

Australian GLBTIQ Multicultural Council

President's Report 2025 Shelley Karpathakis



Dear AGMC Members,

What an incredible year 2025 has been for our community! I'm delighted to share some highlights of our work connecting LGBTIQ+ multicultural and multi-faith communities across Australia.

Pride March and Community Engagement

We kicked off the year with strong representation at Midsumma Pride March. We also supported Trinity Student Expo (University of Melbourne) and Café 57 in Adelaide. Our voices rang out at the roundtable discussions hosted by Minister for Equality Vicki Ward and through attending the Victorian Multicultural Commission's cultural diversity week event at Grazeland. We were also invited by ARCSHS to take part in grant applications for LGBTIQ+ safer spaces. We supported the LGBTIQ+ Multicultural Fair Day as an auspice organisation.

Representation and Advocacy

Throughout the year, AGMC has been actively representing our community on several important committees and advisory bodies:

- AGMC on the MCCSA Women Council and the Multicultural Communities SA Women's Council
- AGMC on the WOSAC Are Whole-of-Self Affirming Care Project for Orygen Advisory Committee (by invitation)
- AGMC on the Ageing in Difference Advisory Committee (by invitation)
- AGMC on the Rainbow-Inclusive Aged Care Project (by invitation)
- AGMC on the ECU Policy Advisory Committee for Health and Wellbeing
- AGMC attended the R U OK Community consultation in Sydney

We were honoured to be invited to speak at the Vic Police IDAHOBIT event on Intersectionality and presented on the panel at the Maribyrnong Council IDAHOBIT event. We attended the Thorne Harbour Health Pride Across Cultures event, and the Victorian Pride Awards Melbourne further strengthened our community connections.

Celebrations and Partnerships

A special highlight was the Pride Crown Luncheon, where by invitation, we met with other leading LGBTIQ+ organisations in Victoria. AGMC have offered the opportunity to present to Crown staff. We celebrated our community at the Queer Multicultural Carnival at VPC and marked the Greek and Gay 30th Anniversary together. We also supported PhD candidate Percy Gurtler with a successful webinar on Faith, Culture and Identity: Confronting Conversion Practices Together.

Expanding Our Reach

Our partnership work continued to grow with the Victorian Multicultural Commission Gala Dinner, consultation for NSW LGBTIQ+ Strategy. We provided space through the workshop "Run at Better Together: Successful Our Stories, Our Power: Storytelling for Queer, Multicultural and Multi-Faith Communities." Additionally, we represented our community at the National Settlement Conference on the Sunshine Coast.

Looking Ahead

We have some exciting plans already taking shape for 2026:

- Safety Messages for Queer online dating
- Global Hub - AGMC office at the Pride Centre
- Strategy Launch
- Plans for an AGMC Conference

We continue to operate as volunteers which at times can place timing constraints; however, we do our best to attend what we can, participate where we can, and look for growth opportunities.

Thank You

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all our members and the committee for your ongoing support as we navigate through a challenging global climate and funding constraints. Your dedication and commitment make all of this work possible.

We look forward to 2026 and evolving this work and opportunities for the community to connect.

If you are interested in volunteering on a working group for any future events, please reach out to contact@agmc.org.au

With pride and gratitude,

Shelley Karpathakis
President, AGMC

