence, and how these overlap and intersect with additional forms of violence, oppression and inequality.

Safe and Equal would like to thank Zoe Belle Gender Collective (ZBGC) for their time in review and endorsement of this submission:



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Introduction

Safe and Equal welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the Legislative Council Legal and Social Issues Committee *Inquiry into anti-LGBTIQ+ hate crimes in Victoria*. As the peak body for Victorian organisations that specialise in family and gender-based violence, our submission highlights that anti-LGBTIQ+ hate crimes share common drivers with men's violence against women, namely the enforcement of rigid and hierarchical gender norms and efforts to punish and control people whose bodies, identities and relationships do not conform to expectations of cisnormativity and heteronormativity.¹

There is a need for national coordinated policy efforts, as well as sustained investment and strengthened community-led and education-based prevention work. Prevention must be embedded at each level – the socio-structural level and the community level² – to address the shared drivers of violence against women and LGBTIQ+ people, maintain accountability and reduce the disproportionate harms experienced by LGBTIQ+ people and communities.

Anti-LGBTIQ+ hate crimes

Hate crimes are defined as criminal acts targeting persons or groups because of their race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, intersex status, disability, nationality, national or ethnic origin or political opinion.³

Anti-LGBTIQ+ violence is of significant criminological, public health and social justice concern.⁴ There is a growing threat of violence, harassment and intimidation directed towards LGBTIQ+ people in the community, particularly towards trans and gender diverse people.⁵ The recent *Fuelling Hate Report* highlights that between the years 2022-2023, 49.2% of trans people had been subjected to online anti-trans abuse, harassment or vilification.⁶ While the online world can offer sources of information, connection and emotional support for LGBTIQ+ communities, it is increasingly becoming an unsafe and hostile space.⁷ Carlson (2026) identified that targeted technology-facilitated

¹ Carman, M, Fairchild, J, Parsons, M, Farrugia, C, Power, J, & Bourne, A (2020) *Pride in Prevention: A guide to primary prevention of family violence experienced by LGBTIQ communities*, Rainbow Health Australia.

<https://rainbowhealthaustralia.org.au/news/pride-in-prevention-evaluation-guide-launch>

² Ibid.

³ Attorney-General's Department (2026) *Hate crime offences*, Australian Government. Accessed 17 April 2026.

<https://www.ag.gov.au/crime/hate-crime-offences>

⁴ Mitchell, M, Anderson, J, Amos, N, Hill, A, McNair, R, Carman, M & Bourne, A (2025), *Anti-Queer Violence in Australia: An Intersectional Analysis of Victimization Among LGBTQ+ Adults*, *Journal of Homosexuality*, 1-38 doi: 10.1080/00918369.2025.2530133

⁵ Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) (2026) *Equal Identities: A human rights review of the experiences of trans and gender diverse people in Australia*, Sydney: AHRC. https://apo.org.au/node/333905?utm_campaign=Policy-Weekly-01-April-2026&utm_content=apo.org.au%2Fnode%2F333905&utm_medium=email&utm_source=comms.apo.org.au

⁶ Trans Justice Project (2024) *Fuelling Hate: Abuse, Harassment, Vilification and Violence Against Trans People in Australia*, Trans Justice Project. <https://transjustice.org.au/fuelling-hate-report-blog/>

⁷ Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) (2026) *Equal Identities: A human rights review of the experiences of trans and gender diverse people in Australia*, Sydney: AHRC. https://apo.org.au/node/333905?utm_campaign=Policy-Weekly-01-April-2026&utm_content=apo.org.au%2Fnode%2F333905&utm_medium=email&utm_source=comms.apo.org.au

abuse is far more common among marginalised groups, including LGBTIQ+ people and First Nations women.⁸

As the boundaries between online and offline realities become increasingly blurred, online rhetoric *can* and *does* lead to real-world violence.⁹ As of October 2025, Victorian Police reported that 35 people had been charged in the state relating to dating app associated attacks.¹⁰ While prevalence data on anti-LGBTIQ+ hate crime remains relatively limited, feedback from our member services indicates that existing data likely underrepresents the true scale of harm, given that many LGBTIQ+ people often do not feel safe or confident reporting violence. Nonetheless, online and offline mobilisations targeting LGBTIQ+ people are creating an increasingly dangerous environment, posing a serious threat to community safety. It is important to acknowledge the history and legacy of hate crimes perpetrated against LGBTIQ+ people in Australia. These are not new nor isolated incidents. Rather, contemporary hate crimes against LGBTIQ+ people should be considered in the context of dominant narratives and discourses shaping masculinities and gendered power relations.

