



# Pride in Law

## NSW CHAPTER

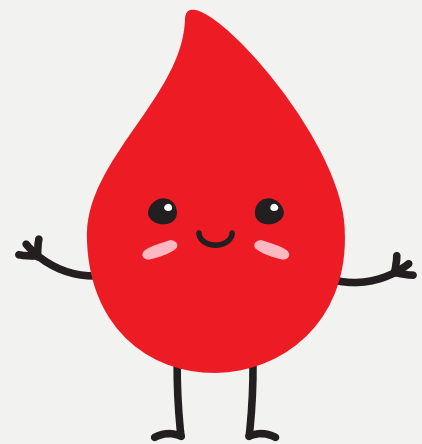
### FEATURE ARTICLE

## AUSTRALIA OPENS THE VEIN TO EQUALITY

By Lauren Devine (she/her), NSW Advocacy Officer

In an historic move towards inclusivity and equality, Australia is set to remove longstanding restrictions on plasma donations from gay, bisexual men, and transgender women who have sex with men. Starting July 14, 2025, the Australian Red Cross Lifeblood will implement the "plasma pathway," eliminating most sexual activity wait times for plasma donations

Previously, individuals in these groups were required to abstain from sexual activity for three months before being eligible to donate plasma. This policy was criticised for being discriminatory and not based on current scientific evidence. The new guidelines will allow these individuals to donate plasma without delay, provided they meet all other eligibility criteria.



This change is expected to have a significant impact on both the LGBTQIA+ community and the broader Australian public. It is anticipated that the new policy will result in an additional 24,000 donors and approximately 95,000 extra plasma donations annually.

While the "plasma pathway" marks a significant step, Lifeblood is also working towards further reforms. Plans are underway to transition to gender-neutral sexual activity assessments for blood donations, with implementation expected in 2026. This move aims to standardise donor eligibility criteria and remove gender-based discrimination.

Lifting the ban will positively affect sex workers, many of whom were automatically excluded from donating due to their profession. In particular, LGBTQIA+ sex workers, often found themselves doubly stigmatised, both for their profession and their identity.

With the new policy, Lifeblood will take a more individualised approach to risk assessment, allowing sex workers to donate plasma if they meet the standard criteria around health, safety, and recent testing. This is a significant recognition of their autonomy and public health awareness and helps dismantle harmful stereotypes that have long gone unchallenged in blood donation policy.

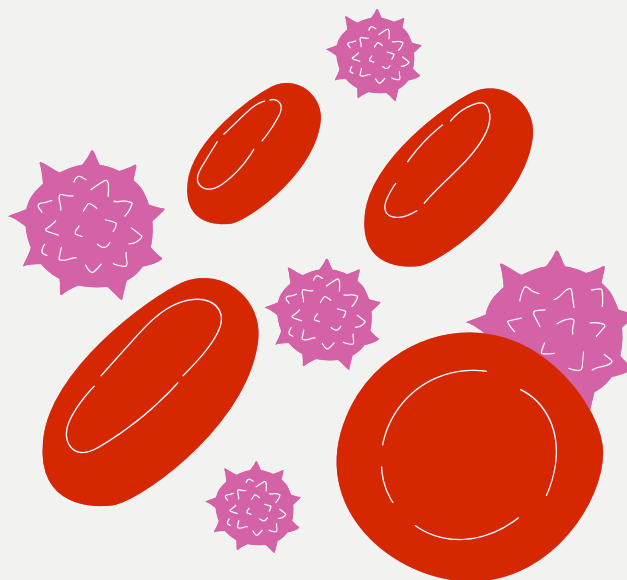
The removal of plasma donation restrictions for gay and bisexual men, as well as transgender women who have sex with men, represents a significant advancement in Australia's commitment to equality and inclusivity. By aligning donation policies with current scientific understanding and removing outdated stigmas, Australia is setting a precedent for other nations to follow. This change not only enhances the nation's plasma supply but also fosters a more inclusive society where all individuals can contribute to the well-being of others.

