

Darebin school kids share why schools need to show support for LGBTQI students and families.

May, aged 12.

"I am straight and attend the Stand Out group [queer straight alliance] at school. They taught me that trans students are 11 times more likely to commit suicide. A friend's school allowed him to express his individuality by allowing him to perform on stage as a trans male. I hope that by supporting my friends and other members of the rainbow community we stop at least one suicide."

Ollie, aged 11.

"Last year, during the same sex marriage debate, my mum had a mental health crisis due to nasty, inappropriate comments because she was a lesbian. Life got too hard. When things got really bad, my school let me have time off, paid for education expenses and put up 'Who's in your family posters'. This showed me that my family mattered to them."

Will, aged 13.

"My wonderful, lovable sibling is non-binary. They only recently came out at home. I am not sure if they have at school yet. Stand Out group [queer straight alliance] has taught me the correct pronouns to use amongst my friends who identify as members of the LGBTIQA+ community. Hopefully by learning them I can show I care enough."

Tali, aged 14.

"At school, I always wear my ALLY badge. I know it's a small thing, but I hope it makes a difference and maybe helps make a lgbtqia+ person's day a little bit happier".

Sam, aged 14.

"I am bi and only recently came out at home to my family and friends. I'm still coming to terms that I like both sexes. My school's Stand Out group [queer straight alliance] has been great but I am not fully out at school. I am hoping through this group I will gain the courage as they have shown me I am important, I am loved and I am worthy of respect."

Liz, aged 12.

"I am same sex oriented and was cyber bullied. Why does it matter? I am still important and deserve to be loved and treated with the same respect my friends showed me when they helped report it to our school. I felt their love and kindness. I hope all rainbow community members receive similar support, it showed that I matter!"

Rainbows in Schools
www.rainbowsinschools.org

Ged Kearney MP, Federal Member for Batman: 'No child should feel insecure about who they are. Supporting rainbow students and families in schools helps every young person to feel a sense of belonging.'



If you or anyone you know needs help contact Lifeline on 131114, Kids' Helpline on 1800 55 1800, or Qlife on 1800 184 527.