**LGBTI+ GO (Goulburn Ovens) Alliance  
 DRAFT Meeting Minutes – 23 November 2020  
 9:30am - 11:00am  
Venue: Zoom**

**Chair:** Michelle Harmer

**Minutes:** Damien Stevens-Todd

**Attendees:** Michelle Harmer (Gateway, they/them), Damien Stevens-Todd (GOTAFE, he/him/his), Michelle Robins (GOTAFE), Ken Campagnolo (Benalla rep.), Kathryn Foster (she/her, DET), Mathew Fowler (Nexus), Joel Board (GSCC, they/them/he), Michel (ACT Ally), Georgie Poort (Uniting), Daniel Gardner (GOTAFE).

**Apologies:** Marie Murfet, Kathryn Lane, Leanne Cleeland, Jasmine Graham, Ashley Lythgo, Wendy Kelly, Nicole Reidy, Allison Winters, Leigh Stanbrook, Kerri Ford, Sam Birrell, Sam Spinks, Tess Marnane, Olivia Noto, Nicole R, Katie Clavarino, Suzanne Muntz, Kasey Holyman, Rebecca Kovacs, Laura Powell, Leah Lindrea, Seema Abdullah.

**Welcome and acknowledgement**

**Introductions**

**Updates inc. emerging themes, wish list for 2021**

Kathryn Foster – we participated in recent GVP Rainbow walk/run, promoted internally; current focus is transition for students to 2021, how can students feel supported and welcomed in their environment; respectful relationships position on seek.com.au, I’m on maternity leave.

Georgie - active outreach, every day different schools, things going well in youth space, lots of need to support, complex mental health concerns, too much self-harm and suicide ideation; do reach out to Uniting for safety-plan help with young people as needed, summer holidays can be a difficult time; getting to Euroa, Moira Shire, broader region. Lunch time programs running successfully. Diversity Group soon to be face-to-face again. More inclusive clinical services for 2021 would be good. georgina.poort@vt.uniting.org / 0419 503 654

Ken - military community and gblit community can relate, shared stories and support occurring. Many people "gender-fluid", want to sleep under a rainbow flag. Homophobic response to glory hole, closed down public toilet. Nude man fest canned. Every Xmas I run an open meal, gblit people all welcome. Also connected to camping and disability group, support available, online chat group is where it started. Hot meal and nice Christmas together - contact Ken via Facebook.

Joel - busy planning consultation for gender equity, first quarter of 2021; recently Community Safety month, GV Pride participated, highlighting how to engage and what they do; 16 days of activism coming up (RESPECT Victoria), selfie frames "what does respect mean to me", passive activations happening throughout the 16 days. "Social inclusion/equity strategy" might be new name for "community safety" in 2021.

Michel - ACT - quite a split community, Michel connected to Uniting, moving into counselling to assist transgender clients mainly, using EFT as a modality, want to start up something in the south-side of ACT for lgbti elders in 2021. Michel Hansen - Social Worker - Making Connections Together (Sole Trader). admin@makingconnectionstogether.com.au, web: www.makingconnectionstogether.com.au, phone: 0420 639 407. In ACT we have the Rainbow Christian Alliance through the Tuggeranong Uniting Church and the Dare Café through Goulburn Uniting Church - they run monthly. Treehouse Child and Perinatal Services in Wodonga. Books are closed but hoping to open books again in February 2021. Phone: 0473 406 563 email: Rebecca@treehousechildandperinatalservices.com

Michelle R - GOTAFE won Victorian Training Award for diversity (inclusive training provider of the year), Daniel Gardner (Coordinator, Diversity and Inclusion) just joined GOTAFE (see below), GOTAFE looking for voices as ambassadors; Michelle did some training recently with Matt Parsons Rainbow Health on intimate partner and family violence; GOTAFE a buzzing space where all students feel safe. Three action plans to deliver for 2021 - access/inclusion (disability), gender equity plan (laws), social justice charter coming to life.

Mathew - Nexus, focus for 2021 to be able to have more one-on-ones, COVID plans done recently for under 25s and over 25s groups, hopefully we can implement soon - get in and do hands on work.

Damien - very successful OUTintheOPEN Festival, 18 events over 10 days; a few care packages left (<http://outintheopen.org.au/lgbtiqa-care-package-program/>), please complete Festival survey if you attended (<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ViFLoC0HqUuz55eBAXUWapWVBCGvVwhOvpbIKjKUGCZUNTJHU05CRE1aWkJVR1JPMk5DUzlSUklVOS4u&fbclid=IwAR0tnnhl2qKNztMyiH-PbwKBMAKAxkWQC17iJfTa-4-qNkQ9Qd6FKx706Cg>); GV Pride Xmas BBQ 13 Dec Ferrari Park Mooroopna, World AIDS Day 1 Dec, AIDS Awareness Week this week - free ribbons, tea towels, enviro shopping bags, caps, t-shirts, please contact Damien if you can distribute; STI awareness week last week. [www.gvpride.org](http://www.gvpride.org) and <https://www.facebook.com/OUTintheOPENFestival> and <https://www.facebook.com/gvprideshepparton>

Daniel - introduced himself, it’s his role to implement social justice charter; looking at gendered polices, uniforms, toilets; welcome here project to support GOTAFE campuses and footprint; celebrate days of significance, opportunity to go further with lgbtiq action plan in 2021 and beyond. Some legislative requirements will support this. RAP on the cards. CALD too. Audits on parental leave policy, etc. Accreditation - rainbow tick? Workplace equality index. Formalise LGBTI network at GOTAFE to link to education network, and state network. Solidify employee voice. Better connected across government. Visibility - GOTAFE lanyards, all the flags. Engagement surveys for lgbti staff vs. all staff. Find gaps. People matters survey results coming soon. Partnering with ALL GO Alliance partners.

