



Royal Commission
into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation
of People with Disability

Research Report

**Violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation
of LGBTQA+ people with disability**

Easy Read version



How to use this report



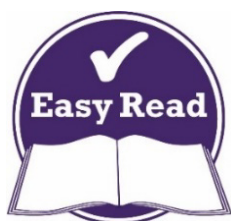
Researchers from La Trobe University wrote this report for the Disability Royal Commission (the Royal Commission).

They work in the:

- Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society
- Living with Disability Research Centre.



When you see the word 'we', it means the Royal Commission.



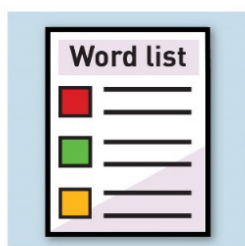
We wrote this report in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.



We wrote some important words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



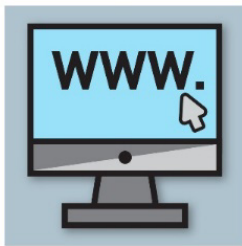
We explain what these bold words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 15.



This Easy Read report is a **summary** of a report called *Violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of LGBTQA+ people in Australia*.

A summary only includes the most important ideas.



You can find the other report on our website.

disability.royalcommission.gov.au/policy-and-research/research-program



You can ask for help to read this report.

A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.



In this paper we talk about some things that might upset some people.



If you get upset and need support, there are services you can contact.

Their contact details are on page 18.

What's in this report?

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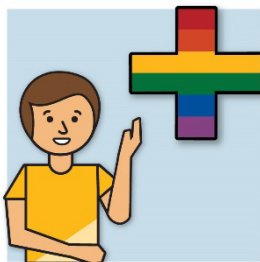
What is this report about?



This report is about LGBTQA+ people.



The letters **LGBTIQA** stand for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer or questioning and asexual.



The ‘+’ is for people who are part of this community but don’t talk about themselves using one of these words.



People use these words to talk about:

- their bodies
- who they are as a person
- who they are attracted to.



Researchers from La Trobe University wrote
2 surveys for people to fill out.



Not many intersex people took part in the surveys.
So we don't know what they experience.



But we learnt about the experiences of other
LGBTQA+ people.

We use LGBTQA+ to talk about these people.

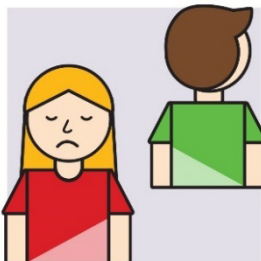
The surveys looked at how LGBTQA+ people experience:



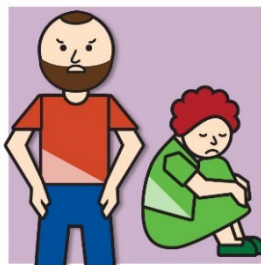
- **violence** – when someone hurts you physically or sexually



- **abuse** – when someone treats you badly



- **neglect** – when someone is not helping you the way they are supposed to help you



- **exploitation** – when someone takes advantage of you.



The first survey was for young people aged 14 to 21 years old.



The second survey was for adults over 18 years old.



Many of the people who filled out these surveys were people with disability.



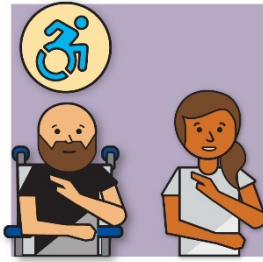
This research can help us understand what people experience when they:

- have a disability
- and
- are LGBTQA+.



If we understand more about what LGBTQA+ people with disability experience, it can help keep them safer.

What did we learn from our research?

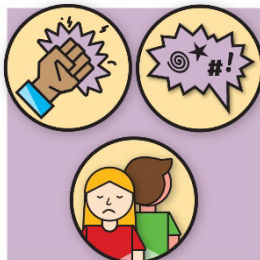


Researchers looked at what LGBTQA+ people with disability experience.

Then they looked at what other LGBTQA+ people experience.



They wanted to learn how LGBTQA+ people with disability experience violence and abuse.



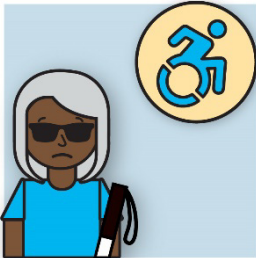
Researchers learnt that LGBTQA+ people with disability experience more:

- violence
- abuse
- neglect.



They are also more at risk of **discrimination**.

Discrimination is when someone is treated badly because of something about them they cannot change.



This might be their disability.



Or it might be:

- who they are attracted to
- their **gender**.



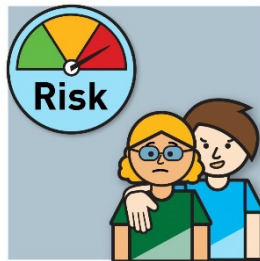
Your gender is what you feel and understand about who you are as a person.

You might think of yourself as a man or woman or something different.

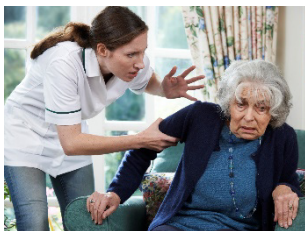
You can choose the words that are right for you.



LGBTQA+ people with disability are more at risk of feeling unsafe or uncomfortable at school.



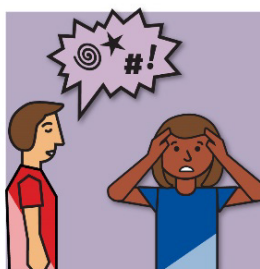
LGBTQA+ people with disability are more at risk of experiencing **harassment**.



