

Information for LGBTI People

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, Transgender and Intersex people are no different from any other bereaved partner in a marriage or other heterosexual relationship.

However, some people with same-sex partners may experience particular difficulties after bereavement.

Difficulties can sometimes arise if, for example, family or some friends do not know about the relationship. A partner or friends may be excluded from the funeral arrangements and even if the family knew of the relationship, they might not acknowledge its significance, or may even be hostile. If this is the case, it might help to ask a friend to act as an intermediary between the bereaved partner and the family.

It may help to talk to friends and family about how you feel.

An LGBTI partner may have to cope with the added distress caused by some people's ignorance or failure to understand the depth and maturity of the relationship, which might mean that their bereavement isn't acknowledged at work for example, or people may expect them to recover more quickly. The relationship could be made public at the inquest and reported in the press, which may add to the distress of the bereaved partner; relatives and friends. Other couples may be living outside what is sometimes called the 'scene' or feel uncomfortable about accessing LGBTI services.

It may help to talk to friends and family about how you feel and/or contact organisations that can offer support such as those listed below and in the Useful Contacts section of this guide, even if you have never been involved previously.

Useful Contacts:

- > Rainbow Tasmania www.rainbowtas.org ☎ 0412 931 974
- > Tasmanian Gay and Lesbian Rights Group www.tglrg.org ☎ 03 6224 3556
- > Tasmanian Council on Aids, Hepatitis and Related Diseases (TasCAHRD) www.tascahrd.org.au ☎ 1800 005 900
- > Gay and Lesbian Switchboard www.switchboard.org.au
- > QLife ☎ For advice, or simply to connect call 1800 184 527 or ✉ ask@qlife.org.au
Phone line is open 5:30pm – 10:30pm every day, emails responded to within 24 hours
- > Office of the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner Tasmania www.antidiscrimination.tas.gov.au ☎ 1300 305 062
- > Be Proud Tasmania [beproudtasmaia.com](http://www.beproudtasmaia.com)  facebook.com/be-proud-tasmania
- > Tasmania Police LGBTI Liaison Officers ☎ 6230 2111
- > TasPride taspride.com ✉ info@taspride.com
- > Tasmanian Relationships Act 2003 justice.tas.gov.au/bdm/relationships
- > National LGBTI Health Alliance lgbtihealth.org.au
- > Organisation Intersex International Australia oii.org.au
- > beyondblue Families Like Mine multimedia guide familieslikemine.beyondblue.org.au
- > Working It Out
South ☎ 6231 1200
North ☎ 0438 346 122
North West ☎ 0438 346 122

QLife

1800 184 527
ask@qlife.org.au

Information adapted from NHS, Help is at Hand, permission pending.