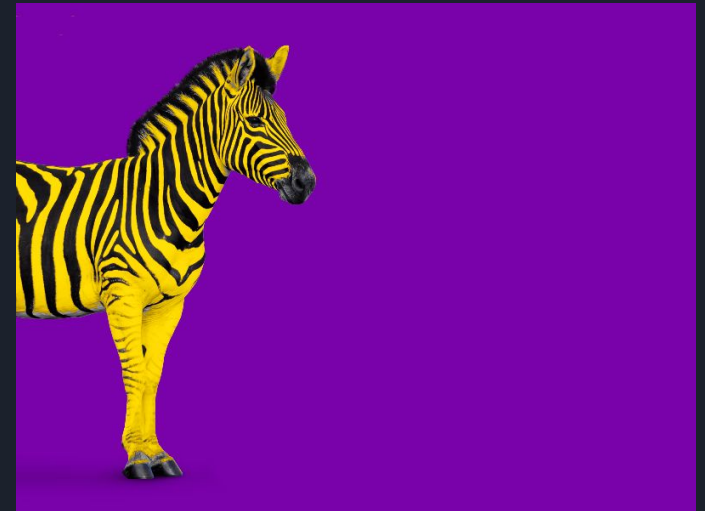


# Network MindOUT Webinar: Building Intersex Peer Support





# Skipping the 101

- Intersex people are 1.7% of the population that are born with variations in sex characteristics.
- One of the most misunderstood demographics under the LGBTIQ acronym.
- As a population faces different challenges
  - Medical violence
  - Read the Darlington Statement



# Why do intersex support?

Intersex people need support.

- To process trauma.
- To combat shame and isolation.
- To produce better medical outcomes.

People who have intersex people in their lives need support

- To stop medical intervention on minors.
- To promote acceptance and understanding and reduce family strain.

# Why do intersex support?

Intersex support is drastically underfunded

- LGBTQ organisations are often funded to tackle “l” issues but drop the ball.
- While intersex led organisations struggle to find resources.





# Challenges of establishing intersex support

## Reconciling differences in the community

- Hermaphrodite vs Intersex vs DSD vs VSC.
  - All are valid, all are contentious
- A lot of intersex people don't know they're intersex.

## Needs are different to the rest of the TGD community.

- Body positive
- Trauma informed
- Challenges in referrals

# Challenges of establishing intersex support

## Hostility towards LGBTQ organisations

- Non-Queer intersex folks.
- Intersex gatekeeping.
- Support for intersex people is perceived as support for activists.





# So what works?

Conscious visibility - gets people in the door

- Meaningful allyship
  - Darlington Statement
- Pride symbols

Intersex “branding” - demonstrates values

- Intersex @ AGA
- Intersex Brochure
  - Describe & validate experiences
  - Explore language

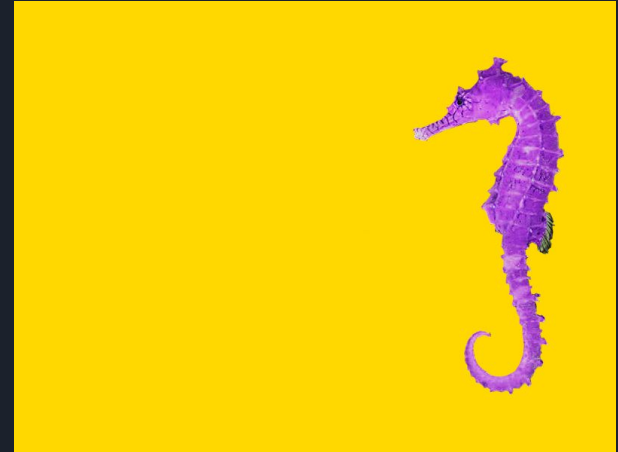
# So what works?

## Needs based and trauma informed

- Acts as a natural filter in LGBTIQ settings
- The need to engage with lived experience
  - My role at AGA

## Community engagement

- Create paid opportunities
- Build confidence and referrals







# What can be done better?

## Sustainability

- Low attendance doesn't always reflect the need for these services
  - Intersex Autonomous group vs Side by Side
  - Email based support

## Integration with broader communities

- Intersex members at AGA have only been interested in Intersex services
- Disconnect from the rest of the community

# What can be done better?

- Lack of services
  - LGBTQ or TGD services are NOT intersex services.
  - Training opportunities can create services.





## On optimism.

- This is a model that can change lives for better
- This is a model that can create opportunities that matter
- Special thanks to the CBR LGBTIQ Community Consortium
  - And A Gender Agenda of course!

# Q&A

