

Thorne Harbour Health calls on community to have their voices heard following ongoing anti-LGBTIQ+ attacks
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday 26 February – Thorne Harbour Health is encouraging LGBTIQ+ community members who have experienced harassment, intimidation or violence to come forward and confidentially share their experiences as part of the upcoming Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into hate crimes.

The organisation will support people who wish to contribute to the inquiry and is collecting voluntary accounts from community members to be included in submissions to Parliament.

“These are not isolated incidents. For nearly two years we have been aware of attacks where online targeting escalates into real-world violence, affecting our communities’ sense of safety in everyday life,” said Thorne Harbour Health CEO Chad Hughes.

The call follows recent reporting of assaults involving gay and bisexual teenagers in Sydney and similar incidents affecting communities across Australia over the past 18 months.

Since 2024, Thorne Harbour Health has provided safety guidance and supported community members after incidents in which offenders used dating apps and social media to arrange meetings that resulted in assault, intimidation and robbery.

The organisation said the inquiry provides an important opportunity for victim-survivors and community members to be heard and to improve responses to both historical and contemporary forms of anti-LGBTIQ+ violence.

“We know this violence is underreported. Many people are unable to come forward due to fear of being outed, or because offenders are using recorded footage to threaten or blackmail them. An inquiry gives government the opportunity to uncover the scale of these attacks and identify practical steps to prevent harm and support those affected,” Hughes said.

Thorne Harbour Health has updated its safety and reporting guidance and is encouraging anyone affected to seek support.

“These incidents — motivated by a broad range of radical ideologies — can have significant mental health impacts. We can support people to access counselling, peer support and, if they choose, assistance to report safely,” Hughes said.

Community members can express interest in confidentially sharing their experiences by contacting reporting@thorneharbour.org.

Further information and support resources are available at thorneharbour.org.

ENDS

For media enquiries, contact Thorne Harbour Health Deputy Director, HPCE:
Caleb Hawk | communications@thorneharbour.org | 0419 213 542

Thorne Harbour Health
200 Hoddle Street
Abbotsford VIC 3067
(Registered Office)
P 61 3 9865 6700
F 61 3 9826 2700
Toll Free 1800 134 840

1/122 Carrington Street
Adelaide SA 5000
(South Australian Office)
P 61 8 7078 4128
Toll Free 1800 134 840

Positive Living Centre
51 Commercial Road
South Yarra VIC 3141
P 61 3 9863 0444
F 61 3 9820 3166
Toll Free 1800 622 795

Centre Clinic
3A / 79-81 Fitzroy Street
St Kilda VIC 3182
P 61 3 9525 5866
F 61 3 9525 3673

PRONTO! / Equinox
200 Hoddle Street
Abbotsford VIC 3067
P 61 3 9416 2889

SAMESH
57 Hyde Street
Adelaide SA 5000
P 61 8 7099 5300

Thorne Harbour Country
58 Mundy Street
Bendigo VIC 3550
P 61 3 4400 9000

thorneharbour.org