

**WEAR IT  
PURPLE**



# HOW TO: WEAR IT PURPLE

A guide to running a Wear It  
Purple Event at your School

# What is Wear It Purple:

Wear It Purple is a not-for-profit organisation, designed to raise awareness and understanding of LGBTQIA+ issues. And we need your help to continue supporting the youth of our communities!

Do I need to be LGBTQIA+ to run Wear It Purple? No! Running this event is not a reflection of your sexuality, rather a representation of the school culture you wish to nurture.



WHAT EXACTLY IS LGBTQIA+?

DON'T BE EMBARRASSED IF YOU'RE AN ALLY BUT WOULDN'T COUNT YOURSELF AS AN EXPERT! IN SHORT IT MEANS:

**L**

**LESBIAN** (a woman who is sexually/romantically attracted to women)

**G**

**GAY** (a man who is sexually/romantically attracted to men)

**B**

**BISEXUAL** (someone who is sexually/romantically attracted to more than one gender)

**T**

**TRANSGENDER** (a term used to describe someone who does not identify as their assigned gender at birth: may also refer to Trans, Transitioning, Trans Man and Trans Woman)

**I**

**INTERSEX** (a blanket term people who are born with sexual characteristics that do not subscribe to one specific gender, such as physical characteristics).

**Q**

**QUEER AND QUESTIONING** (Queer: a term reclaimed by the LGBTQIA+ community to represent their wider community and identify. Questioning: a person who is currently exploring their own sexuality).

**A**

**ASEXUAL** (someone who shares no or limited sexual attraction to others, however may still engage with romantic interests).

**+**

**THE 'PLUS'** is used to signify all of the gender identities and sexual orientations that are not specifically covered by the other seven initials. An example: Sistergirl and Brotherboy\* are terms used by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to describe gender diverse people that have a female/male spirit that is different to their 'assigned' gender at birth.

**FAQ's**

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### **WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE AN ALLY?**

Being an ally simply means acknowledging and supporting! Some people may think to be a true ally you need to wear it like a badge of pride. Being an ally may include simple acts like acknowledging people's personal preferred pronouns, disrupting discriminatory mindsets or behaviours ... However, we need our youth to understand that there is a wealth of allies in their community!

### **IS THIS RUN BY TEACHERS OR STUDENTS?**

A rich Wear It Purple day should have all aspects of the school included: Teachers, Students, Non-Teaching staff, members of Executive! We recommend at least a staff member co-ordinating the event, with a robust team featuring both staff and student involvement to ensure the event runs as smoothly as possible. If you've already got a Gay Straight Alliance / Gender Sexuality Alliance or other sort of Queer Collective club at school, you've already got the foundation of your Wear It Purple team sorted!

### **IS THIS AN EFFORT TO SOCIALLY ENGINEER KIDS?**

No, no! The goal of Wear It Purple is to encourage a culture of acceptance and tolerance, while enhancing awareness of issues relevant to the LGBTQIA+ community. Wear It Purple meets a variety of school frameworks, which we go into more depth in the 'Why Wear It Purple' section.

### **I'M NOT SURE IF THE WHOLE SCHOOL WILL GET BEHIND THIS. IS IT WORTH DOING?**

We understand that not everyone is going

to get on board right away. In many cases, this may be a case of encouraging a change of culture in your school. Big things begin as small seeds: any involvement with WIP is a worthwhile seed!

### **I THINK MY PRINCIPAL WILL BE HESITANT ABOUT DOING AN OUT OF UNIFORM DAY, BUT WE'RE KEEN. WHAT CAN WE DO?**

That's okay! Not everyone has to celebrate the day in the same way. In this packet, you'll find a variety of examples that other schools have done to great affect. You can choose one or all of these!

### **MY SCHOOL HAVE A COOL IDEA TO DO THIS THAT WE THINK WOULD WORK REALLY WELL WITH OUR SCHOOL. CAN WE CELEBRATE WIP THIS WAY?**

Absolutely! We want to see WIP celebrated in as many ways as possible. If you're not sure, get in contact with us and we can provide feedback or guidance to ensure your day is as inclusive as possible. We would even love to add to our recommendations: we want to get behind your cool idea and see it expand to other schools!

### **WHAT DO WE NEED TO GIVE TO WEAR IT PURPLE TO TAKE PART?**

Nothing! You can run your own event, using our suggestions or creating your own, and it'll still be helping our communities! However - we do ask that you register your event so we can get a wider idea of what's going on, and that if you fundraise for the day that you donate the profit to Wear It Purple as we are a not-for-profit organisation and would love to build up our team!

