



**ACT Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer (LGBTIQ+)
Ministerial Advisory Council
Annual Report 2022**

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Introduction: who we are

The ACT Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer+ (LGBTIQ) Ministerial Advisory Council (the Council) provides practical, strategic advice to the Chief Minister on policy issues affecting LGBTIQ+ people and communities living in the Canberra Region. The Council's key function is to provide this advice by working with the Office of LGBTIQ+ Affairs (the Office) which sits within the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD), as well as other Government and non-Government stakeholders.

Council's full terms of reference can be found here:

<https://www.cmtedd.act.gov.au/policystrategic/the-office-of-lgbtq-affairs/terms-of-reference>

Council Membership and changes in 2022

Membership of Council as at 21 December 2022:

Chair:

Sue Webeck

Deputy Chairs:

Shawnah Cady (from 1 July 2023)
Craig Middleton (from 1 July 2023)

General members:

Ciára Duggan (since 2020)
Vincent Li (since 2021)
Renee Dixson (since 2021)
Arushi Ganguly (since 2021)
Mohamed Al Abri (since 2021)
Annika Reynolds (since 2021)
Carolyn Minchin (since 2022)
Corey Trembath (until 04/05/2022)
Monica Serci (until 30/12/2022)
Gabriel Filpi (until 30/12/2022)

In June 2022 three members completed their maximum term of 6 years.

Suzanne Eastwood

- Member of Council since 2016.
- Chief organiser of Inclusive Canberra think tank events in 2017, 2018 and 2019
- Leader with respect to addressing discriminatory exceptions in law, including preparing many submissions and representing the Council at federal inquiries on religious discrimination.

Chris Healey

- Member of Council since 2016 and co-deputy chair since 2019.
- Leadership in highlighting issues relevant to older members of LGBTIQ+ communities, including representing Council at national conferences.
- A leader in terms of developing options for promoting Canberra as Australia's most welcoming and inclusive city, including through community events and engagements.

Scott Clouder

- Member of Council since 2016 and co-deputy chair since 2019.
- Pushed for reforms relating to better data collection for LGBTIQ+ communities, including via development of the new ABS standards.
- Key agent of change with respect to LGBTIQ+ health service delivery including: participation on the working group for the development of the Territory-wide health services plan; work with Capital Health Network on Trans Health Pathways resource; many contributions to LGBTIQ+ health scoping study project.

Council would like to thank these three former members for their work on Council and their ongoing work to bring positive change to the lives of LGBTIQ+ identifying people and communities in the ACT.

Chair's Report

Again, this year has seen much change as we farewelled members of the Council who had all contributed in meaningful and impactful ways. Specifically, I would like to mention Gabriel who made significant contributions to Council in supporting our thinking and responses to the ACT Government's work in legislative reform for the deferrable medical interventions for those with diverse intersex characteristics. I would like to mention Monica who has applied their lens from their professional practice across our work including submissions and reform work. I would also like to acknowledge Corey who resigned early in his term but provided great insight in his reflections on departure and continues to do fantastic work as a leader in the LGBTIQ+ community here in the ACT.

This year we worked closely with the Office of LGBTIQ+ Affairs to consider a number of large pieces of work, none more so than the Capital of Equality Second Action Plan. The strategy released in 2019 has been well received by ACT Government directorates, LGBTIQ+ stakeholders and the broader community. The Second Action Plan is currently in place and running until the end of 2023. It builds on achievements to date and has some ambitious ideas on how the ACT Government is working to remove barriers with the aim of improving access to support and eliminating discrimination for LGBTIQ+ Canberrans. The Council is working to ensure it is able to monitor progress against the Second Action Plan and remains committed to supporting the ACT Government in implementing it.

Council is asked to provide advice on a range of issues across government through its meetings and at times out of session presentations or small working parties. I would like to just mention one large scale and impactful process we have been engaged in. Council continues to receive briefings and is watching the ACT Government commissioning process to ensure that LGBTIQ+ Canberrans are considered in this process and that access to services meet the needs of our communities. This is a significant piece of work being undertaken across directorates and we thank the ACT Government for continuing to engage with us in this work particularly noting the deep dive thinking on housing and homelessness commissioning and LGBTIQ+ communities.

As you can see from the fullness of this report Council has supported and responded to requests for engagement and consultation across a wide range of topics and service areas. We continue to work to reach out into our communities to understand what is topical for you and how we can best support your voices being heard in ACT Government policy development, reform and decision making. We look forward to working with our community in 2023 and working to find more opportunities to engage and connect so we can best inform our work.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge all Council members for their dedication and commitment to Council and working to ensure our community is vigorously represented, a special mention to Craig who creates a dynamic space in which we can as a Council communicate with the community and also keep you informed of what is happening in our community. It was also with great delight we finalised the recruitment for the deputy chairs this year and it has been

wonderful to have Craig and Shawnah step into those roles. Thank you to the Office of LGBTIQ+ Affairs for their continued work in providing secretariat to the Council, your work truly enables us to function.

