



MEDIA RELEASE: Thursday 29 October 2020

ConnectGroups Media Release

Statement Regarding Basil Zempilas' comments on 6PR 28 October 2020

ConnectGroups as the Peak Body of Support Groups in WA is alarmed and concerned by Perth Lord Mayor Basil Zempilas' recent inflammatory and transphobic remarks on 6PR this week. Mr Zempilas has demonstrated his in depth lack of knowledge through his conflation of the definitions of 'sex' and 'gender' and shown awful prejudice in his ridicule of non-binary, intersex and trans-identifying people. These attitudes are particularly disappointing considering the work that has been done in the wider community to reduce stigma, and the prior strong relationship between the City of Perth and the LGBTQI+ community. On the eve of PrideFEST 2020 – a celebration of the LGBTQI+ community – the Lord Mayor's statements are divisive and harmful to the whole community.

ConnectGroups stands with its member Support Groups [TransFolk of WA](#) and [Discharged](#) and the trans and non-binary community. We will continue to speak out against transphobia.

ConnectGroups is proud to support the incredible work of its two member Support Groups to support trans and gender diverse people and their loved ones through peer support, training and referral services.

We call on the City of Perth to urgently respond to our concerns and we call on the Lord Mayor Basil Zempilas to confront his comments and seek to educate himself through trans awareness training.

If these issues have brought up concerns for you or your loved one, please call:

Lifeline: 13 11 14 or lifeline.org.au

Beyondblue: 1300 22 4636 and www.beyondblue.org.au

QLife: 1800 184 527 and [www.qlife.org.au](http://www qlife.org.au)

QLife are a counselling and referral service for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI+)

For further information contact:

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