Want to know more? Checkout Lifeblood for more!

<https://www.lifeblood.com.au/news-and-stories/media-centre/media-releases/lifeblood-announces-changes-sexual-activity-rules-blood-and-plasma>

*Want to write a piece?*

*Send submissions to **[communications.nsw@prideinlaw.org](mailto:communications.nsw@prideinlaw.org)***





Pride in Law is proud to be supporting the LGBTIQ+ Leadership Summit 2025, a landmark event dedicated to empowering LGBTIQ+ leaders, driving workplace inclusion, and breaking down barriers across industries.

This year's summit features inspiring keynotes, honest conversations, and practical workshops that go beyond talk and into real change. Whether you're an established leader or just starting your journey, this is your chance to connect, learn, and grow alongside an incredible community of advocates and allies.

As a valued member of the Pride in Law network, you can receive 20% OFF your ticket using the code: **PRIDEINLAW**

Use the code PRIDEINLAW at checkout for 20% off  
Sydney  
11-14 November 2025

Learn more and register now: <https://www.theleadershipinstitute.com.au/lgbtqa-leadership-summit/>

# Meet Grace Welsby!

## MEET GRACE OUR NEW EVENTS OFFICER!

Grace works as in-house legal counsel within the fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) industry, with a focus on food and beverages.

As a strong believer in the transformative power of community, she's passionate about creating spaces where everyone feels seen, celebrated and connected. Being a proud queer woman, she recognises the importance of inclusive events with killer playlists and is very excited to bring some of Pride in Law's events to life.

Outside of work, you'll likely spot her dancing along Oxford Street, soaking up the sun at the beach, or attempting to finish her book club read.



**WELCOME ✨  
to the TEAM**

# *The Rest of the Team!*

## **Meet the Rest of Your 2024 to 2026 Team!**



**PRESIDENT**  
Benjamin Koval (he/him)



**VICE PRESIDENT**  
Laura Melrose (she/her)



**ADVOCACY OFFICER**  
Lauren Devine (she/her)



**ADVOCACY OFFICER**  
Miku Macnamara  
(she/they)



**EVENTS OFFICER**  
Dillan Solari-Brown  
(he/him)



**COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER**  
Dion Bull (he/they)

# *Want to Join the Team?*

## **We are seeking a new NSW Community Officer!**

The NSW Chapter of Pride in Law are looking for a passionate and dedicated new member of our executive!

The **Community Officer** is an important role all about connection with the LGBTQIA+ community and our allies across NSW.

The Community Officer is responsible for being the representative voice and advocate for LGBTQIA+ identifying Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and Indigenous allies. The role is also responsible for bringing together other community groups within the rainbow community to collaborate with Pride in Law.

With the clear intersectionality of issues relating to both LGBTQIA+ identifying persons and those who are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander and other diverse groups, it is important that everyone is represented and recognised as important members of our rainbow community.

**Email [president.nsw@prideinlaw.org](mailto:president.nsw@prideinlaw.org) for more!**



# RESEARCH INTO LGBTIQ+ PEOPLE'S TRUST & CONFIDENCE IN POLICE

**We invite people living in Australia who identify as LGBTIQ+ to participate in an anonymous survey about LGBTIQ+ Australians' trust and confidence in local, specialist, and institutional branches of policing organisations.**

**The findings will be used to guide collaboration with police and LGBTIQ+ communities to develop enhanced engagement strategies to prevent crime and better understand the impact of LGBTIQ+ victimisation on trust and confidence in police.**

**For further information about the research, and to undertake the survey, please access via <https://tinyurl.com/LBGTIQAPoliceLegit> or QR code.**



**This research has been approved by the University of Newcastle and University of Tasmania Human Research Ethics Committees: H-2025-0019.**

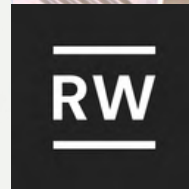
LGBTIQ+ people 16 years and over living in Australia are invited to participate in an anonymous survey on research about trust and confidence in police being conducted by Dr Justin Ellis at the University of Newcastle, and Professor Nicole Asquith and Associate Professor Angela Dwyer of the University of Tasmania. All questions are optional [HREC ethics protocol H-2025-0019].

