



THE STAR

MEDIA RELEASE

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The Star Recognised For LGBTQI Diversity And Inclusive Practices

The Star Entertainment Group has been recognised among Australia's most diverse and inclusive workplaces for LGBTQ diversity by the Australian Workplace Equality Index (AWEI).

The Star was the only entertainment and hospitality group to attain a Silver Employee ranking or higher – and its award was a significant improvement from its Bronze ranking a year prior.

The Star Entertainment Group's CEO and Managing Director, Matt Bekier said the recognition reflects the progress made over the last year despite the pandemic's impact on operations.

"At The Star, we are committed to fostering an inclusive workplace for our team members, ensuring they can be themselves, are respected, and can bring their best self to work," Mr Bekier said.

"LGBTQI+ inclusion continues to be a priority for The Star and we look forward to developing on the progress we have made so far."

Led by PROUD, a team-member driven working group, The Star has delivered substantial LGBTQI+ initiatives over the last year including:

- Supported The Star Sydney's participation in the Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade with activations across our three properties including, team member watch parties and activations in the wider community
- Introduced LGBTQI+ Ally Training program, shifting Walking in Rainbow Shoes training to a mandatory module for all team members
- Updated policies for gender affirmation leave, domestic violence and support, dress code and non-binary gender affirmation
- Raised funds and increased awareness in support of LGBTQI+ youth at Wear It Purple Day and International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexphobia and Transphobia

The Star Entertainment Group's Chief Marketing Officer and Executive Sponsor of PROUD at The Star, George Hughes said: "There has never been a more exciting time to work at The Star.

"We are creating an environment in which people are proud to be a part of, where they can thrive and where millions of guests who visit each year feel safe and welcomed.

"We are extremely proud of the strides our team has made in recent years to advance LGBTQI+ diversity and inclusion across our properties and pleased that work has been recognised by AWEI."

Director of ACON's Pride Inclusion Programs, Dawn Emsen-Hough said: "Over the past year, we have seen incredible advancements in workplace diversity and inclusion despite turmoil we all experienced on a global scale. It's incredibly encouraging to see workplaces in Australia continue to remain dedicated and stride towards greater inclusion of our LGBTQ communities.

"As we continue to progress, it's vital that efforts are acknowledged and celebrated, and that we continue to maintain and build upon our achievements.

“These awards truly give us an insight into the amazing breadth of work being done by so many in making organisations across Australia more inclusive of LGBTQ people and communities.”

For more information contact:

Nehad Kenanie, Media Manager, 0402 271 142

Nehad.Kenanie@star.com.au

ABOUT THE AWARD

The Australian Workplace Equality Index (AWEI) is the definitive national benchmark on LGBTQ workplace inclusion and comprises the largest and only national employee survey designed to gauge the overall impact of inclusion initiatives on organisational culture as well as identifying and non-identifying employees. The Index drives best practice in Australia and sets a comparative benchmark for Australian employers across all sectors.

In 2021, the AWEI saw a record 186 organisations across Australia participate, and an employee survey attached to the index received 44,915 responses, the highest it has ever received.