

# WEAR IT PURPLE DAY 2023 FRIDAY THE 25TH OF AUGUST



## WEAR IT PURPLE DAY INSPIRES LGBTQIA+ YOUTH TO "WRITE YOUR STORY" AS RECORD NUMBER OF ALLIES UNITE FOR A MORE INCLUSIVE AUSTRALIA

On 25 August 2023, LGBTQIA+ youth and allies unite in record numbers to celebrate 'Wear It Purple Day' as thousands of schools, community organisations, universities, and workplaces prepare to celebrate nationwide.

By wearing purple, Australians demonstrate to rainbow young people that they are seen, supported and respected, acknowledging all have the right to be proud of who they are and who they are becoming.

Originally founded by students in response to global stories of teenagers taking their own lives due to bullying and harassment, Wear it Purple Day has become an international movement of celebration and support.

This year's theme, "Write Your Story", is created by Wear It Purple's Youth Action Council (YAC) to give voice to growing rhetoric in the LGBTQIA+ youth community around the importance of personal expression and individuality.

*"In a world where social media, the media and our education system often creates pressure to conform to norms, broken structures and set standards, the 'Write Your Story' theme encourages young people to embrace their unique perspectives and to share their stories with others,"* said, Victoria Adams, Youth Action Council .

*"For young people who identify as LGBTQIA+, the theme represents the importance of taking ownership of their narratives and to share their experiences in their own voices. This process of storytelling can be empowering and affirming and by speaking from their hearts, young people can also contribute to a broader cultural shift towards greater acceptance and visibility for LGBTQIA+ individuals,"*

Lara Husselbee, President, Wear it Purple, commented, *"Storytelling is a powerful mechanism to drive visibility and connection, build communities and create acceptance. At Wear it Purple believe strongly that by providing space and visibility for these stories, from our LGBTQIA+ youth, lives can change and we can move societies to take action. I am so proud of this year's theme, our youth action council and to lead this wonderful organisation."*

To play an active role in supporting Wear It Purple Day in your school, community organisation, university, or workplace:

- **Speak to your School:** To see how they plan to celebrate Wear it Purple day and the policies, practices they have in place to create supportive and safe spaces for students and teachers.

- Do your research: Jump onto great sites like ours or some of our community partners to learn more about topics like pronouns, coming out, supportive affirming conversation and gender identity to name just a few.
- Host or attend panels and keynote Events: The power of storytelling and visibility enables rainbow youth to connect to community and gain strength hearing about common struggles and opportunities to triumph.
- Prioritise key issues through established pride employee network groups: Champion topics like pronouns, gender affirmation and identity, inclusive language and active allyship.
- Continue courageous conversations: Go beyond Wear It Purple Day to create safety in classrooms and workplaces across the country.

Visit [www.wearitpurple.org](http://www.wearitpurple.org) for more information, resources, merchandise and donations.

## ABOUT WEAR IT PURPLE

Wear It Purple is a volunteer-led and run organisation that focuses on creating safe spaces for rainbow youth in schools, universities, workplaces and public spaces. It was founded in 2010 by students making a stand against the spike in global stories of teenagers taking their own lives due to bullying and harassment. These real stories, real responses and real heartbreak resulted from a lack of acceptance, a lack of community, support, and safety due to their sexuality or gender identity.

One of Wear It Purple's priorities is to assist our schools, universities, and community partners to run events for Wear It Purple Day. We provide free celebration kits and resources for them to do so. Corporate activity, in kind donations and merchandise sold also to support this effort.

And whilst Wear It Purple Day is the main event on our calendar, the volunteer organisation strives 365 days of the year to bring youth issues to light through supporting the arts, community, and education initiatives. We research, build, and provide free resources and thought leadership to schools seeking an inclusive culture. And join forces with other amazing community organisations to ensure the conversation on LGBTQIA+ inclusion continues to move forward no matter the political climate.

## ABOUT THE “WRITE YOUR STORY” THEME

### VISIBILITY

'Write your Story' promotes Visibility – allowing LGBTQIA+ youth to see themselves represented in the world around them. Crucial for those who may feel isolated, marginalised, or uncertain of their place in the world, as it can help to validate their experiences and provide a sense of belonging through expression and connection. When LGBTQIA+ youth share their lived experiences, they become part of a broader cultural narrative that can help to challenge negative stereotypes and promote greater understanding and acceptance.

### COMMUNITY

'Write your Story' promotes Community – through sharing a connection to others who have had

similar experiences and create a sense of belonging that builds community for our LGBTQIA+ youth. At Wear It Purple one of our core focuses is to provide opportunities for this collaboration and to create supportive environments. This is especially important for those who may feel isolated or unsupported in their everyday lives – when LGBTQIA+ youth come together to share their stories, they can create a powerful sense of solidarity and support to help promote resilience.

## **ACCEPTANCE**

'Write your Story' promotes Acceptance – Sharing lived experiences can also promote acceptance by challenging negative stereotypes and fostering empathy. When non-LGBTQIA+ people hear about the experiences of LGBTQIA+ youth, it can help to humanise their struggles, their successes, their challenges and their joy. This leads to great understanding, acceptance, and support, all crucial for safety and wellbeing.

## **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

### **Lawson 'Wukawe' Dodd (He/Him)**

Kurna / Narungga / Ngarrindjeri

Lawson Dodd is an Artist / Graphic Designer who aims to push the boundaries of First Nations Artwork through his creations. He is a proud Kurna/Narungga/Ngarrindjeri man whose strengths in digital media allow him to take a modern approach to his artwork whilst incorporating traditional customs and meaning. His talents were recently recognised when he was awarded 'NAIDOC SA Artist of the Year 2022'. Lawson's strengths are communication, creativity and compassion. Lawson is always keen to take his skills to the next level with every new and exciting project.

It was so meaningful to be involved with Wear It Purple this year as I have celebrated the day many times in the past. I feel it is a visual beacon of hope, love and support for LGBTQIA+ youth everywhere. This year's theme of 'Write Your Story' resonates with me because I am a big supporter of people following their own path and choosing what's right for them. Just like in most stories, life has many challenges and it's about how we choose to overcome these challenges that allows us the freedom to write our own story.