

Subject: LMM 23/04/2024 - ACKNOWLEDGING AND CELEBRATING IDAHOBIT DAY

MOTION

That City of Newcastle:

1. Acknowledges and celebrates the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism, and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT Day), recognising the importance of promoting inclusivity, respect, and equality for all individuals within our community.
2. Notes that IDAHOBIT Day, observed on May 17th each year, serves as a significant opportunity for our city to stand united against discrimination, prejudice, and violence based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and intersex status. It is a day that reaffirms our commitment to fostering a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment for all residents, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.
3. Commits to officially recognising and acknowledging IDAHOBIT Day each year as an important event in our city calendar and showing our support for Newcastle's LGBTQI+ community by:
 - a) raising the Progress Pride Flag at prominent locations throughout the city on May 17th, and encouraging other local organisations and individuals to do the same,
 - b) Promoting community educational initiatives, cultural events, and discussions that highlight the challenges faced by the LGBTQI+ community and promote inclusivity and acceptance,
 - c) collaborating with local LGBTQI+ organisations, community groups, and stakeholders to identify further opportunities to support and advocate for the rights of the LGBTQI+ community, and
 - d) encouraging local schools, businesses, and organisations to promote awareness and inclusivity through educational programs and workplace policies that support diversity.

BACKGROUND:

17 May is International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Interphobia & Transphobia (IDAHOBIT). This day is about celebrating LGBTQI+ people globally and raising awareness for the work that is still needed to combat discrimination. This date was chosen to commemorate the decision to remove homosexuality from the International Classification of Diseases of the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1990.

The statistics show that 75% of LGBTQI+ Australian youth will be bullied because of their identity. Because of this, 39% of LGBTQI+ people have experienced depression in the past 12 months, compared to 6.2% of the general Australian population.

As a progressive and inclusive city, it is crucial that we take a proactive stance in promoting equality and celebrating diversity. IDAHOBIT Day provides us with a platform to raise awareness about the challenges faced by the LGBTQI+ community and to reaffirm our dedication to creating a city where everyone feels safe, respected, and valued.

The City of Newcastle has a proud history of championing LGBTQI+ rights, and we have made significant strides towards equality and inclusivity. However, there is still work to be done. By actively acknowledging and celebrating IDAHOBIT Day, we can continue to raise awareness, challenge stereotypes, and foster a greater sense of belonging and acceptance within our community.

By officially acknowledging and celebrating IDAHOBIT Day, the City of Newcastle demonstrates its unwavering commitment to the principles of inclusivity, respect, and equality for all. Together, we can create a community where everyone feels safe, accepted, and valued, irrespective of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or intersex status.