



**GAY**  
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## New research says gay parents want a stronger sense of community

**NEW RESEARCH BY GAY PARENTS AUSTRALIA has revealed that gay and lesbian parents want a stronger sense of community and better access to relevant information.**

**Gay Parents Australia, who are developing a new national online network for gay and lesbian parents, conducted their first community survey earlier this year in an effort to pinpoint exactly what motivated their 350 members to join in the first place.**

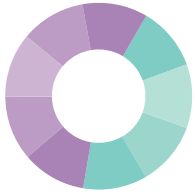
70 per cent of survey respondents said they joined Gay Parents Australia because they want to feel like part of a community. 74 per cent joined because they want to find information that is relevant to their unique family structures (members could give more than one reason for joining).

Gay Parents Australia CEO Rebecca Madsen said, 'many gay and lesbian parents already participate on mainstream parenting forums and networks, but what they really want is to connect with individuals who are experiencing the same highs and lows that conceiving and parenting in a same-sex headed family can present.'

'Same-sex couples already face institutionalised marginalisation as a result of Australia's discriminatory marriage act, so the mental health benefits to be had from connecting with like-minded people and supporting each other is of even greater importance for this group than it is for other parents.'

Despite facing institutionalised marginalisation in the form of Australia's discriminatory marriage act, which doesn't allow their same-sex parents to marry, countless studies prove that children raised by gay and lesbian parents are thriving – including a recent highly publicised paper by the Australian Institute of Family Studies which concluded that children raised by same-sex parents 'do as well emotionally, socially and educationally as their peers from heterosexual couple families'.

Rebecca was inspired to launch the Gay Parents Australia network while she was pregnant with her now 12-month old daughter, Poppy. Rebecca found that while there are hundreds of support groups, networking associations and brands madly competing for the attention



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of heterosexual mums across Australia, those specifically servicing lesbian mums and gay dads on a national scale were close to zero. Gay Parents Australia is aiming to change that.

‘As far as we know, Gay Parents Australia is creating the only destination that allows this growing community to all connect together in the one place from anywhere, anytime – online,’ Ms Madsen said.

Gay Parents Australia members will be able to connect and chat with each other online as well as participate in exclusive members’ forums. Memberships are available now at [gayparentsaustralia.com.au](http://gayparentsaustralia.com.au).

**END**

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