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From: Rodney Croome <rodney.croome@equal.org.au>
Sent: Friday, 12 June 2020 11:19 AM
To: secretariat.PESRAC
Cc: Ruby Grant; Lynn Jarvis
Subject: Further research re LGBTIQ+ pandemic impact / mtg request

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The Secretariat
Premier's Economic and Social Recovery Advisory Council
C/o Treasury

re: Further research re LGBTIQ+ pandemic impact / mtg request

Dear Secretariat,

Further to our recent email seeking a meeting to discuss an Australian-first report on the impact of the pandemic on LGBTIQ Tasmanians, here is some more relevant information.

The Trans Medical Research Group in the Department of Medicine at the University of Melbourne has been conducting research into the mental health of transgender and gender diverse Australians during the pandemic. Although the survey doesn't finish until June 30, the TMRG has released preliminary results, which are quite alarming.

During the last four weeks, over 800 transgender and gender diverse Australians (over the age of 16) have responded to the TMRG's survey. Here are the preliminary results.

- 54% of respondents had thought that they would be better off dead or of hurting themselves in the past two weeks
- 84% had felt down, depressed, or hopeless in the past two weeks
- 16% are currently living with someone who makes them feel unsafe or afraid
- 42% are experiencing financial strain related to paying their rent/mortgage
- 60% are experiencing financial strain related to buying food/groceries
- 31% have sought support from a mental health professional
- 21% have sought support from a LGBTIQ+ specific organisation
- 17% have sought support from a mainstream organisation

I am sure you will agree that these results reveal a less-often discussed impact of the pandemic, and that they require action. We remain keen to meet with you to discuss how the empirically-verified needs of the LGBTIQ community can be addressed.

Best wishes,
Rodney Croome