

Pride Guide | Solomon Islands



The Australian Volunteers Program strives to provide a safe, supportive and equitable environment for LGBTIQ+ volunteers, approved accompanying dependents, partner organisations and all program staff. The Australian Volunteers Program has supported volunteers with diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC) in all program countries and has ongoing connections with community organisations in almost every country we work in.

Diverse SOGIESC program participants must be aware of the country context before undertaking an assignment.

This guide is designed to introduce some key issues related to people with diverse SOGIESC and their participation in the program.

If you are a volunteer with diverse SOGIESC, you will need to:

- Do your own research. You will be required to follow the local laws, even if you disagree with them.
- Understand what the local law says you can and can't do when in-country;
- Be aware of what the legal protections are for LGBTIQ+ people in your destinations;
- Consider whether or not you are comfortable living and working in a place where you may be discriminated against and unable to live as openly as you can in some parts of Australia.

Language

Terminology may differ across urban and rural contexts, and across provinces or ethnic and cultural groups. Information sourced online can be outdated or inaccurate. For current and accurate information, please confirm with an appropriate diverse SOGIESC Civil Society Organisation (CSO) or ask your in-country team.

Legal and policy context

Same-sex sexual acts are criminalised in the Solomon Islands with a maximum penalty of 14 years imprisonment. Attempts to commit offences may result in a penalty of up to 7 years imprisonment, and acts of "gross indecency" between men may be prosecuted with a sentence of up to 5 years. These laws have not been enforced in recent years.

Discrimination

No legal protections exist for people with diverse SOGIESC in the Solomon Islands. This includes a lack of constitutional protections and national laws that protect against SOGIESC discrimination, laws that protect against SOGIESC discrimination in employment, and laws that protect against hate crimes, incitement to hatred, violence or discrimination based on one's SOGIESC.

There was no information available on the cultural and social attitudes or health and wellbeing of diverse SOGIESC people in Solomon Islands.