



FIJI 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 Fiji.

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, Fiji is rated 54th in the world for LGBTQ+ inclusion and respect. The equality index (www.equaldex.com) rated Fiji 54/100 for legal protections – a similar score to many other Pacific Islands but considerably below Australia and New Zealand.

Fijian laws prohibit the discrimination or harassment of gay, lesbian, bisexual or queer visitors, however, gay marriage is not legal, and community support is not universal – particularly in rural areas.

Traditional Fijian culture has a third gender known as the vaka sa lewa lewa. These individuals are assigned male at birth but fulfil a typically feminine role within society. Transgender and non-binary identities are not legally recognised or protected in Fiji. You could face entry restrictions if you have a passport with an 'X' gender marker. You may still be asked to provide binary sex information even if your passport has an 'X' gender marker. Contact the Australian High Commission before you arrive at the border to confirm if authorities will accept passports with 'X' gender markers.

BE SMART

As with any community, levels of acceptance, tolerance and inclusion will vary. Be cautious with public displays of affection in conservative spaces, as this could still lead to verbal abuse and assault.

If you intend to party in Fiji, speak to other LGBTQ+ travellers before you go to get advice. Ensure that your behaviour complies with your club and NSWRL/[NRL's Codes of Conduct](#).

Be cautious of new friendships, particularly those made online or using apps. LGBTQ+ travellers can be targeted by criminals, as the rates of reporting these types of offences are generally lower due to perceived stigma and shame.

BE READY

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

If you need help, the Emergency phone numbers in Fiji are:

POLICE – 917

FIRE – 910

EMERGENCY - 911

Your insurer will also have a 24/7 emergency contact. Ensure you have this saved on your mobile phone.

The Australian High Commission in Fiji may be able to help in certain situations:

37 Princes Road, Tamavua, Suva

Phone: +679 3382 211

Email: consular.suva@dfat.gov.au

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

Phone: +61 2 6261 3305

BE SUPPORTED

Your team support staff, including your coaches and officials, are available if you would like to have a confidential conversation at any time.

Within Fiji, you can also access free, anonymous and confidential support:

Empower Pacific 24/7 Counselling Helpline: 5626 (or text 2937141)

National Crisis Toll-Free Line (LifeLine): 1543

This fact sheet has been prepared in collaboration with Pride in Sport.

www.prideinsport.com.au