



SA Rainbow Advocacy Alliance  
64C Woodville Rd  
Woodville South SA 5011  
[www.saraa.org.au](http://www.saraa.org.au)

30 August 2024

Hon. Tony Zappia MP  
[tony.zappia.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:tony.zappia.mp@aph.gov.au)

**RE: Exclusion of LGBTIQ+ people from Census**

Dear Hon. Tony Zappia MP

As the peak body for LGBTIQ+ South Australians, we write to seek your support to urge the federal government to reverse its decision to exclude LGBTIQ+ people from the 2026 Census.

Currently we do not know how many LGBTIQ+ people there are in Australia or where they live because the 2021 national census did not include questions on gender identity, sexual orientation and variations in intersex characteristics.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics has since issued a statement of regret and has worked actively with our communities to consult on questions that would count LGBTIQ+ identities.

Our communities have therefore been devastated by the federal government's recent announcement that it will not include these questions.

LGBTIQ+ people experience significantly poorer health and social outcomes than the general population. To address this disparity, we need a population-level evidence base to develop effective policy and programs that improve the health of all Australians.

SARAA are frequently approached by state and local policy makers for data about the needs of LGBTIQ+ South Australians.

Currently this information is unavailable and, as a result of the government's decision, will remain so until at least 2031.

Put simply, this is a once in a 5-year opportunity that we cannot afford to miss.

We urge you to stand with LGBTIQ+ South Australians and call on the federal government to reverse its decision to exclude LGBTIQ+ people from the 2026 Census.

Kind regards,

SA Rainbow Advocacy Alliance (SARAA) Board  
E: [info@saraa.org.au](mailto:info@saraa.org.au)