# Rainbow Tick initial assessment tool

Getting a snapshot of your LGBTIQ Inclusive journey





Produced by Rainbow Health Australia.

Rainbow Health Australia is funded by the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services.

Disclaimer: Every effort has been made to ensure the information contained in this publication is accurate and current at the date of printing.

ISBN:

Layout and editing: tinderspark

Illustration: Thirst Creative

Icons by Smashicons and Freepik



© La Trobe University 2020

## Rainbow Tick initial assessment tool

Getting a snapshot of your LGBTIQ Inclusive journey

### **Contents**

How to use this tool	.4
Standard 1: Organisational capability	.6
Standard 2: Workforce Development	.11
Standard 3: Consumer participation	.14
Standard 4: A welcoming and accessible organisation	.17
Standard 5: Disclosure and documentation	.20
Standard 6: Culturally safe and acceptable services	.23

### What is the Rainbow Tick initial assessment tool?

The Rainbow Tick initial assessment tool is for organisations to use to build an action plan for improving LGBTIQ-inclusive practice. You do not need to be working on Rainbow Tick accreditation to benefit from this initial assessment. This tool is perfect for any organisation, big or small, that would like to take a closer look at embedding LGBTIQ-inclusive practice into the heart of their organisation.

The tool is built around the six Rainbow Tick Standards and quality-based indicators that organisations can use to gauge how well their current systems, practices and protocols are meeting the intent of that particular Standard. It allows the responding organisation to make note of which indicators and standards are met. partially met or unmet at this stage, and note down action steps from here.

When complete, the tool gives a snapshot of current LGBTIQ-inclusive practice and the work that still lies ahead. An action plan template is attached so users may begin to note next steps in a systematic way and have a quick "plan on a page" at hand for their Rainbow Tick journey.

To get the most out of your initial assessment, it is recommended that organisations familiarise themselves with Rainbow Tick, a framework for LGBTIQ cultural safety to understand the rationale behind each Standard and what the reality of meeting it can look like. More detail is also availble about the kinds of evidence you will require in the Rainbow Tick Evidence and Accreditation Guide. To assist in this, consider completing Rainbow Health Australia's HOW2 training package.

For your initial assessment, you will require perspectives from different parts of the organisation; ideally a small core group that can cover all Standards. Consider systems experts who are relevant to each

Standard, e.g. HR person, risk manager, practice leader etc. Also consider how service users can have input to this process — see Standard 3 of Rainbow Tick: a framework for LGBTIQ cultural safety for more information.

### How do I use the initial assessment tool?

The initial assessment tool is arranged around the six LGBTIQ-inclusive practice Standards:

- 1. Organisational capability
- 2. Workforce development
- 3. Consumer participation
- 4. A welcoming and accessible organisation
- 5. Disclosure and documentation
- 6. Culturally safe and acceptable services

Each Standard consists of a number of key indicators with an associated list of evidence. If you already have an LGBTIQ-inclusive example of this evidence tick the corresponding box. When thinking about evidence consider how your systems, processes and roles measure up against accepted good practice and how to demonstrate this.

Once you have worked through the evidence column for that indicator, use the assessment column to rate how well your organisation is currently meeting that indicator by using the following scale:

**Not met** — Little or no progress has been made (less than 30% of boxes ticked in indicator)

**Partially met** — Some progress has been made (30-90% of boxes ticked in indicator)

**Met in full** — Good progress has been made (90%–100% of boxes ticked in indicator)

**Exceeded** – 100% of boxes ticked and additional evidence also present

As you work through each indicator row, identify any areas for improvement and record your notes in the Additional Information column. This will assist you to build your action plan. Not all examples of evidence are suitable for all organisations. In instances where it may not be possible or appropriate to provide these examples consider how you may demonstrate that the indicator has been met.

Remember to also acknowledge your successes and communicate your wins. This is a long process and it's important to keep track of the little things. Be sure to communicate your strategy to the rest of your organisation, service users and partners. Acknowledging and celebrating improvements as they occur can build morale and buy-in.