The overlap between the gendered drivers of violence against women and the drivers of violence experienced by LGBTIQ+ people, including trans and gender diverse people, is significant.¹¹ Research has identified that the key societal drivers of violence against LGBTIQ+ people are rigid and hierarchical gender norms, alongside heteronormativity and cisnormativity.¹² Violence against trans women and transfeminine people should not be regarded in isolation from transmisogyny, which is deeply rooted in and driven by cisnormativity.¹³ Transmisogyny is a key driver of violence against trans women and transfeminine people, including intimate partner violence, family violence, street-based abuse and harassment, sexual violence and homicide.¹⁴ These narrow social ideas about bodies, sex and gender perpetuate discrimination and legitimise violence toward LGBTIQ+ people in the same way that they legitimise violence against women.¹⁵ Violence targeting the LGBTIQ+ community *must* be recognised as gender-based violence. Gender-based violence does not occur in isolation from intersecting forms of oppression, including racism, colonialism, classism,

⁸ Carlson, B (2026) We Are the Data, but Never the Researchers: Epistemic Violence in the Study of Technology-Facilitated Abuse, *Journal of Sociology* (Online First). doi: 10.1177/14407833261423228.

⁹ Dmello, JR, Bloom, M & Moskalenko, S (2025) LGBTQ+ Victimization by Extremist Organizations: Charting a New Path for Research, *Political Science & Politics*, 58(3) 447-455. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1049096524001173>; Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) (2026) *Equal Identities: A human rights review of the experiences of trans and gender diverse people in Australia*, Sydney: AHRC. https://apo.org.au/node/333905?utm_campaign=Policy-Weekly-01-April-2026&utm_content=apo.org.au%2Fnode%2F333905&utm_medium=email&utm_source=comms.apo.org.au

¹⁰ Lewis, A & Rubinsztein-Dunlop, S (2026) *Teenage boys drive homophobic anti-LGBTQIA+ attacks, NSW Police data shows*, ABC News. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2026-02-27/nsw-lgbt-hate-data-released-ahead-of-mardi-gras/106394004>

¹¹ Our Watch (2021) *Change the story: A shared framework for the primary prevention of violence against women in Australia* (2nd ed.), Melbourne: Our Watch. <https://www.ourwatch.org.au/change-the-story>

¹² Carman, M, Fairchild, J, Parsons, M, Farrugia, C, Power, J, & Bourne, A (2020) *Pride in Prevention: A guide to primary prevention of family violence experienced by LGBTIQ communities*, Rainbow Health Australia. <https://rainbowhealthaustralia.org.au/news/pride-in-prevention-evaluation-guide-launch>

¹³ Women's Health in the North (2024), *Allyship in Action – Building Bystander Action for Trans and Gender Equity: Forum Outcomes Paper*, Women's Health in the North. <https://www.whin.org.au/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2024/09/Allyship-in-Action-paper-2.pdf>

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Carman, M, Fairchild, J, Parsons, M, Farrugia, C, Power, J, & Bourne, A (2020) *Pride in Prevention: A guide to primary prevention of family violence experienced by LGBTIQ communities*, Rainbow Health Australia. <https://rainbowhealthaustralia.org.au/news/pride-in-prevention-evaluation-guide-launch>

heteronormativity, cisnormativity, homo-, bi- and transphobia, ableism, ageism and class discrimination.¹⁶

Preventing violence against LGBTIQ+ people is possible

The interconnected nature of violence against LGBTIQ+ people and violence against women means that addressing violence against LGBTIQ+ people is both possible and necessary through primary prevention work. This work must be supported by inclusive and coordinated national policies and frameworks that reflect the lived realities of LGBTIQ+ communities and sustained investment for prevention work and activities that are LGBTIQ+ inclusive and community-led. This includes prevention work in schools that aim to redefine dominant forms of masculinity and challenge the rigid, hierarchical gender norms that underpin gender-based violence, as well as rigid, hierarchical norms around sexuality.

