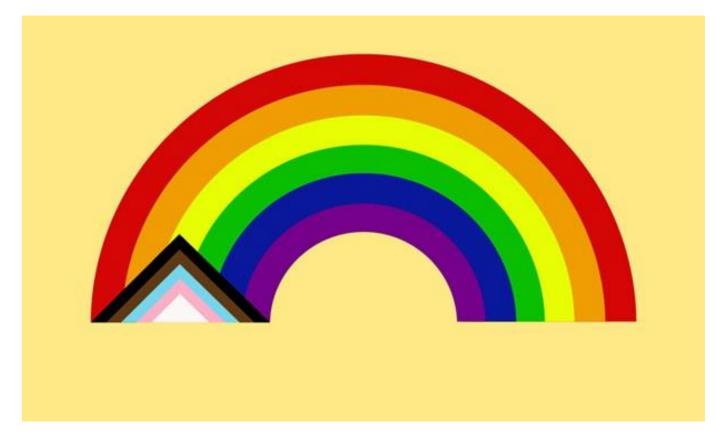
# Proud2Play



Introduction to trans and gender diverse inclusion in sport

Lauren Foote She/they Education officer Exercise Physiologist



## Icebreaker:

Sam (22), plays for a softball club, which is a women's only club. Sam has played at the club since they were a junior, is on the committee, and is a regular in the first team. They have lots of friends at the club too.

However, Sam decides to affirm their gender identify (socially) and begins to use he/him pronouns and presents as masculine. However, a member raises a concern to the committee, and says because Sam now identifies as a man, and it's a women's only club, they can't play.

Their policy also supports this. Some members are unclear what this means, but highlight that they can't just kick Sam out of the club as it goes against the values of the club.

• How might the club approach this issue?

## The need for action

#### Matt Lucas calls LGB Alliance 'antitrans': 'It doesn't represent me or any gay people I care to know'

Group made headlines this week for having a stand at the Conservative party conference

#### LGBT+ charities launch appeal over 'anti-trans' group LGB Alliance's charitable status

Mermaids claims LGB Alliance is 'polarising anti-trans campaign group'

### Glaring holes emerge in new UK trans sports guidance as athletes fear for their future

World Rugby bans trans women from elite women's game due to injury risks

Body warns 'ciswomen will be at significant risk of injury'

• However individual unions will be able to set grassroots policy



University head says free speech does not override transgender safety

Melbourne University vice-chancellor Duncan Maskell has warned staff that ... it contains "transphobic rhetoric" in the course materials.

15 June 2021

#### A The Age

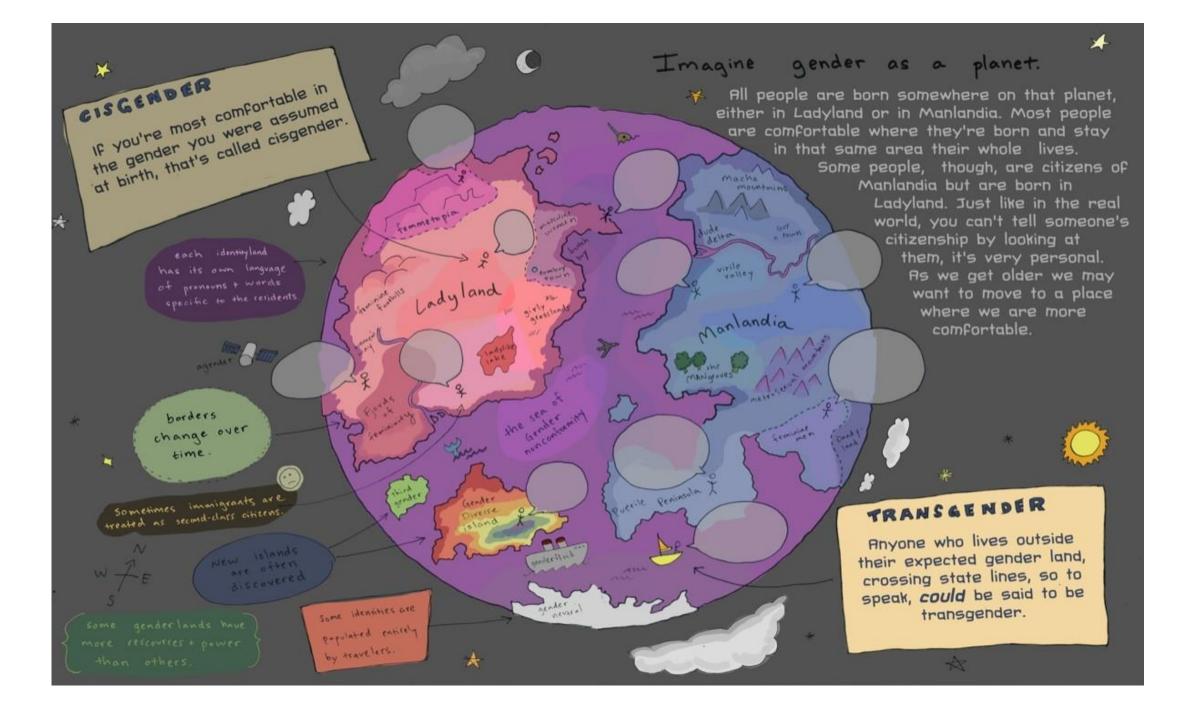
Transgender debate a free speech stress test for Melbourne University

It was the first week back on campus for students at Melbourne University in 2021, and a hateful slogan had just been scrawled on a window of...

