

The National Composites Centre has some incredible Equality, Diversity and Inclusion champions. In celebration of PRIDE, we check in with those helping people with common identities come together in a supportive, safe space, to share lived experiences and gain peer support to help raise awareness of issues for their community and how they can be better supported in the workplace – at any stage of their personal journey.

Meet a member of the PRIDE+ Allies Affinity Group

The NCC's PRIDE + Allies network is for those with lived experience of the LGBT+ community, and those allies wishing to support and champion change.

PRIDE to me

PRIDE is the celebration of the progress that has been made and a demonstration of a commitment to continuing this progress. It is a great chance to open up conversations, and honour those around you.

Allyship to me

There seems to be some panic around being a good ally. People often feel like their heart is in the right place but are worried about doing something "wrong", or may have concerns about encroaching on LGBTQIA+ spaces.

It's like learning a new skill: the more motivated you are to listen and learn, the better – as long as it is done respectfully. Progress is better than perfection. Allyship also comes in many forms, and is not restricted to "loud" actions or specific events, such as attending marches. It can be as simple as being self-reflective and assessing your actions with a conscious view to improve.

How the NCC supports my community

I have been in organisations where homophobic language was used casually and fairly frequently. I was left feeling conflicted; annoyed that people would speak like that; and annoyed that I felt too scared to speak up against it. I would consider myself "lucky" that people assumed I was heterosexual. When I started at the NCC, the culture came as a pleasant surprise. Everyone was incredibly welcoming and kind and I've not experienced any issues. I am excited to be part of the affinity groups and to see what we get up to next!

Someone who inspires me

My hero is my sister. As a teacher, she tries to promote a more inclusive school environment and creating a safe space for LGBTQIA+ students. She is an incredibly hard worker, yet is determined to always find the time to speak to students who feel they have no one to talk to. She is exactly the kind of teacher I wish I had during my school years.

