# Riverland Pride March Returns for a 3rd Year

**For Immediate Release**

### 14th August 2023

headspace Berri proudly announces the third annual Riverland Pride March scheduled to take place in Loxton this year after successful events in Berri in 2021 and Renmark in 2022. The Riverland Pride March is an all-ages community walk to celebrate and support LGBTQIA+ young people in the Riverland.

Organised by the passionate hERO group- made up of young people aged 16-25, in collaboration with the Community Awareness team from headspace Berri, the Riverland Pride March stands as a vibrant celebration of diversity and inclusion.

Gemma Nickolai headspace Berri manager expressed enthusiasm, stating, "*We're thrilled to bring this year's Riverland Pride March to Loxton, solidifying our commitment to shaping this event as a quintessential Riverland experience. Your presence and efforts on the day, as well as spreading the message, would mean the world to us."*

Mark your calendars for the Riverland Pride March, which will take place on Friday, September 22nd, at the picturesque Loxton Riverfront. Embracing individuals from the LGBTQIA+ community and their allies, of all generations, the event encourages participants to embrace rainbow-themed attire or sport headspace green to symbolise their support.

All attendees are kindly requested to complete their registration through the headspace Berri [website](https://headspace.org.au/headspace-centres/berri/riverland-pride-march-2022/).

The walk will kick off at 4:45pm at the Loxton Aquatic Club near the town boat ramp. All attendees are invited to gather from 4.30pm for pre walk festivities including photos and glitter before embarking on the March along the Loxton Riverfront. The journey will culminate at the grassy expanse near the Loxton Historical Village, where inspiring speeches will resonate.

Recent research by the Australian Research Centre of Sex, Health and Society has shed light on the challenges faced by LGBTQIA+ young individuals in Australia, with 75% of them encountering homophobic abuse. Such experiences lead to higher rates of depression, anxiety, and self-harm, particularly in young people residing in regional and rural parts of the country. The Riverland Pride March is an opportunity to show young people in our community that they are loved and supported for who they are and for all of us to be active in creating a safe and welcoming Riverland now and for the future.

Anonymous survey feedback from the second Riverland Pride March held in 2022:

* *“Please ensure this is an annual event.”*
* *“Very well organised, it was great to see the young people in our community participating.”*
* *“I’m very proud of what I have accomplished and thankful I had people supporting me by my side.”*
* *“It was a fun experience.”*

More information on how to support LGBTQIA+ young people and their journey can be accessed from the headspace Berri website [here.](https://headspace.org.au/headspace-centres/berri/resources-to-support-lgbtqia-young-people/)

**-ENDS-**

For media enquiries please contact:

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### About headspace

headspace is the National Youth Mental Health Foundation providing early intervention mental health services to 12-25 year olds. headspace has 108 centres across Australia in metropolitan, regional and remote areas, as well as online and phone support services through eheadspace. headspace can help young people with mental health, physical health (including sexual health) alcohol and other drug services, and work and study support. Centre details, as well as factsheets and resources for young people and their families and friends, can be located on the headspace website: headspace.org.au