

Trans and gender diverse specific considerations contd.

Safety, Privacy, and Comfort

- Consider your meeting place in terms of risk (i.e. meet in the daytime, establish a drug, alcohol, and hookup free space, check out any neighbouring groups or organisations).
- Consider having a private space without signs, which might out people or draw unwanted attention (if needed, a facilitator could greet newcomers at the entry).
- If possible, nominate a private changing space for folks who bring gender-affirming clothing to wear during the group.

Disclosure, Consent, and Confidentiality

- When gathering contact information, ask whether it is okay to leave a message or use the person's chosen name/pronouns when calling or emailing.
- When gathering with people under the age of 16, ensure that parental consent has been obtained.



Who to tell about your group*

Trans Health SA
www.transhealthsa.com

Gender Wellbeing Service
genderwellbeinservice@shinesa.org.au
www.shinesa.org.au/gender-wellbeing

Gender Connect Country SA
genderconnectcountrysa@shinesa.org.au
www.shinesa.org.au/gender-connect

Bfriend
bfriend@unitingcommunities.org
www.unitingcommunities.org/locations/bfriend

Queer Youth Professionals Network
bfriend@unitingcommunities.org

Regional Queer Youth Services Network
bfriend@unitingcommunities.org

*This is not an exhaustive list



**GENDER CONNECT
COUNTRY SA**

**Creating
Trans and Gender
Diverse Groups**

SHINE SA

Phone **08 8300 5300**
 Website **shinesa.org.au**

SHINE SA

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This guide focuses on organising groups for trans and gender diverse people.

For a comprehensive guide to starting LGBTQIA+ groups, see Guidelines for Establishing Same Sex Attracted, Trans* and Gender Diverse Youth Groups in Victoria (www.rainbownetwork.com.au).

The basics

Defining the “who,” “what,” and “why”

- Why should your group exist? What is its purpose? How is it different from other groups?
- Who is your group for (age, gender identity, location)? Who can participate (supporters, or just TGD people)?
- What are the aims of the group? How will you know that you’ve met these goals?
- What will you do as a group? Will it be social, political, activity based, creative, informational, discussion-based?

Resources you may need

- A physical (or online) location. Consider accessibility, privacy, proximity, and cost. Some community centres might let you use the space for free/a reduced cost.
- A consistent day and time to meet. Consider doing a survey or poll.
- A team of passionate leaders/facilitators.
- Shared responsibilities among the team. (Who will create the agenda? Who will run the social media? Who will greet new members?)
- Shared expectations among the group. (Will there be shared food/drinks? When/how will leaders be available to contact outside of the meeting times?)
- Funding. You could ask for gold coin donations from members, apply for grants, or fundraise.

Getting the word out

- Word of mouth; tell everyone who is safe to tell, and ask them to do the same
- Social media. Use a platform you think is most relevant to your intended group demographic.
- Reach out to existing networks. (See the end of this brochure)
- Contact relevant organisations. (See the end of this brochure)

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Group Facilitation

- Consider the goals and values of the group; often, it is most appropriate that the group is run by TGD folks.
- Leaders with a range of identities/lived experiences can bring diverse strengths to the group.



Group Norms

- It’s important to establish group norms—that is, a shared agreement or expectation for how people will engage in the group.
- TGD-friendly group norms could include: using chosen names and pronouns, correcting and apologising for mistakes, being non-judgemental, being respectful of differing identities and experiences, and not making assumptions.
- Create a “call in” culture, rather than a “call out” culture; this means having specific processes to address issues that may arise within a group and manage conflict constructively.

Specific Needs of the Group

- Consider the need for TGD related information and resources within your community and whether that is available elsewhere.
- Consider the ages, gender identities, and other characteristics of your group; how does that change their needs, or their experiences with gender identity?
- Consider accessibility. Be open to and don’t forget to ask about members’ access needs (i.e. physical accessibility, sensory issues, food allergies, vision or hearing impairment).