



# **WA LGBTIQ+ INCLUSION STRATEGY**

Young People  
Consultation Report

**July 2025**





## Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we work, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and their continuing connection to land, sea and sky, and their enrichment of community and dedication to storytelling. We are based in Boorloo, on Noongar Boodjar and we acknowledge the Whadjuk people of the Noongar Nation who are the traditional custodians of this land. We pay our respects to Elders past and present. Sovereignty was never ceded. Always was, and always will be, Aboriginal land.

## Acknowledgment of Lived Experience

We would like to acknowledge the young LGBTQIA+ activists and their lived experience. We would also like to extend that acknowledgment to the LGBTQIA+ advocates and activists who have come before us, and pathed a way to get us where we are today.



## About the Contributors

Established in 2017, during the marriage equality plebiscite, The Youth Pride Network is a group of LGBTIQA+ young people passionate about using systemic advocacy to create a Western Australia in which all LGBTIQA+ young people are fully included, accepted and celebrated by their community.

YPN is auspiced by the Youth Affairs Council of WA.

## Thank You

YPN would like to thank every young person who shared their story as part of this summary. We will strive to do justice to your experiences. YPN would also like to thank the LGBTIQA+ community, particularly those who have come before us for their support of our work and in providing space for us to do what we do.

We would like to thank the following organisations for supporting our consultations across Western Australia:

- WAAC – Freedom Centre
- The Kids
- headspace Kununurra
- City of Swan
- Our Place
- headspace Midland

This report was authored by Chloe Clements and Troy Wood.



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## Executive Summary

The Youth Pride Network (YPN) proudly contributed to this, Western Australia's first whole-of-government LGBTIQ+ Inclusion Strategy, by supporting and training youth organisations to lead their own consultations, running community engagement sessions in collaboration with Freedom Centre, hosting stalls across four university o-week days and drawing on insights from WA-specific data in Minus18's National Queer Youth Now report (June 2025).

This report captures the collective voices of 629 LGBTIQ+ young people aged 12 to 25 across WA. Young people described true inclusion as a sense of safety, visibility, and respect, where their identities are affirmed and their experiences are understood. Across all engagement activities, a consistent theme emerged: inclusion must be more than symbolic and tokenistic—it must be lived, embedded, and systemic.

Young people called for meaningful action that centres lived experience, intersectionality, and youth leadership. They expressed a strong desire for services, systems, and spaces that reflect their realities and enable them to participate fully and safely in all aspects of life. Despite ongoing challenges, their vision for a more inclusive Western Australia is clear and they are ready to lead the way.

## Key Findings

1. Inclusion means feeling emotionally and physically safe, not judged or misgendered.
2. Education, healthcare, and workplaces are commonly experienced as unsafe.
3. Peer-led, youth-informed services are more trusted and effective.
4. Intersectionality is essential, spaces must meet the needs of diverse identities.
5. Visual cues (flags, pins) are meaningful—but only when paired with real commitment.

## Key Statistics

- 55% experienced verbal harassment.
- Only 15% feel safe being out in public.
- Transport, cost, and social anxiety are key barriers to participation.

## Young People are Calling For

- More inclusive, youth-led services.
- Safer public spaces and schools.
- Inclusive healthcare - particularity trans affirming care.
- Structural change backed by funding and accountability.



## Methodology

The aim of this report was to gather the lived experiences of young LGBTIQ+ people living in Western Australia to inform the development of the WA LGBTIQ+ Inclusion Strategy. Consultation focused on young people aged 12 to 25 residing in Western Australia a substantive amount of time within the last 12 months, with an emphasis on qualitative data. This approach was taken to complement existing quantitative research on the experiences of LGBTIQ+ young people at a state level.

To be eligible for participation in the youth consultation, individuals had to be:

- Aged between 12 and 25 years, and
- Currently residing in Western Australia, or had resided in WA for a substantive amount of time within the last 12 months.

