

Queensland Public Sector LGBTIQ+ Steering Committee

2024 members



Brendan Carlson (Chair)

Pronouns: He, Him, His

Director, VAQ Enhancement
Victim Assist Queensland
Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support
brendan.carlson@justice.qld.gov.au

Brendan is a proud gay male and is passionate about LGBTQIA+ diversity, inclusion, and equity, and creating a place for staff to work in an environment where they feel valued, supported, and comfortable.

He is a Director within Victim Assist Queensland and has a strong commitment to intersectionality and the interconnectedness of a person's identity and circumstances.

Working with DJAG's human resources team, Brendan was instrumental in the creation and implementation of the DJAG LGBTIQ+ Network – Just Pride – supported and launched by the Director-General of DJAG in December 2019.

As the Chair of the Queensland Public Sector LGBTIQ+ Steering Committee, Brendan is a strong advocate for diversity and inclusion. As Chair, Brendan is also a member of the Queensland LGBTQIA+ Roundtable to provide a voice for the public sector workforce.



Louise Baxter (Deputy Chair)

Pronouns: She, Her, Hers

Principal Project Officer, VAQ Enhancement
Victim Assist Queensland
Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support
louise.baxter@justice.qld.gov.au

Louise is a proud queer woman who is passionate about LGBTQIA+ inclusion, human rights, equality, and fairness especially in relation to employment and access to services.

Louise established Queensland Health's first LGBTIQ+ Network at Metro South before moving to lead the state-wide network and LGBTIQ+ inclusion work at the Department level. Her efforts were instrumental in the Department of Health achieving bronze status in the Australian Workplace Equality Index (AWEI).

Louise is passionate about reducing barriers for LGBTQIA+ individuals accessing services and ensuring equitable, comprehensive, and culturally sensitive services for all members of LGBTQIA+ communities.

She firmly believes that everyone has a leadership role in fostering inclusion and understands the profound impact that inclusive policies and practices have on individual mental wellbeing and community cohesion.



#BeYou



Dani Costello (Member)

Pronouns: They, them

Business Development Officer
TAFE Queensland
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Dani works with the engineering and automotive industries to help build skilled workforces, keep workers safe and support companies to increase their productivity & improve culture.

With interests in electric vehicle training and assisting people within diverse communities to access training, Dani has over 10 years of experience with TAFE Queensland.

They are committed to developing and maintaining an inclusive and safe environment for all employees and students that is free from discrimination, harassment and bullying.

Dani is non-binary and identifies as queer. Recently diagnosed with ADHD, Dani is interested in sharing and talking about their experiences in the hope that this will help to spread further awareness, understanding and assist others.

Originally from Maine in the United States, Dani met their wife Liz while they were both teaching in Japan. They proudly live in Logan with their two young children and a cat named Carly-Rae. Dani's personal interests include hiking, fossicking for gems & minerals and listening to the band Muna.

Having joined the Queensland Government LGBTIQ+ Steering Committee in October 2022, Dani is determined to make the most out of their term and hopes to meet as many inter-departmental colleagues as possible.



Wendy Ennor (Member)

Pronouns: She, Her, Hers

Director Major Projects, Disability, Inclusion and Student Services
Department of Education
Wendy.ENNOR@ged.qld.gov.au

Wendy is a Director in the Department of Education and holds a Bachelor of Business, a Master of Business Administration, and a Graduate Certificate in Policy Analysis.

Wendy has held a variety of roles in the Queensland Government. Currently, she has a focus on Student Engagement and Alternate Learning and is working on projects under the Putting Queensland Kids First strategy and Maximising learning for every student.

As an Ally, Wendy is keen to contribute to a more inclusive Queensland.



#BeYou



Marcus Oakley (Member)

Pronouns: He, Him, His

Principal Investment Advisor
Trade and Investment Queensland
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Marcus has worked across government in Trade and Investment Queensland, Queensland Treasury and Education Queensland. Marcus has also spent 8 years at the Commonwealth Bank of Australia where he encouraged community grants from the Commonwealth Bank Foundation and partnerships with Wear It Purple, RUOK and ClownDoctors.

Marcus is dedicated to LGBTIQ+ and First Nations advancement, with a specific interest on financial literacy and mental health. Marcus identifies as gay and is of the Kamilaroi people of Southern Queensland and Northern New South Wales and is passionate about promoting diversity, inclusion, and positive intersectionality.

Marcus also serves on the Queensland Treasury Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Steering Committee and is working on the creation of a First Nations Employee Network for Queensland Treasury.



Jules Seabright (Member)

Pronouns: She, He

Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program
Wet Tropics Management Authority
Department of Tourism, the Environment, Science, and Innovation
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Jules (the S is silent) identifies as queer and trans and is extremely passionate about supporting diversity and inclusion in the workplace and broader society, specifically (but not limited to) LGBTIQ+ inclusion and disability/accessibility. Jules knows first-hand what it means to experience certain types of discrimination in the workplace and is committed to ensuring everyone has a fair go and a healthy, fulfilling, connected and meaningful future.

Jules works in the Wet Tropics Management Authority's Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program, in the Department of Environment, Science and Innovation. Jules is an ecologist, ant specialist and scientist dedicated not just to advancing diversity and inclusion, but also to protecting the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area and its surrounds. Jules is proud to contribute to safeguarding Queensland's unique natural and cultural heritage every day.

