

QUEER YOUTH NOW 2025

The National Survey
of LGBTQIA+ Youth
Voice in Australia



MINUS18

CO-DESIGNED WITH LGBTQIA+ YOUNG PEOPLE

This survey has been co-designed between LGBTQIA+ youth, data analysts and youth mental health professionals.

MINUS18

Minus18 is Australia's charity improving the lives of LGBTQIA+ young people.

We believe LGBTQIA+ youth deserve a safe and welcome world, and we're building this through youth programs, LGBTQIA+ education, and awareness initiatives.

 **MINUS18**     

SUGGESTED CITATION

Minus18 Foundation. (2025). *Queer Youth Now: The national survey of LGBTQIA+ youth voice in Australia*. www.minus18.org.au/national-survey-2025

ISBN 978-0-646-71906-1

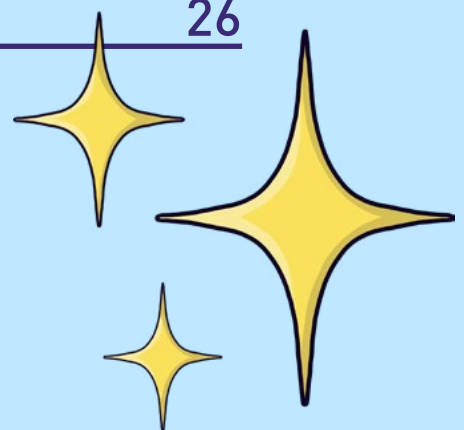
Our office is located on the land of the Yalukut Weelam Clan of the Boon Wurrung people. We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of all the lands on which this survey was conducted.

This always was, always will be Aboriginal land.



EXPLORE THE SURVEY

<u>Introduction</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Who Took Part</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Key Findings</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Anti-LGBTQIA+ Hate</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Friends & Events</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Support Systems</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>School Experiences</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>Media & Representation</u>	<u>19</u>
<u>Queer Joy</u>	<u>23</u>
<u>Methodology</u>	<u>26</u>



LGBTQIA+ Young People Deserve to Shape their Future.

Queer Youth Now is a national snapshot of what life looks like for LGBTQIA+ youth aged 13 to 25 across Australia today. It brings together the voices of 2,724 young people, sharing moments of pride and connection, as well as the heavy reality of challenges that exist each day.

What shines through is the critical role that community and acceptance play in supporting young people to navigate the challenges of the world around them. While it's the simple initiatives that provide powerful support - like seeing rainbow lanyards, experiencing inclusive language and having access to supportive spaces - we've heard that too many young people still go without these.

We are so grateful to all the young people who shared their voices with us. Their experiences guide us in understanding what's working, what needs to change, and what we can all do to create a safer, more welcoming world for queer youth, now.

MINUS18

 **Telstra
Foundation**



WHO TOOK PART

This report amplifies the voices of LGBTQIA+ young people aged 13 to 25 from across Australia. The full breakdown of participants is recorded in the [methodology](#).

2,724

**LGBTQIA+ young people
shared their voices.**

61%

are 13-18 years old.

49%

are currently in high school.

38%

**live in regional, rural or
remote locations.**

64%

**are trans, gender diverse or
non-binary.**

56%

are neurodivergent.



KEY FINDINGS

1

Anti-LGBTQIA+ hate is an ongoing reality for most LGBTQIA+ youth.

89% of LGBTQIA+ young people had experienced bullying, harassment and violence in their lifetime - 57% in just the past year.

Explore [Anti-LGBTQIA+ Hate](#) →

2

Friendships matter deeply for LGBTQIA+ young people.

99% of LGBTQIA+ young people said that making queer friends is an important part of their lives.

Explore [Friends & Events](#) →

3

The simple act of visible allyship makes young people feel safe.

86% of LGBTQIA+ young people said seeing someone wearing rainbow or ally accessories made them feel safer and more like they belonged.

Explore [Support Systems](#) →

4

Pride groups play a critical role in students feeling supported at school.

But less than 50% of students said there was an LGBTQIA+ group at their school.

Explore [School Experiences](#) →

5

Young people feel harmed by media portrayals and unheard by government.

70% said they had been negatively impacted by the news and medias' portrayal of LGBTQIA+ issues in the past year.

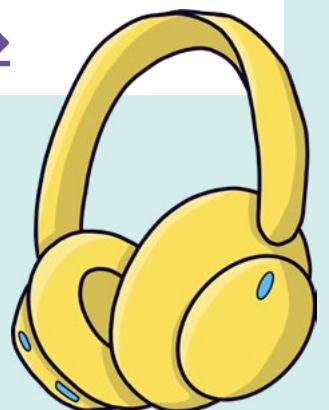
Explore [Media & Representation](#) →

6

Despite challenges, young people still find moments of pride.

73% of LGBTQIA+ young people said they've felt pride and euphoria in being LGBTQIA+, just this past year.

Explore [Queer Joy](#) →



ANTI-LGBTQIA+ HATE

Across the country, an overwhelming majority of LGBTQIA+ young people surveyed are navigating experiences of anti-LGBTQIA+ hate (online, verbal, and physical violence). These experiences are contributing to most feeling unsafe to share their identity with everyone at school, work and home.



89% of LGBTQIA+ young people had experienced anti-LGBTQIA+ hate in their life, 57% in just the past year.*

*Anti-LGBTQIA+ hate includes online, verbal, and physical harassment and violence.

55% of LGBTQIA+ young people said they’ve been excluded or discriminated against due to their LGBTQIA+ identity.

1 in 2 LGBTQIA+ young people were yelled at, insulted or verbally harassed in the past year due to anti-LGBTQIA+ hate.

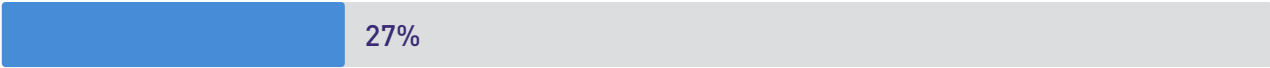
1 in 10 LGBTQIA+ young people experienced physical violence in the past year due to anti-LGBTQIA+ hate.

