

# LGBTIQ+ TERMS USED

Legal Aid WA recognises that terminology can have a profound impact on a person's identity, self-worth and inherent dignity.

Legal Aid WA supports the right of people to identify their sexual orientation, sex and/or gender as they choose. We also recognise that terminology can be strongly contested.

For our set of resources on LGBTIQ+ rights, we consulted with the Youth Pride Network and adopted their preferred terminology. We have also used some definitions as they are commonly used in legislation and legal documents.

Some of the terminology used in our factsheets are explained below:

**LGBTIQ+** - An acronym which is used to describe lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, intersex, queer or questioning, and asexual people, as well as other diverse sexual orientations and gender identities.

**Sexual orientation** - A person's romantic and/or sexual attraction to another person. This includes heterosexual, gay, lesbian, bisexual, pansexual, asexual and many other attractions.

**Sex** - A term primarily used in medical and legal contexts that describes a person's biological characteristics. A person's sex is usually described as being male or female.

**Gender / Gender identity** - A person's deeply held internal and individual sense of self.

**Gender expression** - The way in which a person externally expresses their gender or how they are perceived by others.



**Gender diversity** - An umbrella term that describes gender identity and includes all gender identities and expressions that are different from the sex assigned at birth. For example: people who are transgender, genderfluid, non-binary, gender questioning and gender queer people.

**Cisgender** - A general term for a person whose gender identity matches the sex they were assigned at birth.

**Trans / Transgender** - A general term for a person whose gender identity is different to the sex they were assigned at birth.

**Intersex** - People who have physical sex characteristics that do not fit the medical norms for 'male' or 'female' bodies.

**Queer** - An umbrella term that identifies someone as being LGBTIQ+ without specifying which label/s apply. A person may also use the term as a label if their gender, romantic identity, sexual identity, and/or sex are more diverse than social norms.

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