

## WHAT DOES LGBTQIA+ MEAN?

You may have seen the term LGBTQIA+ around the web and here at UQU, but what does it mean?

Knowing and understanding what all the letters of the LGBTQIA+ mean can be tricky.

Depending on the culture and country, LGBTQIA+ may have different letters and meanings. For example: In Australia you may see BB and SG for Brother Boys and Sister Girls in our indigenous communities.

### **Lesbian**

This is a term used to describe someone who identifies as female and is attracted to others who identify as female.

### **Gay**

This is a term used to describe someone who identifies as male and is attracted to others who identify as male.

### **Bisexual**

This is a term used to describe someone who is attracted to others of the same gender and those of different genders.

### **Trans**

Trans is a blanket term that can be used in many different ways. Some people use it to indicate that their gender identity is not the same as the gender they were assigned at birth.

It is also used for some of the following words as well; Transgender, Transsexual, Transitioning, Transman, TransWoman.

### **Queer**

Originally a term used in a derogatory sense, many LGBTQIA+ youth have embraced this word and given it a rebirth. It can be described as a broad umbrella term for anyone who may identify as being either gender, sexually and/or bodily diverse.

### **Questioning**

This is for someone who is in the process of exploring their own sexuality and/or gender. It may involve experimentation and looking into one's own family, cultural and religious history in the process.

### **Intersex**

Intersex is a word used to describe people who are both with atypical sex characteristics. Intersex relates to a range of congenital physical traits or variations that lie between stereotypical definitions of male and female. There are many different forms of intersex variations, as such, it is an umbrella term rather than a single category.

Many Intersex people look no different to anyone else, with estimates of the size of the intersex population being similar to that of people with red hair.

### **Asexual/ Ace**

Asexuality is little or no interest in sex and/or sexual attraction to others. They may pursue romantic interests without any sexual behaviour involved.

This is very different to celibacy or chastity which is a choice.

### **Aromantic/ Aro**

Aromantic identities are defined by having little or no interest in romance or romantic attraction to others. Aromantic people can still experience platonic and sexual attraction towards others, independent of their romantic attraction.

Aromantic people can also enter queerplatonic relationships, which are individually distinct relationships that carry both traditionally romantic and non-romantic aspects."

## OTHER TERMS THAT ARE IMPORTANT

### **Heterosexual**

This is a term used to describe someone who is both romantically and sexually attracted to someone with a different gender identity to their own.

### **Pansexual**

This is someone who experiences both romantic and sexual attraction for all genders and gender expressions. They often do not see people being defined as either male or female, accepting individuals based off their personality, emotional and/or spiritual characteristics.

This is not the same as bisexuality.

### **Genderqueer**

This may be a term for someone who does not identify/express themselves as either male or female, or their gender identity/expression may change from male to female throughout their life.

## SUPPORT FOR LGBTQIA+ STUDENTS

The SAS welfare service is an inclusive and safe space for LGBTQIA+ students, we provide a range of welfare services including linking students in with Specific LGBTQIA+ supports that can provide specialised information, community, counselling and support. SAS also provides practical assistance for students facing financial hardship, including general financial hardship bursaries as well as gender affirmation bursaries designed to give students once off financial support to help them get them access to gender affirming items and services.

**Click the link to book a welfare appointment at SAS**

[www.uqu.com.au/supporting-u](http://www.uqu.com.au/supporting-u)

