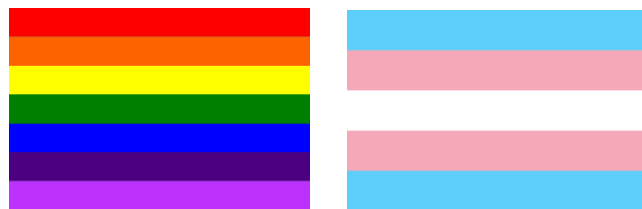
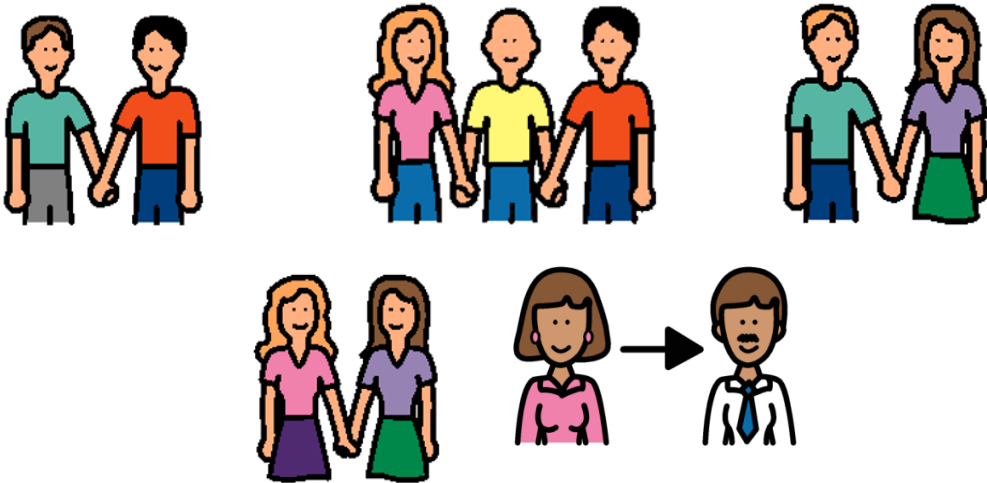


# Diverse

- **sex**
- **sexuality**
- **gender**



Care  
Education  
Advocacy



The things in this factsheet are for lots of different people.



For information just about



- you
- your needs



talk to a

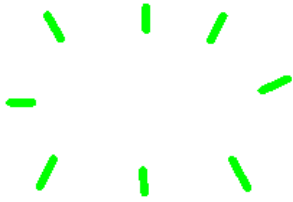


- Doctor or Nurse

or



- Lawyer

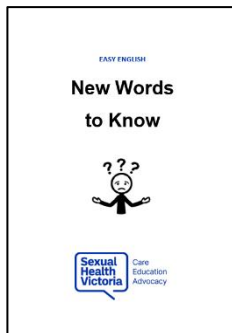


## New words

There may be words in this factsheet

- that are new to you and
- you may **not** know what they mean
- or
- you may be unsure what they mean.

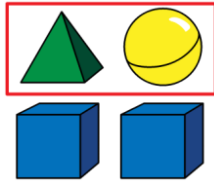
We will make them **blue** the first time we use them.



Read about them in the

Sexual Health Victoria fact sheet

**New Words to Know.**



# Diversity

It is about things that most people have that are the same

**but**

are shown in different ways.

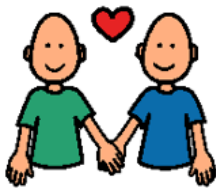


Some people have different ways to show their



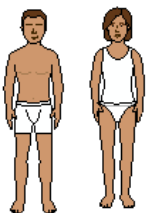
- sex characteristics

Read about this from page 6



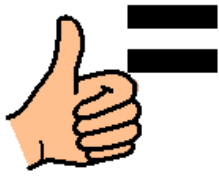
- sexuality

Read about this from page 9



- gender.

Read about this from page 12.



It is important to respect people when they have different ways of showing their

- sex
- sexuality
- gender.



# Sex

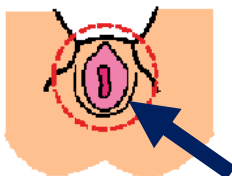
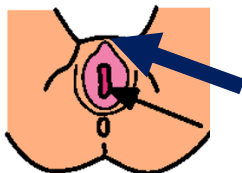
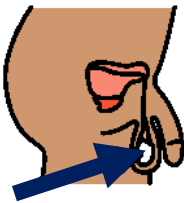
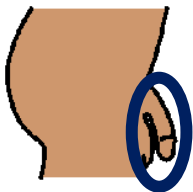
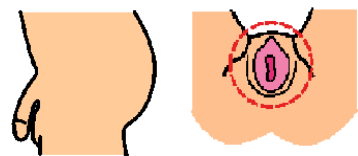
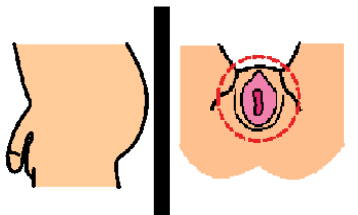
This is about the sex characteristics you are born with.

