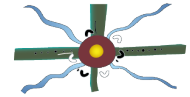




Western Australian  
AIDS COUNCIL



NGALA KAADITJ WADJUK MOORT KEYEN KAADAK NIDJA BOODJA

We acknowledge Noongar people as the original custodians of the land on which our office sits

16 December 2020

## MEDIA RELEASE

### WA AIDS Council facilitates workshops for LGBTIQ+ young people

More than 20 young people from the Bridgetown, Manjimup, and Margaret River regions participated in a two-day mental health promotion and capacity building workshop last weekend, which was organised by the WA AIDS Council (WAAC).

Held in partnership with The Y (YMCA WA) and funded by the Mental Health Commission, the initiative to support LGBTIQ+ young people centred around activities to develop social connection, mental health literacy and self-awareness, while also focusing on suicide prevention.

Lisa Dobrin, CEO of WA AIDS Council, says the heart-breaking reality is that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and gender diverse young people are more likely to attempt suicide than their peers, due to the social isolation and bullying that they often experience because they are diverse in their sex, gender and/or sexuality.

“We cannot stress enough the importance of programs such as these workshops where young people have a safe space to come together to share their experiences, and further develop their understanding, knowledge and capacity to support themselves and their peers in relation to the impacts of mental health,” she says.

“We would also like to thank Manjimup Shire, Southern Forest Rainbow Faction and the Manjimup Family Centre for their valuable support of the workshop.

WAAC provides a wide range of services and supports that are non-judgmental, inclusive and easy to access including counselling and support services for LGBTIQ+ people and people living with HIV, a sexual health testing clinic for non-binary, sexuality and genders diverse people, a drop-in space for LGBTIQ+ young people, peer mentoring, resources and education on sexual health, as well as free condoms.

These services are offered for free or at an affordable cost for all residents as well as international students.

**ENDS**

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