**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

Melbourne, Friday 17 April 2019

**Victorian Pride Centre marks IDAHOBiT with launch of Victoria’s first statewide LGBTIQ online events calendar**

The Victorian Pride Centre with the support of Victorian Commissioner for Gender and Sexuality Ro Allen, today launched version 2.0 of the Victorian Pride Centre’s website, a vibrant and virtual LGBTIQ community hub at pridecentre.org.au.

pridecentre.org.au is the only LGBTIQ focused website housing a purpose built statewide events calendar and resource directory. From an LGBTIQ car enthusiast group to a mainstream rainbow tick accredited regional health service, pridecentre.org.au will house resources as diverse as the community it serves.

The site will reduce social and physical isolation by connecting LGBTIQ individuals to events, groups, programs and services both locally and online. The site has been designed for the community, with community input at all stages. It will act as a pathway to increased social connection and better health and wellbeing for all Victorian LGBTIQ communities.

The LGBTIQ community will own and drive the future success of the site. It will build the capacity of the LGBTIQ service sector by providing a platform for large and small organisations to promote what they do and connect with audiences, old and new.

Using a person-centred approach, the site will continue to grow and evolve over time as community needs and technology changes. A focus on increased visibility of those living with a disability has been a priority in the design, requiring those submitting events to identify how well they cater to a range of abilities.

The site has been made possible with a grant from the Victorian Government and invaluable insights and feedback from members of the LGBTIQ community.

**Quotes attributed to Chair Victorian Pride Centre Jude Munro AO**

*“We are extremely excited to launch this second iteration of our online presence, with 50 events and more than 120 groups, services and programs already listed.”*

*“We could not have made this vibrant and virtual community hub possible without the time, insights and feedback from our community. It has helped shape a more accessible and meaningful online experience.”*

**Quote attributed to Minister for Equality Martin Foley**

*“The Victorian Pride Centre will be a vibrant symbol of LGBTIQ resilience and inclusion –and the Virtual Pride Centre will extend the spirit of the Centre to LGBTIQ Victorians living in rural and regional areas”*

**Quotes attributed to community member Sally Conning, South West Inclusion Network, Wonthaggi Victoria**

*“Glad to see the Victorian Pride Centre has gone online as a virtual Centre. It will help keep us regional and rural people in the loop. We are often scrambling for resources, so knowing what’s available through the directory in our local area and beyond is great.”*

*“The events calendar means we can easily know what’s happening across the state and keep our kids in touch with what their city cousins are up to.”*

* ***End of Statement –***

###### IMAGE ATTACHED:  Screenshot of the new events calendar.

**ABOUT THE VPC**

The Victorian Pride Centre is a unique initiative that celebrates, bolsters and protects equality, diversity and inclusion. It is set to forge a new chapter in the narrative of Australian Pride by bringing the LGBTIQ community together in a single and powerful space. The Victorian Pride Centre will showcase Victoria’s diversity, pave new directions for its future, and honour and celebrate Australia’s LGBTIQ communities. It will be home to practical and supportive services as well as being an international tourist destination. The Victorian Pride Centre Ltd is a not-for-profit organisation structured as a company limited by guarantee.

Please visit [www.pridecentre.org.au](http://www.pridecentre.org.au) [www.facebook.com/vicpridecentre](http://www.facebook.com/vicpridecentre)

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