

Gender Diversity Summary



Young people's Experience of Gender Diversity

In 2021 over 3,500 young people from around Australia engaged with **yourtown's** Your Voice Project. The project gave young people (aged 15-24) with the opportunity to voice their experiences, views on how services need to be improved and provide opportunities for them to inform policy.

3,500

Young People participated in Your Voice

12%

of participants identified as being part of the LGBTQIA+ community.

82%

of these participants said mental health was an issue.

88.5%

of these participants have accessed support specific to the LGBTQIA+ community.

What young people told us about Gender Diversity:

As a queer person myself, I know how difficult it can be to find services created to help. LGBTQIA+ issues are never talked about in school, and rarely in homes as well, meaning children often have no idea there is even help available for them. And many youths feel they cannot turn to their family to ask for support due to homophobic households or ignorant people, making it even harder to access support.

LGBTQIA+ young people told us they face stigma and discrimination in their daily lives, at home, school and in the community.

I haven't tried to access services for this as my family is religious.

I'm asexual and I just feel like it's hard cause a lot of people don't really see it as a thing but it can make me feel quite isolated.

More queer education needs to be provided to institutions. I went to a conservative, religious high school and was outed by a teacher because 'it conflicted with her Christian values'. Anyway, she told my EXTREMELY homophobic parents and she put me in danger. I wasn't ready, so I denied it. I can't wait to move out.

Don't know where to look. How do I find services? No one tells me where to go, I'm left as a 15 year old, not knowing what to do, while having trouble with my gender at home.

School was where I came out and the teachers dealt with it terribly, causing a dreadful mental health spiral. I am fortunate enough to be school captain at my school and I'm very public about my sexuality, hoping this will help other kids at the school with knowing they have a person to talk to.

Schools do nothing about LGBTQIA+ bullying and harassment.

Services for this is better than some others, however, there should be more to a focus in preventing discrimination - education and early intervention could be effective.

The only real LGBTQIA+ services I've had available to me are Kids Helpline and my school's LGBTQIA+ club. Even though I attend an actively LGBT-inclusive school, I still feel nervous to attend pride meetings or talk to student services about my sexuality. The LGBTQIA+ community is still seen as this 'outside' group. Although the LGBTQIA+ meetings are good for feeling a sense of connection and validation, they lack the education about sexuality/gender that LGBT students so desperately need.

There is a lack of services targeted towards trans and gender diverse people. The only services I have accessed have not been good. There is still the possibility of facing misgendering, gate keeping and other bad experiences.

READ THE FULL YOUR VOICE REPORT





Young people told us that the lack of safety and inclusive practices when accessing support meant that they were not always able to access the support they required.

Had my mental health worker laugh at my preferred pronouns and when I told him that I was questioning my gender, and wished I could be more androgynous.

I am afraid to admit to my psychiatrist that I am bisexual. I am afraid she will judge me and dismiss my sexuality.

I am misgendered at most services I access which causes significant distress and can stop me trying to reach out for help when I need it.

It's really hard and I often get micro-aggression from health care workers or government people. I feel like I need to hide my queerness. This is extremely difficult and demoralising. Getting services as a trans person is one of the most draining and upsetting things that I have had to do.

There are too little services available for the amount of young LGBTQIA+ people who need them. Again, this is no fault of the employers, but the system. Wait times are astronomical, and there is often a rushed 'in and out' type service you receive once you are granted a space at the service.

Accessing services? What services? I've been given none in all of my high school life.

I found it difficult to find services that help with bullying due to my sexuality. There was nothing at my school or anywhere near that was anonymous.

Many services still require you to list a title (Miss, Mr, etc.) and there is often a drop down which does not include Mx or anything gender neutral. Titles should be optional or more extensive or customisable.

It always surprises me how much stigma there is in places built to help us.

That they need to do something about the bullying that LGBTQIA+ and disabled students receive in schools.

Young people told us that the lack of consent and relationship education for LGBTQIA+ youth was a concern, and led to further stigma, micro-aggression and bullying from their peers.

There was a serious lack of LGBTQIA+ education during high school. It took me until after high school to figure out that I identified as part of that community, and it would have helped a lot if there wasn't as much stigma around it early on.

As a non-binary person, there is little to no outlets for finding others like me in Australia. Not to mention the growing Transphobia in the world making things increasingly frightening. There is almost NO advertising for LGBT+ services that I am aware of. The only ones I can think of are tiny subsections of other groups.

Nothing is taught to young kids and they're growing up homophobic.

That LGBTQIA+ kids need some real help, we get no queer sex education, no education on discrimination, so kids grow up to be homophobic because they were never taught any different.

To reduce negative stereotypes, update our sex education curriculum as a whole, and provide adequate resources to LGBTQIA+ youth, we need mandatory LGBTQIA+ inclusive sex education in schools. It shouldn't be sparse!! It should be comprehensive.



12% Gender Diverse

Health and Mental Health (81.7%)
Education (67.6%)
Environment (53.4%)

57% involved in activism
86.3% enrolled to vote