Young people’s experiences of anti-LGBTQIA+ hate in the last 12 months

Yelled at, Insulted or Verbally Harassed



Online Bullying



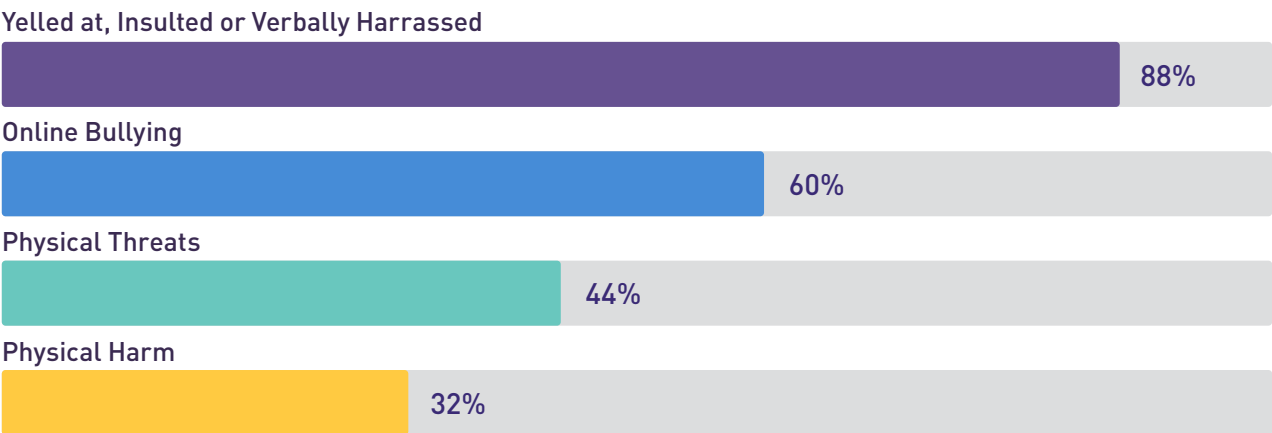
Physical Threats



Physical Harm



Young people’s experiences of anti-LGBTQIA+ hate in their lifetime



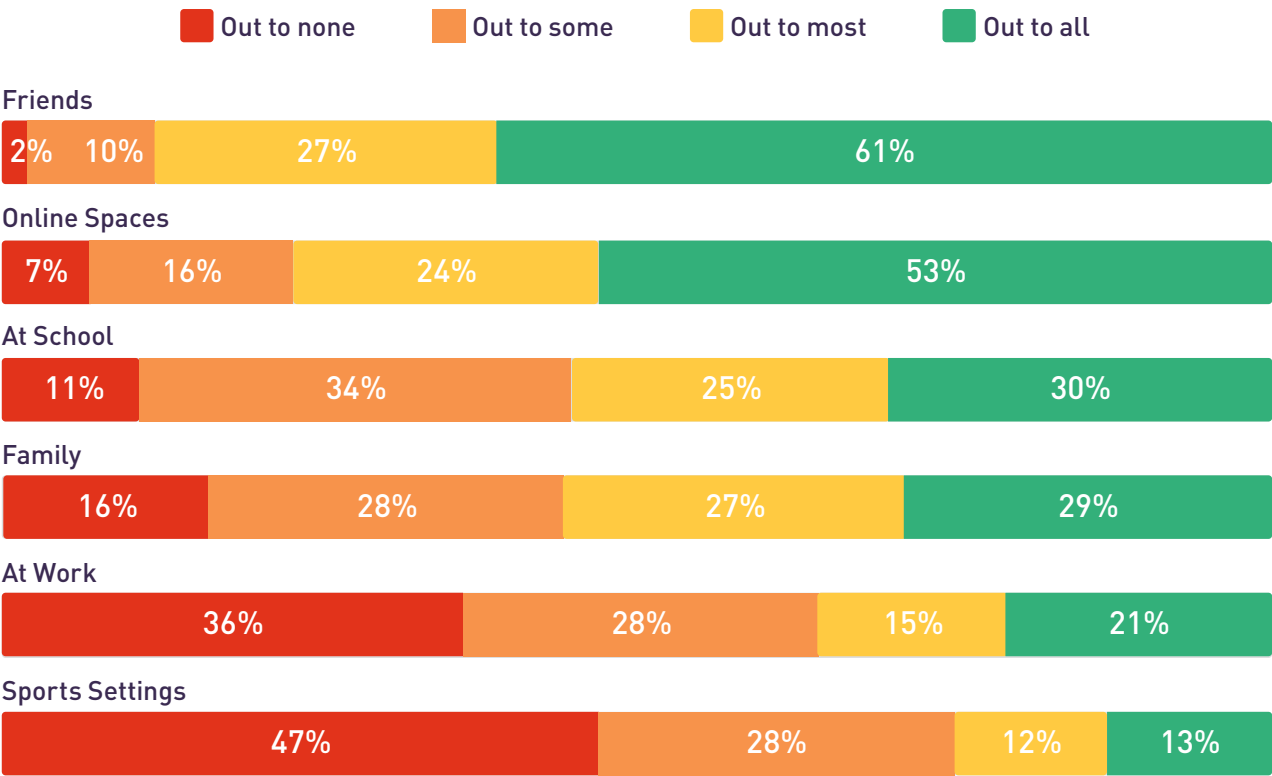
LGBTQIA+ young people who have experienced any form of anti-LGBTQIA+ hate in their lifetime



70% of LGBTQIA+ young people said they aren't out to everyone at school.

79% of LGBTQIA+ young people said they aren't out to everyone at work.

Where LGBTQIA+ young people feel safe being 'out' about their identity



FRIENDS & EVENTS

Young people shared this loud and clear - making friends and accessing spaces with other LGBTQIA+ young people is what's important to them. That said, the inherent barriers of not knowing anyone and feeling anxious are most likely to get in the way.



WHAT'S WORKING

On average, LGBTQIA+ young people first questioned or realised their identity at the age of 12.

That's around Year 6 or 7 in Australia.

99% of LGBTQIA+ young people said that making queer friends is an important part of their lives.

47% said this is extremely important to them.

LGBTQIA+ young people are more likely to attend an in-person event (82%) than an online event (51%).

Most LGBTQIA+ young people shared they are drawn to events to have fun, make friends, and find community.