### Developing an LGBTIQinclusive action plan

Use the notes and ticks populated in the initial assessment section to complete the action plan template attached.

The initial assessment tool can be used by an organisation to identify achievements and areas of strength and to determine where improvements are required. The results of the initial assessment can inform forward planning including change management, systems redesign/improvement and cultural reform.

The results of the audit can also be used to assist in the development of an LGBTIQ-inclusive quality improvement and change management plan that prioritises action areas and identifies the resources that will be required.

When developing your plan consider the following:

- ► How can you build on what already exists? Are there improvements that logically fit together?
- What resources will you need?
- ► How will you prioritise actions? What is more urgent? What is an easy win? What is going to take time? What dependencies do you need to consider?

### Where to from here?

For your next steps, build a team or working group to action your plan. Ensure they are drawn from all areas of the organisation and that they are accountable for change in some way.

## Organisational capability

The organisation embeds LGBTIQ-inclusive practice across all its systems and continuously seeks opportunities for improvements.

Indicator	Evidence	Assessment	Notes
1.1. LGBTIQ-inclusive practice Standards are reflected in the organisation's mission statement, vision, values, position descriptions, service contracts, performance management system, service models and quality management plan.	<ul> <li>Mission, vision and values statements</li> <li>Diversity statement/policies or equivalents</li> <li>Harassment policies for staff and service users.</li> <li>Equal Opportunity, Antidiscrimination and/or Bullying and Harassment policy</li> <li>Strategic plan</li> <li>Position descriptions of staff, volunteers, the leadership team and governing body</li> <li>Service and program planning documentation</li> <li>Service delivery contracts</li> <li>Human resources documentation including, but not limited to Recruitment and Selection and Performance Management.</li> <li>Service user, staff and management feedback</li> </ul>	Not met Partially met Met in full Exceeded	
1.2. The organisation facilitates LGBTIQ inclusion amongst staff and volunteers and on the governing body and other committees.	<ul> <li>A staff statement or policy</li> <li>Selection and recruitment documentation for staff and volunteers</li> <li>Documentation inviting LGBTIQ service users to sit on organisational committees.</li> <li>Terms of reference for the governing body and organisational committees</li> <li>Evidence of commitment to meeting targets for LGBTIQ representation on key committees.</li> </ul>	<ul><li>Not met</li><li>Partially met</li><li>Met in full</li><li>Exceeded</li></ul>	

Indicator	Evidence	Assessment	Notes
1.3. The organisation has an integrated LGBTIQ service user feedback system that ensures continuous LGBTIQ-related quality improvement and planning.	<ul> <li>Service user, staff and other feedback</li> <li>Minutes of meetings</li> <li>Quality improvement plan, records and project reports</li> <li>Reporting of outcomes for service governance</li> </ul>	<ul><li>Not met</li><li>Partially met</li><li>Met in full</li><li>Exceeded</li></ul>	
1.4. The organisation values its LGBTIQ staff and volunteers, understands and meets their needs and has processes to manage risk and provide them with a safe and healthy workplace.	<ul> <li>□ Valuing Diversity in Staff statement or policy</li> <li>□ Work Health and Safety (WHS) policies, procedures, tools and templates</li> <li>□ Risk management policies and procedures</li> <li>□ Risk register and plans</li> <li>□ Staff and volunteer training packages</li> <li>□ Testimony of LGBTIQ staff and volunteers</li> <li>□ Management interviews</li> <li>□ Orientation package/ information for subcontractors, students and trainees (as applicable)</li> <li>□ Audit reports of site inspections</li> <li>□ Hazard identification and management reports</li> <li>□ Quality Improvement plans and activity reports</li> <li>□ Reports to managers and governing body</li> <li>□ Dress/uniform code</li> <li>□ Records of meetings with LGBTIQ staff</li> <li>□ Staff survey or other feedback mechanisms</li> <li>□ Promotional materials</li> </ul>	☐ Not met ☐ Partially   met ☐ Met in full ☐ Exceeded	