Towards inclusive and coordinated policies and frameworks for LGBTIQ+ people

There are no specific actions for LGBTIQ+ communities in *The National Plan (The National Plan) to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032* and the associated *First Action Plan 2023-2027*. While these plans acknowledge that LGBTIQ+ people are impacted by gender-based violence and greater support is needed for LGBTIQ+ communities to prevent violence,¹⁷ the absence of specific actions perpetuates under-recognition and invisibility.

LGBTIQ+ people are often treated as a homogenous group in data collection¹⁸, with the diversity of gender identities and sexual orientations insufficiently captured and making it difficult – if not impossible – to accurately identify the prevalence and patterns of violence experienced by LGBTIQ+ communities.¹⁹ There is also a lack of population and service level data on LGBTIQ+ communities, including their experiences of violence. While a robust and growing evidence base in Australia and internationally demonstrates that LGBTIQ+ people experience significant levels of violence – particularly bisexual women, non-binary and trans and gender diverse people²⁰ – a more nuanced understanding of the experiences of different parts of these communities, including intersectional analysis and greater insights into patterns of violence and perpetration is needed. In Australia, there is a particularly significant deficit in consistent data on trans and gender diverse populations and experiences in Australia. This has far-reaching impacts, limiting the ability to design effective policy,

¹⁶ Our Watch (2021) *Change the story: A shared framework for the primary prevention of violence against women in Australia* (2nd ed.), Melbourne: Our Watch. <https://www.ourwatch.org.au/change-the-story>

¹⁷ Lusby, S, Lim, G, Carmen, M, Fraser, S, Parsons, M, Fairchild, J & Bourne, A (2022) *Opening Doors: Ensuring LGBTIQ-inclusive family, domestic and sexual violence services*, Melbourne: Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society. Accessed 10 April 2026. <https://www.latrobe.edu.au/arcshs/work/domestic/opening-doors>

¹⁸ Hindes, S, Ison, J, & Fileborn, B (2025) LGBTQ+ adult sexual violence critical scoping review: Insights into victimization and perpetration, *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, 27(2),319-330. doi: 10.1177/15248380241311930.

¹⁹ Mitchell, M, Anderson, J, Amos, N, Hill, A, McNair, R, Carman, M & Bourne, A (2025), Anti-Queer Violence in Australia: An Intersectional Analysis of Victimization Among LGBTQ+ Adults, *Journal of Homosexuality*, 1-38 doi: 10.1080/00918369.2025.2530133

²⁰ Carman, M, Fairchild, J, Parsons, M, Farrugia, C, Power, J & Bourne, A (2020) *Pride in Prevention: A guide to primary prevention of family violence experienced by LGBTIQ communities*, Rainbow Health Australia. <https://rainbowhealthaustralia.org.au/news/pride-in-prevention-evaluation-guide-launch>

develop appropriate service delivery and allocate funding to support trans and gender diverse communities.²¹ For communities that have been historically misrepresented, marginalised and oppressed by existing systems of power, inclusive data can play a crucial role in addressing inequality and injustice.²²

In the context of this under-recognition and absence of data, we underscore the need to strengthen primary prevention efforts that are inclusive and grounded in LGBTIQ+ community expertise. The primary prevention evidence guide *Pride in Prevention* outlines that there must be greater focus on the coordination of efforts and collaboration between the LGBTIQ+ sector and the mainstream primary prevention sector.²³ Broader prevention efforts to prevent anti-LGBTIQ+ violence should also align with gender-transformative approaches, as a critical part of work in the prevention of gender-based violence and violence and key to creating fundamental, long-term change.²⁴ The forthcoming release of *Changing with Pride* developed by Rainbow Health Australia and Our Watch will help support a nationally coordinated approach in preventing violence *with* and *for* the LGBTIQ+ community.²⁵

A universal approach to preventing men's violence against women is insufficient to address violence against trans women. While the definition of women in *The National Plan* includes trans women, there are no specific strategies, actions, or resourcing at either the state or federal level to address violence against trans women. Meaningful inclusion of trans women and the broader trans and gender-diverse community will require dedicated actions and funding.

