

MEDIA STATEMENT

Wednesday, 15 November 2017

Yes result: free counselling available

Merri Health is offering free counselling following the plebiscite result.

In addition, our alcohol and drug queer support service Q Health, is on call if needed.

"As an inclusive provider, we welcome the yes result, further supporting the mental health and wellbeing of the LGBTIQ community. If anyone needs to talk, we're here for you," said Nigel Fidgeon, Merri Health chief executive.

Q Health provides individual, couple and family counselling to anyone that identifies samesex attracted and gender diverse, and is experiencing alcohol and drug issues. Anyone can self-refer by calling 1800LGBTIQ or emailing <u>info@queerspace.org.au</u>.

In addition, anyone can drop in to Merri Health at 93 Bell Street, Coburg, Monday to Friday between 1pm and 3pm for support, where a referral to counselling may be provided.

Q Health is a partnership approach by Rainbow Tick accredited provider Merri Health and founder of Queerspace, drummond street services.

– Ends –

Quick facts

- Q Health is available to anyone living in metropolitan, western or northern suburbs of Melbourne.
- Q Health has been funded by the North Western Melbourne Primary Health Network (NWMPHN) under the Primary Health Networks Programme An Australian Government Initiative. NWMPHN has committed \$2.4m to provide better access to alcohol and other drug services and more personalised support in Melbourne's north and west.

Media contact

Viviana Rosas (03) 8319 7447 Viviana.Rosas@merrihealth.org.au