



COMMUNITY GUIDELINES

We are passionate about creating communities that are inclusive and safe for everyone. As Sydney Bi+ Network (SBN) continues to grow, it's important that all of our members follow guidelines that reflect these values. Creating a community where all members can feel a sense of belonging requires trust, understanding, and respect. The guidelines below are building blocks that can help align these values with our interactions with one another. Anyone acting in contradiction to these, or in ways that are harmful to other bi+ folks may be asked to leave our community spaces.

We value each and every person for who they are

Our members are a diverse group of people who have a range of lived experiences. As being part of SBN, we are all expected to respect different experiences and leave our assumptions at the door. Sexuality can be fluid and intricate. We do not gatekeep, nor tell people how to self-identify.

Actively creating a supportive community for each other

It's important to understand that many of our members are in different places in their journeys. We ask everyone to respect this through being supportive of one another and by encouraging people to be their authentic selves. Practise active and generous listening when people are sharing with you and give people time to explain and reflect.

Having open and honest exchanges

Being part of SBN requires mutual trust. Being able to have authentic expressive discussions makes Sydney Bi+ Network great, but these discussions may also be sensitive and private. Be mindful that people have differing levels of comfort with sharing. If you are discussing sensitive material, please check in with others to ensure they are comfortable with the conversation.

It is also important to understand your own boundaries around sharing. Please know that it is okay to communicate your boundaries respectfully if you feel uncomfortable.

Consent

Consent is crucial in all that we do. Consent means someone has freely and voluntarily agreed to take part in something. You must ensure you have someone's consent before moving forward with anything.

Maintaining confidentiality

Privacy and confidentiality are important in all communities. For bi+ people, there may be an added concern of being 'outed' in contexts where being known to be bi+ carries significant personal risk or risks to family and friends.

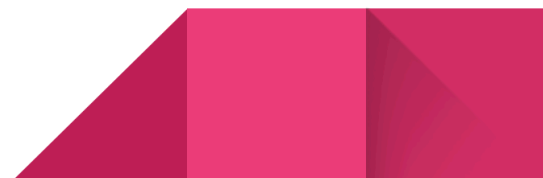
Do not share the identities of SBN community members outside the group. Do not share people's sexual orientations or stories told to you in confidence. If you are unsure whether you can share stories or information, please ask the individuals involved **before** sharing.

Understanding different levels of knowledge

We recognise all our members have differing levels of knowledge and skills in different areas. As a result, we ask everyone to be mindful that someone may not be aware of certain social issues, concepts, terminology or experiences. We encourage SBN to be a place where we can become more educated as a community about differing experiences. It's important to give people an opportunity to learn and grow in a time and space where they are willing. If you would like to discuss differing perspectives on issues, concepts, terminology or experiences, please make sure that all parties are enthusiastic to being apart of the discussion.

Harmful conduct

We do not tolerate behaviour that is harmful - this includes racism, transphobia, misogyny, classism, hate speech, discrimination, etc. If someone is acting in a way that may be harmful, please notify the SBN team (syd.bi.network@gmail.com)



Photography

Although SBN promotes bi+ visibility, we understand that not all people can or want to be photographed. We do not assume people are okay with their photo being taken and shared. There is no obligation to be photographed as being part of any SBN event.

In meetings and events, event organisers will provide name tag stickers for individuals to indicate to both SBN organisers and other members that they do not want to be photographed. Alternatively, individuals can talk to an SBN organiser before or after the event.

Members should **always** ask if it is okay to take and share a photograph of other people, and be ready for a 'no' response.

Hookup culture

Sydney Bi+ Network aims to create a non-confrontational environment, which allows everyone to feel comfortable in our community. Sydney Bi+ Network's events and online spaces are not the places to look for hookups. If you proposition members through posts or direct messages, or make anyone feel uncomfortable with sexual content you will be blocked online. If you are looking for hookups, please use the specific sites and groups where the discussion of hookups is appropriate.

If you have any questions or concerns about these guidelines, please feel free to contact the Sydney Bi+ Network team (syd.bi.network@gmail.com)