Indicator	Evidence	Assessment	Notes
1.5. Workforce planning, recruitment and selection, and performance management processes and documentation are inclusive of LGBTIQ staff and volunteers.	<ul> <li>□ Workforce plan or equivalent</li> <li>□ Application and outcome documentation related to Equal Opportunity Act exemptions, exceptions and special measures taken to mitigate their impact on excluded groups, if applicable.</li> <li>□ Human resource policies, procedures, tools and templates</li> <li>□ Appropriate training for HR staff managing recruitment</li> <li>□ Staff code of conduct/ service users' responsibilities</li> <li>□ Position descriptions</li> <li>□ Examples of recruitment/ career promotion documentation</li> <li>□ Performance management documentation</li> <li>□ Investigation records of alleged breaches</li> <li>□ Quality improvement activity plans and implementation records resulting from any such investigations.</li> <li>□ Visual appearance of staff rooms and volunteer spaces</li> <li>□ Management and staff interviews</li> <li>□ Service user interviews</li> </ul>	□ Not met □ Partially met □ Met in full □ Exceeded	

Indicator	Evidence	Assessment	Notes
1.6. The organisation has systems for monitoring compliance with these Standards and continuously improving LGBTIQ-inclusive practice.	<ul> <li>□ Timetable of audits/reviews</li> <li>□ Analysis of service governance records</li> <li>□ Audit or self-assessment results</li> <li>□ Analysis of progress against quality plan</li> <li>□ Appropriately resourced quality improvement projects resulting from review processes</li> <li>□ Plans for further improvements</li> <li>□ Schedule of regular LGBTIQ working group meetings and records of meeting minutes</li> <li>□ Operational meeting agendas</li> <li>□ Supervision/reflective practice session templates</li> <li>□ Records of internal or external communities of practice</li> <li>□ Position descriptions for ongoing diversity and inclusion roles</li> <li>□ Position descriptions for permanent LGBTIQ inclusion specific roles</li> </ul>	☐ Not met ☐ Partially   met ☐ Met in full ☐ Exceeded	

## Workforce development

All staff and volunteers understand their responsibilities to LGBTIQ service users and are trained and able to deliver LGBTIQ-inclusive services.

Indicator	Evidence	Assessment	Notes
2.1. The organisation has a systematic process for assessing the LGBTIQ-inclusive practice professional development needs of the governing body, leadership team, staff and volunteers.	<ul> <li>Workforce development plan</li> <li>Survey templates or other data gathering tools for learning needs analysis</li> <li>Governance body/staff/ volunteer survey findings regarding values and beliefs</li> <li>Targeted needs analysis report and plan</li> <li>Quality improvement project plans</li> <li>A schedule showing periodic learning needs analysis</li> <li>Supervision/reflective practice session templates</li> <li>Records of internal or external communities of practice on LGBTIQ issues</li> </ul>	Not met Partially met Met in full Exceeded	
2.2. The organisation provides professional development to the governing body, leadership team, staff and volunteers that includes their legal responsibilities, LGBTIQ cultural safety and a consideration of the impact of employees' attitudes and beliefs on LGBTIQ-inclusive practice.	<ul> <li>Training and professional development packages</li> <li>Training option assessments</li> <li>Training register and schedules – for governance body, managers, staff and volunteers</li> <li>Supervision records</li> <li>Performance reviews</li> <li>Compliance audits and review of results</li> <li>Mechanisms used to determine staff knowledge, attitudes and behaviours</li> <li>Professional development evaluation reports</li> <li>Quality improvement project plans for professional development packages</li> <li>Staff interviews</li> <li>Budget and resource plans</li> <li>New staff orientation checklists</li> </ul>	□ Not met □ Partially met □ Met in full □ Exceeded	