Representing LGBTIQ+ communities at meetings and consultations

All members of the LGBTIQ+ Ministerial Advisory Council attend meetings and consultation to ensure the views of LGBTIQ+ Canberrans are represented in various contexts as it relates to the work of the ACT Government.

The Chair of the LGBTIQ+ Ministerial Advisory Council attends the ACT Government's Joint Advisory Councils Chair's meetings to ensure collaboration and connection across ACT Government advisory councils. This has continued to be productive and useful in ensuring that common topics and issues are identified and that messaging across councils is complementary.

Member of Council participated in the following project briefings, consultations, and workshops in 2022:

- LGBTIQ+ Health Scoping Study recommendations (KPMG)
- Evaluation of OneLink (Community Services Directorate)
- ACT Government's Intersex Project including feedback on draft legislation (Office of LGBTIQ Affairs)
- ACT Government's Second Action Plan for Capital of Equality Strategy (Office of LGBTIQ Affairs)
- ACT Government's New Action Waterfront Park construction project (City Renewal Authority)
- ACT new medical doctors training consultation (Australian Medical Council)
- ACT Disability Strategy (Community Services Directorate)
- LGBTIQ+ Legal Service in private practice
- ACT Discrimination Act reform (Justice and Community Safety Directorate)
- Briefing on the Capital of Equality Grants Program redesign (Office of LGBTIQ Affairs)
- The ACT Government Office for Mental Health Work Plan 2023-24 (Office for Mental Health)
- Gender Sensitive Urban Design Stakeholder Workshop (ACT Government)
- Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Services
- Capital of Equality Grants Round - panel participation (Officer of LGBTIQ+ Affairs)
- ANU Students Association
- Postgraduate and Research Students Association

Representing Council at community events

In addition to formal meetings and consultations members are invited to and represent the Council at community events annually.

Council was represented at the following events:

- 17 May - ACT Government Flag Raising Ceremony on the IDAHOBIT Day
- 22 May - LGBTQIA+ volunteer tree planting day (ACT Government in partnership with Greening Australia and Meridian)
- 18 June - Canberra Qwire Concert - Let the Rainbow Sing
- 14 July - Delegation to Canberra from Wellington City Council
- 1-30 November - Spring Out Pride Festival (various events)
- 1 December - World AIDS Day memorial event

Communications

Social Media continues to be a successful avenue for Council to engage with LGBTQIA+ communities across the ACT and to communicate the work of the Council and the Office of LGBTQIA+ Affairs.

Council continues to manage two social media accounts, one on Facebook and the other on Twitter.

Over the past 12 months the Council used social media for:

- marking of significant days on the LGBTQIA+ calendar
- information sharing of news content relevant to ACT LGBTQIA+ communities
- information sharing of nationally significant and international significant news
- promotion of programs and events to support ACT community sector organisations
- promoting programs and projects relevant to LGBTQIA+ communities to support ACT Government departments
- highlighting projects that received Capital of Equality grants funding through the Office of LGBTQIA+ Affairs
- other targeted Council communications including updates, advocacy, and recruitment activities

Facebook

Between 1 January 2022 and 31 December 2022 the Council's Facebook content reached 8,063 unique accounts. Facebook 'reach' is defined as the number of accounts that see any

content from a Page or about a Page, including posts, stories, ads, and social information from accounts that interact with a Page and more. This Reach is 89.1% better than the previous year. Over the same period the Council's Facebook Page received 1056 unique visits - these are visits that are not prompted by content pushed out through Facebook. This is a 17.5% increase from the previous year. This suggests that an increasing number of members of the Facebook community are actively seeking out Council's Facebook Page. Finally, over the same period the Council's Facebook followership grew by 89 people. Council's Facebook followership is 1351 at the time of publishing this report.

The highest performing posts on Facebook in 2022 related to:

- Re-sharing of public commentary by Council representatives in the media
- Celebrating the achievements of LGBTIQ+ identifying individuals in the ACT
- Sharing of Capital of Equality Grant Rounds
- Council recruitment

Twitter

Between 1 January 2022 and 31 December 2022 the Council's Twitter account left approximately 10,300 impressions. Impressions, defined by Twitter, are the total number of times a Tweet has been seen.

The highest performing posts on Twitter related to:

- Celebrating the achievements of LGBTIQ+ identifying individuals in the ACT
- Profiling/documenting of Council attending community events

Conclusion: looking forward

The LGBTIQ+ Ministerial Advisory Council achieved much in 2022 with a busy program of meetings and consultations, alongside attendance at community events. With new members and future recruitment action in early 2023 Council looks forward to increasing our ability to engage widely across a number of projects, programs, and ideas.

As always, we encourage LGBTIQ+ identifying individuals and communities to get in touch to let us know how we can service Canberra's diverse communities better.