



Merri-bek City Council

# Supporting our LGBTQIA+ Families

November 2022

## Acknowledgement of Country



Merri-bek City Council acknowledges
the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as
the Traditional Custodians of the lands
and waterways in the area now
known as Merri-bek.

We pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging, as well as to all the First Nations communities who significantly contribute to the life of the area.

## History & Seeing a Need



- 2008 Assisted Reproduction Treatment Legislation was introduced
- We began to see increase in Rainbow families
- We saw the gap for these families who wanted to connect with other Rainbow families



## Rainbow Families Uniqueness



Rainbow families are reminded frequently that their families are different.

The connection they have with one another is amazing.



# Connecting





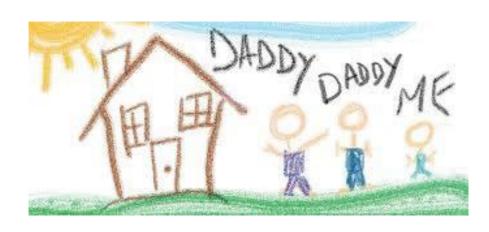




#### Communication



- What's App Group 80 people on it
- Where they can ask questions, organise meet up's etc.
- We promote events they maybe interested in attending





## **Engagement across Council**



MCH Team

Social Policy Team

Children Services Team – Supported Playgroups and Preschool Field

Officer

Children Centre we are co-located with





## Titles and Terminology



We are learning everyday





### Quotes from our families



"The Rainbow group has made us feel safe, accepted and allowed us to connect with other Rainbow families which is lovely for our children".

"Starting a Rainbow family can be isolating. The process is often long and not without its challenges".

"The group for me has filled a gap for supporting queer parents and recognising the need for inclusivity and allyship".

"This is no longer a gathering it is a big family reunion"

## Thank you for listening







