

How to show you're ok with the LGBTQA

WHAT DOES LGBTQA+ MEAN?

LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER/QUESTIONING, ASEXUAL, AND MORE. THERE ARE DIFFERENT VERSIONS OF THE ACRONYM, AND MANY REASONS TO USE ONE VERSION OR ANOTHER. IF YOU'RE UNSURE WHICH VERSION TO USE, ASK AN LGBTQA+ PERSON WHICH ONE THEY PREFER.

YOU MIGHT BE ACCEPTING OF LGBTQA+ PEOPLE, BUT IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOU LET LGBTQA+ PEOPLE SEE THAT – IT'S NOT ALWAYS OBVIOUS. HERE ARE A FEW HINTS TO HELP YOU SHOW THAT YOU'RE ACCEPTING OF LGBTQA+ PEOPLE AND CREATE A COMFORTABLE ENVIRONMENT.

1

Speak positively about LGBTQA+ people. Do you have a gay cousin that you love or a trans artist you admire? Mentioning them in conversation is a subtle way to show that you're accepting of LGBTQA+ people.

"My niece and her girlfriend are coming over for dinner. I'm really excited to see her."

"Steven Oliver's in that show, right? He's pretty boss."

2

Avoid using language and jokes that put down LGBTQA+ people. If you're unsure what's ok, just ask an LGBTQA+ person.

3

Learn more about LGBTQA+ issues. Putting in the effort to get educated is a big way to show you care about LGBTQA+ people and can help you learn how to actively support them.

"I was reading up on what pansexuality means."

"I watched a show about the history of Mardi Gras and protesting."

4

Use the correct pronouns for people, and encourage others to do the same. Unsure what pronouns are? Check out this handy guide: <https://www.minus18.org.au/articles/what-are-pronouns-and-why-are-they-important>

"I spoke to her yesterday."

"They are non-binary."

5

Find opportunities to bring together Aboriginality and queerness. Acknowledging that people have multiple identities is important to show that you accept their entire self.
"Does your boyfriend want to come out on country with us?"
"Sistergirl here helped me with the weaving."

6

Don't assume that everyone's straight. Using gender neutral language makes space for LGBTQA+ people.
Try saying *"do you live with your partner?"* rather than *"do you live with your man?"*
"These young mob" rather than *"these young boys and girls."*

7

Be vocal about supporting LGBTQA+ rights. Show the LGBTQA+ people around you that you love and support them.
"I support same-sex marriage"
"I think these transphobic comments are really disgusting."

8

Use welcoming body language with everyone. Try to notice if you're changing your body language or the way you talk around people who identify as LGBTQA+ or are gender non-conforming.
Do you stop smiling around people who are gay? Do you tense up your body around people who are trans?

Walkern Katatdjin
Rainbow Knowledge

THIS INFOGRAPHIC WAS PRODUCED BY THE WALKERN KATATDJIN (RAINBOW KNOWLEDGE) PROJECT TEAM.

THE ARTWORK FOR THIS PROJECT WAS DONE BY NARUNGGA ARTIST SHAKYRRAH BECK