Indicator	Evidence	Assessment	Notes
2.3. The organisation keeps up to date with current trends in the field of LGBTIQ-inclusive service provision and uses this information in the ongoing development of staff training and resources.	Agendas from staff/ managers meetings, supervision  Newsletters, emails, intranet Presentations and resources Documented changes to systems/guidance/practice  Training materials for significant new learnings/ system changes.  Evaluation reports of any training for, or implementation of, new practice.  Secondary consultation records  Minutes of nominated LGBTIQ quality/action group	Not met Partially met Met in full Exceeded	
2.4. The organisation participates in relevant professional associations and other forums aimed at improving the quality of services provided to LGBTIQ service users.	<ul> <li>Workforce plan</li> <li>Budget records</li> <li>Records of external professional development, forums, etc</li> <li>Presentations, articles, etc. distributed through internal and external mechanisms and structures.</li> </ul>	<ul><li>Not met</li><li>Partially met</li><li>Met in full</li><li>Exceeded</li></ul>	

## Consumer participation

LGBTIQ service users are consulted about, and participate in the planning, development, and review of the service.

Indicator	Evidence	Assessment	Notes
3.1. The organisation has a system for identifying and monitoring the changing needs of its LGBTIQ service users and evaluating the impact of service improvements on their quality of care.	<ul> <li>Strategies to engage and seek input from LGBTIQ service users</li> <li>Plans that include strategies to connect with less visible LGBTIQ service users</li> <li>Advertising materials</li> <li>Position descriptions</li> <li>Surveys or other materials</li> <li>LGBTIQ service user feedback</li> <li>Aggregated data and analysis from service needs assessments.</li> <li>Minutes of meetings, forums</li> <li>Quality improvement plans and reports</li> <li>Reports provided to managers/Board</li> <li>Quality of Care report, newsletter, article in local newspaper, LGBTIQ radio, website news item.</li> </ul>	□ Not met □ Partially met □ Met in full □ Exceeded	

Indicator	Evidence	Assessment	Notes
3.2. The organisation participates in relevant professional associations and other forums aimed at improving the quality of services provided to LGBTIQ service users.	<ul> <li>Service evaluation surveys or other service evaluation materials</li> <li>Quality improvement project plans</li> <li>Evaluation records of LGBTIQ-specific programs and services</li> <li>Minutes of meetings, forums</li> <li>Records of quality improvement activity evaluations</li> <li>Reports provided to managers/board</li> <li>Quality of Care report, newsletter, article in local newspaper, LGBTIQ radio, website news item.</li> </ul>	Not met Partially met Met in full Exceeded	
3.3. As part of its ongoing assessment of service users' experience, the organisation analyses its performance in working with LGBTIQ service users and undertakes appropriate service improvements.	<ul> <li>Analysis of feedback from LGBTIQ service users</li> <li>Quality improvement projects plans</li> <li>Systems audits and results</li> <li>Records of meetings</li> <li>Reports provided to managers/board</li> </ul>	Not met Partially met Met in full Exceeded	

# A welcoming and accessible organisation

LGBTIQ service users can easily and confidently access services because the physical and virtual environments, including information, structures, resources and processes, are welcoming.

Indicator	Evidence	Assessment	Notes
4.1. The organisation welcomes LGBTIQ service users through a range of different strategies that are appropriate to different contexts and environments.	<ul> <li>Media and communications policies and procedures</li> <li>Web pages</li> <li>Staff and service users information brochures</li> <li>Service users and personnel record templates</li> <li>Recruitment templates for staff and volunteers</li> <li>Promotional and advertising materials.</li> <li>Site observations</li> <li>Bathroom policies</li> <li>Staff training records</li> <li>Records of meetings etc</li> <li>Staff, volunteer and service users interviews</li> </ul>	<ul><li>Not met</li><li>□ Partially met</li><li>□ Met in full</li><li>□ Exceeded</li></ul>	
4.2. The organisation's communication and educational materials are LGBTIQ-inclusive (e.g. inclusive language and images, and LGBTIQ specific information where relevant).	<ul> <li>Knowledge management and documentation policy</li> <li>Sample of electronic and printed promotional and educational materials</li> <li>Records of service users' participation in the development and review of resources and marketing strategies.</li> <li>Interviews with LGBTIQ service users and staff</li> </ul>	Not met Partially met Met in full Exceeded	

