



the women's  
the royal women's hospital

## Media Release

3 December 2009

### Well Proud at the Women's

Victoria's sexually diverse community now has better access to health services, thanks to a practical new guide, launched at the Royal Women's Hospital.

*Well Proud: A Guide to Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Practice for Health and Human Services*, was presented by the Victorian Health Minister, Daniel Andrews.

"Some services assume that all their clients are heterosexual or that sexual orientation or gender identity issues are irrelevant to GLBTI people's care. This is not the case and there are many people working to reverse these perceptions," he said.

*Well Proud* draws on national and international research to develop guidelines for GLBTI-sensitive service delivery, and gives practical guidance and examples of good practice in responding to the health and wellbeing needs of GLBTI communities and individuals.

Mr Andrews said the Victorian Government had committed \$12.4 million over the past three years to services for the health and wellbeing of GLBTI Victorians.

"Victoria's health services are available for everybody, and everybody should see a little bit of themselves in the health system we provide."

The Minister said he supported the Women's hosting of *Well Proud*, as the guide nominated the hospital's Women's Health Information Centre as an example of best practice for inclusive health provision.

A member of the Board of the Women's, Ms Felicity Pantelidis, said the hospital's involvement in the development of the guide began nine years ago, when the Women's launched its Lesbian Health Information Project, *More than Lip Service*, which was designed to assess the health experience of the lesbian community.

"This launch strengthens the hospital's reputation as a centre of excellence in women's health that offers a comprehensive range of 'whole of life' health services for all women in our diverse community," she said.

The event was also attended by the Chair of the GLBTI Ministerial Advisory Committee, Rowena Allen; Chair of the *Well Proud* Working Group and member of the GLBTI Ministerial Advisory Committee, Dr Ruth McNair and Deputy Chair of OutThere, the Victorian rural youth council for sexual diversity, Jakob Quilligan.

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