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 LGA1



However,

UP to 11% of Australians may have a diverse sexual orientation, sex, or gender identity.² 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.

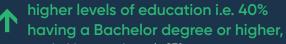


In 2016, people living in a same-sex de facto relationship had a



significantly lower rate of unemployment (3.7%)

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



compared with approximately 23% of the general population.3



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

LGBTQIA+ people are 3x more likely to have considered suicide in the last 12 months⁴.

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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 months⁵.

44% of LGBTQIA+ people hide their gender or sexuality in public usually or occasionally and 34% hide their sexuality or gender when accessing services⁶.

Seeing Gender Neutral language on forms helped more than 59% of LGBTQIA+ patients view their healthcare provider as inclusive⁷.

More than 60% of LGBTQIA+ people feel a health setting is more trustworthy if they see visible symbols of inclusion⁸. ←





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+ people⁹:

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:

- Mental health support
- 2. Sexual health
- **3.** Community safety and inclusion
- 4. Social isolation support
- 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 LGBTIO people in Australia. ARCSHS Monograph Series No. 122. Melbourne, Australia: Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University
- 5 lbid.
- 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
- 9 Pride in Diversity (2019) Regional Inclusion – A How to Guide