Motivations for LGBTQIA+ young people to attend queer events

To Have Fun



To Make Friends



To Find Community



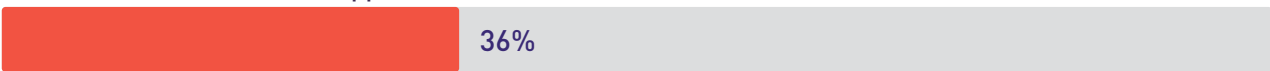
To Celebrate Queer Joy



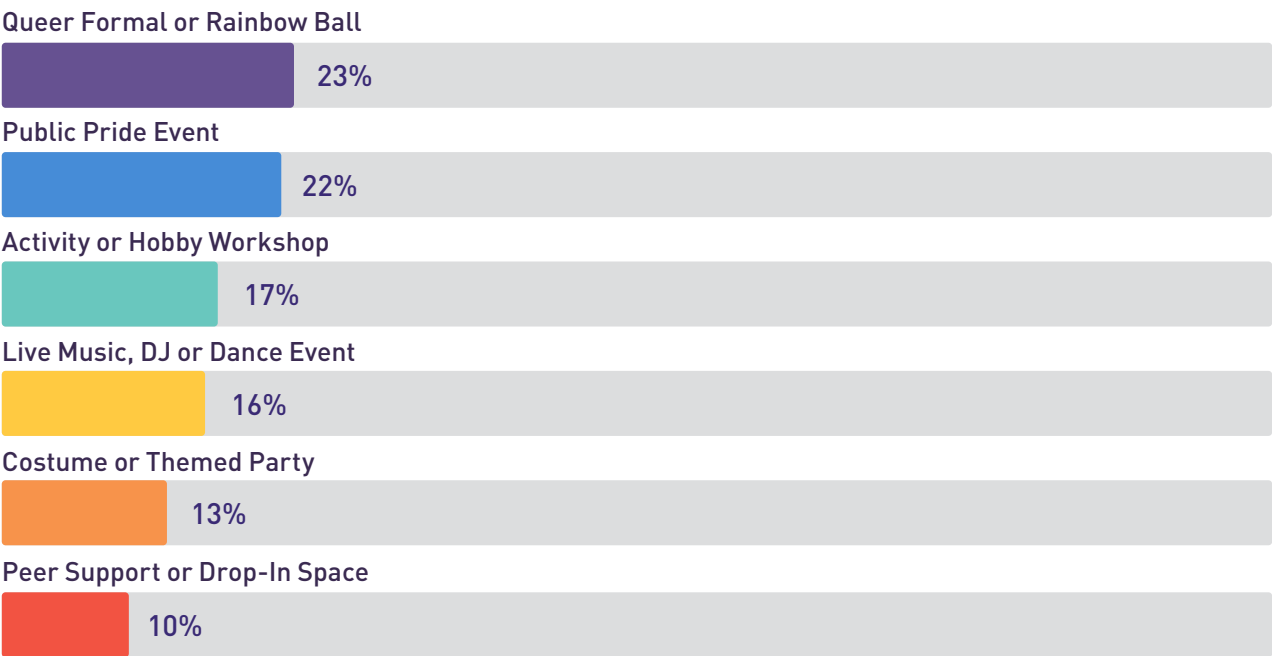
To Explore Their Identity



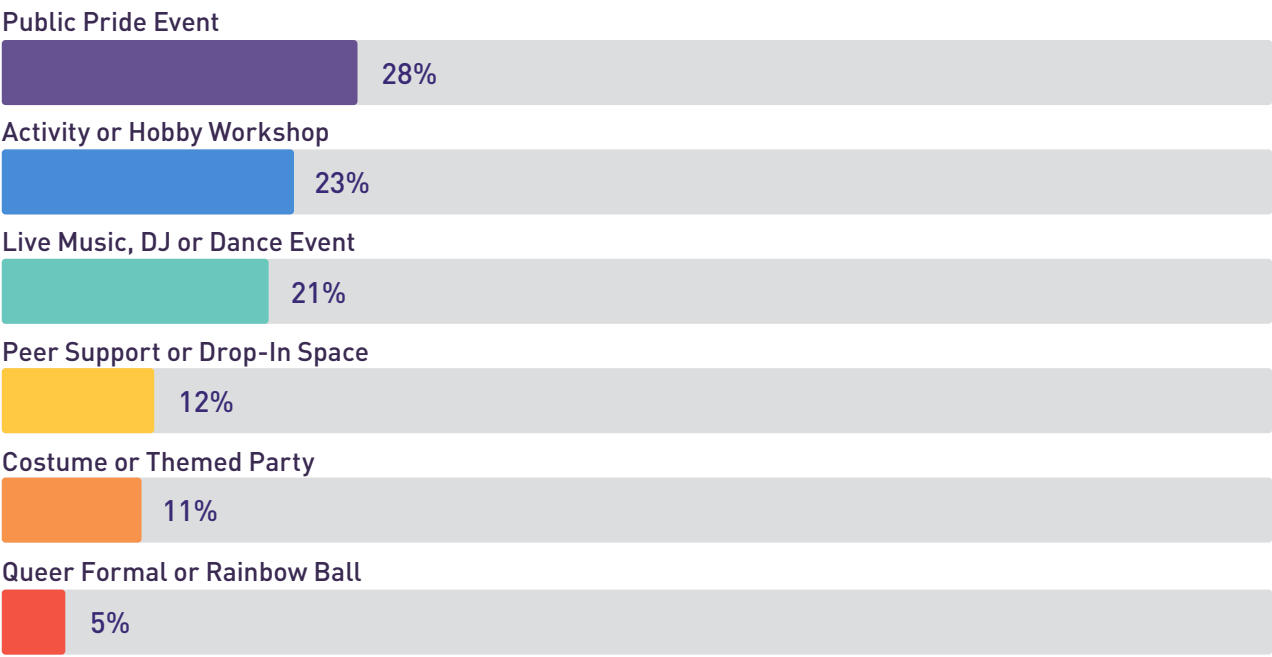
To Access Information and Support



The type of event LGBTQIA+ young people 18 and under ranked as their 'No.1 most likely to attend'



The type of event LGBTQIA+ young people over 18 ranked as their 'No.1 most likely to attend'

