



For Immediate Release:

NDCH is proud that local businesses, Gannawarra health services and Gannawarra Shire Council are getting behind local youth who identify as LGBTIQ+ and showing them that they are welcome and valued in our community. **Wear it Purple Day 2020 is on Friday 28th August.** Wear it Purple Day is about showing LGBTIQ+ young people that they have the right to be proud of who they are. The message supports creating safe spaces in schools, universities, workplaces and public spaces to show LGBTIQ+ young people that they are seen and supported.

Research shows us that 75% of Australian LGBTIQ+ youth will be bullied because of their identity and 80% of this will occur at school. Young LGBTIQ+ youth are also 12 times more likely to experience depression and 5 times more likely to experience anxiety!

Northern District Community Health CEO Mandy Hutchinson says “it is important that we create safe spaces for LGBTIQ+ young people to feel welcome, included and appreciated, to encourage better mental health outcomes and experiences for them and the overall community”.

While we are unable to come together to show our support in the traditional ways due to COVID-19 restrictions, NDCH will be hosting an online morning tea for staff to celebrate the event as well as sharing a social media campaign.

Local schools have also been encouraged to share resources through their online platforms and a number of health organisations, such as Kerang District Health will have staff wearing purple ribbons to show their support.

“Now more than ever, it is important that we look after the mental health of all members of our community and showing our support for LGBTIQ+ young people is one way we can do that”.

This year local businesses have been invited to become part of the Wear It Purple Campaign with a number of them purchasing rainbow stickers to be displayed at their businesses.

Gray’s Bakery will be happily flying the Rainbow Flag from their flagpole. Owner Janine Gray said “Local businesses can make an impact on the experiences of LGBTIQ+ young people by making it clear that they are welcoming, safe spaces. Displaying a Rainbow Flag is one such way to do that.”

NDCH encourages all Gannawarra Businesses to display the Rainbow Flag stickers in their shop windows.

So please pop on your purple clothes on August 28<sup>th</sup>, and join us.

#### **Media Enquiries**

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