

## How we all can show support for Pride Night

One of Tennis' goals is to be the most inclusive and diverse sports in Australia.

Research also shows that the LGBTQ+ community experience lower rates of mental health, social connectedness, and physical health. However, a recent study by Dr Ryan Storr (2020) showed that LGBTQ+ people who participate in Tennis felt physically and psychologically healthier and more connected to their community. The research also found that LGBTQ+ people not playing Tennis wanted to play sport but were fearful of being able to participate as their authentic selves due to historical discrimination and homophobia.

Furthermore, research shows that sport globally has high rates of homophobia, biphobia, transphobia and discrimination against LGBTQ+ communities.

- 75% of people believe an openly gay person would not be safe as a spectator at a sporting event<sup>i</sup>
- 80% of participants have witnessed or experienced homophobia in sport<sup>ii</sup>
- More than 50% of transgender people, a 25% of males and 10% of females avoided playing sports because of their sexuality or gender identity<sup>iii</sup>

We believe that participating in tennis and being a part of our great game is a human right and we want to create an environment where everyone regardless of their gender identity or who they love can feel welcome and safe.

#AO23 #AOPride #OpenForAll

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<sup>i</sup> Denison E, Kitchen A. (2015). Out on the Fields:

<sup>ii</sup> Denison E, Kitchen A. (2015). Out on the Fields:

<sup>iii</sup> Symons C, Sbaraglia M, Hillier L, Mitchell A. Come Out To Play: The Sports experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) people in Victoria. 2010.