Michelle H - Gateway health, Wangaratta is where I sit. Going through rainbow tick work. Aged care can be health/community, HACC, ageing in place, looking for opportunities to link in, promoting OUTintheOPEN. Mobility issues - how do elders participate and have ongoing access to community? IHRA (Bonnie), intersex forum; Val’s Cafe (LTU), needs of older LGBTI people, tying commonwealth standards in, new tool explored. Care packs delivered to people "We haven't been forgotten"). COVID and info sessions via socials means elders still missing out. Prefer face to face. Don't forget Switchboard or "rainbow door" case management service for families, individuals. Rainbow ready roadmap session this Friday.

Sending good health and warm wishes of the season to you all!

**ACTIONS:**

Damien - Send Press Release from last week - New Family Counselling Service For LGBTIQ+ Victorians, "tender process" >> <https://www.premier.vic.gov.au/new-family-counselling-service-lgbtiq-victorians>

Damien - Rainbow Ready Roadmap Information Webinar – send info for this Friday 27 Nov at 1pm. See below.

ALL - Set dates for 2021 early next year.  
  
**\*\*\*\*\* Rainbow Ready Roadmap Information Webinar \*\*\*\*\***

You are invited to join Commissioner for LGBTIQ Communities, Ro Allen, Daniel Witthaus (NICHE) and Dr Catherine Barrett (The Kindness Pandemic, Alice’s Garage) on **Friday 27 November** at **1 pm** for this information session about the Rainbow Ready Roadmap.

You’ve told us that regional and rural Victoria needed to go from a Roadshow to a Roadmap for LGBTIQ Inclusion and we’ve listened.  The Rainbow Ready Roadmap is the result of our work with you, 29 regional and rural communities at different points of your LGBTIQ Inclusion journeys.

The Rainbow Ready Roadmap was created based on feedback from across Victoria and has three parts:

* 1. A checklist for your community to check how it’s going with its local LGBTIQ inclusion work;
  2. The ten most important pieces of the LGBTIQ Inclusion puzzle a community needs so that local LGBTIQ people feel safe, supported, welcome and included; and,
  3. Examples of better regional and rural LGBTIQ practice that are low cost, no cost.

We’ll answer your questions about what’s next, how we can support you using the Rainbow Ready Roadmap locally and how to share your community’s stories.

**Webinar Details:**

Date: Friday 27 November

Time: 1 pm (AEST)

To join the webinar please click:[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4854363392?pwd=SldHVXJhQnFRUTd6Z3RsR0xCSk90QT09](https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furldefense.proofpoint.com%2Fv2%2Furl%3Fu%3Dhttps-3A__eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com_-3Furl-3Dhttps-253A-252F-252Fus02web.zoom.us-252Fj-252F4854363392-253Fpwd-253DSldHVXJhQnFRUTd6Z3RsR0xCSk90QT09-26data-3D04-257C01-257C-257C0ca6536faa754978c13708d886a3786e-257C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa-257C1-257C0-257C637407384124443596-257CUnknown-257CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0-253D-257C1000-26sdata-3DQt-252F2WTOZKR5CKcA-252BRBhZdQUx8oxdWEPoVTpcQUaBTbI-253D-26reserved-3D0%26d%3DDwMGaQ%26c%3DJnBkUqWXzx2bz-3a05d47Q%26r%3Dj8SSqQvCYMkDGNbd9X9q5xm6ugRHccKg7_6C-_zXyjk%26m%3D4nQ0yn7YBEc5hcpNJaw-i-71FdtdQK1LV-nnYFDbeGM%26s%3DZAqZ3MWzs8vflmZw2iRq5zCkJA4Klx7g5-skVKuSIH8%26e%3D&data=04%7C01%7C%7C5d41f302108c43c3109208d88f3af96c%7C54535fd3ba4342179846fc3c6437d22a%7C0%7C0%7C637416830776335348%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=nnU5WS0T3RvYLcbHtnQIKA1FVhsP%2BEVfizYS%2BKf5Tuk%3D&reserved=0)

You can also manually join the meeting with the Zoom ID: 4854363392 (Password: 395615)

If you have any other questions, please email me via [daniel@niche.org.au](mailto:daniel@niche.org.au).

Yours in rural LGBTIQ inclusion,

Daniel

**Daniel Witthaus**

**Founder & CEO**

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**Pronouns: he, him and his**