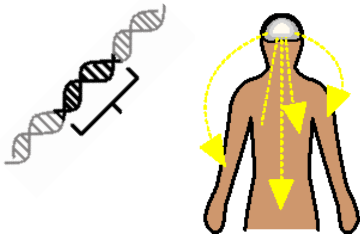
The sex characteristics you are born with can be

- male
  - female
- or
- male **and** female.

They are also called your private body parts or **genitals**. Like,

- **penis**
- **testicles**. They are sometimes called balls.
- **vagina**
- **vulva**.





You are also born with

- **genes**
- and
- **hormones.**

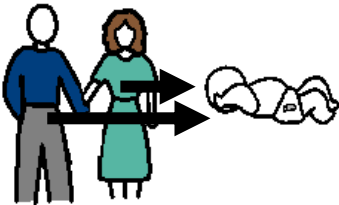


## **Genes**

You cannot see your genes

**but**

they are in every part of your body.

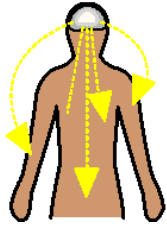


Your genes come from your parents.

Your genes say what you will look like.

Like your

- eye colour
- skin colour
- hair colour.

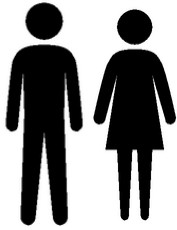


## Hormones

You cannot see your hormones

**but**

they are in every part of your body.



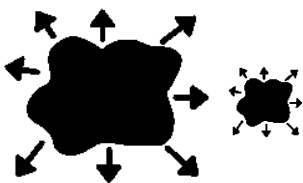
They are special chemicals in your body.



The hormones show

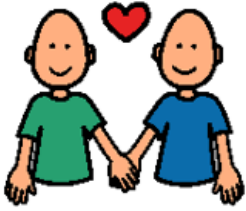
- male
- and**
- female

sex characteristics.



Everyone different amounts of hormones in their body.

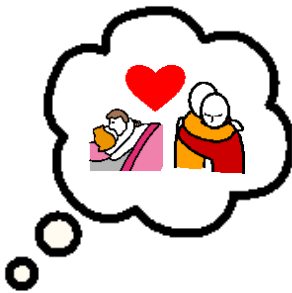




# Sexuality

This can also be called

- sexual orientation
- or
- romantic attraction.

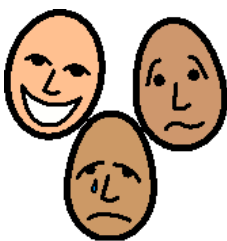


It is about the people you have

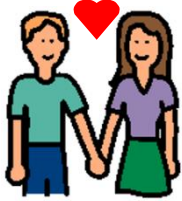
- sexy
- or
- romantic feelings for.

It is based on your **gender identity**.

See page 12 for more on gender identity.



Everyone has these feelings differently.



You can have these feelings for

- people who have a different gender to you.

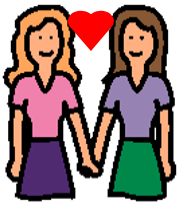
A man has sexy feelings for a woman.

This is called

- Heterosexual
- Opposite sex attracted

**Or**

- Straight



You can have these feelings for

- people who have the same gender as you.

A woman has sexy feelings for another woman.

This is called

- Lesbian
- or**
- Same sex attracted

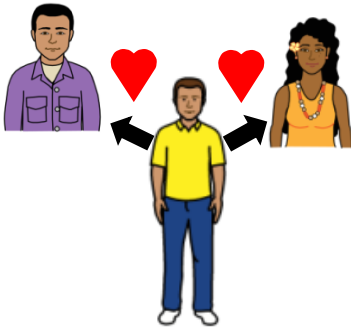


You can have these feelings for

- people who have a different gender to you

**and**

- people who have the same gender as you.



A man can have sexy feelings for another man **and** also has sexy feelings for a woman.

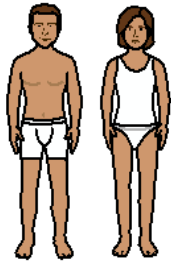
This is called Bisexual.



Some people do **not** have any sexy feeling for anyone.

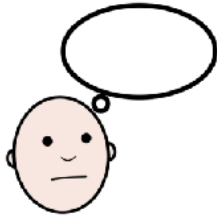
This is called Asexual.

