



Rainbow Futures WA is a consortium of WA based LGBTIQ+ community organisations (see list below) and individuals concerned with the long-term well-being of the community.

It has grown out of a series of community gatherings, bringing together members of LGBTIQ+ groups and individuals around WA.

- Albany Pride
- Asexuals of WA
- Bi+ Community Perth
- Broome Pride
- Busselton Pride Alliance
- Connection and Wellbeing Australia (CAWA)
- Equal Voices WA
- First Peoples Rainbow Mob
- GRAI
- Goldfields Pride
- Intersex Peer Support Australia (WA)
- KNQ Community Group
- Living Proud
- OUT MidWest
- OUT South West
- Perth Inner City Youth Service (PICYS)
- Parents and Friends of LGBTIQ+ (PFLAG) Perth
- PHLAGS Port Hedland
- Pride in Peel
- Pride WA
- Regional Rainbows
- SOGICE Survivors WA
- Southern Forests Rainbow Faction
- TransFolk of WA
- WAAC
- Youth Pride Network

PRIORITIES: WA LGBTIQ+ COMMUNITIES

Rainbow Futures WA surveyed over 300 LGBTIQ+ community members and allies in 2020, who overwhelmingly said that law reform is important to them and that government services are in desperate need of improvement. We believe the only way to address these issues is through a comprehensive whole-of-government approach.

PLAN TOGETHER

A whole-of-government strategy to eliminate discrimination and disadvantage, planned in collaboration with LGBTIQ+ communities

Policy and programs that address the needs of LGBTIQ+ people require appropriate expertise and infrastructure. The involvement of LGBTIQ+ organisations that are already contributing to this important work is vital to self-determination. However, government support, where it has occurred, has been disparate and piecemeal. We recommend the **establishment of a LGBTIQ+ portfolio** based on the Victorian / Tasmanian model, with funding that allows LGBTIQ+ services to build capacity and plan for the long-term.

ALLEVIATE HARM

Work with LGBTIQ+ communities to end policies, practices, and laws that cause us physical or psychological harm

Despite commitments outlined in policy platforms, there has been little substantive progress on LGBTIQ+ law and other reforms by successive state governments. There was strong support across all survey participants for the following reforms to be addressed with urgency:

- Strengthening **anti-discrimination protections** to protect all LGBTIQ+ people and remove exemptions for faith-based organisations.
- Ending **conversion and similar practices** that seek to change or suppress sexual orientation or gender identity and ensuring support for survivors.
- Ensuring trans and gender diverse people can easily update their documents for **legal gender recognition** without the need for medical or surgical treatment.
- Prohibiting **deferrable medical interventions** performed on people born with intersex variations without their consent.
- Ensuring **surrogacy laws** do not discriminate against male couples and singles so that children have the security of legal recognition of their parents.
- **Investing in LGBTIQ+ health and wellbeing** to reduce social, economic and health disparities.

WALK THE TALK

Public services must be accountable for accommodating the unique needs of the LGBTIQ+ communities, with resources provided

Currently, government services are inconsistent in the provision of **adequate and safe services** for LGBTIQ+ communities, with aged care, health and education in significant need of improvement. Public reporting on steps taken toward inclusion as well as actively encouraging feedback and dialogue with communities are the first steps of many to achieve this.

KEY LGBTIQ+ STATISTICS

*Private Lives 3** is Australia's largest national survey of the health and wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ people. It was developed in consultation with representatives from across states and territories as well as different sections of the LGBTIQ+ communities. Western Australians comprised 9.8% of all participants, which is representative of the state's general population.

Most LGBTIQ+ Australians are happy and healthy, but we are overrepresented among those with poorer mental health. This is exacerbated by our anticipation and fear of stigma, discrimination, abuse, violence, and exclusion. We know that this has an economic impact, so moving toward a more supportive environment for LGBTIQ+ people would directly benefit the state government and businesses.

DISCRIMINATION

More than half of LGBTIQ+ people have been treated unfairly because of their sexuality.

Over three quarters were treated unfairly because of their gender identity.

Less than half felt their sexuality or gender identity was respected in mainstream services.

Less than half of trans and gender diverse people felt they were easily able to access gender affirming care.

Over 60% of people with an intersex variation/s had experienced an occasion where they felt they did not have sufficient say over medical decisions that related to them.

SOCIAL EXCLUSION

Over 40% of LGBTIQ+ people have been in an abusive intimate relationship.

Almost a quarter had experienced homelessness (higher for trans and gender diverse people).

More than 10% had recently struggled to manage their alcohol / drug use.

More than a third had a disability or long-term health condition, with many being treated unfairly by others because of it.

More than a third residing in regional locations rated their health as 'poor' or 'fair'.

Participants from multicultural backgrounds were more likely to report very high levels of psychological distress.

HEALTH

LGBTIQ+ people reported significantly poorer health than the general Australian population.

Less than one third rated their health as 'very good' or 'excellent' (lower for trans and gender diverse people) compared to more than half of the general population.

More than half reported high levels of psychological distress.

Almost three quarters had considered suicide at some point during their lives – almost a third had attempted it.

Trans and gender diverse people had higher rates of psychological distress, suicidal ideation and attempts overall.

*Hill, A. O., Bourne, A., McNair, R., Carman, M. & Lyons, A. (2020). *Private Lives 3: The health and wellbeing of LGBTIQ people in Australia*. ARCSHS Monograph Series No. 122. Melbourne, Australia: Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University.

CONTACT

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