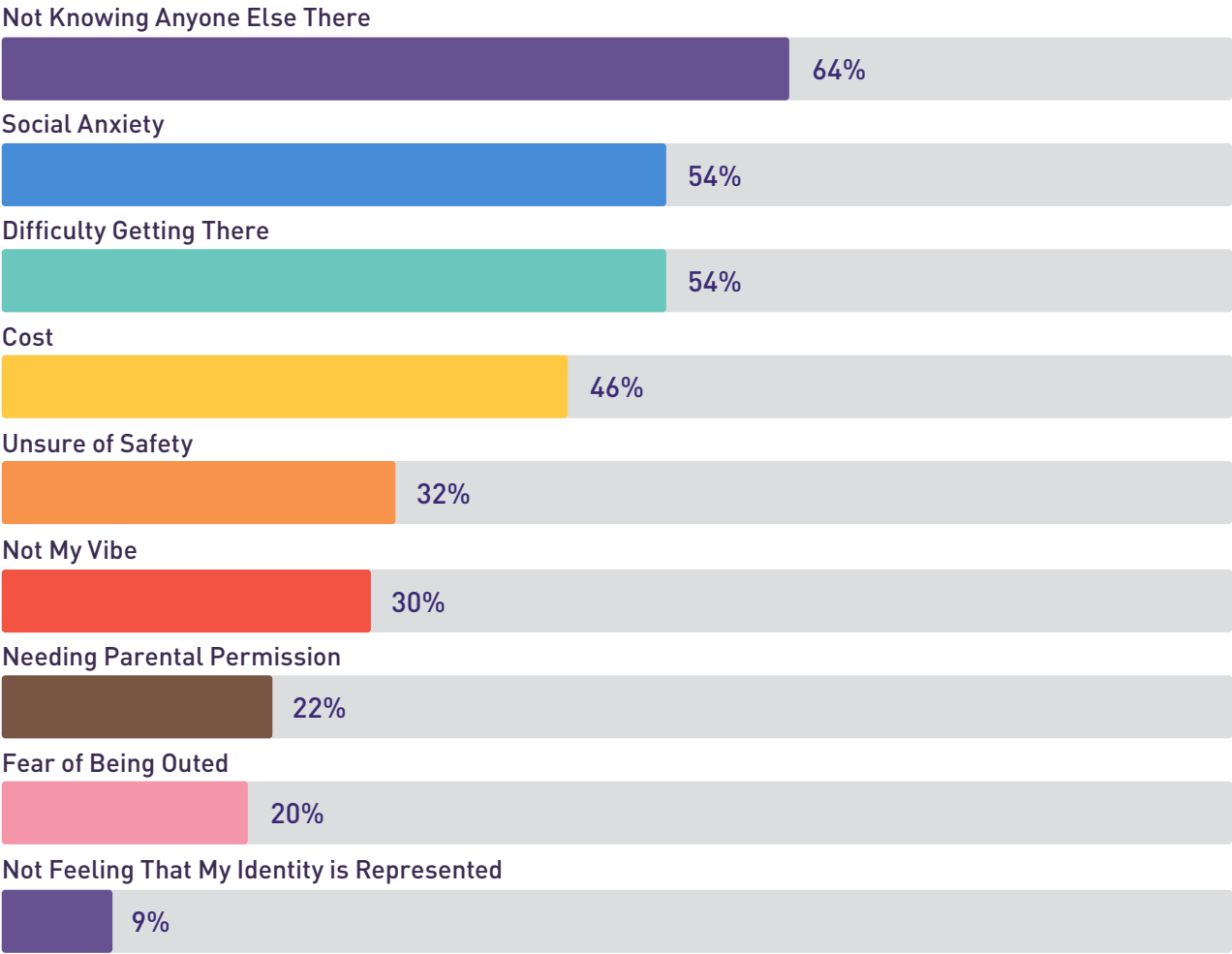


WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE

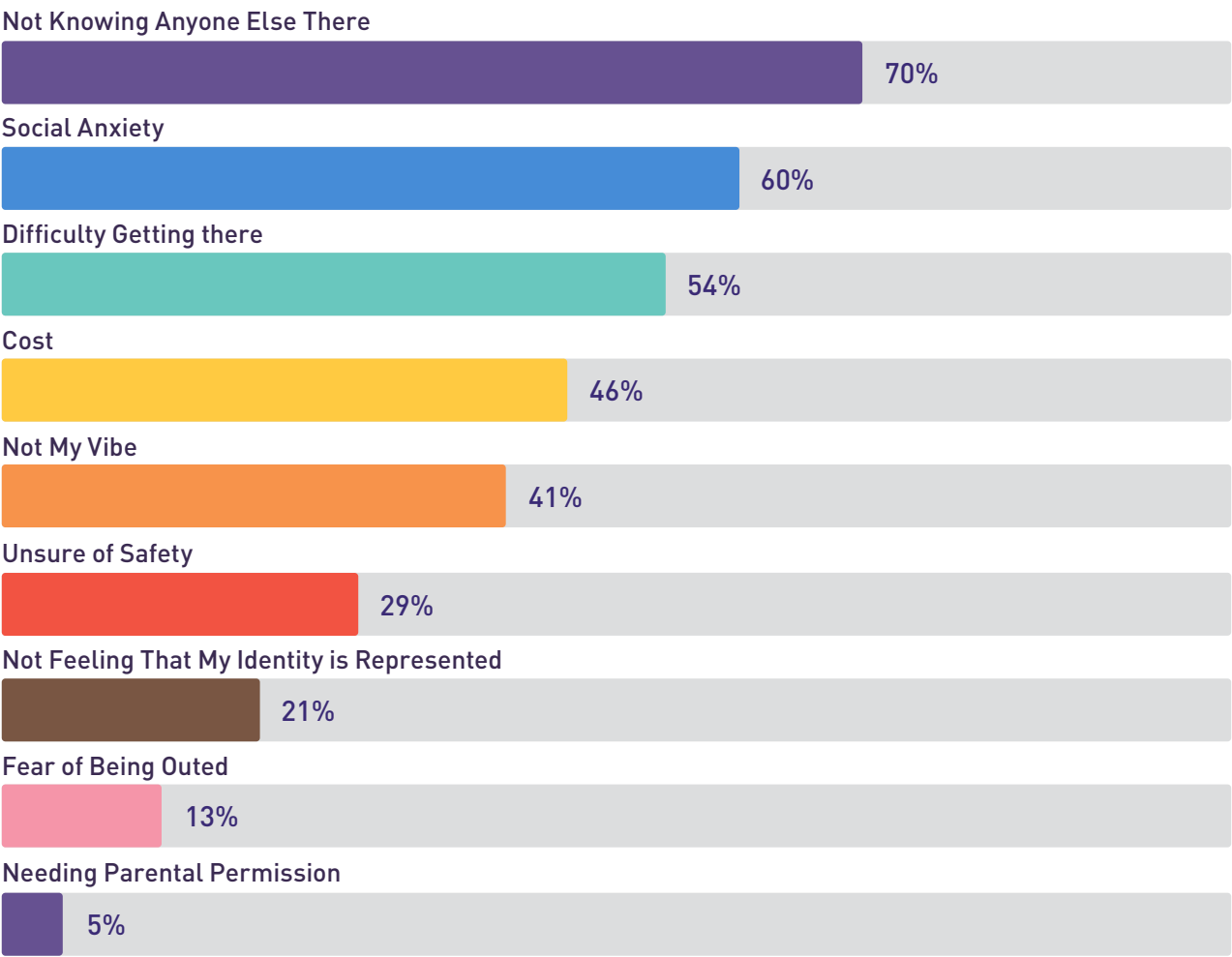
1 in 10 LGBTQIA+ young people voiced having just a couple or no queer friends at all in their lives, whether in-person or online.

66% of LGBTQIA+ young people said the most likely reason for not attending an LGBTQIA+ youth event was not knowing anyone else there.

What’s likely to prevent LGBTQIA+ young people 18 and under from attending a queer event



What’s likely to prevent LGBTQIA+ young people over 18 from attending a queer event



SUPPORT SYSTEMS

For many LGBTQIA+ young people, the most trusted support comes from those with shared experiences: friends, online communities, and social media content creators. Young people voiced their desire to be better understood and accepted by those around them – and that it’s the simple actions that support this.



WHAT’S WORKING

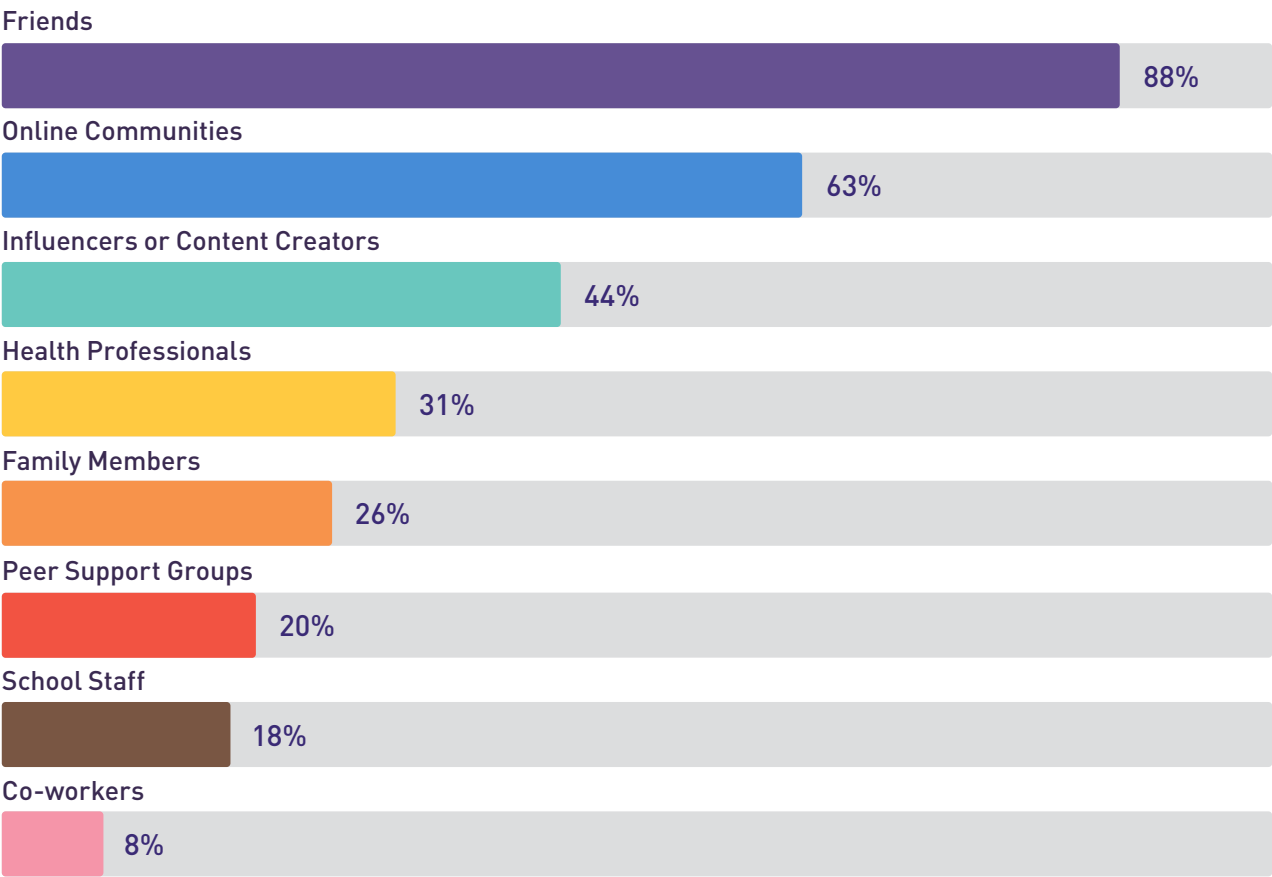
Support Starts with Friends.

LGBTQIA+ young people are most likely to turn to friends or online spaces for support with their identity.

Visibility Matters.

86% of LGBTQIA+ young people said just seeing someone wearing rainbow or ally accessories (like a badge or lanyards) made them feel safer and more like they belonged.