Completing all survey questions will take 5-30 minutes, depending on your relationship with police. In addition to demographic questions about sexual orientation and gender identity, we will ask you about your experiences and perceptions of police. The aim of the research is to help us better understand the factors that shape experiences and perceptions of policing in Australia. If you are interested in participating in the research, more information about the survey can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/LBGTIQAPoliceLegit> (or by using the QR code).

# Upcoming Events!

## *Workplace Belonging: From Inclusion Policy to Lived Experience*

Panel event  
Thursday 17 July 2025



This panel will explore what true inclusion looks like for LGBTIQ+ legal professionals. Moving beyond corporate statements and diversity checklists, our panellists will unpack the lived realities of LGBTIQ+ lawyers navigating workplace culture, career progression, and personal authenticity.

Joining the panel will be:

- David Anthony, Corrs Wesgarth, Partner and Head of Diversity & Inclusion
- Kylie Quinlivan, HiPages, General Counsel
- Jack Meehan, Dentons, Social Impact, Inclusion & Diversity Manager

Register today:



# Upcoming Events!

## ***Lunchtime Information Session: Discrimination and LGBTQA Conversion Practices Ban***

**Online event**

**Wednesday 13 August 2025**

Anti-Discrimination NSW is hosting a free online information session with Pride in Law.

This is an opportunity for Pride in Law members and sponsors to learn more about Anti-Discrimination NSW and the services it provides under the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977.

The session will also cover the Conversion Practices Ban Act 2024, which prohibits LGBTQA conversion practices in NSW and creates criminal offences for delivering or arranging conversion practices and a civil complaints scheme which will be administered by Anti-Discrimination NSW. Conversion practices – sometimes referred to as ‘gay conversion’ practices or ‘conversion therapy’ – are harmful practices which seek to change or suppress an individual’s sexual orientation or gender identity.

We will have a fireside chat on the new civil complaints scheme and pose questions that organisations and legal professionals may have about the legislation.

Join Jackie Lyne (A/Executive Manager, Anti-Discrimination NSW), and Claire Williams (Community Engagement Officer) from Anti-Discrimination NSW for this session.

Register today:



**Anti-Discrimination  
New South Wales**

# Proud Pets

*With paws, purrs and pride... Pride in Law NSW is embracing diversity in our furry, feathered and scaly friends!*



INTRODUCING...

## BISCUIT

**Paw-rent:** Charlotte Kuszelyk  
(she/her)

Meet Biscuit (aka Bickey/ Squeaky)! This living cloud is the softest baby ever to exist, but don't let her dust bunny appearance fool you, she will attack hands or feet as if they've brought dishonour on her entire bloodline.

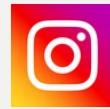
Biscuit's favourite pastimes include yelling at her mum for food every morning at 6am, playing fetch with her spring and chattering at every bird within a 1km radius of her window.

Biscuit takes home security very seriously and has a no tolerance policy for invading bugs. Be warned, she will growl at strangers that approach the door and then immediately run to mum when they knock.

*Do you have a Proud Pet (or two)? Introduce them to us with some photos and fun facts! Send submissions to [communications.nsw@prideinlaw.org](mailto:communications.nsw@prideinlaw.org)*

# Want more Pride in Law?

FOLLOW @PRIDEINLAW ON



OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE: <https://www.prideinlaw.org/>

## Write for us!

This newsletter is a place for you, our members and sponsors! We accept all kinds of submissions, including:

- Feature articles about LGBTIQ+ news or issues
- Spotlight on legal professionals, students or organisations doing great things for LGBTIQ+ people
- Letters from our sponsors or members, about your work, aspirations or journey
- Proud Pets (incl. photos!)
- Any other ideas you might have!

Send submissions to [communications.nsw@prideinlaw.org](mailto:communications.nsw@prideinlaw.org)