Jules is also a member of the Department of Environment, Science, and Innovation Diversity & Inclusion Employee Resource Group. As part of this employee-driven group, Jules works to improve outcomes for departmental employees of marginalized identities through contribution to departmental policies, procedures, events, resources, and more. Jules has contributed to strategic documents and Intranet resource pages, and more locally led face-to-face diversity & inclusion trainings within the Authority, among other contributions. In 2023, Jules was honoured with the Department of Environment and Science Excellence Award in recognition of this work and the positive impacts it has created for departmental staff.

Jules is also involved in LGBTIQ+ inclusion and advocacy outside of work and is particularly passionate about transgender health and improving outcomes for transgender people, especially trans youth, in FNQ.



#BeYou



Rebecca Simmons (Member)

Pronouns: She, Her

A/Director Data and Research Partnerships
First Nations Housing and Homelessness
Department of Housing
Rebecca.Simmons@chde.qld.gov.au

Rebecca is the Area Manager at the Townsville Housing Service Centre. Rebecca's passion is in First Nation strategy and programs and has a strong focus on stakeholder engagement in achieving outcomes for vulnerable people.

Rebecca has worked for the Queensland Government over the past 12 years within various roles in Corrective Services across custodial and community corrections where she continuously advocated for change for First Nations prisoners and employees.

Rebecca is a proud palawa women from the Big River Nation in Lutruwita (Tasmania).

Her areas of interest outside of her career is inclusion in sport for the LGBTIQ+ and First Nations people.



Emma Tovell (Member)

Pronouns: She, Her

A/ Manager, Engagement (Community Services Division)
Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety
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Since joining state government in 2008, Emma has been focused on helping human services agencies of various kinds innovate and build partnerships to deliver better outcomes for their customers. Emma is passionate about intersectional LGBTIQ+ inclusion and brings her queer, progressive lens to every role.

Emma is an advocate for the expansion of LGBTIQ+ / SOGIESC training to all government employees, and for policies that enshrine inclusive practices and approaches that support LGBTIQ+ employees as well as LGBTIQ+ community members and organisations.



Kiona Turner (Member)

Pronouns: She, Her

Indigenous Infant Mental Health Clinician
Gold Coast Health
kiona.turner@health.qld.gov.au

Kiona is a proud Ngarabul woman and is currently working as an Indigenous Infant Mental Health Clinician at the Queensland Centre for Perinatal and Infant Mental Health. She has also worked in the Aboriginal health space for a number of years.

Kiona identifies as a queer woman and has a transgender partner and son. She has unfortunately had to navigate pathways that are more difficult than they have had to be and is excited about being able to help make a difference within Queensland Health.



#BeYou



Damian Vanderwolf (Member)

Pronouns: They/them

Customer Insights Lead
Smart Service Queensland
Department of Transport and Main Roads
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Damian has been an active member of the queer community since 1993 and has been involved in queer communities around the country – starting as a resident of then progressing to co-convenor of the then LGBTQIA+ youth refuge, Twenty10.

Whilst a volunteer at Twenty10, Damian delivered many homophobia workshops in high schools with groups ranging from 6 to 300 students and teachers in NSW. Some of the other organisations Damian has been involved with since then include Switchboard (Counselling service) in Victoria, Alice Springs Pride and, most recently, the Employee Reference Group at the Department of Customer Service in NSW.

They are also a member of the neuro-diverse community and are passionate about the impact of intersectionality of minority groups. They believe we can each learn from and, support each other and that our shared (and sometimes similar) experiences that can deepen our empathy and compassion for one another.

Damian is particularly passionate about learning more from, growing with and walking a path towards truth and healing with our First Nations siblings.



Martin Vinton (Member)

Pronouns: He, Him, His

Director, First Nations Housing and Homelessness
Department of Housing and Public Works
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Martin has worked in various frontline and non-frontline roles across the state for over 10 years with the Department of Housing and Public Works, with a passion for person-centred and placed-based outcomes for our most vulnerable Queenslanders.

Martin was one of the founding members of his department's LGBTIQ+ Employment Network Group, driven from wanting to see real change and acceptance for our rainbow people to be able to bring their true selves to work.



#BeYou



Dan White (Member)

Pronouns: He, Him, His

Principal Advisor (Strategic Network Management)
Department of Transport and Main Roads
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Dan is the Principal Advisor within the newly established Statewide Network Operations Branch of Transport and Main Roads. Dan coordinates, leads and delivers the provision of research, critical thinking, and analysis to formulate contemporary policy, advice, and guidance on strategic network management activities such as disruption management.

Dan has worked predominantly in health and transport sectors, in both regional and metropolitan areas, across the public, not-for-profit, and private sectors. His experience extends across the functions of business administration, project and program management, strategy and policy development, people management, quality and risk management, information technology and information security.

Career highlights include modernising oversight mechanisms by using existing data better to improve decision-making in health programs, delivering key initiatives to increase access to real-time traveller information including supporting strategies, developing first time subject matter strategies, and achieving first time management system third-party certifications.

Dan is a strong advocate for equity, inclusion, diversity, and intersectionality. As a first term member, he looks forward to contributing to the vital work of the steering committee in realising its aspiration of a workplace where individuals can bring their whole selves to work.

Dan holds degrees in business, law, arts, and information technology management.



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