

**Contact us on
9663 6733
and discuss
your needs.**

**We are
committed to
including and
strengthening the
queer community
in everything
we do.**

**Ask for our
Queer Programs
Coordinator
Jacinta.**

*The GLBTIQ community has reclaimed
the word QUEER to encompass all
sexual and gender identities.
We mean to include people who identify
as gay, lesbian, intersex, transgender,
transsexual, bisexual and questioning.*



drummond street services

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*services for the
queer community*

“It takes a village to raise a queer”





drummond street has maintained a long-standing commitment to the Queer community. These efforts which began several decades ago have positioned us as an integral service provider and advocate for the recognition, rights and needs of the Queer community and their families. In addition, we regularly consult with the queer community and conduct research in relation to issues that effect health and wellbeing. The learnings from this research forms the basis for our advocacy on policy reforms and specialist program development and services.

Queer Counselling Services

All individuals and couples are welcomed at **drummond street services**. Queer counsellors can be requested and issues like gender/sexual identity, coming out, sustaining relationships, mental health, intimate partner violence and homophobia are all familiar terrain to our counsellors. Health Care Card holders are seen at no charge and for others there is a sliding scale based on income.

“It was great to talk to someone who understood the complexities in how our relationship fitted into my wider family, it was a great place to come to and very relaxed”

Rainbow Families

drummond street's services and practice are appropriate and responsive to the diverse, complex needs and backgrounds of families in our community, delivering equitable services promoting all families needs. All families require both our recognition, celebration and support; thus any services we provide to strengthen families are responsive to needs of our gay and lesbian parented families.

Advocating for and creating awareness in our institutions for the need for support services to rainbow families at all stages of the family life cycle that are queer affirmative and inclusive is paramount. In addition, the challenge for our community is to ask ourselves how do we create at the micro community level, the social supports, recognition and validation that so many other marginalised communities have both identified and created for themselves. This includes parenting support groups, play groups, peer mentoring programs, or even support for our young queer brothers and sisters so that we can give them a sense of family.

We offer family therapy, counselling for young people and children, couples dispute resolution and help in developing parenting plans for the queer community. Our trained practitioners can assist people to look ahead and avoid misunderstandings in surrogacy and donor arrangements, separation, adoption scenarios, etc

“We went to a few family sessions and that was great, then we did a parenting plan which took three sessions, we really had to talk it through - and that was good too - it's nice to have an option rather than just doing it yourself and hoping it works out”

Queer Young People's Support

drummond street has skilled, specialist queer youth counsellors able to help with the range of issues impacting on this group of young people. This can be delivered at our **drummond street** site or on an outreach basis to other services. In addition, our Youth Service staff work with queer youth to identify other programs and projects which support their voice and issues within the community.

“I like the fact that it's flexible and they will listen to what we want to do”

Lesbian Mums and Gay Dads

At **drummond street services** we run a wide range of practical, evidence based parenting sessions – no bullshit, no guilt trips no trying to be perfect – just down to earth suggestions on what evidence suggests works best. We welcome all queer men and women into all our programs and often have same sex couples attending our “working on our relationship” or “conflict resolution” groups. The feedback from queer parents on attending our general parenting sessions has been very positive but we also offer people a chance to attend exclusively lesbian or gay parenting sessions should they prefer this option.

We run Lesbian Mums and Gay Dads seminars and groups throughout the year.

“We came along and learned heaps about bringing up healthy happy kids, and got a chance to talk with other couples in a similar situation which made us feel really supported and optimistic”

Support for Community Initiatives

Both in the mainstream institutions and within the queer community, we promote initiatives to empower queer people of all ages to reclaim their health and take their wellbeing into their own hands.

drummond street services is proud to support Queer Community events and activities such as Midsumma, Pride March, Chill Out, Rainbow Family Network events etc.