

# Cultural diversity

## ***We embrace all forms of cultural diversity.***

When we list our organisational values, the very first of these states: "We value the uniqueness and value of every individual, ensuring that they are treated with dignity and respect"

### **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders**

We recognise and respects Aboriginal culture and heritage. We also recognise the ongoing relationship that the traditional owners have with their land. All our events includes a formal "Acknowledgement of Country" to show our respect to our nation's first people.

### **Cultural and Linguistic Diversity**

Twenty-first century Australia is multicultural and this is reflected in our clients. More than 30% of our clients were born overseas, coming from more than 80 countries including the U.K., Greece, Italy, Poland, Germany, China, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and India.

Many of our staff come from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds, bringing with them a first-hand understanding of cultural issues and language barriers. We always try to deal with clients in the manner and language which is easiest for them, not for us.

### **Family Diversity**

We make no judgements based on a person's lifestyle, background or sexual orientation.

We are currently undergoing a review of how our organisation responds and interacts with people who identify as gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, transgender, queer or questioning (GLBTIQ).

On behalf of the lifeAssist Access and Equity Committee, Michelle Veale and Anne Hyde are leading the organisational review. They are involved in training provided By Gay Lesbian Health Victoria (GLHV) at La Trobe University. GLHV have set up a framework for review, which includes consumer consultation.