



## DOMESTIC, FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND LGBTQI PEOPLE

Violence comes in many forms and it can happen to anybody. People who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Intersex (LGBTQI), are at as much risk as heterosexual women.

- LGBTQI people are amongst those who experience the highest levels of violence and abuse in Australia. Research statistics show that 92% of people who identify as LGBTQIA+ have experienced sexual harassment in their lifetime.<sup>1</sup>
- According to research on the health and wellbeing of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer Australians (LGBTIQ), '1 in 3 LGBTIQ people experience domestic or family violence (DFV)'.<sup>2</sup>
- LGBTQI people are more likely to think violence against them is normal and less likely to ask for help, or to find the help they need. As a result, less reports are made so less is known about the incidences of violence that impact them.
- According to resources from [QLife](#), 'it is estimated that 1 out of 3 people in Australia live outside the major capital cities. Of those, almost 50% have had difficulty accessing mainstream services including health related services, banks, income support, disability services and employment services. Within this, there are then LGBTI people who have added barriers to accessing services and community supports that are LGBTI-inclusive'.<sup>3</sup>
- Abuse in LGBTQI relationships can include but is not limited to: using someone's intersex status, sexuality, gender, gender expression, transgender or HIV status against them, controlling someone with threats about their sexuality, gender transition requirements or their health status, lack of respect for privacy and essential confidentiality around sexuality.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>[https://www.humanrights.gov.au/sites/default/files/document/publication/AHRC\\_WORKPLACE\\_SH\\_2018.pdf](https://www.humanrights.gov.au/sites/default/files/document/publication/AHRC_WORKPLACE_SH_2018.pdf) Pg.22

<sup>2</sup>[https://www.humanrights.gov.au/sites/default/files/7\\_FTf\\_2014\\_LGBTI.pdf](https://www.humanrights.gov.au/sites/default/files/7_FTf_2014_LGBTI.pdf)

<sup>3</sup><https://qlife.org.au/uploads/14-Rural-and-Regional.pdf>

<sup>4</sup><https://www.acon.org.au/what-we-are-here-for/domestic-family-violence/#domestic-family-violence>

- There is not a great deal of data available about domestic, family and sexual violence in LGBTQI communities. Large population surveys, such as the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Personal Safety survey 2016 simply refer to 'men' and 'women' in their data, without specific reference to LGBTQI individuals or communities.<sup>5</sup>
- This lack of data also makes it difficult to estimate the total LGBTI population in Australia. Australians of diverse sexual orientation, sex or gender identity may account for up to 11 per cent of the Australian population.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4906.0>

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.humanrights.gov.au/sites/default/files/7\\_FTf\\_2014\\_LGBTI.pdf](https://www.humanrights.gov.au/sites/default/files/7_FTf_2014_LGBTI.pdf)