Indicator	Evidence	Assessment	Notes
4.3. The organisation effectively communicates its services to the LGBTIQ community.	<ul> <li>Communications plan or strategy</li> <li>Lists of key stakeholders</li> <li>Samples of articles and stories in internal and external media</li> <li>Plans for, and reports about, events and activities the organisation has attended or conducted</li> <li>Evaluations of impact of promotional activities and resulting quality improvement plans</li> <li>Stakeholder interviews</li> </ul>	Not met Partially met Met in full Exceeded	

## Disclosure and documentation

LGBTIQ service users, staff and volunteers feel safe to provide personal information, including their sexual orientation, gender identity and/or intersex status, because they know information will be treated respectfully and that there are systems in place to ensure their privacy.

Indicator	Evidence	Assessment	Notes
<b>5.1.</b> The organisation has a policy on when it is and is not appropriate to collect information on a service user's sexual orientation, gender identity, intersex status and/or relationship status.	<ul> <li>Policies and procedures concerning the collection of information</li> <li>A consumer-oriented document which describes rights and responsibilities</li> <li>Samples of case record documentation</li> <li>Risk register</li> <li>Staff training records</li> <li>Staff and service user interviews</li> <li>Service users record audit</li> </ul>	<ul><li>Not met</li><li>Partially met</li><li>Met in full</li><li>Exceeded</li></ul>	
<b>5.2.</b> The organisation only collects information about a service user's sexual orientation, gender identity, intersex status and/ or relationship status from the service user themselves or from their nominated representative.	<ul> <li>Policy and procedures that address who is authorised to collect information</li> <li>Staff and service user interviews</li> <li>Consumer-record audit</li> <li>Supervision records</li> </ul>	☐ Not met ☐ Partially   met ☐ Met in full ☐ Exceeded	
5.3. The organisation has processes to ensure that LGBTIQ service users understand that information about their sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex status is confidential and that they will be consulted on how and why this information is recorded, stored and shared.	<ul> <li>Privacy and confidentiality policies and procedures</li> <li>A service user-oriented document describing information collection rights and responsibilities</li> <li>Staff and service user interviews</li> <li>Service users record audit</li> <li>Risk register and treatment plans</li> <li>Supervision records</li> </ul>	<ul><li>Not met</li><li>Partially met</li><li>Met in full</li><li>Exceeded</li></ul>	

Indicator	Evidence	Assessment	Notes
5.4. Staff understand the significance to LGBTIQ people of disclosing their sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex status and the organisation has strategies to ensure that staff respond in a respectful and positive way when service users, other staff or volunteers disclose.	<ul> <li>Staff training records</li> <li>Content of training and professional development programs and other activities for staff and volunteers</li> <li>Supervision records</li> <li>Risk register and treatment plans</li> </ul>	<ul><li>Not met</li><li>Partially met</li><li>Met in full</li><li>Exceeded</li></ul>	
storing, using and sharing LGBTIQ staff and volunteers' personal information, including their sexual orientation, gender identity, intersex status or relationship status.	<ul> <li>Human resource policies and procedures, templates and tools</li> <li>Managers and human resources personnel interviews</li> <li>Staff and volunteer interviews</li> <li>Personnel record templates and checklists</li> <li>Observation of secure storage of personnel records, including appropriate access procedures.</li> <li>Audit of a sample of personnel records of staff and volunteers.</li> <li>Audit results of the organisation's monitoring of records.</li> <li>Quality improvement plans and activity reports arising from system review/record audits</li> </ul>	□ Not met □ Partially met □ Met in full □ Exceeded	

## Culturally safe and acceptable services

Services and programs identify, assess, analyse and manage risks to ensure the cultural safety of LGBTIQ service users.

