

Same Dame but Different Lesbian friendly service provision

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Health Inequalities

↑ Anxiety and depression

↑ Marginalisation, stigmatisation and isolation

↑ Violence and abuse

↑ Smoking, drug and alcohol use and abuse

↓ Access to health services



Pink LACE Project

Lesbians Affected by Cancer Explored

The Pink LACE project is funded by the Australian Government through Cancer Australia's Building Cancer Support Networks Initiative: Better Cancer Support Through Consumers".

The **Pink LACE Project** an initiative of ACON Northern Rivers, aimed to reduce the impact of cancer on lesbians and same sex attracted women in the Northern Rivers region of NSW by improving linkages between support networks and access to support, by identifying barriers and by building capacity within the community and service sector.

It's important to recognise that being a lesbian or same-sex attracted women is not a health problem, but the experience of homophobia and discrimination can be. As a group, we experience lower health outcomes compared to our heterosexual counterparts but as a community we continue to demonstrate considerable strength and resilience.



KEY findings

Recommendations of the Pink LACE Project

- Strengthen partnerships with health providers by providing information and training to recognise the role of sexuality, community and family of choice when working with lesbian and same sex attracted women;
- Increase knowledge for community and health providers of the services available;
- Advocate for the need for further research to expand evidence base on the health needs of lesbians and the importance of statistic data collection;
- Increase information to lesbians and same sex attracted women to build on and develop community networks.
- For further information, contact ACON Northern Rivers.

“The first person I encountered at the oncology clinic asked me where my husband was.

I recall [them] taking down my health care card number, you know, and I just thought, wow, not only am I babbling incoherently because of the fear I was feeling from coming into this place for the first time, but I was also taken aback from the heterosexuality of the environment”.

Sarah

‘Coming Out About Lesbians and Cancer’ 2004

5 principles for lesbian inclusive practice

- 1. An inclusive and safe environment**
- 2. Open and inclusive communication**
- 3. GLBT sensitive practices**
- 4. Staff education and training**
- 5. Organisational policies and procedures**



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