A total of 629 young people contributed to this report through the following channels:

- 10 Youth consultations: 102 participants
- 4 University pop-up stalls: 350 engagements
- Minus18 Queer Youth Now Report – WA data: 177 responses

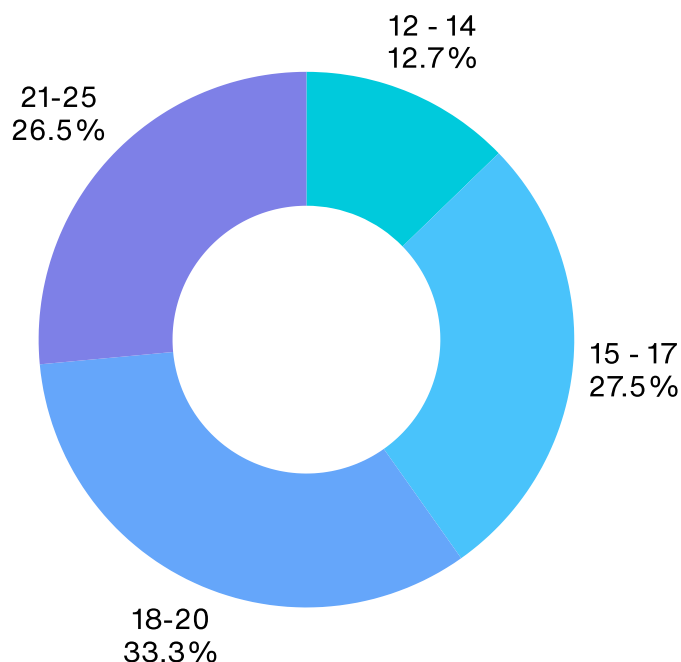


## Demographics

Note: Demographic information was collected as part of the 10 consultations with 102 young people across Western Australia.