That is OK.



# Gender

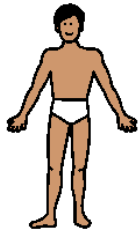
It is also called gender identity.



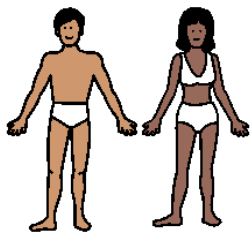
It is about who you **know** you are. Like



- a woman



- a man

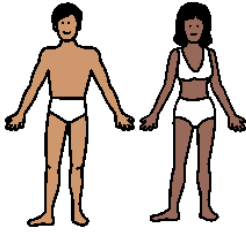


- a woman **and** a man

or



- **not** a woman  
**and**
- **not** a man.

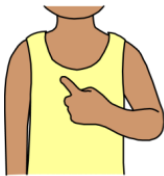


Gender identity is also about how you let other people know who you are. This is called Gender Expression.



You do this by

- the name you use
  - the words you use about yourself. Like,
    - he and him
    - she and her
- or**
- they and them.



These are called pronouns.



- what you wear
  - what you say
  - how you talk to
- and**
- do things with other people.





# LGBTIQA+

There are lots of words to talk about diverse

- sex
- sexuality
- gender

Here are some of them.



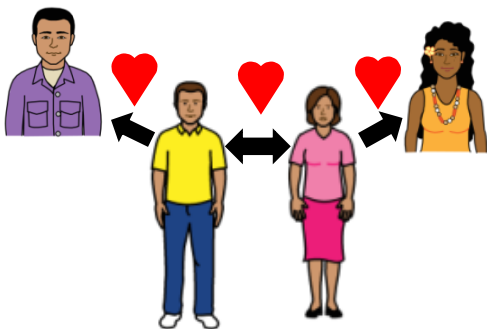
## Lesbian

A woman has sexy or romantic feelings for other women.



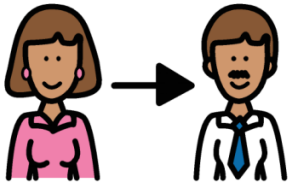
## Gay

A man has sexy or romantic feelings for other men.



## Bisexual

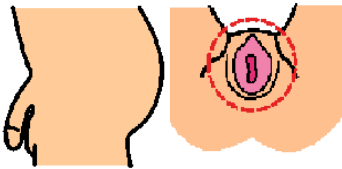
A person has sexy or romantic feelings for men **and** women.



## Transgender

A person who has a gender identity that does **not** match the sex characteristics they were born with.

Like, you have a vulva and breasts but know you are a man.



## Intersex

A person who has both male **and** female sex characteristics.

This could be

- body parts
- hormones

or

- both.



## Queer

Another word used by people who are LGBTQIA+.

People in the LGBTQIA+ community may use this to describe themselves.



### **Questioning**

A person who is

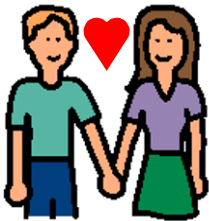
- **not** sure

or

- trying to work out their
  - sexuality

or

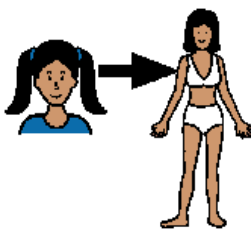
- gender identity.



### **Straight**

A person has sexy or romantic feelings for someone that has a different gender to them.

It is also called heterosexual.



### **Cisgender**

A person who has a gender identity that matches sex characteristics they were born with.

For example, you identify as a woman and were born with a vagina.

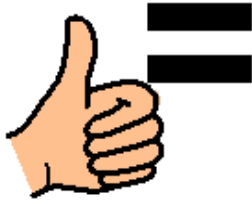




## Asexual

A person that does **not** have any sexy feelings for anyone.

Someone who is asexual can still have romantic feelings for others.



# Respect other people

We all should respect others.

It does not matter if they have different

- sex characteristics
- sexuality
- gender identity.



It is **not ok** to



- bully other people



- hurt other people

**or**



- leave out other people because of their
  - sex characteristics
  - gender identity
  - sexuality.



This is called discrimination.

It is not okay.



It is a crime.



**Remember**



Everyone can be different.

Everyone should respect other people.



## Want more information?



Switchboard

Phone (03) 9663 2474



Victorian Pride Centre

Phone (03) 7035 3592



Rainbow Door

Phone 1800 729 367



Transgender Vic

Contact <https://tgv.org.au/contact>

## Images

We have used images from



- Inspired Services
- Boardmaker - Mayer-Johnson
- Picto-Selector



Written by Sexual Health Victoria. March 2018.

Reviewed March 2023.



Access Easy English helped Sexual Health Victoria write the original version. May 2018.