**Why Wear It  
Purple?**

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Wear it Purple shares the same goals of Australian school systems in providing the foundation for Inclusive Education of which all students can take part. We share the same goal of ensuring that we create a safe, caring school environment in which students are nurtured as they learn while recognising the diversity within the school community and providing programs and support which acknowledge difference to promote harmony.



stressed that the NSWDEC (2015) recognises that teaching and learning as parallel to development of wellbeing, with both essential for the personal and academic success of students.

Wear it Purple wants to help create a supportive and inclusive environment which promotes student acceptance, attendance, and success: in short, we want to assist in a planned approach to wellbeing.

Under the 'Every Student is Known, Valued and Cared For' strategic framework, it is paramount that schools establish and sustain structures to support student individual wellbeing. Adapting Wear it Purple as a whole school collaborative effort makes a clear message to students and the local community: we accept students for who they are, and believe all students should feel a sense of belonging in our community.

Wear it Purple seeks to build Emotional, Social, and Spiritual Wellbeing capabilities within the school community by enhancing a sense of community on a shared sense of ethics and values. Wear it Purple aims to:

- help students connect further to their community through developing positive relationship behaviour (such as forming relationships which are safe, supportive, and respectful)
- help students succeed by providing further foundations for positive self esteem and character traits, while enabling a positive environment for learners where they feel confident in taking risks and stretching their academic potential.
- help students thrive by using Wear it Purple as an initiative which enables student involvement, advocacy and contributions to their community. Furthermore, Wear it Purple enables opportunities for student success and recognition.

As a wellbeing initiative, it must be

### **TAKING A STEP BACK FROM IT BEING A WHOLE SCHOOL INITIATIVE, WHY SHOULD YOU TAKE ON WEAR IT PURPLE?**

- It demonstrates your commitment and understanding of wellbeing frameworks through all levels of school and their importance in creating and maintain supportive and safe learning environments: from individual support that may be provided, to spearheading and overseeing whole school programs.
- By leading this example through developing and reviewing school wide inclusive leaning environments and strategies to maintain these, you'll be supporting all students while strengthening your bound with the wider school community. Using and reviewing your Tell Them From Me data may be useful in seeing the impact you've made!
- You'll have the opportunity to connect, engage and participate with professional networks to broaden your knowledge and improve practise. Within your own school alone you may take this opportunity to be involved with your School Improvement Plan process!
- It will give you a wealth of data and resources for the development of any levels of accreditation you're seeking, as well as be super useful in any teaching vacancy applications you complete.

**Why Register  
your event?**

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## Wondering if you need to register your event or not?



You don't have to register your event. But it's helpful if it's registered! Registered events help us see what is and isn't working, what some places are doing really well, what successful schools are doing and how this is all affecting the school community. It also makes it easier if you need to contact us for any help or feedback!

Your Wear It Purple event is owned by you and your community; but we'd love to see what's happening! This way we can

help make suggestions for other locations or future activities, and it gives your school the opportunity to be more easily acknowledged by Wear It Purple for your efforts.

If your event is registered over a series of years, we may also have a more well rounded understanding of your Wear It Purple celebrations. These data snapshots can help should you require feedback or assistance in future events.



# Wear It Purple Day Suggestions





**PURPLE WRISTBANDS**

Ordering purple wristbands is a nice and easy way to bring Wear it Purple to your school. By getting official Wear it Purple wristbands, you

can distribute them amongst your school as easily identified symbols. Furthermore, you can custom make your own Wear it Purple wristbands and make them individual to your school: they could be student designed, celebrate your school and Wear it Purple, you could even sell them at school or fetes to fundraise for Wear It Purple. Wristbands are free to schools, and are supplied through the generosity of our corporate sponsors who recognise the importance of Wear it Purple Day and the empowerment of rainbow youth.

**PURPLE HEADBANDS**

Just like the wristbands, you could create purple headbands to celebrate your own school. You could even hold a design contest to increase your student involvement in the initiative.



**PURPLE MUFTI**

The literal Wear it Purple! This activity is one of the easiest a school can adopt: and it looks great! The sea of purple on students and staff would make

for great social media representation, and makes a pretty emphatic statement! If you want to take this further (and who doesn't enjoy getting a bit extra?!), you could adjust it to be a school competition or see who can design the best clothing out of recyclable materials (what could be a cooler lunch time activity than the students getting 10 minutes to give their teachers a makeover out of purple paper!). Official Wear it Purple T-shirts can be purchased from our website: <https://www.wearitpurple.org/online-store>

**POSTERS THROUGH HALLWAYS**

You could have student design posters to celebrate the theme, posters celebrating inclusive actions and attitudes, quotes from popular queers of history, or posters celebrating role models who are or support inclusivity. You could combine this with the doors and take your decorations to the next level!



