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Mallee Family Care awarded Victorian Government Grant to Boost LGBTQIA+ Inclusion

A new Mallee Family Care project will help community service providers in the region better meet the needs of LGBTQIA+ people in the Mallee and surrounding cross-border communities.

The project, *Understanding Barriers, Strengthening Inclusion*, is funded under the Victorian Government's LGBTQIA+ Organisational Development Grant Program, and will engage LGBTQIA+ communities across the Mallee through consultation and tailored workforce training.

Mallee Family Care CEO Teresa Jayet said the funding recognises the importance of ensuring mainstream services are inclusive and accessible to everyone - especially in regional and rural areas where options can be limited.

"We're proud to receive this support from the Victorian Government to strengthen the way we engage with LGBTQIA+ people across our region," Ms Jayet said.

"In a region like ours, where access to specialist services may not always be available, it's vital that our services - whether in disability, family support, mental health, or legal assistance - are safe, welcoming and inclusive for all members of the community.

"The grant will enable Mallee Family Care to deliver a targeted initiative to better understand the needs and experiences of LGBTQIA+ people in the Mallee and surrounding cross-border communities."

The project will prioritise engagement with groups that may experience multiple barriers to access, including young people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTQIA+ people, people with disability, those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and rainbow families.

"This is about listening to our community, learning from their experiences, and equipping our staff to provide support that is affirming, respectful and inclusive," Ms Jayet said.

The project will begin in mid-2025 and is expected to run through to May 2026.

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Media enquiries

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