Indicator	Evidence	Assessment	Notes
6.1. The organisation understands the needs of LGBTIQ service users and addresses these needs in the design and delivery of services and programs.	<ul> <li>□ Policies and procedures for service and program planning</li> <li>□ Needs analysis reports</li> <li>□ Records of engagement with identified stakeholders</li> <li>□ Examples of service and program plans</li> <li>□ Examples of program and service reviews</li> <li>□ Records of response to complaints or other feedback</li> <li>□ Quality improvement plans and activity reports arising from program and service reviews</li> <li>□ Management and board reporting relating to service planning and review</li> </ul>	□ Not met □ Partially met □ Met in full □ Exceeded	
6.2. Individual intake, assessment, care planning and case management processes and documentation are LGBTIQ inclusive.	<ul> <li>Policies, procedures and other resources</li> <li>Samples of intake, needs identification, assessment, care planning and case management templates</li> <li>Samples of communications with key referring bodies.</li> <li>List of organisations and referral protocols.</li> <li>Staff and service users interviews</li> <li>Records of intake and assessment, care planning and case management processes and documentation review</li> <li>Service governance records or reports</li> </ul>	☐ Not met ☐ Partially   met ☐ Met in full ☐ Exceeded	

Indicator	Evidence	Assessment	Notes
6.3. The organisation's service delivery risk management system includes strategies to identify and manage potential risks to the cultural safety of LGBTIQ service users.	<ul> <li>☐ Guiding documentation for planning</li> <li>☐ Program and service records</li> <li>☐ Risk register</li> <li>☐ Risk management plans</li> <li>☐ Risk reports to management team and governance body</li> <li>☐ Quality improvement project plans/activity reports emerging from risk analysis.</li> <li>☐ Interviews with governing body</li> <li>☐ Interviews with CEO/managers/staff</li> <li>☐ Staff interviews</li> </ul>	☐ Not met ☐ Partially   met ☐ Met in full ☐ Exceeded	
6.4. The organisation has processes in place to identify and respond to breaches of the cultural safety of LGBTIQ service users, staff and volunteers by other staff, service users, volunteers or visitors.	<ul> <li>☐ Incident and investigation reports</li> <li>☐ Debriefing and support records</li> <li>☐ Trend reports to senior managers and governing body</li> <li>☐ Quality improvement project plans emerging from near misses or actual breaches</li> <li>☐ Documentation establishing a nominated Cultural Safety Officer or equivalent</li> <li>☐ Staff supervision and training records</li> <li>☐ Supervision records</li> <li>☐ Interview with governing body</li> <li>☐ CEO and senior manager interviews</li> <li>☐ Staff interviews</li> <li>☐ Staff interviews</li> <li>☐ Staff interviews</li> <li>☐ Staff interviews</li> </ul>	□ Not met □ Partially met □ Met in full □ Exceeded	

Indicator	Evidence	Assessment	Notes
6.5. The organisation communicates expectations about LGBTIQ cultural safety across its programs and services and to other organisations.	<ul> <li>Cultural safety policy and procedures</li> <li>Guiding documents for program and service planning</li> <li>Communications from leaders and managers</li> <li>Service users rights and responsibilities documentation</li> <li>Program and service promotional materials</li> <li>Interviews with managers, volunteers and staff</li> <li>Service users and stakeholder interviews</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Not met</li> <li>Partially met</li> <li>Met in full</li> <li>Exceeded</li> </ul>	

LGBTIQ+ inclusive practice project plan

Strategy # and description	Related standard	Responsibility	sponsibility Timeframe START-END	Allocated resources		Key tasks	Progress	Status
	and indicator			Budget	Staff			
Describe strategy and objective/ outcome	e.g. 6.1	Who is accountable for this strategy being implemented?	DD-MM-YYYY to DD-MM-YYYY	What resources are required?	What people are required, and for how long?	Break down the strategy into the main tasks required	Include text updates briefly describing stage of progress	e.g. traffic light, dashboard. Include relevant traffic light, and action if not on track

