



**LGBTIQA+ YOUNG
PEOPLE'S EXPERIENCES
OF HEALTH CARE IN
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY



The Youth Pride Network would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land, the Whadjuk Noongar people.

We would like to pay our respects to Elders past and present, and to emerging LGBTIQA+ First Nations leaders.



Sovereignty of this land was never ceded and it always was, and always will be, Aboriginal land.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LIVED EXPERIENCE



The Youth Pride Network would like to acknowledge the young LGBTIQ+ activists and their lived experience.



We would also like to extend that acknowledgment to the LGBTIQ+ advocates and activists who have come before us, and pathed a way to get us where we are today

PRESENTING



Chloe Clements
(she/her)



Aryan Mahajan
(he/they)

ABOUT US

We strive to create a Western Australia where queer young people are accepted and supported through systemic advocacy, empowered learning, and building communities.

ADVOCACY

EDUCATION

COMMUNITY



WARNING

**This presentation contains mentions of mental ill health,
suicide and suicidal ideation.**

**It contains experiences of verbal, physical violence against young people
and conversion practices, and recounts the use of discriminatory and
bigoted language.**

**If you are experiencing distress, we encourage you to reach out to a
trusted person, or contact the following numbers for support:**

QLIFE 1800 184 527

LIFELINE WA 13 11 14

RESOURCES USED



we spoke to:

286 young people

116 healthcare workers

30 parents/carers

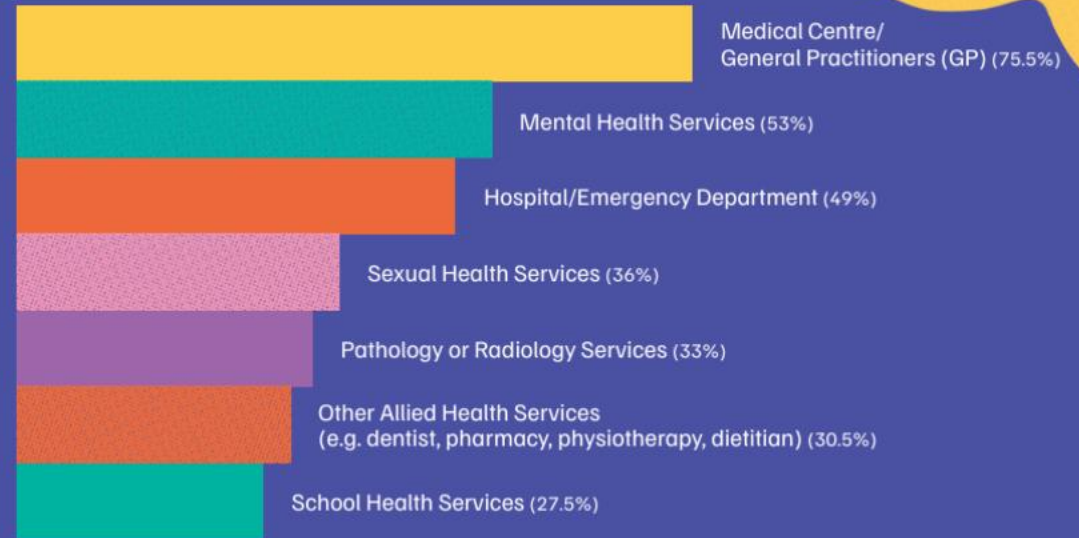
KEY STATS

LOCATION

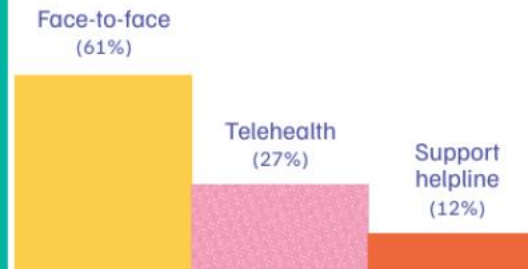
43.5% PERTH METRO
56.5% REGIONAL

- Mid West (16%)
- Great Southern (8%)
- Gascoyne (8%)
- Southwest (7%)
- Peel (6%)
- Goldfields (3%)
- Pilbara (2%)
- Wheatbelt (1%)

