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## LGBTQIA+ community members invited to share their experiences in Mallee Family Care inclusion research project

Mallee Family Care is inviting members of the LGBTQIA+ community across the Mallee and Far West NSW to take part in a new research project aimed at strengthening how the organisation supports LGBTQIA+ people who access its services.

The project, *Understanding Barriers, Strengthening Inclusion: LGBTQIA+ Engagement and Capacity Building within Mallee Family Care*, seeks to better understand the experiences of LGBTQIA+ community members when engaging with Mallee Family Care programs.

Mallee Family Care CEO Teresa Jayet said the research is an important step in ensuring the agency fulfills its commitment to being a safe, inclusive and accessible community service organisation.

“This project 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.

“In a region like ours, where access to specialist services may not always be available, it’s vital that our services are safe, welcoming and inclusive for all members of the community.

Mallee Family Care delivers more than 70 different programs across North West Victoria, Far West New South Wales and South West New South Wales, including disability, family support, mental health and legal assistance.

Last year, almost 8,000 children, individuals and families came to Mallee Family Care for support.

“We know that members of the LGBTQIA+ community can be less likely to seek help unless they genuinely feel safe and affirmed. That’s why this project is so critical.”

The research team is seeking participants who are part of the LGBTQIA+ community, aged 12 and over who live in or around Mildura, Swan Hill, Kerang, Dareton, Wentworth, Balranald, Broken Hill or the Buloke Shire to be part of the project.

Participants can share their experiences of accessing Mallee Family Care programs through an individual interview (face-to-face, phone or video call), in a focus group session or by completing an online survey.

To learn more about the research project or get involved visit <https://bit.ly/MFCUnderstandingBarriers> or contact the Mallee Family Care Research Team on 5023 5966 or [research@malleefamilycare.com.au](mailto:research@malleefamilycare.com.au)



### Media enquiries

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