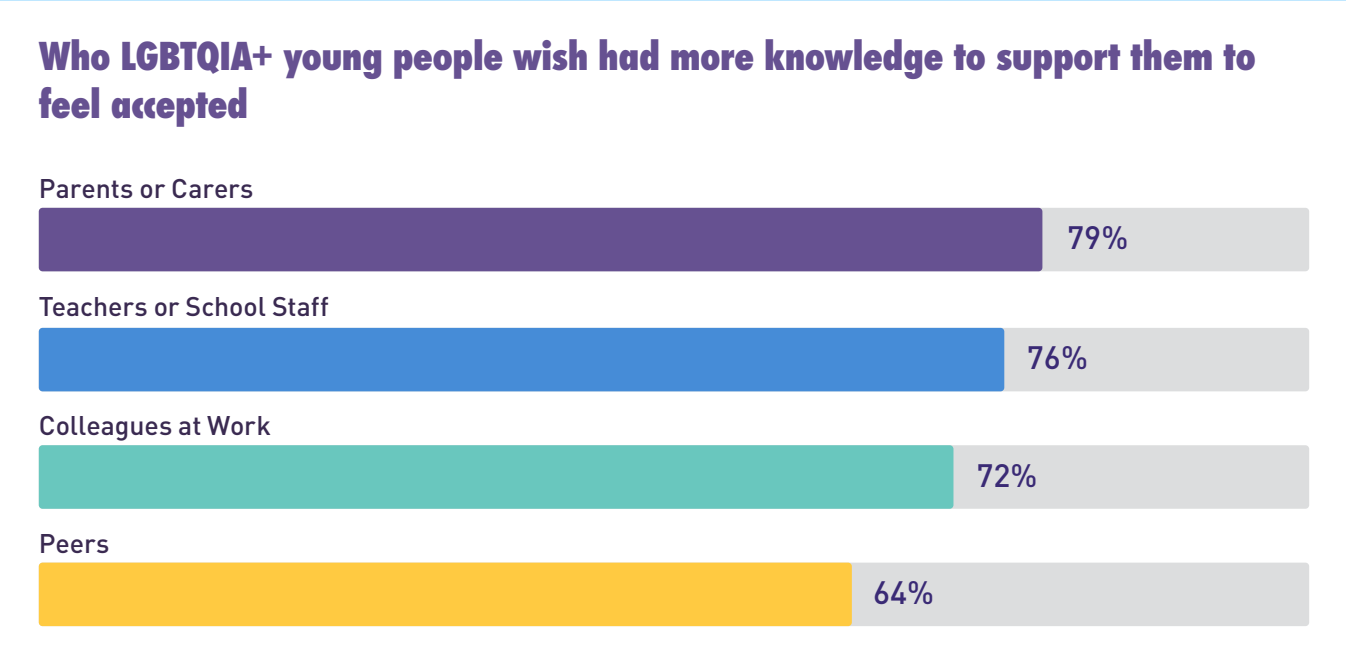
Where LGBTQIA+ young people turn to for support with their identity



WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE

LGBTQIA+ young people aged 18 or under were much less likely to seek support from a health professional about their identity (24%) compared to those over 18 (40%).

92% of young people wished the people in their life had more knowledge about their LGBTQIA+ identity to help them feel accepted.



WHAT HELPS LGBTQIA+ YOUTH FEEL MOST ACCEPTED?

These are the most common ways LGBTQIA+ young people say the people in their lives can help them feel accepted.

#1 Accept Us for Who We Are



Show us we belong by listening to us, affirming us, and treating us like anyone else.

#2 Learn About LGBTQIA+ Lives



Understanding our identities, history and experiences means we don't have to explain it.

#3 Get Our Names and Pronouns Right



This makes us feel safer, and models respectful behaviour for others to follow too.

#4 Use Inclusive Language



The words you use demonstrate your understanding of us, and shape how safe and seen we feel.

#5 Respect Our Privacy



Don't ask inappropriate questions, or share information about our identity without our permission.

#6 Challenge Stereotypes and LGBTQIA+ Hate



Call out assumptions and negative behaviours when you see them – even the subtle ones.

SCHOOL EXPERIENCES

LGBTQIA+ students shared that visible signals of allyship, inclusive facilities and student groups made them feel most accepted by their high school. These supports are becoming more common, but many young people still shared that they had no safe adults or teachers at school to talk to.



WHAT'S WORKING

70% of LGBTQIA+ young people said visible displays of support (like posters, flags and lanyards) make them feel more accepted at school.

71% of LGBTQIA+ young people had attended an LGBTQIA+ student group when one was available at their school.

The school-initiatives LGBTQIA+ young people say would make them feel accepted and included

Visible Displays of LGBTQIA+ Inclusion (Like Posters, Flags and Lanyards)



Gender-Neutral Bathrooms



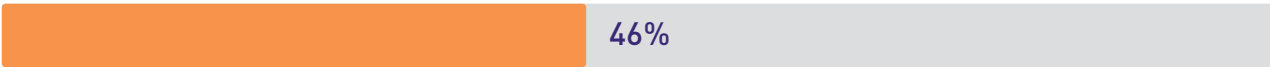
Access to LGBTQIA+ Student Groups



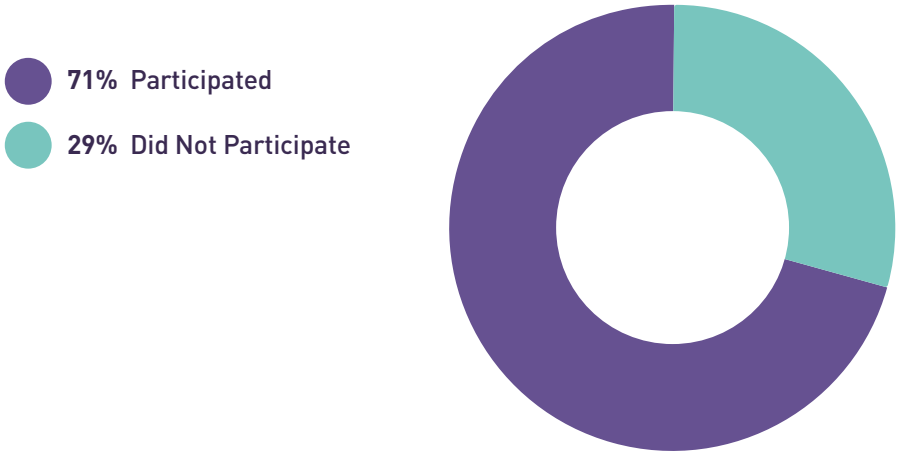
Anti-Bullying School Policies



Regular LGBTQIA+ Events or School Assemblies



Participation in LGBTQIA+ student groups (where one was available)

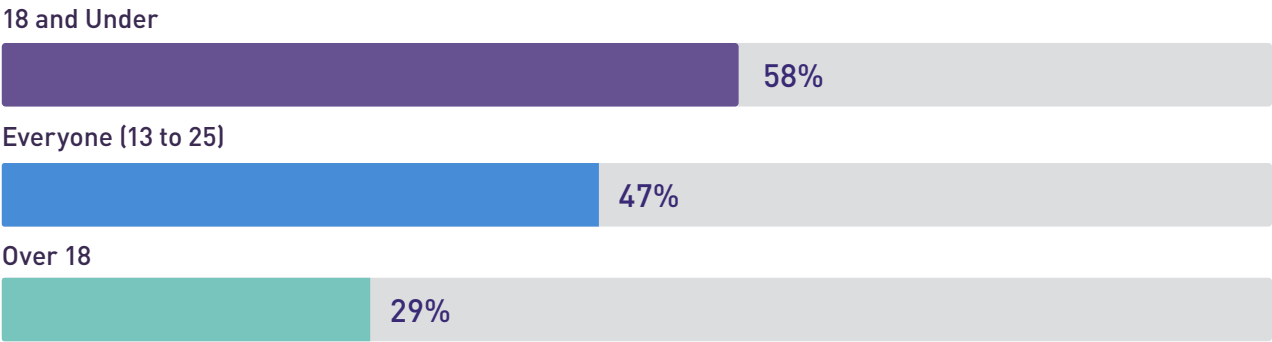


WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE

1 in 4 LGBTQIA+ young people said they have no safe adults or teachers at school that they can talk to about their identity.

