

LGBTQI 101

You might have seen different variations of this acronym. LGBT, GLBT, LGBT+ and LGBTQI are some examples. Essentially, they all mean the same thing: a community of people with diverse sexualities and gender identities. Some are now calling the community SAGA - Sexuality and Gender Acceptance. Whichever you prefer, it doesn't matter. People aren't going to get angry with you if you make a mistake or forget a letter - what matters is having a friendly attitude!

Lesbian

Someone who is lesbian is defined as a woman-aligned person who feels sole attraction toward women. Sometimes, people who identify as lesbian will call themselves gay, though they might have a preference for a particular term. It's important to check with your LGBTQI friends what term they would prefer people to use!

Gay

Gay means being attracted to someone of the same gender to you. Someone who is gay might be a man attracted to other men, or a woman attracted to other women. Gay does not mean 'bad', so it doesn't make sense to use it to describe things you don't like. Gay means gay!

Bisexual

If you are bisexual, it means you are attracted to people of two genders. Someone who's bi doesn't have to like boys and girls equally - they might have a preference for one gender over another, but still be attracted to both. That doesn't mean they're promiscuous either! It just means they could have a relationship with someone of any gender. There are lots of definitions of bisexuality which people use, depending on their experience.

Trans

When someone identifies as transgender, their gender identity does not match their gender assigned at birth. Trans is also sometimes used as an umbrella term for the gender-diverse community, including people who are non-binary or do not identify with a particular gender.



Queer

Previously used derogatorily, queer has been reclaimed by the LGBTQI+ community. It's often used as an umbrella term for those who have diverse sexualities or gender identities. The "Q" is sometimes used to mean "Questioning" as well - someone unsure of their identity.

Intersex

Reproductive or sexual characteristics that don't fit typical male/female definitions. For example, someone who presents as female but has internal testes. People who are intersex may have anatomical, hormonal or genetic differences. A scientific understanding of intersex shows that sex is a spectrum, not binary! In fact, studies show that there are just as many people with intersex characteristics as there are people with red hair.



The plus refers to other diverse gender identities and sexualities. These might include the asexual spectrum, pansexual, non-binary, 2-spirit and genderfluid people.

Remember!

If you're meeting someone who identifies as LGBTQI+, be sure to ask them which terms they like, and don't. Not everyone has reclaimed words like 'queer' or 'gay', and that's okay!

If you're unsure about your identity, don't feel pressured to labour over every word of the definitions. Our experiences are our experiences, and sometimes there's not a word! Be happy with yourself first, and worry about labels later - if at all.

Sexuality can be fluid, and these labels aren't boxes you have to fit into - it's just a concise way to bring attention to the diverse nature of sexuality and gender!



CAPTAIN CATE MCGREGOR, CRICKET COMMENTATOR

ANGELINA JOLIE, ACTRESS/ADVOCATE

CAROLINE COSSEY, MODEL

CHAZ BONO, ACTOR

TIM COOK, CEO

SIA, MUSICIAN

KYLIE KWONG, CELEBRITY CHEF

ELTON JOHN, ICON