BEING AN ALLY

Allyship is not just about supporting the LGBTIQA+ people you know but also creating a world where all LGBTIQA+ people can feel safe to be themselves.

- People are the experts on themselves. Follow their lead and use the pronouns they want used.

- Changing habits can be hard. Take time to practice using pronouns until it becomes easy and natural for you.

- Introducing yourself with your pronouns is a great way to show allyship and invite others to do the same.

- Making mistakes is normal. When you do slip up, address the mistake quickly and move on. Don't dwell on mistakes.

- If someone else makes a mistake and does not correct themselves, quickly and politely correct them, and move on.

Be an ALLY

If you're struggling with pronouns, that's okay. But keep at it and know that trying to get pronouns right is better than not using them at all.

CONTACT US

664 Murray Street, West Perth

(08) 9482 0000

hello@waac.com.au

www.waac.com.au

it/its

they/them

he/they

he/him

ze/zir

she/her

they/she

WAAC

PRONOUNS
101

A guide to using pronouns

My pronouns are
They and he

TYPES OF PRONOUNS

Some pronouns denote a gender and others do not; and people may use certain pronouns to express a certain gender identity.

People who identify as female typically use **she/her/hers** pronouns and people who identify as male typically use **he/him/his** pronouns (but not always).

They, **xe** and **ey** are a few common gender neutral pronouns. These pronouns don't imply someone that is 'male' or female'.

Did you know that we've used **they/them** pronouns when we don't know someone's gender identity for hundreds of years.

PRONOUNS MATTER

Everyone gets to choose their own pronouns and to decide how they want to be referred to by others.

Some people don't give their pronouns much thought at all, while for others, pronouns can be a really important part of affirming their gender identity and expressing themselves to the world.

There are lots of reasons why it is important to use the pronouns a person prefers, but the simple answer is that **it shows you respect people and their identities**.

When you use a trans or gender diverse person's correct pronouns, you are saying that you respect them and their identity.

Using incorrect pronouns can be extremely harmful and hurtful, and shows a disregard for a person's identity and experience.

It's okay to take time to get used to a person's pronouns, but it's super important that you make the effort to get them right.

WHAT ARE PRONOUNS?

Pronouns are words that take the place of nouns. We use pronouns to speak about someone when they're not around or often in place of their name.

e.g. *Alex went to the cafe and she bought a coffee* – 'she' is the pronoun in use.

We all use pronouns for ourselves and others, and these little words can indicate a lot about a person's identity.

they she it he xe zir

xyr his faer her theirs

ne eirs their itself ey

hers them ze fae him