Less than 50% of students said there was an LGBTQIA+ student group at their school.

Young people who have, or had, an LGBTQIA+ student group at their school



MEDIA & REPRESENTATION

Young people frequently expressed that they do not feel understood or valued by those around them - particularly by the government. Instead, young people are looking to online content creators and celebrities for the representation they seek.



WHAT'S WORKING

Looking Up to People Who Get It.

At least half of LGBTQIA+ young people shared looking up to content creators, friends, or celebrities.

Different Ages Prefer Different Terms.

For those 18 and under, they prefer 'teen'. Those over 18 prefer 'young adult'.

Who LGBTQIA+ young people admire as a role model in their lives

Content Creator or Influencer



Friend



A Celebrity



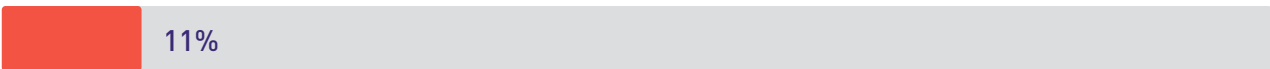
Family Member



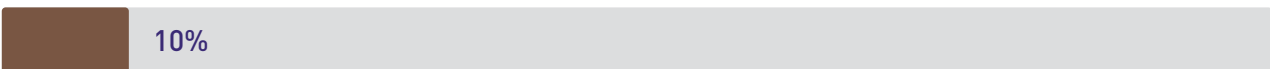
Teacher



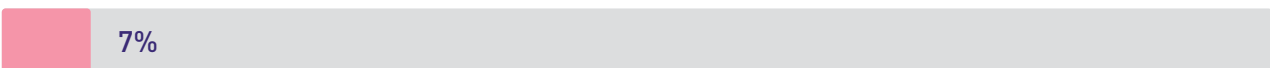
Classmate



No-one



Co-worker



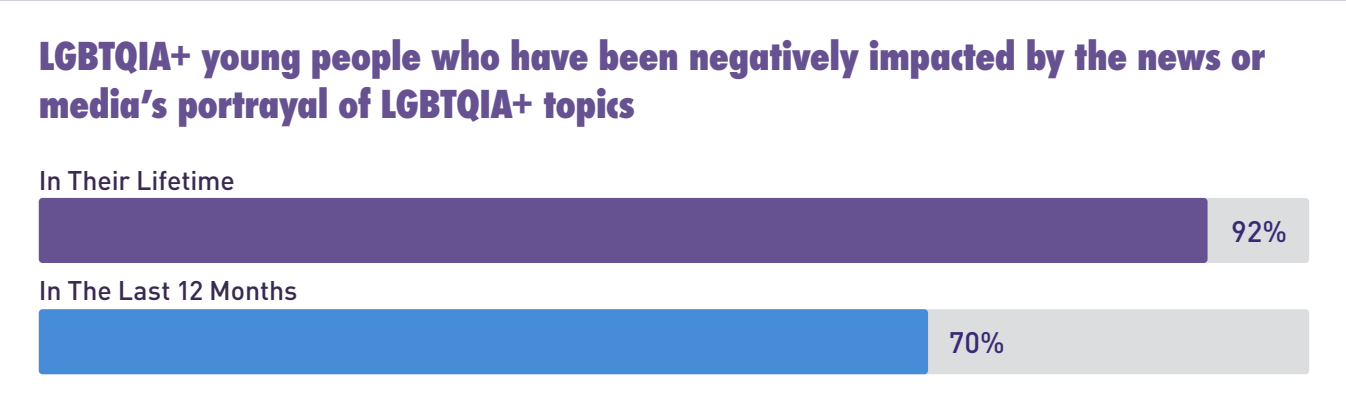
WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE

Just 1 in 3 LGBTQIA+ young people felt their experiences and opinions are understood, valued, and listened to by those around them.

Only 6% of LGBTQIA+ young people felt the government does a good job of understanding and listening to people like them.

10% of LGBTQIA+ young people said they had no one to look up to as a role model in their life.

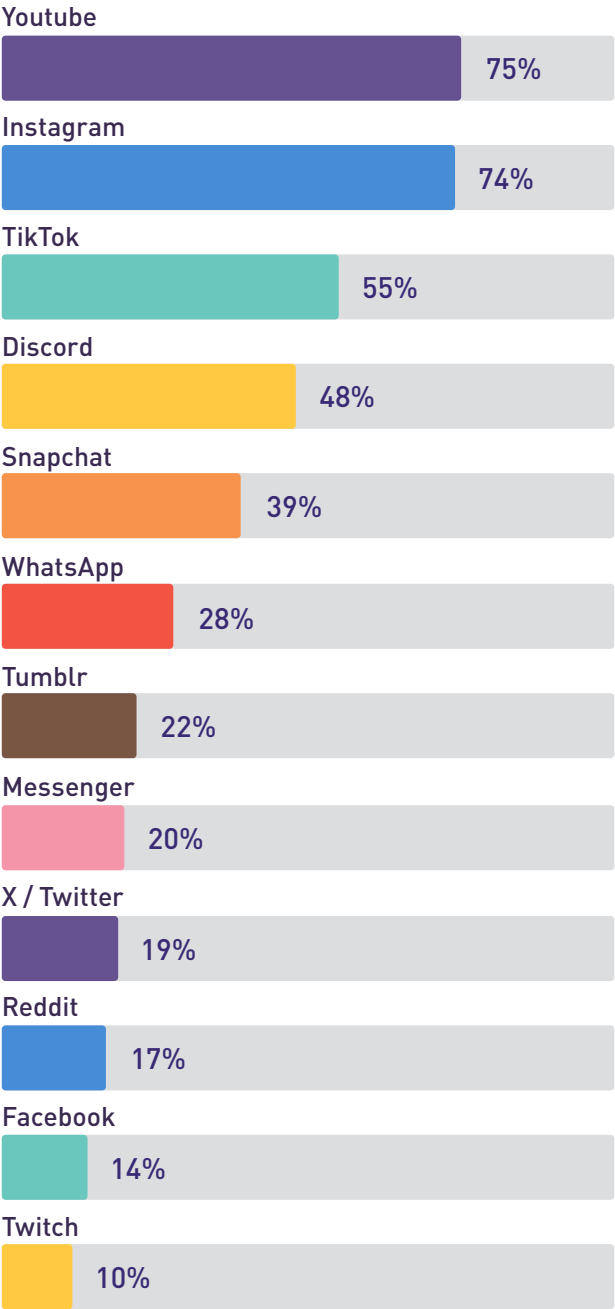
92% of LGBTQIA+ young people said they’ve been negatively impacted by the news or media’s portrayal of LGBTQIA+ issues.