18 June 2021



## Unit 1 Exploring TGD inclusion



## **Gender affirmation**

• No trans or gender diverse person is the same, and many will go through different stages and processes to affirm their gender identity

Socially affirming one's gender identity
Medically affirming one's gender identity

It is nobody's business but the athlete/ individual to share if they have socially or medically affirmed their gender identity.

- Gender dysphoria: an intense discomfort a trans person may feel about physical attributes, or the way they are gendered by others.

## What inclusion Can look like

- Sports clubs can be an important space for TGD athletes
- Team mates and friends at clubs can provide important social support for TGD people
- Williamstown WFC a good example of leading with inclusion



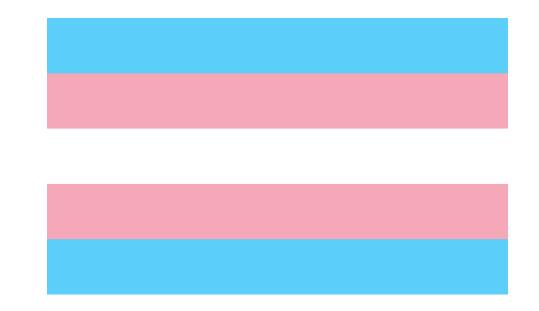
#### williamstownfc



williamstownfc A proud day for our VFLW side

## **Barriers to TGD inclusion in sport**

- 46% of trans people thought sport was transphobic (Equal Play Study, 2014).
- The 2014, the ACT Government conducted an Inclusive Sport Survey. Of the 292 participants, 18.2% identified as transgender and 1.3% as intersex:
- 28.6% of transgender & intersex respondents had experienced sexism
- 26.2% had experienced verbal harassment
- 50% reported feeling unsafe in a sporting environment.



## **Barriers and Facilitators**

#### What do young people want?

1. For organisations to provide non-binary options on registration forms instead of just male and female options;

2. Gender neutral facilities in sporting clubs and leisure facilities and access to safe facilities;

3. Mixed teams that are grouped on different categories besides sex/ gender;

4. Outreach programs from accepting and non-discriminatory sporting organisations, in order to create safe spaces;

5. Casual sports that are not based on competition but based on social networking, inclusion and fun; and

6. Staff, coaches and other people who provide and manage sport provision to take necessary action against public homo/transphobia and not allow perpetrators to go unpunished.

#### What does a safe space look like?

"I think a safe space is basically a place where you go where everybody is going to accept you. You're all there, **you're all unique**, let's just go and be friendly. And that's I think what the safe space is all about. And therefore in that regard, **my tennis club fits that**"

"The tennis club is basically my safe space".

"They need to make it obvious, it can't be subtle. It has to be a rainbow flag, or a statement, or something, because we still assume that we're not accepted unless we're told otherwise".

"Sporting places, if it doesn't have a rainbow flag I will **assume that it's not inclusive** and it's a place to be in the closet. Yeah, that's just ... it just **makes you feel safe**, this is somewhere that I can go and be me without having to watch every word"



## **TGD Swim nights**

- Around 75 TGD people attended Darebin Council's first TGD swim night
- Many participants had not swam for several years
- The night was a huge success, and highlighted the desire for TGD people to access swim facilities in a safe and inclusive environment
- Some resistance experienced, highlighting the need for such events

CULTURE

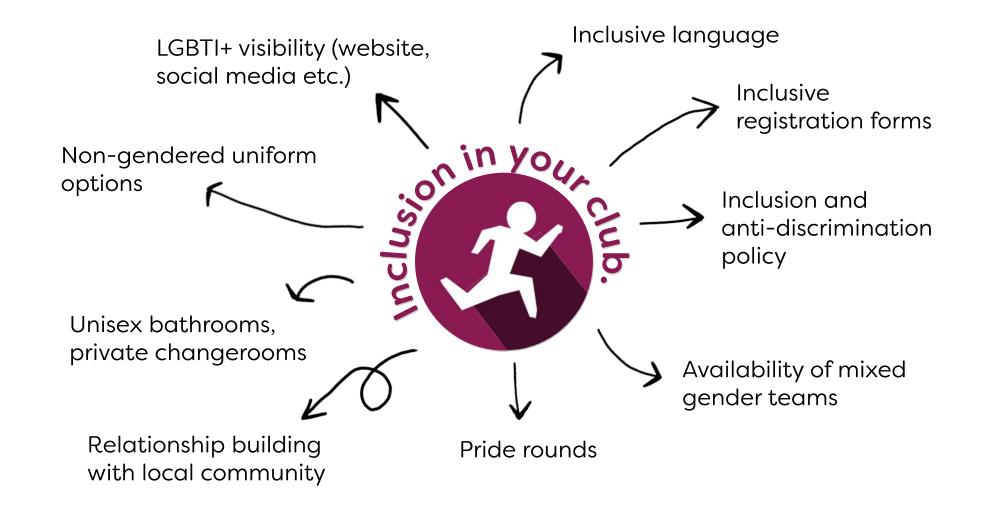
#### "It's About Restoring Hope": Inside Melbourne's First Trans And Gender Diverse Swim Night