Harassment is when someone treats you in a way that:

- is mean or frightening
- upsets you.

This might be in person or online.



Harassment includes when someone says things to upset you.



Harassment also includes when someone does something to upset you.

This includes something sexual.



LGBTQA+ people with disability are also more at risk of people excluding them from their community.

For example, being left out on purpose.

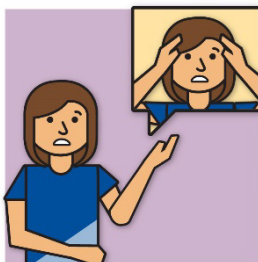
LGBTQA+ people with disability are also more at risk of violence from:



- someone they're in a relationship with

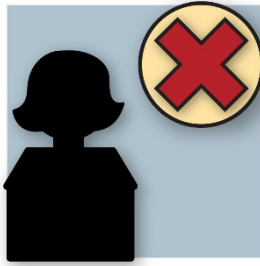


- a family member.



More LGBTQA+ people with disability experienced this violence than other LGBTQA+ people.

What else did we learn?

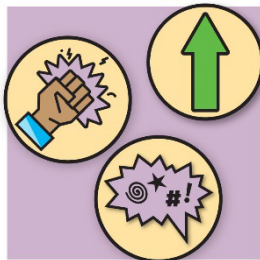


LGBTQA+ people with disability are more likely to:

- think about ending their own life
- try to end their own life.

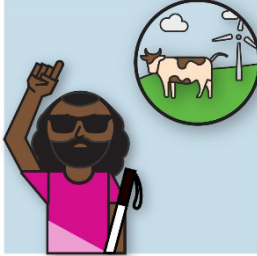


LGBTQA+ people with disability are even more likely to do this if they have experienced abuse in the past 12 months.

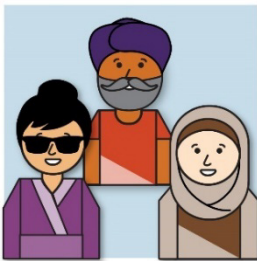


Some LGBTQA+ people with disability also experienced more of some types of violence or abuse.

This includes LGBTQA+ people with disability who:



- live far away from cities and towns



- come from different backgrounds



- are **trans** or **gender diverse**.



If you are trans or gender diverse, your gender is different now to what you were given when you were born.

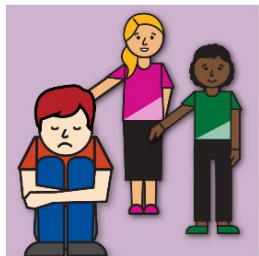
Word list

This list explains what the **bold** words in this report mean.



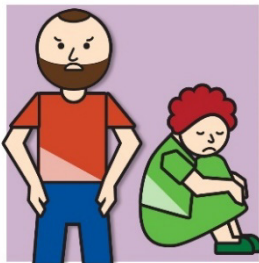
Abuse

Abuse is when someone treats you badly.



Discrimination

Discrimination is when someone is treated badly because of something about them they cannot change.



Exploitation

Exploitation is when someone takes advantage of you.



Gender

Your gender is what you feel and understand about who you are as a person.

You might think of yourself as a man or woman or something different.

You can choose the words that are right for you.



Harassment

Harassment is when someone treats you in a way that:

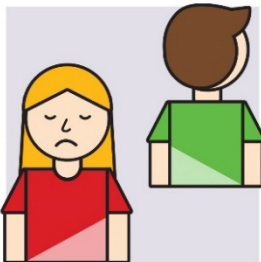
- is mean or frightening
- upsets you.



LGBTIQA+

The letters LGBTIQA stand for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer or questioning and asexual.

The '+' is for people who are part of this community but don't talk about themselves using one of these words.



Neglect

Neglect is when someone is not helping you the way they are supposed to help you.



Summary

A summary only includes the most important ideas.



Trans or gender diverse

If you are trans or gender diverse, your gender is different now to what you were given when you were born.



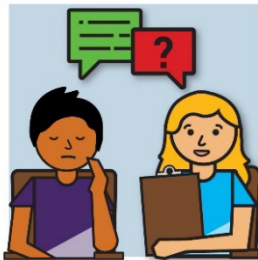
Violence

Violence is when someone hurts you physically or sexually.

Support for you



Blue Knot Foundation offers free **counselling support** to anyone who needs it.



Counselling support is when you:

- talk to someone about how you think and feel
- talk about ways to help you feel better.



You can call Blue Knot Foundation.

1800 421 468



They are open every day.



You can send Blue Knot Foundation an email.

helpline@blueknot.org.au

Contact us



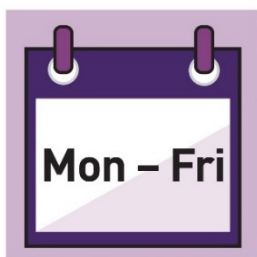
You can send us an email.

DRcenquiries@royalcommission.gov.au

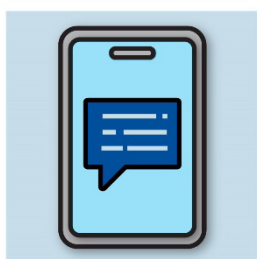


You can call us.

1800 517 199



We are available Monday to Friday.



You can also send us a text message.

0459 906 629



We are not available on public holidays.



You can also call the National Relay Service.

133 677



You can write to us at:

GPO Box 1422

Brisbane

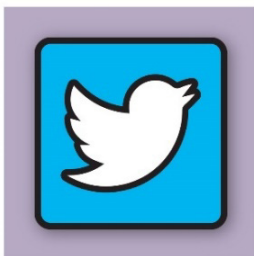
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Royal Commission
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Exploitation of People with Disability