



**For immediate release**  
**Media release**

**15 August 2018**

## **Supporting LGBTIQ+ people in our community**

Are you passionate about social justice and want to know more about inclusivity? Do you want to better understand the experiences of LGBTIQ+ people?

Castlemaine District Community Health (CDCH) has received funding for a two year grant – Castlemaine Takes Pride – to improve the wellbeing of people in the LGBTIQ+ community.

“There’s a huge amount of goodwill in the shire and we want to build on that,” said Louise Falconer, Prevention and Allied Services Manager, CDCH.

“The first step to improving health and wellbeing is to create a supportive environment free of discrimination,” said Ms Falconer.

“In September we’ll hold community workshops to give everyone in Mount Alexander the chance to find out more about LGBTIQ+ issues and about how they can support their LGBTIQ+ friends.

“We want everyone to come along. Doesn’t matter how much you know or don’t know. The most important thing is that you want to learn,” she said.

The workshops will be spaces where people can come together, ask questions and openly discuss issues that affect LGBTIQ+ people.

The second part of the Castlemaine Takes Pride grant is to work with emerging LGBTIQ+ leaders to identify what needs to change in Mount Alexander Shire.

“We’ll hold strategic workshops in October to hear directly from the community about LGBTIQ+ issues. This will help us to identify priorities and co-design a plan for change,” said Ms Falconer.

This work also aims to build the capacity of the LGBTIQ+ sector in the shire and identify community leaders who can advocate on behalf of our LGBTIQ+ friends.

“Through the project we hope to create a network of community leaders who have the skills and ambition to expand their impact and advocate to address service gaps,” said Ms Falconer.

“We need your support to make this project a success,” she said.

Community education workshops are free and open to all members of the community. They will be held:

- 10.00am to 1.00pm on Tuesday 18 September at Ray Bradfield Room, Castlemaine
- 5.00pm – 7.30pm on Thursday 20 September at Ray Bradfield Room, Castlemaine
- 5.00pm – 7.30pm on Tuesday 25 September at Maldon Neighbourhood Centre, Maldon.
- 10.00am to 1.00pm on Wednesday 26 September at Maldon Neighbourhood Centre, Maldon.

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Book your place through Castlemaine Community House on 5472 4842 or email [reception@cch.org.au](mailto:reception@cch.org.au). Learn more about the project at [www.cdchcastlemaine.com.au](http://www.cdchcastlemaine.com.au).

The Castlemaine Takes Pride project is funded through the Department of Premier and Cabinet. It is coordinated by CDCH in partnership with Mount Alexander Shire Council, Castlemaine Community House and the Central Victorian Primary Care Partnership.

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