### Age

**COMPLETED BY 102  
YOUNG PEOPLE**

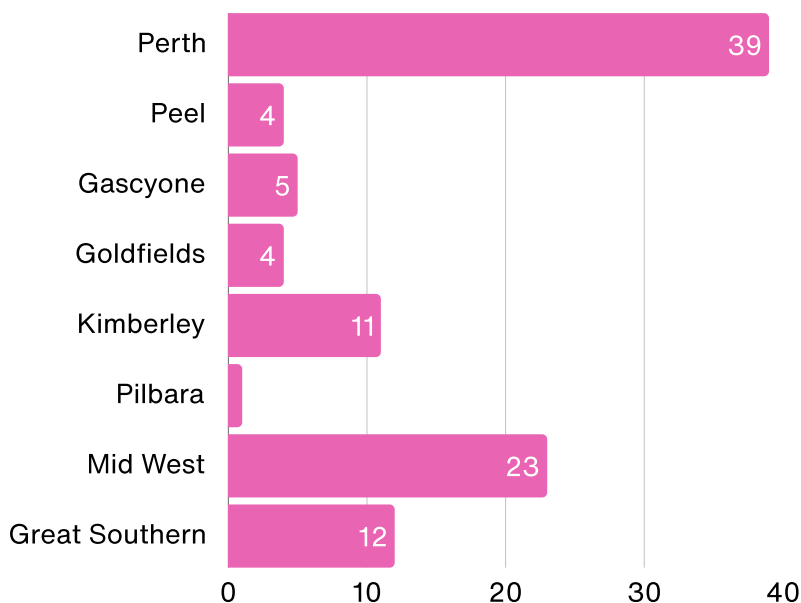


**“LGBTIQA+  
YOUNG  
PEOPLE DO  
NOT EXIST  
IN SILOS”**

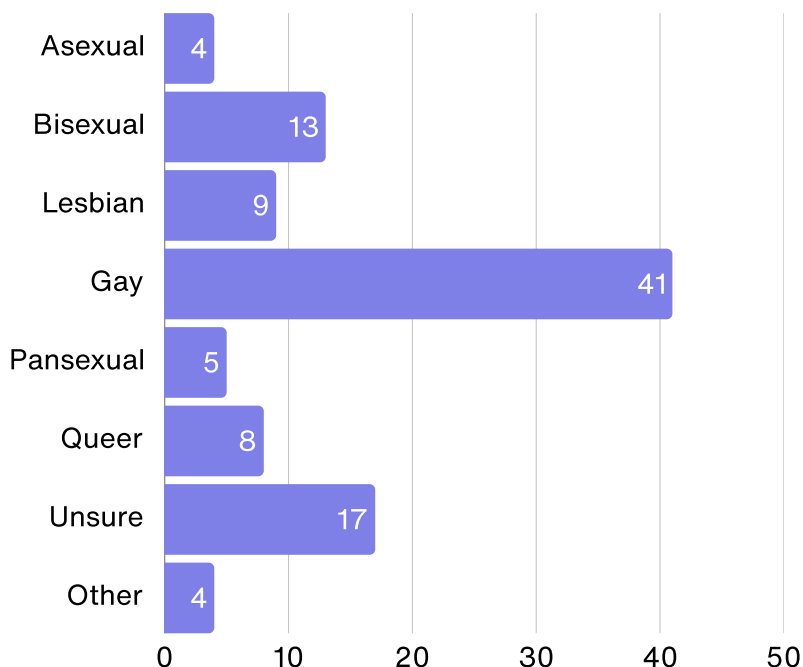
**Young person, 2025**

### Location

**31.7% PERTH METRO  
68% REGIONAL WA**

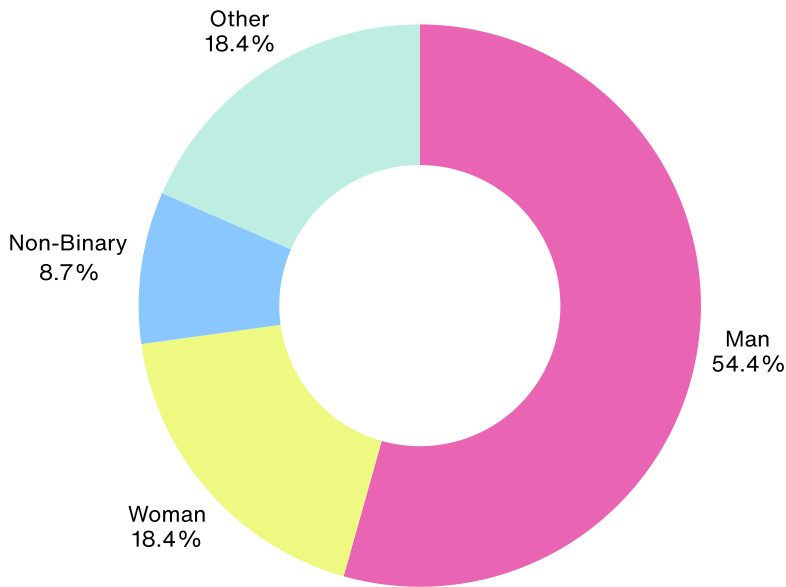


### Sexuality



# Demographics

## Gender



**63%**

**Trans & Gender Diverse**

**4%**

**Unsure/questioning**

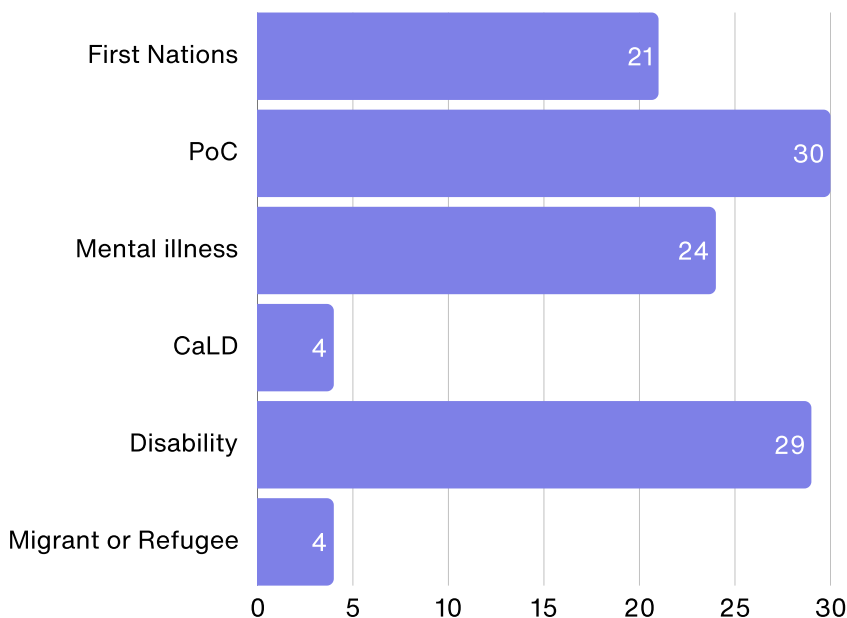
**3.5%**

**Variation in sex characteristics/intersex**

**9%**

**Unsure/questioning**

## Intersectionality



**“TRUE INCLUSION CONSIDERS RACE, DISABILITY, NEURODIVERGENCE, CULTURE, AND CLASS.”**

**Young person, 2025**



## Question 1

### What would make you feel more included in your community?

Through the consultation activity within Question 1 we asked young people how included they felt, and the average score was **3.36 out of 5**. This shows a moderate sense of inclusion, while some feel accepted, many still face barriers and discomfort in everyday life. The most common rating was 3, meaning inclusion is often partial rather than complete.