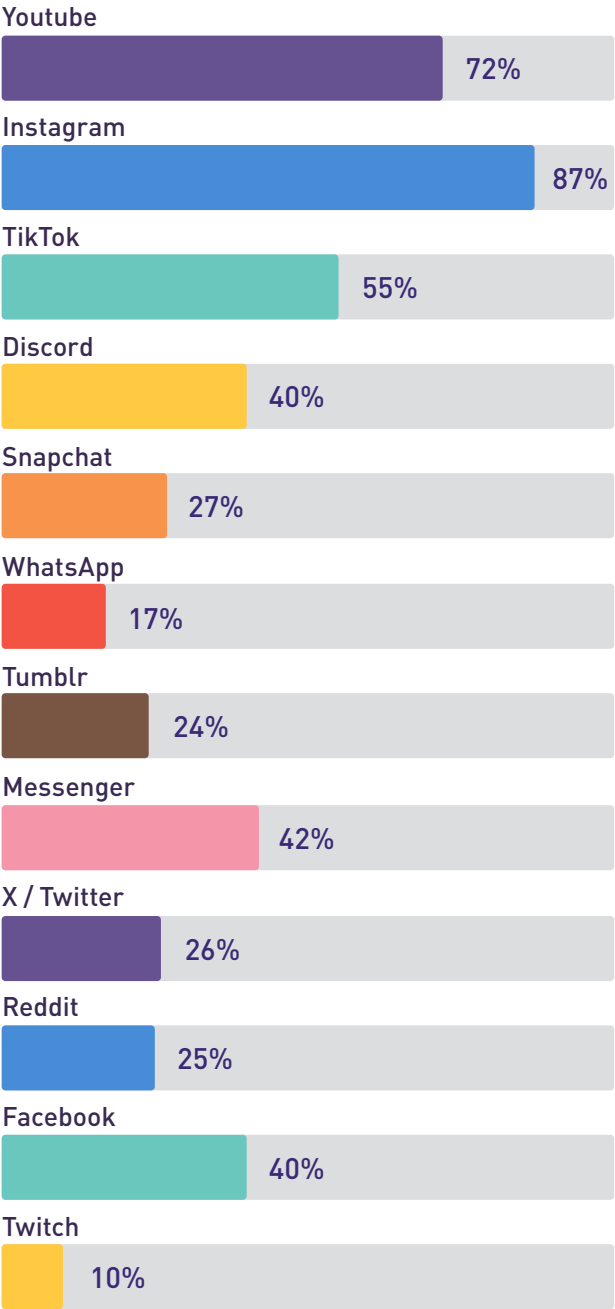
HOW TO STAY CONNECTED

Social media platforms LGBTQIA+ young people use daily or often

18 and Under

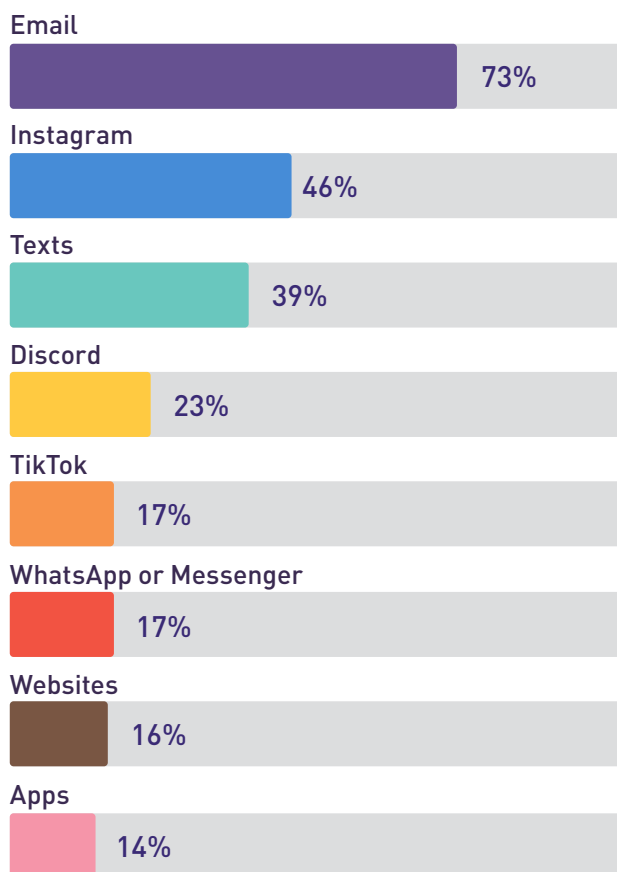


Over 18

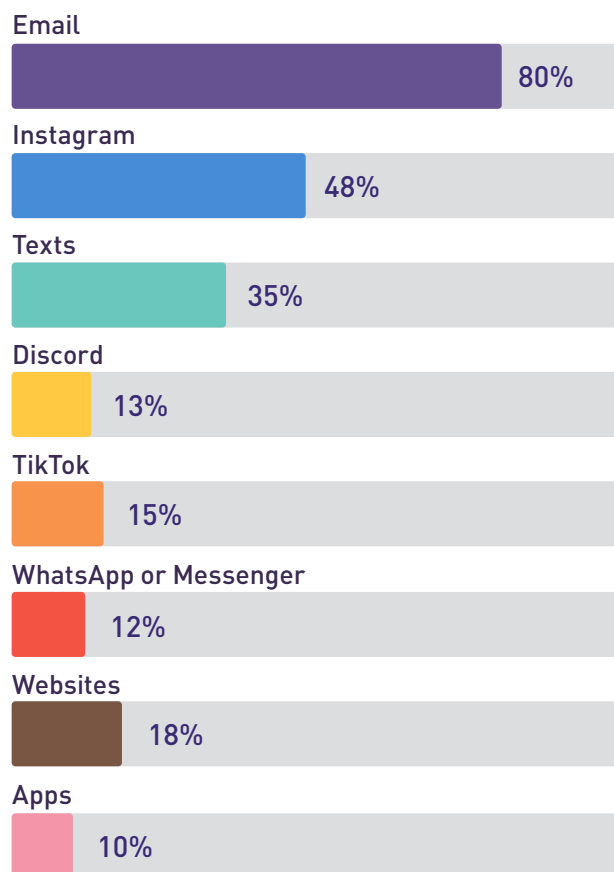


How LGBTQIA+ youth prefer to receive communications from organisations

18 and Under

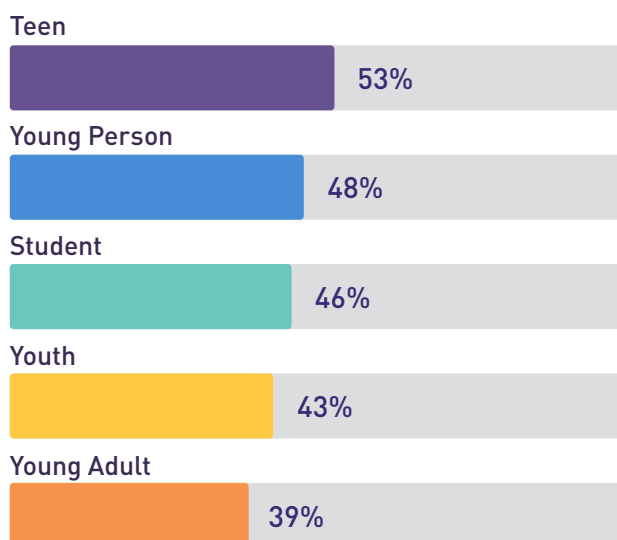


Over 18

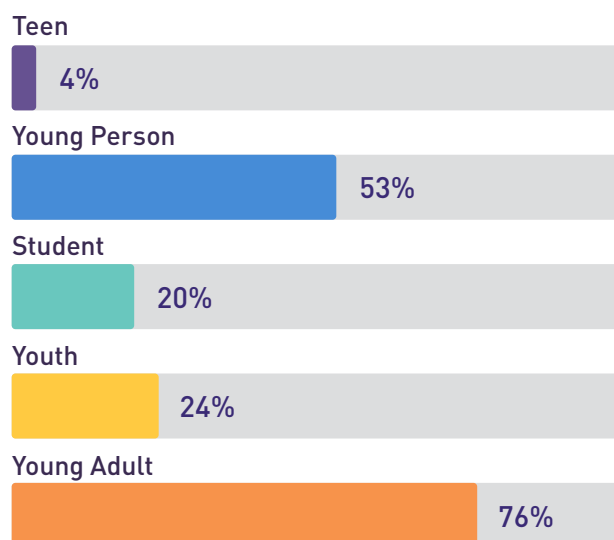


Preferred terms LGBTQIA+ young people want to be referred to as

18 and Under



Over 18



QUEER JOY

Queer joy is everywhere. In friendship, in finding support, in being seen and in being celebrated. These moments matter deeply, and show us not just the depth of LGBTQIA+ youth experiences now, but the possibilities that could exist for all queer young people in the future.