Recommendations

- The Victorian Government should work with the Commonwealth to advocate for and inform specific actions and resources to address the needs of LGBTIQ+ people, developed through consultation with LGBTIQ+ communities, in the *Second Action Plan under The National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032*.
- There must be meaningful inclusion at the state and national level through dedicated actions to address violence against trans women. This includes investment in trans and gender diverse organisations, who must be well resourced to co-lead this work and provide expert advice on behalf of their communities.
- Following the forthcoming release of *Changing with Pride*, Victoria must work with the Commonwealth to develop a nationally coordinated approach in preventing violence with and for the LGBTIQ+ community.
- Improve data collection on LGBTIQ+ communities – including ensuring trans and gender diverse people are appropriately represented in data – to better understand their experiences of living in Australia and Victoria. This should include data on the violence experienced by

²¹ Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) (2026) *Equal Identities: A human rights review of the experiences of trans and gender diverse people in Australia*, Sydney: AHRC. https://apo.org.au/node/333905?utm_campaign=Policy-Weekly-01-April-2026&utm_content=apo.org.au%2Fnode%2F333905&utm_medium=email&utm_source=comms.apo.org.au

²² Ibid.

²³ Carman, M, Fairchild, J, Parsons, M, Farrugia, C, Power, J & Bourne, A (2020) *Pride in Prevention: A guide to primary prevention of family violence experienced by LGBTIQ communities*, Rainbow Health Australia. <https://rainbowhealthaustralia.org.au/news/pride-in-prevention-evaluation-guide-launch>

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Rainbow Health Australia and Our Watch (forthcoming) *Changing with Pride*, Melbourne: Rainbow Health Australia and Our Watch.

LGBTIQA+ communities in order to accurately identify the full scope and scale of LGBTIQA+ violence in Victoria and across Australia.

Supporting and enhancing community-led LGBTIQA+ prevention work

In Victoria, there are a wide range of groundbreaking community-led initiatives being delivered by and for LGBTIQA+ communities, migrant and refugee communities, women with disabilities and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to address the drivers of violence. Community-led initiatives are ideally placed to elevate the voices of people in their communities and hold trusting relationships with the people they serve.²⁶ However, under-resourcing often impacts their capacity to deliver community-oriented work.²⁷ This crucial prevention work is not possible without sustained, ongoing investment. Without this, we risk losing foundational knowledge, capacity and momentum towards cultural and societal change.

For example, LGBTIQA+ community-led organisations possess deep lived experience expertise and community knowledge, yet many of these organisations are small and significantly under-resourced,²⁸ limiting their capacity to support their communities and engage in long-term prevention efforts. Sustainable, ongoing funding is therefore essential. One of our members has highlighted that adequate funding would enable organisations to have a *genuine* seat at the table, to co-design prevention work that resonates with their communities, create stronger allyships and strengthen collective prevention efforts.

There is a strong basis for shared and common work between LGBTIQA+ organisations and organisations involved in the primary prevention of violence.²⁹ Our members have identified that there are opportunities to strengthen partnerships between LGBTIQA+ organisations and specialist prevention work occurring with men and boys. There is a need to uplift and upskill the workforce within these organisations to effectively address transphobia, transmisogyny, biphobia and homophobia. For instance, the recent *Adolescent Man Box* study revealed that homophobic and transphobic attitudes remain common among adolescent boys, highlighting the urgent need to strengthen respect and empathy for their LGBTIQA+ peers.³⁰ Similarly, the study highlighted that ongoing work is needed to normalise a broader range of masculinities that are diverse, and not unique to men and boys.³¹ Organisations working with men and boys should more explicitly address transphobia and homophobia among adolescent boys, including by engaging with people who have relevant expertise.³²

²⁶ Respect Victoria (2026) *Recognising and enabling community-led and specialist prevention work*, Melbourne: Respect Victoria. Accessed 15 April 2026. <https://www.respectvictoria.vic.gov.au/our-work/reporting-progress-prevention/maintain-the-momentum/progress-challenges-recommendations/enabling-prevention-work>

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Carman, M, Fairchild, J, Parsons, M, Farrugia, C, Power, J, & Bourne, A (2020) *Pride in Prevention: A guide to primary prevention of family violence experienced by LGBTIQ communities*, Rainbow Health Australia. <https://rainbowhealthaustralia.org.au/news/pride-in-prevention-evaluation-guide-launch>

