

## **Ethnic LGBT+**

### **Our Story**

Ethnic LGBT+ was founded by Mikhara Ramsing in 2017. Mikhara is a gay South African Indian Australian woman from Brisbane, Queensland. After an 8-year journey of turmoil navigating between her cultural identity and her sexual identity, Mikhara was finally able to bring her parents into her identity. She is proud of the progress they have made.

Throughout this time, Mikhara was unable to see herself, she could not see another gay Indian woman in the LGBTIQ+ resources she accessed online or in person. She realised she was not alone. With 1 in 5 Australians from a migrant background, 27 % speaking a language other than English at home and 11% of young people identifying as gender and/or sexual diverse (ABS 2016; AHRC 2011), there was a growing cohort of Australians just like her but she could not find them or see them.

Thus, Ethnic LGBT+ was born as a safe place for culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) LGBTIQ people to see themselves, to share their stories and access resources and support. CALD LGBTIQ people often face language barriers; the compounding factors of racism and homophobia/biphobia/transphobia and; the conflicting factors between cultural identity and sexual identity.

Mikhara believes stories save lives, in providing Ethnic LGBT+, she hopes to provide a safe place for stories to be shared. Ethnic LGBT's vision is to create a more inclusive Australia through storytelling.