

A request to reconsider

At its last meeting, Port Phillip City Council was not able to find agreement on a motion to establish a community advisory committee, develop an action plan and implement a quality framework that ensures that Council services are safe and inclusive in line with the commitments contained in the [Rainbow Local Government Pledge](#).

Council has a proud history of being [welcoming to the LGBTIQ+ community](#), including through supporting Midsumma Festival, championing the Pride Centre, and achieving the Rainbow Tick for its aged care services, but the split vote leaves a grey cloud over Council's commitment to its LGBTIQ+ community.

To ensure that Council continues to foster a culture that is inclusive, responsive and accessible to LGBTIQ+ residents, Councillors should support a motion to:

- Request a report on the projected timelines and resource allocation requirements for commencing Rainbow Tick accreditation across all Council run services (noting that Council is currently only accredited in aged services), so as to allow Council to undertake its due diligence and fully understand the quality framework.
- Establish an LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee, including residents and business-owners, that is specifically charged with developing an action plan for presentation to Council that incorporates:
 - Increasing visitation from LGBTIQ+ tourists, including those coming through Station Pier, which will bring benefit to traders and the local community;
 - Activating streets, particularly Fitzroy Street, with visible displays of pride;
 - Building community and advising Council on LGBTIQ+ inclusion initiatives and funding opportunities;
 - Attracting LGBTIQ+ creatives to Port Phillip, including through Council's existing arts grants programs, art galleries, art collections policy, and public art guidelines; and
 - Engaging the community through providing a voice for LGBTIQ+ residents and business-owners to Council.

With the Pride Centre opening and the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia occurring in May, it is important that the Council swiftly act to address the concerns of LGBTIQ+ community members.

"We urgently need to establish an advisory committee as a voice from LGBTIQ+ residents and businesses to Council. An advisory committee can champion post-COVID economic recovery initiatives, new funding opportunities, and greater inclusion in the City, attracting visitors from all over the state to the Pride March and Pride Centre," said **Victorian Pride Lobby** Co-Convener, Nevena Spirovska:

"We are fully supportive of the need for Council to establish and implement processes that ensure services are safe and inclusive to all communities and, in particular to the LGBTIQ+ community. We expect that this should be done by Council as effectively, efficiently and quickly as possible. We look forward to a quick resolution of this issue," said **West St Kilda Residents Association** President, Leigh Hardy.

"We support the Victorian Pride Lobby's 'Rainbow Local Government Campaign' and candidate pledge which 8 of 9 Port Phillip Councillors signed during the 2020 election campaign. The five action items included in the pledge are important priorities for the LGBTIQ+ community and their allies in the City of Port Phillip. Community Alliance Port Phillip calls on the overwhelming majority of Councillors who signed this pledge to honour that commitment and action implementation at the earliest opportunity," said **Community Alliance of Port Phillip** representative and former councillor, David Brand.

Councillors should honour their election commitments to our community, and work together collegially to find a way forward.

“Bisexual Alliance Victoria has been proud to march at Pride since inception, and to celebrate the pride the LGBTIQA+ community finds in Port Phillip. We urge Port Phillip Council to reconsider the community advisory committee, develop an action plan and implement a quality framework that ensures that Council services are safe and inclusive. With the Pride Centre opening up on Fitzroy Street, we want all Council services to be safe and inclusive,” said **Bisexual Alliance Victoria** President, Rebecca Dominguez.

“Aleph Melbourne offers support to and advocates for the well-being of LGBTIQ Jews and their families, many of whom live in the City of Port Phillip. It is vital that they understand their city council fully values and includes them, and understands their needs,” said **Aleph Melbourne** Co-Convenor, Michael Barnett.

Community groups stand ready to work with Port Phillip City Council to progress these important initiatives for the benefit of all residents and business-owners.