²⁹ Carman, M, Fairchild, J, Parsons, M, Farrugia, C, Power, J, & Bourne, A (2020) *Pride in Prevention: A guide to primary prevention of family violence experienced by LGBTIQ communities*, Rainbow Health Australia. <https://rainbowhealthaustralia.org.au/news/pride-in-prevention-evaluation-guide-launch>

³⁰ The Men's Project (2025) *The Adolescent Man Box: Findings from a survey with Australian adolescents aged 14-18 years*, Jesuit Social Services. <https://jss.org.au/programs/the-adolescent-man-box/>

³¹ Ibid.

³² Ibid.

Alongside uplifting the prevention efforts of community-led work and organisations, there is a need for increased investment in specialist LGBTIQ+ family violence, sexual assault, mental health and peer support services for victim survivors. Dedicated funding is also needed for trans and gender diverse and LGBTIQ+ organisations to build the capacity of services, ensuring that responses to violence are safe, inclusive and responsive.

Recommendations

- Sustain and increase investment in community-led prevention initiatives, particularly for LGBTIQ+ communities.
- Strengthen partnerships and capacity building between LGBTIQ+ community-led and other organisations delivering prevention of gendered violence initiatives (mainstream and specialist).

Preventing violence in and through schools

The role of education for primary prevention, and in working with young people remains critically important. With reported increases in attacks on queer youth in schools, as well as documented misogynistic and sexist attitudes among male students reported by women teachers,³³ schools remain a crucial site of violence prevention work to occur through coordinated efforts that address rigid and hierarchical norms around sexuality and gender.

There is strong evidence supporting the effectiveness of Respectful Relationships Education (RRE), to help combat misogynistic and sexist attitudes, support young people to establish equitable attitudes towards gender, challenge stereotypes and foster a culture of respect.³⁴ The new Victorian *Rights, Resilience and Respectful Relationship* teaching and learning resources for schools have been updated to include a comprehensive suite of age-appropriate and inclusive resources on consent, gender equality, relationships, pornography, masculinities, gender stereotypes and hate speech.³⁵ The new resources place a particularly strong emphasis on promoting healthy ways of being a man and how to challenge outdated gender roles.³⁶ All of this directly contributes to countering harmful attitudes that allow violence against LGBTIQ+ people to occur.

Safe and Equal welcomes the updated 2025 Victorian *Rights, Resilience and Respectful Relationship* teaching and learning resources, which reflect a stronger and more inclusive approach to teaching students about gender and sexualities. To fully optimise outcomes, these resources need to be consistently embedded across schools. The quality of implementation of RRE across schools has been found to be inconsistent,³⁷ suggesting the extent to which it is embedded through a

³³ Westcott S, Roberts, S & Zhao, X (2024) The problem of anti-feminist 'manfluencer' Andrew Tate in Australian schools: women teachers' experiences of resurgent male supremacy, *Gender and Education*, 36(2), 167-182. doi:10.1080/09540253.2023.2292622; Wedesweiler, M (2024) *The Andrew Tate factor behind a toxic behaviour problem at Australian schools*, SBS News. Accessed 3 April 2026. <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/the-andrew-tate-factor-behind-a-toxic-behaviour-problem-at-australian-schools/idqvvy1y>

³⁴ Our Watch (2025) *Respectful relationships education toolkit*, Melbourne: Our Watch. Accessed 3 April 2026. <https://www.ourwatch.org.au/education/resources/toolkit>

³⁵ Our Watch (2024) *Our Watch welcomes updated Victorian teaching and learning materials for respectful relationships*, Melbourne: Our Watch. Accessed 3 April 2026. <https://www.ourwatch.org.au/news/our-watch-welcomes-updated-victorian-teaching-and-learning-materials-for-respectful-relationships-education>

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ Cahill, H, Lusher, D, Farrelly, A, Calleja, N, Wang, P & Hassani, A (2023) *A social network analysis and implementation study of an intervention designed to advance social and emotional learning and respectful relationships in secondary*

whole-of-school approach is varied. In addition, competing priorities, staff turnover, a lack of capacity and guidance from schools and fears of backlash means that RRE is not always able to achieve its intended preventive impact. Increased investment and support for teachers and other school staff to implement RRE effectively is needed.

