

CENTRE FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Seminar Series

The University of Melbourne

Suicide risk and the transgender community

**Presenters: Dr Ada Cheung
and
Sav Zwickl**

Wednesday 1 September 1.00pm-2.00pm

Via Zoom

**[https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/82698366647?](https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/82698366647?pwd=emxKeFI5ZfV2ckZMb2tsOTFSchllOT09)
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Dr Ada Cheung is an Endocrinologist at Austin Health and an NHMRC/Dame Kate Campbell research fellow at The University of Melbourne. She leads the Trans Health Research group and her research findings have contributed to the investment in two new multidisciplinary gender clinics in Victoria and a statewide training program for health professionals in trans health and new national guidelines in the hormonal management of trans and gender diverse individuals. She has won a number of national and international awards for her research including a US Endocrine Society Early Investigator Award.



Sav Zwickl is a non-binary transgender researcher and educator with the Trans Health Research Group, Department of Medicine. They currently run a longitudinal project focused on transgender health and wellbeing. Sav has a Masters degree in Sexology and is in the final months of a PhD focused on non-binary genders. They are deeply engaged with the Australian transgender community and have extensive experience working in peer support roles with young LGBTIQ+ people.

Being transgender is part of the natural spectrum of human diversity and there is nothing inherent to being trans that makes a person more likely to experience poor mental health. The transgender community is, however, one of the most socially and medically marginalised groups in Australian society, and this results in staggeringly high rates of depression, self-harm, and most alarmingly, nearly half of transgender Australians have attempted suicide.

In this presentation we will provide an overview of our research into the factors associated with an increased risk of suicidality and discuss the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on mental health of the Australian transgender community.

We will also examine why many transgender people avoid mainstream mental health services and opt for severely under-resourced and under-funded LGBTIQ+ services and peer support.

These seminars are free. Visitors are welcome to attend.
For more information contact the Centre for Mental Health +61 3 8344 0908