**PURPLE FOODS OR CORDIALS**

Collaborate with your school canteen or café to develop some healthy food options that could be dyed purple! You could have purple white

chocolate mousse, purple milkshakes, purple scones ... your school's Food Tech classes could even take it further and make a purple smorgasbord or cupcake platter to celebrate the day while meeting course outcomes!



**PURPLE PENS AND WRITING EQUIPMENT**

Maybe a bit more of a simple one here, but simple is effective! For the month of August

teachers could mark all work, provide written feedback, and write on their whiteboards with purple writing tools! It's a simple way of keeping the idea of the day at the forefront of everyone's mind.

## PURPLE DOORS

The big challenge! In groups (we recommend roll call, but you could have other teams – SRC vs. staff, student 'opt in' groups, faculty vs. faculty!) decorate a designated door to best meet the theme of Wear it Purple. Make it a full blown competition in your school – prizes for the winners!



## SCHOOL DISCO

Take your school hall, throw in some balloons and streamers, throw in some LGBTIQ+ anthems, and hold yourself a party that rivals New Years Eve! Free or paid entry it's up to you, but some bangers we recommend:



"I Will Survive" by Gloria Gaynor

"YMCA" by Village People

"It's Raining Men" by The Weather Girls

"Same Love" by Macklemore

"Born this way" by Lady Gaga

## PURPLE NAIL POLISH

Hesitant about going all out with uniform? Encouraging students to wear purple nail polish for the event is a low commitment way of embracing the event. Should health standards permit, the

school could provide the nail polish for staff and students – you could do all ten digits, just one, or however many you desire!



## PURPLE HAIR SPRAY

Another low commitment product you could use! Get some purple hairspray and hold a mini makeover for the occasion! And hey, why not let's get some glitter

hairspray while we're at it!



## SCHOOL LOGO CHANGE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

In today's world, everyone's always glued to social media – so why not take full advantage of it! Change your school's social media logo to incorporate purple or even the full rainbow! You can take this further again by having students collaborate or compete on the design for this project.



## USE THE SOCIAL MEDIA FILTERS!

Instagram and Facebook create an annual 'Wear It Purple' filter – in place of personalising your school logo, you could utilise these filters!





**PBL LESSON ON INCLUSION AND INCLUSIVITY;**

Appropriate language; concept of 'safe space'  
Using PBL lesson time, you could provide an explicit

lesson on the purple of the day as well as identified needs within your school. Does your school have a problem with language? Then have a lesson promoting inclusive language. You could use PBL time to help craft your school door looks; or even just breaking down what Wear it Purple is about and why your school has taken it on!



**ESTABLISHMENT OF GSA / QUEER COLLECTIVE**

One of the most dedicated tasks you could do, but also an essential part of any

inclusive school. The Gay Straight Alliance, or more currently known as Gender Sexuality Alliance, is a teacher/student group which is focused on providing a safe space for discussion. The alliance is not queer exclusive – it should be open to everyone! You could meet once a week, fortnight, or month.

**PURPLE POWERPOINT SLIDES**

Another easy addition to make (although, you may need to do a bit of formatting) – if your school uses Powerpoints for lesson delivery, why not adjust the background of these to be purple? You don't even need to change the whole presentation: it could be just the introduction, title page, or summary!



**PURPLE GOTCHAS / REWARDS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DEMONSTRATED INCLUSIVITY**

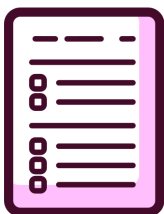
For schools that have incorporated gotchas or commendations, this would be easy. Why not introduce a short or long term inclusivity reward system: whenever students demonstrate inclusive attitudes or values, they get a purple gotcha and go into the weekly / fortnightly / monthly / wheneverly draw for prizes!



**STUDENT COMMENT POSTER / WALL**

Using a large piece of butcher's paper or fabric, students could write affirmative comments or inclusive thoughts on the event. To make it extra

vibrant, this could be completed using a variety of striking colours that really stand out – and then, to further demonstrate your dedication to this, it could be hung in a key point within the school like the library or front office. Heck, you may even want to frame it!



**RELEVANT CURRICULUM CONTENT:**

suggestions, recommendations, 'points of reference': Teachers can use class time, or GSA's can run sessions, to specifically look at LGBTQIA+ history, current issues affecting rainbow youth, and queer role models from around the world.



# WEAR IT PURPLE

Wear It Purple acknowledges the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia, their diversity, histories, knowledge and their continuing connections to land and community. We pay our respects to all Australian Indigenous Peoples and their cultures, and to Elders of past, present and emerging.



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