



Police wear pride on their sleeves

Inspector Scott Tanner, Sergeant Adam Wood and Inspector Gemini Bakos proudly wear it purple at the rotunda yesterday. The day aims to highlight the right to equality for the LGBTI community and is celebrated in towns and cities right across Australia.

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PHOTO: BELINDA SOOLE

Police wearing their pride on sleeves

DUBBO's rotunda was awash with purple on Friday to mark a special day devoted to helping prevent bullying and youth suicide by encouraging young people to be proud of who they are.

Local police and youth mental health advocates headspace Dubbo joined forces for the annual Wear It Purple Day.

Headspace Dubbo representatives, local police and Aboriginal community liaison officers were on hand to meet with members of the public and they manned information stalls and a barbecue to show their support for the day.

NSW Police had actively supported the annual event since 2012, according to Orana Local Area Command Inspector Gemini Bakos.

"That includes officers receiving special exemption to wear special purple shirts as part of their uniform on the day," she said.

"We are promoting diversity and putting the message out there that we won't tolerate homophobic bullying."

With figures showing the risk of suicide was sever times greater for youths who suffered discrimination or prejudice based on their sexuality or gender diversity, Inspector Bakos said, it was important to let members of the community know police and headspace Dubbo were there to help.

"Anyone who needs support, we can guide you in the right direction," she said.

Headspace Dubbo spokesperson Nicholas Steepe said the display had received a positive response from members of the public.

"And even those people who can't be here today are spreading the message by dressing in purple

at work and in schools, it's important we get the message out, particularly in rural areas so we can help address the high rates of youth suicide."

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INSPECTOR GEMINI BAKOS