

BEATSAFE



Beats

The word beat is often used to describe certain places where guys go to meet other guys, cruise and sometimes hook-up.

Most commonly, public toilets, parks and suburban carparks are used. Some of these locations become beats after nightfall.

Because of the unique nature of some beats, such as remote locations, anonymous encounters and proximity to assistance - it's important for guys who go to beats to stay informed, be aware and ready to look after themselves and their mates to ensure their safety and well-being.

? What are the main points to remember at beats?

- Homophobic violence or harassment at beats is not very common.
- Beats can become known to homophobic people and become a target for violence.
- Hook-up Apps have been used to organise homophobic attacks at beats

💡 General Tips to make beats safer

- Tell someone where you are going.
- Avoid people or groups you think are suspicious – even if they look like your 'type'.
- If you want to go home with someone you meet, talk first to see if you feel safe with them.
- Wearing headphones may impair your ability to hear potential warnings.
- Wear practical clothes and shoes in case you need to run.
- Know your surroundings – you may need exits/escape routes.
- Alcohol or drugs may impair your judgment and make you more vulnerable.

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👁️ What should I do if I witness homophobic activity while at a beat?

- Notify police immediately by calling 000.
- If possible, prevent an incident occurring by leaving the beat.
- Alert others to the situation, for example, sound your car horn as you are leaving.
- If someone is being attacked, call the police or yell, avoid putting yourself at risk.
- If safe to do so, observe details and take photos for evidence such as appearance, car model or registration.
- Call an ambulance 000.

⚠️ What should I do if I am harassed or attacked at a beat?

- Use your phone to call 000, take photos, or switch on your torch if it's dark.
- Do not aggravate the attacker, try to keep yourself and them calm.
- Stay alert, move into an open space, look for a clear pathway so you can run away.
- While running for safety, yell or make noise to attract help.

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Where to get help

In an emergency call 000

For help reporting a crime

- Be prepared to provide any evidence that you noticed or photographed.
- After an incident has occurred, report it to the
 -  **Police Assistance Line (PAL) 131 444.**
 - Speak with a **Police LGBTIQ Liaison Officer** by calling your local police station and ask to speak with a 'GLLO'.
 - For free legal advice or help reporting a crime, contact the **Inner City Legal Service.** Visit them online: iclc.org.au/our-services/lgbtiq-legal-advice/
 - **LawAccess NSW**
1300 888 529
Visit them online: lawaccess.nsw.gov.au

For information on Apps or online safety

- Visit them online: esafety.gov.au/diverse-groups/lgbtiq

For emotional support

- Call ACON to make an appointment
(02) 9206 2000
- QLife visit them online qlife.org.au



What can I do to prevent further violence at a beat?

- Post a message in Squirt to let others know that the beat is currently not safe and that police have been notified.
- Tell your friends or contacts who use that beat.
- Stop going to that location until the situation has been resolved.
- If/when you return, remain aware.
- Be discreet when having sex. Most homophobic activity at beats is in response to complaints from the public about obvious sexual activity taking place in easy-to-view areas.



Hook-up Apps and beats

- Fake profiles are mostly created by young individuals or groups of people.
- Fake profiles use a real photo of the best-looking group member to hook people into chatting.
- Once at the beat, beware if they suggest going to a 'quieter' area as the rest of the group might suddenly appear and it may be harder to get help.
- Signs of a fake profile: an attractive or fake image, uncommon language about sex or gay community, might seem overly keen or 'too good to be true'.
- If you suspect a profile is fake, screen shot the pages including the main image and location, report it to 000 or the Australian e-Safety Commission

esafety.gov.au/report

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