79% of LGBTQIA+ young people said they've felt a sense of acceptance and inclusion in relation to their identity at some point in the past year.

73% of LGBTQIA+ young people said they've felt a sense of pride or euphoria in the past year.

Experiences in relation to LGBTQIA+ identity in the last 12 months

Feeling Accepted and Included



Receiving Supportive Comments or Compliments



Feeling Pride or Euphoria



MOMENTS OF QUEER PRIDE & JOY

Queer young people shared the real moments where they felt proud, happy, or affirmed in their identity. Here are just a few of their stories that highlight what queer joy looks like:



I came out to my first university class and a woman from class came to talk to me because her 10 year old transgender son had never met another trans person.

I was able to show a 10 year old kid that there is a future for us.

Occasionally, when I'm having a minute of self-reflection, like during a shower or when trying to fall asleep, I'll think: I don't know what I might be, but I have all the time in the world to figure it out, and I don't have to if I don't want to. I can simply exist without planting a concrete label on myself. It's freeing. That makes me pretty happy.



I am grateful for my queer barber, he understands how important haircuts are to me as a non-binary person. I've been going there for two years, and my reflection has finally caught up to my soul. I feel like me on the outside and inside.

When my best friend came out to me it made me feel so proud because without each other we wouldn't have had the courage to be ourselves. I found euphoria through my friendship with her and my own unique relationship with gender through my autism. I feel things so different and it's beautiful.





The first person outside my family to gender me correctly was at a motorbike shop. There was no hesitation, he used the right pronouns and it still sticks with me.

When I first thought I was asexual, I was excited to find a word that described how I felt about sex and that made me feel like I was not falling behind my peers, but in a different game altogether.



I saw a wonderful moment of a queer Olympian celebrating her victory with her girlfriend at the 2024 Olympics. It was really special to see a queer woman being represented to the world as an Olympian. We can achieve anything.

I feel the most happy and proud when I am walking around with my partners hand in mine.



Recently, Thailand has been the first Southeast Asian country to legalise same-sex marriage. As someone who is half Thai, that made me so proud and happy that Queer SEASians have that opportunity now.

My queer alliance at school is one of my favorite places to be at school. Love you guys!!



FULL METHODOLOGY

Survey Purpose

Queer Youth Now was developed by Minus18 to amplify the voices of LGBTQIA+ young people aged 13 to 25 across Australia.

Co-Design & Community Input

The survey was co-designed with LGBTQIA+ young people, who helped shape the questions, language and focus areas to ensure it felt real, relevant and accessible. Over 20 community organisations - including those in LGBTQIA+, education, health and youth services - were also consulted to develop questions that could generate valuable, practical and actionable insights.

Youth Safety & Privacy

Youth safety and privacy was embedded throughout the process. The survey was developed with guidance from Minus18's Youth Safety Lead and other external youth engagement experts, drawing on national frameworks for working with young people. All responses were anonymous, and participants gave informed consent before starting. Young people could complete the survey at their own pace and skip personal questions they didn't feel comfortable answering.

Survey Distribution

The survey was open from 6 July to 16 October 2024 and hosted on SurveyMonkey, a public online survey platform chosen for its accessibility and usability. Promotion

took place through Minus18's youth events, social media, email newsletters, community organisations and youth networks.

Sampling & Reach

To support a diverse sample, targeted recruitment was undertaken to reach young people across different geographies, ages and identities. As a self-selecting online survey, some groups may still be underrepresented despite these efforts.

Question Design

The survey included 45 questions, using a mix of multiple choice, scale-based and open-ended formats.

Responses

A total of 3,714 people started the survey. After data quality checks - including time spent on the survey, level of completion, a quality control question, and reviews for duplicates or disingenuous responses - 2,724 responses were confirmed as complete and valid.

Who Took Part

The survey was open to all LGBTQIA+ young people aged 13 to 25 living in Australia. Below, you'll find demographic information about who took part.

RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

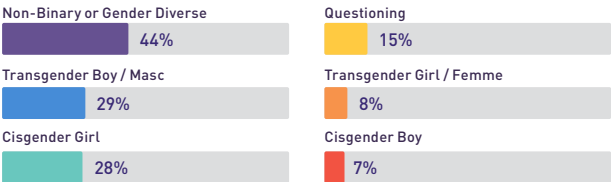
By Age

- 61% 13 to 18 years old
- 39% 19 to 25 years old



By Gender

Note: Respondents could choose multiple selections. Options have been grouped.



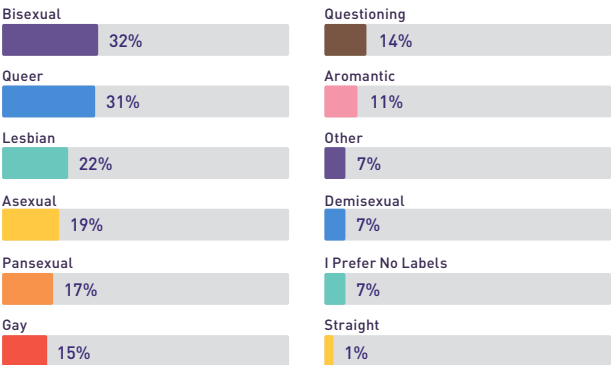
By Education Status

- 49% Currently in High School
- 35% Currently in TAFE / Uni
- 10% Completed High School
- 5% Other



By Sexuality

Note: Respondents could choose multiple selections

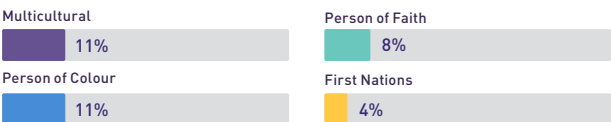


By State or Territory

- 39% VIC
- 24% NSW
- 16% QLD
- 10% SA
- 6% WA
- 2% ACT
- 2% TAS
- 1% NT



By Faith, Culture, Ethnicity

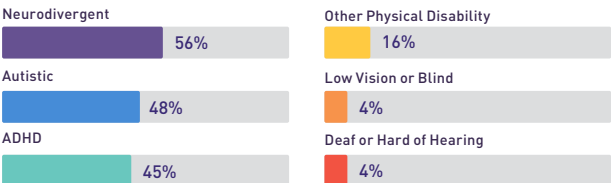


By Area Type

- 59% Capital City
- 31% Regional Area
- 7% Rural or Remote Area
- 2% Unsure

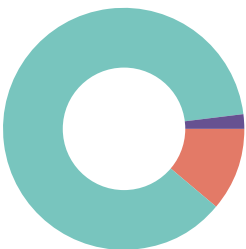


By Experience of Neurodivergence and Disability



By Intersex Variation

- 2% Yes
- 87% No
- 11% Not Sure / Prefer Not to Answer



THANK YOU

We would like to thank the LGBTQIA+ young people across Australia who shared their experiences, insights and stories through this survey. Your voices are the heart of Queer Youth Now, and your contributions will help build a safer and more inclusive world for all LGBTQIA+ young people.

A special thanks to the co-design group of LGBTQIA+ young people - aka the Survey Squad - from the Minus18 Young Leaders Program, who guided the development of the survey's questions, language focus areas and testing. This valued group of young leaders included Bella, Enfys, Jemma, Lani, Mako, Meagan, Noah, Sam, Tara and Todd.

We also gratefully acknowledge the contributions of more than 20 community organisations - including youth services, health organisations and LGBTQIA+ advocacy groups - who offered their expertise to shape the survey content and support its promotion. Thank you also to all our collaborators and expert advisors who contributed to the creation of this project.

This project was made possible through the generous support of the Telstra Foundation.

Want To Dig Deeper?

Our digital report page contains interactive data filters for intersectional identities and downloadable report cards:

[Minus18.org.au/national-survey-2025](https://minus18.org.au/national-survey-2025)



MINUS18