



VICTORIA POLICE



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Violence within same sex relationships

Violence can impact on intimate partner relationships including those in same sex relationships. It can include physical, economic, psychological and emotional abuse, as well as threats and intimidation, property destruction and isolation.

We also recognise that some forms of abuse are unique to same sex relationships. Abusive same sex partners often use these issues to control and manipulate their partners in a variety of different ways including:

- Threatening to out their partner to friends, family, work etc
- Telling a partner that no one will believe them or care because the police and courts are homophobic
- Telling a partner they deserve it because they are homosexual

All police are responsible for managing and eliminating violence between same sex partners. GLLOs provide advice and support to police who are dealing with gay and lesbian issues. GLLOs are also able to provide support, advice and referrals to members of the GLBTI community.

Never think their violence is your fault. In an emergency you should always call police on 000. You can also seek advice by speaking to any police person at any police station. If you prefer you can contact a GLLO.

GLLOs do not actively investigate the crime, but can assist in the reporting process.

Contacting a GLLO

There are GLLOs located at various police stations throughout Victoria; however, any police person is able to take a report of crime. You can contact any police station to do this. If the matter is urgent you should call 000.

Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officers are specially trained in GLBTI issues. Victoria Police GLLOs can assist by providing discrete, non judgemental advice and assistance in the reporting of crimes.

GLLOs do not actively investigate the crime. By calling a GLLO, victims can discuss the incident then work out the most suitable process for the matter to be reported. The GLLO can also provide expert advice and assistance to police investigators.

Members of the GLBTI community, family and friends can contact a GLLO to discuss issues, obtain advice or advise of incidents occurring in the community.

To enquire about the contact details for your local GLLO you can contact the GLLO Co-ordination Unit on: Phone: 9247 6944 email: melbourne.gllo@police.vic.gov.au or visit the Victoria Police website for a full list of GLLOs.

www.police.vic.gov.au



Victoria Police

Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officers

GLLO

www.police.vic.gov.au

Victoria Police - a commitment to ensuring equity and fairness

Victoria Police is committed to ensuring equality and fairness to the community it serves. As part of this commitment we have established a network of Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officers (GLLOs) across the state to assist us improve our relationship with the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex (GLBTI) communities.

Victoria Police and the GLBTI community have a shared history. Prior to 1981 when legislation decriminalised homosexuality, police were actively involved in the arrest of members of the GLBTI community.

This led to GLBTI communities feeling isolated and reluctant to trust police. As such, many crimes against members of the GLBTI community went unreported. Whilst homosexuality was decriminalised over 20 years ago, changes in attitudes have come about slowly.

A significant change at Victoria Police occurred in 1990 when a part time position for gay and lesbian liaison was introduced. Then, in 2000, Victoria Police appointed its first full time Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officer (GLLO). The development of the GLLO position description and subsequent appointment was facilitated by many members of the GLBTI community, through a Victoria Police/Equal Opportunity Commission Victoria working group. This working group also produced a *Mission Statement* for Victoria Police Gay and Lesbian Liaison.

The Gay and Lesbian Liaison mission is to contribute to the creation of mutual trust between police, lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender and intersex persons so that they have increasing confidence in police through the provision of a fair and equitable policing service.

Homophobic motivated crimes

A prejudice motivated crime is a criminal act which is motivated, at least in part, because of someone's bias or hatred of a person's or group's perceived race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation or gender identity. Prejudice motivated crimes not only harm the victim, but harm the victim group and society as a whole.

Victoria Police recognises that for victims of prejudice motivated crimes, such as homophobia, it can be one of the most traumatic experiences of the victim's life, and the crime can be felt throughout the entire homosexual community.

Victoria Police records all prejudice motivated crimes. This enables GLLOs to make contact with police investigators and also victims to provide assistance and referrals. The data also enables GLLOs to identify crime trends within and against the GLBTI community.

It is not uncommon for victims of homophobic prejudice motivated crimes to not report the matter to police. This can be for a variety of reasons and can include: mistrust of police, fear of reprisals, fear of having to 'out' themselves through a court process and the perception that the incident is not serious enough to report to police.

Victoria Police takes the issue of homophobic prejudice motivated crime seriously and encourages the reporting of all instances, which is why the police instigated GLLOs.

If a person feels unable to officially report the incident to police, we encourage them to speak to a GLLO, anonymously if necessary, to seek advice and to let us know of what has occurred.

Personal safety

Homophobic prejudice motivated violence is random. You can reduce the chances of being attacked or harassed in the following ways:

Stay alert

- Awareness is your best defence
- If you think something is wrong remove yourself from the situation

Project confidence

- Walk near the curb and avoid parked cars, side streets and alleys
- Be aware of who is in front and behind you
- If you feel threatened cross the street
- Be aware who gets off public transport with you
- Have your keys in your hand when you reach your car or home

If you witness or hear an attack

- If you see someone being attacked do something, but don't ignore it. What help would you want if you were being attacked

How to intervene safely

- Gather other people and rush to the scene, blow a whistle if you have one, or yell 'FIRE'
- The purpose is not to physically intervene, but to scare off the attacker(s)
- Call the police on 000

What if YOU are attacked

- Verbal harassment may be a prelude to an attack, if you choose to answer back be prepared for what may follow
- Be assertive, but not aggressive. Remain calm
- If trouble starts attract attention
- Create distance between yourself and the danger. In other words run to safety

Homophobic violence affects everyone in the community
Report the incident to Police and/or a GLLO