Critical digital literacy

Educational prevention approaches must also respond to the central role of online environments in young people's lives. Online communication is undoubtedly central to young people's lives, and therefore the importance of educational interventions that address both gender equality and critical digital media literacy for young people should not be overlooked.³⁸ Within schools, there is an opportunity to build critical digital literacy.³⁹ Critical digital media literacy has been identified as helping empower young people to become more discerning, question what they are viewing and how it makes them feel.⁴⁰ Given that anti-LGBTIQ+ hostility is increasingly shaped within the online context, it is increasingly urgent that boys and men are educated about gendered disinformation, harmful content focused on gender and sexuality and the political economies of social media and influencer culture.⁴¹

Recommendations

- Invest in mainstream primary prevention initiatives focused on schools as critical sites of engagement with children and young people, with sufficient resourcing for the program to be embedded into the schools and their communities.

Conclusion

The path forward to create safe communities for LGBTIQ+ people is primary prevention. Violence perpetrated towards LGBTIQ+ people and communities is preventable, but only through dedicated, coordinated and well-resourced primary prevention efforts. These efforts must include LGBTIQ+ people in the development of national policies and frameworks, sustainable community-led prevention work and activities, as well as dedicated prevention work in schools.

school, Sydney: Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS).

<https://www.anrows.org.au/publication/respectful-relationships-research-report/>

³⁸ Gerrand et al (2025) Mapping the Neo-Manosphere(s): New Directions for Research; Our Watch, *Men in focus practice guide*

³⁹ Our Watch (2022) *Men in focus practice guide: Addressing masculinities and working with men in the prevention of men's violence against women*. Melbourne, Australia: Our Watch. https://www.ourwatch.org.au/change-the-story/men-in-focus?gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=23315081466&gbraid=0AAAABCCHxd8CmCXTy6uxSzoGxtqd_7EsM&gclid=Cj0KCQjwm6POBhCrARIsAIG58CKxrmR0VfsiARhOjnOSVYLdLgAn632C3dba3AFzKI-SalRiTouFqbUaAINaEALw_wcB

⁴⁰ Westcott, S & Roberts, S (2025) *From violence to sexism, the manosphere is doing real-world harm*, The Conversation <https://theconversation.com/from-violence-to-sexism-the-manosphere-is-doing-real-world-harm-262205>

⁴¹ Gerrand et al (2025) Mapping the Neo-Manosphere(s): New Directions for Research; Wedesweiler, M (2024) *The Andrew Tate factor behind a toxic behaviour problem at Australian schools*, SBS News. Accessed 3 April 2026. <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/the-andrew-tate-factor-behind-a-toxic-behaviour-problem-at-australian-schools/idqvvy1y>

Summary of recommendations

- The Victorian Government should work with the Commonwealth to advocate for and inform specific actions and resources to address the needs of LGBTIQ+ people, developed through consultation with LGBTIQ+ communities, in the *Second Action Plan* under *The National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032*.
- There must be meaningful inclusion at the state and national level through dedicated actions to address violence against trans women. This includes investment in trans and gender diverse organisations, who must be well resourced to co-lead this work and provide expert advice on behalf of their communities.
- Following the forthcoming release of *Changing with Pride*, Victoria must work with the Commonwealth to develop a nationally coordinated approach in preventing violence with and for the LGBTIQ+ community.
- Improve data collection on LGBTIQ+ communities – including ensuring trans and gender diverse people are appropriately represented in data – to better understand their experiences of living in Australia and Victoria. This should include data on the violence experienced by LGBTIQ+ communities in order to accurately identify the full scope and scale of LGBTIQ+ violence in Victoria and across Australia.
- Sustain and increase investment in community-led prevention initiatives, particularly for LGBTIQ+ communities.
- Strengthen partnerships and capacity building between LGBTIQ+ community-led and other organisations delivering prevention of gendered violence initiatives (mainstream and specialist).
- Invest in mainstream primary prevention initiatives focused on schools as critical sites of engagement with children and young people, with sufficient resourcing for the program to be embedded into the schools and their communities.