As a result, participation levels of the LGBTI+ community is low. Gay and bisexual teenage males play team sport at less than 50% the rate of heterosexual peers (Drury, 2011). Girls who identify as lesbian are known to experience discrimination and exclusion within sport settings (Drury, 2011; Symons et al, 2014).

Pride Cup began as a powerful gesture of mateship in a country footy club when the Yarra Glen Football Netball Club supported teammate Jason Ball in coming out as gay in 2012. Since then, Pride Cup has grown into a national organisation dedicated to promoting LGBTI+ inclusion in sport. Pride Cup Australia promotes LGBTI+ inclusion and challenges homophobic behaviours through the delivery of education and supporting community sporting clubs to run their own Pride Cup events.

With support from VicHealth, Monash University evaluated Pride Cup programs and resources to understanding what works in LGBTI+ inclusion approaches within sport. This is a summary of those findings.

**Summary**

Pride Cup plays an important role in helping to place LGBTI+ inclusion on the agenda of local sporting clubs. This evaluation found that Pride Cup was the main initiative seeking to promote LGBTI+ inclusion in the following areas:

- helping clubs undertake positive messaging and illustrate support for LGBTI+ inclusion
- encouraging clubs to have conversations about inclusion
- raising awareness of LGBTI+ inclusion amongst club members

**Why LGBTI+ inclusion is still needed**

Only 51% of all participants interviewed strongly disagreed that homosexuality is wrong or unnatural, demonstrating that there’s still a lot of work to do to eradicate homophobia in sporting clubs. These views do not belong in community sport.
Clubs found the Pride Cup framework an easy way to engage with LGBTI+ inclusion. Pride Cup team were very supportive and provided timely advice and guidance to help clubs every step of the way. 72% of clubs found the handbook useful.

“I think that what they're [Pride Cup team] doing in enabling clubs to host events and making it as easy as possible is definitely an asset for these volunteer clubs. There's not much of an excuse to not hold something or, at least, put a team in colourful socks or have a rainbow flag. It's very easy to support it, which I think is the key.”

Club Member

References