

## The impact of Covid 19 on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTIQ+SB community



**Dameyon Bonson**  
(He/Him)

**Founder of Black Rainbow, NT**

Dameyon is of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent of both the Jawoyn Peoples, from the Mangarrayi, of the Mataranka region (NT) and of the Bari Clan, from Mabuiag Island, of the western island group Kala Lagaw Ya (TSI), called the Wagedagam. He is a cisgender gay male and is recognised as an Indigenous suicide prevention subject matter expert, specifically in Indigenous LGBTIQ+SB suicide prevention.

Dameyon has extensive experience working in and with remote Indigenous communities in suicide prevention and in 2013 founded Black Rainbow, Australia's first and only national Indigenous LGBTIQ+SB suicide prevention charity organisation. He holds a post-graduate qualification in Suicidology and is currently undertaking the Atlantic Fellowship. In 2020, he was listed among Vogue's Top 20 Change Makers 2020. Dameyon is considered an Indigenous LGBTIQ+SB diversity and inclusion expert in suicide prevention and has developed the country's first and only Indigenous LGBTIQ+SB cultural competency program for suicide prevention, health, and social services, called Safer Spaces. His work has been the catalyst for three Indigenous LGBTIQ+SB suicide prevention and wellbeing research studies in Australia.

Dameyon's Safer Spaces workshop rolls out nationally in 2023.



**Facilitator: Prof. Damien Riggs**  
(He/Him)

**Psychotherapist, SA**

Damien Riggs is a professor in psychology at Flinders University and is the author of over 200 publications on gender, family, and mental health, including *Working with Transgender Young People and their Families* (Palgrave, 2019).

Damien is also a psychotherapist who specialises in working with transgender children. Damien is a Fellow of the Australian Psychological Society.