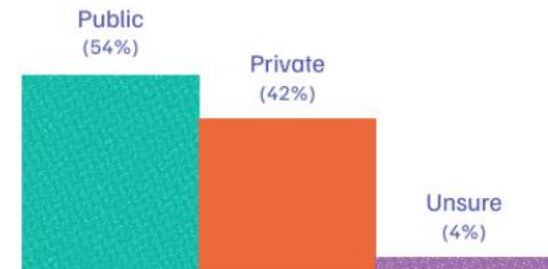
SERVICES ACCESSED



TYPE OF SERVICE ACCESSED



PUBLIC/PRIVATE



KEY FINDINGS



74%

of LGBTIQIA+ young people reported that their experiences with healthcare providers negatively impacted their mental health

78%

of LGBTQIA+ young people said they would prefer to receive care from a mainstream service that is known to be LGBTIQIA+ inclusive

64%

healthcare workers reported a lack of LGBTIQIA+-specific training opportunities, noting that the little available training was typically voluntary rather than mandated.

62%

young LGBTQIA+ people reported that healthcare providers lack essential knowledge about LGBTIQIA+ issues, leaving them to take on the role of educators.

KNOWLEDGE & EDUCATION

Training

- 83% of healthcare workers reported receiving professional development on LGBTIQ+ topics
- 55% young person reported encountering service providers who lacked LGBTIQ+ knowledge or provided misinformation.

Resources

- Consumer handouts often present only binary options failing to account for diverse gender identities
- Case studies involving LGBTIQ+ individuals with sexual health needs, like STIs, can reinforce stigma and negative stereotypes.

“I have engaged with professionals who have a lack in knowledge about LGBTQ+ terms and relationships. I’ve been asked about practicing safe sex with other women and was told to Google it or go somewhere else because they didn’t know what they could tell me”

– young person

KNOWLEDGE & EDUCATION

Expert Hierarchy

- Over half of the young people engaged in this report felt that both their age and identity were factors in receiving inadequate care.

Conversion Practices

- Many young people reported experiences such as
 - Labelling young people as hypochondriacs
 - Being told their sexual identity is a phase

“ I hate it when they don’t listen. They take one look and assume who you are”

– young person

“ My therapist turned their back to me, and said to my mum ‘I will help get your little girl back’.

– young person

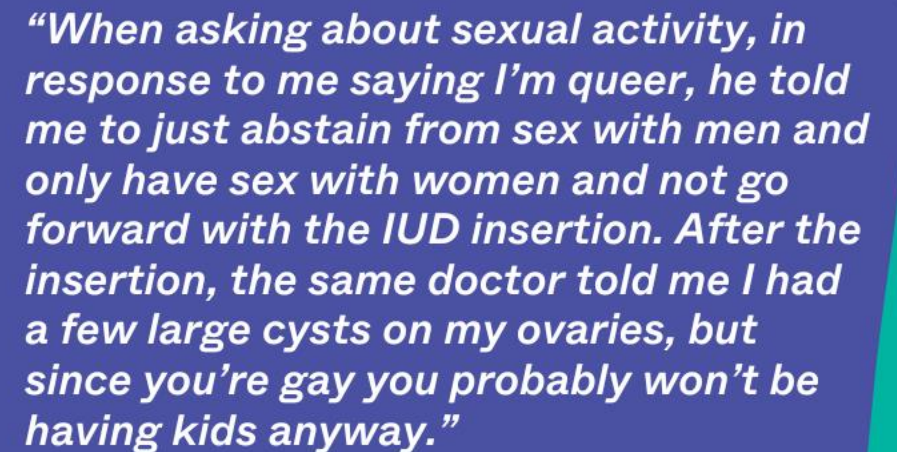
STIGMA & DISCRIMINATION

Invasive Questions & Comments

- 26% of those surveyed have noted being asked intrusive questions about their identity, which often extends beyond the scope of their healthcare needs.

Misgendering & Deadnaming

- 80% of young TGD individuals reported experiencing incorrect pronoun usage
- 56.5% reported having their deadnames used when interacting with healthcare providers.



“When asking about sexual activity, in response to me saying I’m queer, he told me to just abstain from sex with men and only have sex with women and not go forward with the IUD insertion. After the insertion, the same doctor told me I had a few large cysts on my ovaries, but since you’re gay you probably won’t be having kids anyway.”

