

CONVERSION PRACTICES IN AUSTRALIA


WHAT DOES A TYPICAL MODERN SURVIVOR OF CONVERSION PRACTICES LOOK LIKE IN AUSTRALIA?



AN LGBTQA+ ADULT WHO HAS GROWN UP IN, OR JOINED A FAITH COMMUNITY...

BEING LGBTQA+ IS A FORM OF BROKENNESS

I PRAYED FOR A LESBIAN TO BE HEALED FROM HER PAST TRAUMA...



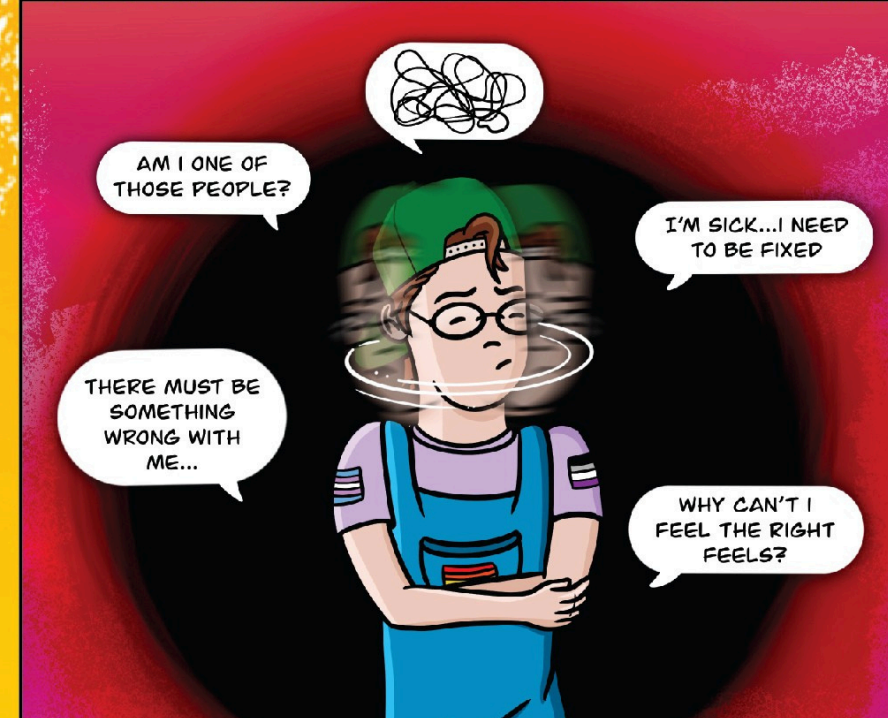
FROM A YOUNG AGE THEY ABSORBED MESSAGES ABOUT LGBTQA+ PEOPLE...

AM I ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE?

I'M SICK... I NEED TO BE FIXED

THERE MUST BE SOMETHING WRONG WITH ME...

WHY CAN'T I FEEL THE RIGHT FEELS?



...AND BEGAN TO REALISE THAT THE MESSAGES APPLIED TO THEM...

"BEING LGBTQA+ IS A SIGN THAT YOU ARE REALLY NOT HEALTHY"



AFTER BECOMING FRIGHTENED OVER TIME, THEY SOUGHT HELP FROM A RELIGIOUS OR PASTORAL LEADER

"DEAR LORD, HEAL THE TRAUMA THAT CAUSED THIS BROKENNESS. HELP THEM TO BE WHO YOU MADE THEM TO BE."



THEY MET FROM TIME TO TIME BEFORE THEY WERE REFERRED TO SOMEONE ELSE FOR MORE UNPAID 'HELP'...

"LET'S TALK ABOUT YOUR PARENTS."



CONVERSATIONS MAY HAVE INCLUDED CHILDHOOD ISSUES, PAST 'SINS', HOW TO MANAGE CELIBACY OR GENDER EXPRESSION...

"GOD HEALED ME!"




THEY READ BOOKS THAT EXPLORED THESE THINGS MORE AND LISTENED TO 'SUCCESS' STORIES OF PEOPLE WHO CLAIM TO HAVE BECOME STRAIGHT OR CIS.


WHY ISN'T THIS WORKING? I NEED TO TRY HARDER

I DON'T WANT TO LOSE MY FAMILY OR FAITH

MAYBE IT WOULD BE EASIER IF I WASN'T HERE...



OVER TIME, THE PSYCHOLOGICAL, EMOTIONAL AND SPIRITUAL DAMAGE AFFECTED THEIR ABILITY TO FUNCTION AND LIVE.



THOSE WHO SURVIVE THE LGBTQA+ CONVERSION MOVEMENT REPORT ONGOING TRAUMA, REQUIRING SIGNIFICANT, LONG-TERM PEER AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT.

TEXT AND CONCEPT BY CHRIS CSABS AND NATHAN DESPOTT
ARTWORK BY @SOLLYMO.DESIGNS (INSTAGRAM)

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