



VANUATU TRAVEL ADVICE FOR LGBTQ+ PLAYERS, OFFICIALS AND STAFF

All travellers face risks overseas. Risks can be higher for travellers who are gay, lesbian or queer/questioning, or have a diverse gender identity (trans, non-binary or genderqueer). This information has been prepared for LGBTQ+ players, officials and staff attending training and events in Vanuatu.

BE PREPARED

While the New South Wales Rugby League (NSWRL) has a zero-tolerance approach to all forms of direct and indirect homophobia, biphobia and transphobia, they are not able to control all that happens outside controlled environments during international tours.

In the broader community, Vanuatu's legal and social environment is mixed for LGBTQ+ people. Same-sex sexual relationships are legal, but same-sex marriage is not recognised and was formally banned in 2024. There are currently no laws recognising or protecting gender-diverse identities, and non-binary or transgender people are not legally recognised. This means you may face additional scrutiny if your passport includes an 'X' gender marker, as Vanuatu does not yet have systems in place to formally recognise non-binary gender markers. It is recommended you contact the Australian High Commission before travel to confirm the latest entry requirements.

While urban and tourist areas such as Port Vila are generally more accepting, attitudes in rural or conservative communities can vary. Social acceptance of LGBTQ+ people remains limited, often influenced by strong religious and traditional values. For this reason, it's important to approach your time in Vanuatu with awareness and sensitivity to local customs and community norms.

BE SMART

As with any destination, levels of acceptance, tolerance and inclusion will differ between communities. It is recommended you avoid public displays of affection outside private or team environments, as these may attract unwanted attention or negative responses. When socialising or attending events, stay aware of your surroundings and follow all relevant NSWRL and NRL Codes of Conduct.

If you plan to meet new people, including through social apps, take extra precautions. LGBTQ+ travellers in many countries report being targeted for harassment or scams due to lower reporting rates of such offences. Always meet in public places, let someone know where you are going, and trust your instincts.



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BE READY

Recognising the compounding impact of other diverse identities, including your race, religion, age, mental health and disability, is important. The SmartTraveller website (www.smarttraveller.gov.au) provides essential information about how these intersecting identities may bring their own risks.

If you need help while overseas, the emergency phone numbers in Vanuatu are:
Police – 111 or 22222
Ambulance (ProMedical) – 115
Fire – 113

Your insurer will also have a 24/7 emergency contact. Ensure this number is saved in your phone before departure.

The Australian High Commission in Port Vila may be able to assist in certain situations:

Winston Churchill Avenue, Port Vila, Vanuatu.
+678 22 777
consular.portvila@dfat.gov.au

You can also contact the Australian Government's Consular Care 24-hour helpline in an emergency.

+61 2 6261 3305.

BE SUPPORTED

Your team support staff, including coaches and officials, are available if you would like to have a confidential conversation at any time. Within Vanuatu, local LGBTQ+ networks are limited, but the tour organiser or Australian High Commission may be able to provide referrals to confidential counselling or health services if needed.

Before departure, identify a trusted person within your team or staff group who can act as a check-in contact throughout your trip. It's important that everyone feels safe, respected and supported — both within the team environment and while engaging with local communities.

This fact sheet has been prepared in collaboration with Pride in Sport.
www.prideinsport.com.au