

Queer people with disabilities -

Our stories, our hopes and how to support us

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Hi! I'm Kathryn. I'm 37. I'm a woman and a proud lesbian. I am a leader in New Wave in Gippsland. I advocate for people with a disability. We've achieved a lot in 10 years. We talk to council and we've won awards. I was nominated by New Wave for the Victorian Disability Awards. I have difficulty hearing and find it difficult to speak sometimes, but I've achieved more than what other people thought I would achieve.

I want more people with a disability to be comfortable saying "I am lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer, questioning or asexual". I find that lots of houses and families say "Don't think about it". I want to change that and say to people "You can be who you are". How I feel is how anybody else feels in the community—I know who I am attracted to. I know that I am attracted to women, not males. I knew that since I was 15 or 16 years old.



Kathryn



Greg

My name is Greg. My pronouns are he and him. I have cerebral palsy. I was born in 1959. I came out in September 1986. I was 26. People thought I was going through a 'phase'. The best support I had back then was when I went to the first 'gay now' event hosted by the Victorian AIDS Council (now Thorne Harbour Health) in 1991. I felt really included. Around the same time, I went to a gay night club and was told my wheelchair was too big, so I wasn't allowed in. I have found Yooralla to be open minded about the LGBTIQ community. I have seen the disability community accept LGBTIQ people more and more, especially since 2003. I want people at Yooralla to know that we have sexual needs and desires, and we have the right to be who we are. You have the right to be an individual, to be who you want to be.

LGBTIQA+ = Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer and Asexual.

Allies = People who support and/or advocate for LGBTIQA+ people.

If you are a person with disability Yooralla supports and would like to be in touch about anything related to LGBTIQA+, please call reception on (03) 9666 4500 and ask for the **Customer Rights and Empowerment (CRE)** team or email CRE@yooralla.com.au

Tip – A great resource for people with disability and staff is **Our Rainbow Lives** by **Inclusion DesignLab** and **Rainbow Health Victoria**



Designed by LGBTIQA+ staff, customers and allies at

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choosequality

inclusiondesignlab *in*