

# A snapshot of people of diverse genders and sexualities in Newcastle



Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual (LGBTQIA+) people and communities represent a diverse and often underrepresented population within Australia.

Unfortunately, there is a lack of detailed population level data for LGBTQIA+ communities across Australia which makes it difficult to appropriately respond to the needs of these communities.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census records whether people identify as being in a same-sex union, however, does not record people's sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex status.

## Here are some things we do know from available data:



In 2016, **779 people** were living in same-sex de-facto relationships in the Newcastle LGA<sup>1</sup> – approximately 0.5% of the general population.



In 2016, people living in a same-sex de facto relationship had a

↓ **significantly lower rate of unemployment (3.7%)**

than that of the general Newcastle LGA population (7.4%) and had generally attained

↑ **higher levels of education i.e. 40% having a Bachelor degree or higher,** compared with approximately 23% of the general population.<sup>3</sup>



However, **up to 11% of Australians** may have a diverse sexual orientation, sex, or gender identity.<sup>2</sup> In Newcastle this equates to approximately **20,000 people**.



In 2016, **there were 109 children** living in a same-sex family in the Newcastle LGA, almost all in female same-sex couple families.



## Key indicators of LGBTQIA+ health and wellbeing in NSW are:

LGBTQIA+ people are **3x more likely** to have considered suicide in the last 12 months<sup>4</sup>.

A national survey of LGBTQIA+ people found that **57% were treated unfairly** because of their sexual orientation and **39.5% reported experiencing social exclusion** in the past 12 months<sup>5</sup>.

**44% of LGBTQIA+ people hide their gender or sexuality** in public usually or occasionally and 34% hide their sexuality or gender when accessing services<sup>6</sup>.

Seeing Gender Neutral language on forms **helped more than 59% of LGBTQIA+** patients view their healthcare provider as inclusive<sup>7</sup>.

**More than 60% of LGBTQIA+** people feel a health setting is more trustworthy if they see visible symbols of inclusion<sup>8</sup>.



The key indicators as presented above, demonstrate that LGBTQIA+ populations continue to share a disproportionate level of the burden of disease currently attributed to mental health, social isolation, sexual health, and community safety.



## When considering regional and rural experiences of LGBTQIA+ people<sup>9</sup>:

**57% of regional residents** saw visible signs of inclusion compared to **71% in metropolitan areas**.

**42% of regional residents were aware of active allies** compared to **72% in cities**.



## In consultation with ACON Hunter, the top LGBTQ community health and wellbeing priorities within the Newcastle LGA in 2020 were identified as:

1. Mental health support
2. Sexual health
3. Community safety and inclusion
4. Social isolation support
5. Domestic and family violence and relationship support

1 Australia Bureau of Statistics, 2016  
 2 Australian Human Rights Commission, (2014) Face the Facts  
 3 Australia Bureau of Statistics, 2016  
 4 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  
 5 Ibid.  
 6 Leonard et al. (2012) Private Lives  
 7 Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning (LGBTQ) Perceptions & Health Care Experiences, Quinn et al, 2015. DOI: 10.1080/10538720.2015.1022273  
 8 Ibid.  
 9 Pride in Diversity (2019) Regional Inclusion – A How to Guide