– young person

STIGMA & DISCRIMINATION

Attitudes & Inclusion

- 37% no gender-neutral bathrooms
- 30% exclusion from binary forms
- 25% space does not feel inclusive or welcoming

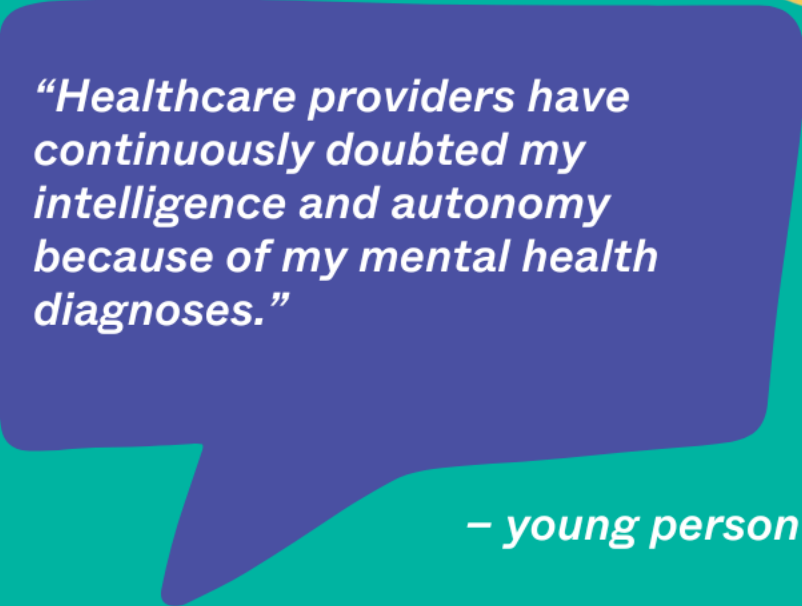
“I’ve seen improvements over the years in the mental health area of healthcare but emergency care and other out of hospital services feel years behind”

– young person

ACCESSIBILITY & BARRIERS

Intersectional Challenges

- 52% person with disability
 - Medical gaslighting and being disregarded
 - Conflations between disability and gender identity
 - Accessible facilities
- 51% person with mental illness
 - Disbelief and negligence
 - Unethical practices
 - Dismissal of queerness as a potential cause of mental health issues



“Healthcare providers have continuously doubted my intelligence and autonomy because of my mental health diagnoses.”

– young person

ACCESSIBILITY & BARRIERS

Intersectional Challenges

- 35% Person of colour
 - Racial and cultural stereotypes
 - Visual representation
- 7% Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
 - Racial and cultural stereotypes
 - Intersections of identity

“Practitioners have ignored my Aboriginality all together in favour of the part of me that they are more comfortable talking about.”

– young person

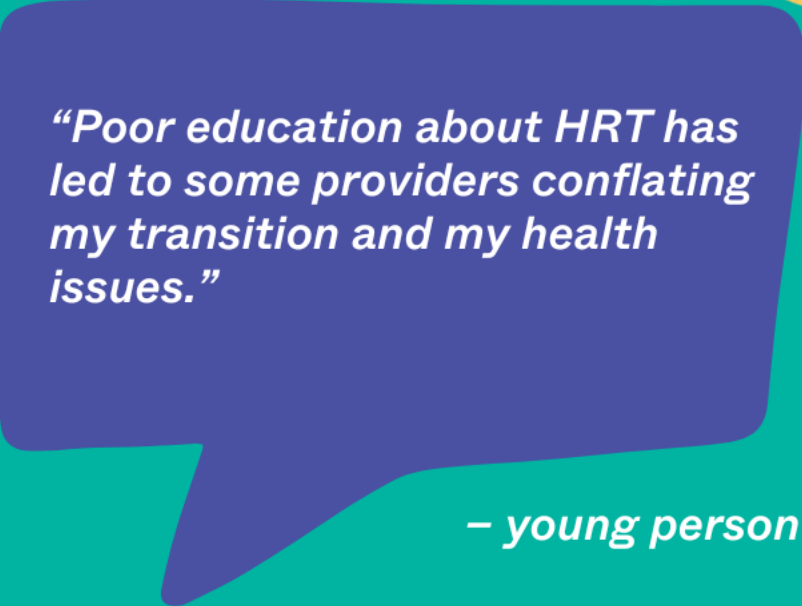
ACCESSIBILITY & BARRIERS

Regional & Remote Challenges

- Shortage of supportive and accessible services
- Access to gender affirming care
- Travel burdens such as financial and emotional strain on families.

Trans & Gender Diverse Challenges

- 46% long wait lists
- 43% challenges in accessing medical gender affirming care
- 42.5% service is too expensive to access



“Poor education about HRT has led to some providers conflating my transition and my health issues.”

– young person



CONCLUSION



Q&A