

Support for
Peer-Support
Activities that
Revitalise
Kinship

SPARK

Trans and Gender Diverse Peer Support Pilot

Who can apply?

Are you currently providing active formal or informal peer support in your Trans and/or Gender-diverse (TGD) community? Would you like to be better resourced and connected? Do you have a great idea for some peer support activities but just need a little cash? You may want to join the SPARK Pilot!

We acknowledge that 'trans and gender-diverse' has different meanings in different cultural contexts and, in some cases, our identities may be affirmed within a wider umbrella of LGBTQI+. Key facilitators should identify as trans or gender-diverse (and here we include non-binary folk in the TGD acronym). Whenever possible, expenditure of funds should support TGD community networks. We particularly encourage applications from the intersections of Aboriginal, CALD, neurodiversity, rural, regional, people with disability, and groups that experience multiple forms of social exclusion or marginalisation.

What is this for?

As part of the Victorian Government's strategy to improve the health and wellbeing of trans and gender diverse Victorians and, as called for in the March 2019 TransGathering, SPARK aims to *revitalise* TGD *Peer Support activities* by offering a *support package* that will help us build *kinship* and resilience across all of our intersections. Peer-Support is broadly defined as sharing knowledge and emotional, social or practical support among equals with common lived experience and affinity. They may or may not be formally organised or trained and support might be one-to-one, or in a group context and can occur face-to-face and/or online.

SPARK is a pilot project intended to make visible some of the excellent peer support that is already happening in our communities and to resource the development of new sustainable networks of affinity and belonging. It's not a grants scheme, because we will be working with you to try and make the work happen.

What will you get?

- \$1000 -1500 to support your project and networking with other people and groups
- Training and resources on peer-support in practice including topics like grant-writing, long-term planning for sustainability, trauma-informed facilitation, managing lateral hostility, and whatever else your community needs
- a network that meets to learn from each other (online and/or face to face)
- opportunity to share work-in-progress at a special session at the next TransGathering (possibly September)

Things that we're hoping for:

- further development of existing programs, expanding capacity of TGD people and groups that are becoming self-sustaining
- brave proposals that take risks and are happy to reflect on and share learnings
- collaborations between groups
- partnerships with community organisations including social service providers, neighbourhood houses, local councils, etc.
- programs that develop TGD resilience, skills and leadership capacity

What do you need to send us?

- An overview of what you are hoping to do in 2020 (short and sweet)
- Who will be involved (participants and/or partner organisations)? Where will you meet, and how often? What will you do together? How do you plan to spend the budget?
- Leadership that is in keeping with the values of the project 'Safe, Belonging, and Ready to Lead' (read more about this in the TransGathering report on the Transgender Victoria website here)

Your budget can be spent on guest speakers, room hire, art/craft materials, resource development (including marketing materials), catering, transport. While we can NOT support ongoing salaries, we recognise that many peer support facilitators in the TGD community are working without financial support and we hope to support the leadership these individuals show through the provision of references and support for future funding and employment opportunities. The Google Form is here: <http://bit.ly/TGDSPARK>

What sort of things can we do?

TGD Peer-Support Practice Co-ordinators are available to help develop your plan and submission. Please get in touch with so that we can discuss your ideas - we have 6 weeks to dream big and clarify your intentions!

Here are some potential ideas to get your creative ideas sparking:

- A swimming or sports group or series of dance classes
- A cooking club or community cafe
- A series of creative workshops – perhaps culminating in an exhibition?
- An activist letter-writing group that exchanges ideas with interstate or overseas TGD peer-support groups/initiatives
- A zine/poster/badge making collective
- A series of workshops sharing make-up, sewing, upcycling tips, etc.

What do you need from us at the end of the 6-month pilot?

- Provide a brief overview of what you actually did (still short and sweet - how did it go, what did you all learn, how many people involved, plus 3 photos and what you actually spent \$ on)
- Be available to discuss your project with our team and/or our project evaluator

What are the timelines?

The final decision regarding which proposals are supported will be made by the TGD Expert Program Steering Committee in March/April and will take into consideration the diversity of TGD community needs. Wherever possible we hope to support collaboration rather than competition.

Not sure if your idea fits?

If you have queries about your eligibility, PLEASE get in touch! We're also interested in really BIG ideas that might be outside the scope of SPARK:

peersupport@tgv.org.au

Important dates:

Call for participation: **Fri 7th Feb**

Deadline for submission: **Fri 20th March**

Notifications of support: **Fri 3rd April**

Transgender Victoria operates on land belonging to the Wurundjeri, Boonwurrung, Taungurong, Dja Dja Wurrung, and Wathaurung peoples of the Kulin Nation. We pay our respects to Elders past, present, and emerging, and acknowledge that sovereignty has never been ceded.