Resource

Terminology and definitions

Affirmed Gender The gender to which one identifies, which may or may

not match the individual's gender at birth.

Bisexual A person who is sexually and emotionally attracted to persons

of the same, opposite or different sex.

Cis or Cisgender A term used to describe when a person's gender identity matches social

expectations for their sex assigned at birth; the opposite of transgender.

It is unclear how this term relates to people with intersex variations, if at all.

Coming Out The process through which an individual comes to recognise and acknowledge

(both to self and to others) their sexual orientation / gender identity. People with

intersex variations typically find out about their status from their parents or a doctor.

Family In this definitions list, family may include biological family or family of choice.

> Due to possibly having experienced rejection from their biological families, some LGBTI people may form core relationship links with others who they may refer to as their 'family of choice'. This is similar to many other people's relationships with

their biological family.

Gay A person whose primary emotional and sexual attraction is towards people of the

same gender. The term is most commonly applied to males, although some females

use this term.

Gender Gender is part of a person's personal and social identity. It refers to the way a person

> feels, presents and is recognised within the community. A person's gender expression refers to outward social markers, including their name, outward

appearance, mannerisms and dress.

Gender Diverse People whose understanding or expression of gender does not conform to social

expectations based on their sex assigned at birth.

Gender Identity; Means the gender-related identity, appearance or mannerisms or other gender

> related characteristics of a person. This includes the way people express or present their gender and recognises that a person's gender identity may be an identity other than man or woman. Consider: refers to gender-related identity. This may

or may not be the same as birth gender.

Heteronormative The assumption that heterosexuality is the norm and that everyone is heterosexual.

Heterosexism Refers to the social and cultural "norms" that support the idea that heterosexuality

is inherently 'right' and anything else isn't.

Homophobia A term used to describe the irrational fear, hatred, aversion to or discrimination

against people who are homosexual, or same-sex attracted, or who are perceived

to be homosexual or same-sex attracted.



Gender Expression





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Intersex Intersex people are born with physical, hormonal or genetic features

that are neither wholly female nor wholly male, or a combination

of female and male.

Lesbian A female whose primary emotional and sexual attraction is towards

other females. Note that some females may use the term gay woman.

LGBTI An acronym that refers to a group of people with diverse sexual orientation,

sex or gender identity. It includes lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people and other sexuality, sex and gender diverse people, regardless of their term

of self-identification. The letters may appear in different order (e.g. GLBTI).

Misgendering Describing or addressing someone using language that does not match a person's

gender identity. For people with intersex variations, this may include a presumption that they have a non-binary gender identity, just as much as an assumption that

they are a man, or a woman.

Non-binarySomeone with a gender identity other than a male or a female; there are a diverse range of non-binary gender identities. Some intersex people and some transgender

people have non-binary gender identities.

Queer An umbrella term for a wide range of non-conforming gender identities

and sexual orientations.

Same-sex attracted Attraction towards people of one's own gender. The term has been used particularly

in the context of young people whose sexual identity is not fixed, but who do

experience sexual feelings towards people of their own sex.

Sex Refers to the chromosomal, gonadal, and anatomical characteristics associated

with biological sex.

Sexual Orientation Sexual orientation means a person's emotional, sexual orientation towards:

a) persons of the same sex or

b) persons of a different sex or

c) persons of the same sex and persons of a different sex or

d) persons of neither sex.

TransgenderTransgender (sometimes shortened to "trans") is an umbrella term used to describe a wide range of gender identities that differ from the perceived norms aligned to

a wide range of gender identities that differ from the perceived norms aligned to biological sex. Transgender is a term that may be used to describe someone whose gender identity does not match their birth gender, someone who identifies as both

genders, neither gender or a third gender.

Common terminology includes Transwomen (M to F) referring to those who were born male but identify as female; although many will identify only as female (not transwomen). Transmen referring to those who were born female but whose gender identity is male (F to M); although many will only identify as male and not transmen.







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Transgender (cont.)

Some transgender people seek surgery or take hormones to bring their body into alignment with their gender identity; many do not. Some transgender people change their gender expression to match

their affirmed gender, many do not.

Transition

Describes both a public act and a process. It involves the permanent and public adoption of the style and presentation of the gender different to that of a person's birth-assigned sex. It usually includes a change of name, chosen style of address and pronouns, as well as adopting the dress and style of presentation of a person's innate gender. It may also involve gender reassignment surgery and/or hormone replacement therapy (HRT). Not all who transition undergo

medically assisted gender reassignment.

Transphobia A term used to describe the irrational fear, hatred, aversion to or discrimination

against people who are transgender, or who are perceived to be transgender.

Also can be termed 'transprejudice'

Terminology and definitions taken from the Australian Government Guidelines on the Recognition of Sex and Gender, the Australian Human Rights Commission and the Pride in Diversity/OII Employers Guide to Intersex Inclusion, 2014.