### **Club Action Plan**



#### **Example Council Action Plan**

#### Leisure Facilities

- All gender bathrooms
- Staff education LGBTIQ+ needs
- LGBTIQ+ swim gym nights

#### Action Group

- LGBTIQ+ action group formation
- Internal review
- Follow municipality health and wellbeing plan
- Imbed to core business

#### Inclusive sporting clubs

- Grants for tenant and non-tenant clubs
- Imbed LGBTIQ+ annual education for clubs
- Celebrate and encourage pride cup rounds
- Measure LGBTIQ+ representation in club annual survey

#### Council

- LGBTIQ+ flags on display
- Celebration of days of significance
- Inclusive + diverse hiring practices
- Signature pronouns
- Staff badges + lanyards

### Thank you

### info@proud2play.org.au

### www.proud2play.org.au



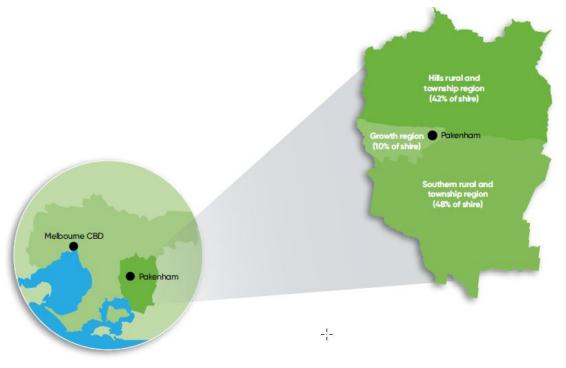


**Cardinia Shire Council** 

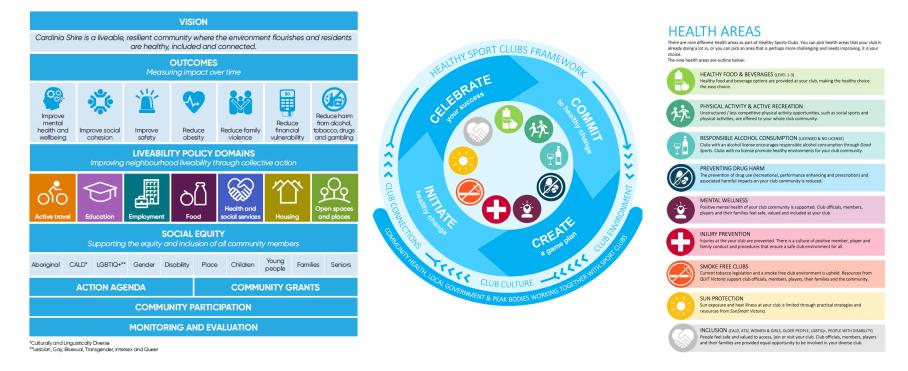
### **Proud 2 Play and Cardinia Shire**

**Melanie Pratt – Sports Development Officer** 

- 79 LGA's metro and regional
  - Cardinia Shire 55km from CBD
  - Population 112, 159
  - Interface Council
  - Boonwurrung and Wurundjeri land
  - Growth Area of Beaconsfield, Officer, Pakenham



### A planned approach



Liveability Plan

#### Monash Health Healthy Sports Clubs

Council Plan, Together We Can, RAP, DAP, Gender Equality guidelines, Active Cardinia Strategy

### Actions

Internal LGBTIQ+ Committee with Council Commitment.

- Internal training
- Visual through lanyards and activities
- Celebration recognition days
- Pronouns and use
- Language change in EBA, documentation

Capacity community and inclusive practices

- welcoming, safe and inclusive physical environments
- Safe and welcoming cultures at clubs

## **Proud 2 Play in Cardinia Shire**



Membership Rainbow Sports Alliance

Parklife at James Bathe Recreation Reserve

IDAHOBIT Festival – internal and external

Rainbow Ready Clubs Program 3 clubs newly engaged



More Information: Mel Pratt m,pratt@cardinia.vic.gov.au 5943 4428 LinkedIn