#### 1. Belonging & Safety

For LGBTIQ+ young people, inclusion begins with emotional and psychological safety. They want to be in environments where they feel genuinely seen, heard, and welcomed. This means not having to worry about being misgendered, stereotyped, or judged for who they are. Safety was described not just in terms of physical wellbeing, but in being able to exist without fear of discrimination or discomfort. When staff take the time to ask for pronouns, when spaces have clear affirming signage, and when there are visible efforts to ensure everyone feels welcome, young people notice and it matters. Many reflected on how exhausting it is to constantly scan environments for safety cues. The simple presence of things like gender-neutral bathrooms or inclusive language can be the difference between participation and withdrawal.

**“Inclusion means feeling seen and safe.”**

Young person, 2025

**“I feel safe when there are gender-neutral toilets, staff share their pronouns, and buildings are in safe locations.”**

Young person, 2025

#### 2. Visibility & Representation

Young LGBTIQ+ people consistently shared that visibility signals safety. Seeing pride flags, pronoun badges, or rainbow stickers creates an immediate sense of affirmation. However, visibility without substance can feel hollow. There was a clear call for representation to be meaningful, not limited to one poster during Pride Month, but embedded in leadership, hiring, service delivery, and communication. Representation also means having staff and leaders who reflect the identities and experiences of the community they serve. This includes cultural and racial diversity, as well as representation of trans, non-binary, and queer voices. Visibility must go hand in hand with action, education, and lived experience.

**“Representation that’s visible – not built on tokenism.”**

Young person, 2025



## Question 1

### 3. Inclusive Spaces & Services

Young people were clear about what makes a space feel inclusive: creativity, colour, sensory-friendly design, and youth involvement. Spaces like libraries, youth centres, and community events were praised when they created room for self-expression and exploration. These places tend to prioritise comfort, accessibility, and a sense of fun; elements that traditional institutions often overlook. On the other hand, many young people shared negative experiences with mainstream systems like healthcare, education, and employment. These systems often lack understanding, use outdated forms, or put the burden on young people to explain their identities. A frequent theme was being misgendered by professionals, or treated with suspicion or confusion when accessing services.

**“I am sick of ‘you just feel that way cause [you’re] a teen with hormones’ ”**

**Young person, 2025**

### 4. Peer-led & Youth-Centred Services

One of the strongest messages was the importance of peer-led and youth-centered spaces. These are services that not only listen to young people but are co-designed and delivered by them. When services are created by people with lived experience, they’re more likely to be trusted, relevant, and safe. Peer support reduces the power imbalance and validates experiences in ways that adult-led services often don’t.

Young LGBTIQ+ people are asking for genuine participation in decision-making—not tokenistic consultation. They want to help shape policies, design events, and inform service delivery. Being included in these processes fosters empowerment and leadership development.

**“Run by peers. Nothing about us without us.”**

**Young person, 2025**

**“Youth workers were young and open. It felt safe.”**

**Young person, 2025**



## Question 1

### 5. Education, Accountability & Staff Training

Inclusion is not a static goal—it requires continuous education, reflection, and accountability. Young people were clear: mistakes will happen, but what matters is how people respond. Apologies, a willingness to learn, and demonstrated commitment go a long way. Performative inclusion, such as putting up a flag without deeper change was frequently criticised.

There was a strong desire for ongoing training for staff, especially in health, education, and community services. This training needs to be delivered by people with lived experience and must be tied to organisational change, not just individual awareness.

**“One gender-neutral toilet is not enough.”**

Young person, 2025

**“All-inclusive events, not just 18+.”**

Young person, 2025

**“Say sorry when you make a mistake. Take accountability.”**

Young person, 2025

**“Clear intention to educate staff. Not just flags, but real effort.”**

Young person, 2025

### 6. Everyday Inclusion in Public Spaces

Inclusion must extend beyond formal services into everyday public life. Young people expressed frustration at the lack of gender-neutral toilets, inadequate signage, and inaccessible public events. They described feeling alienated when forms didn't include their gender or when all-ages events were replaced by 18+ ones.

Single-stall toilets, while intended to be inclusive, were sometimes seen as isolating—especially in spaces where others could be social. Public posters, bathroom signage, and pronoun education were suggested as simple but powerful tools for promoting understanding and reducing microaggressions.



## Question 1

### 7. Intersectionality & Access

True inclusion must be intersectional. Young people emphasised that experiences of exclusion and discrimination are compounded when other identities—such as being a person of colour, a person with a disability, neurodivergent, or from a low-income background, are not considered. Inclusion efforts that don't centre the most marginalised will ultimately fail to serve the community as a whole. There's a call for culturally safe, disability-inclusive, and neurodivergent-aware spaces that understand the complexity of identity and experience. Intersectionality isn't a buzzword; it's the foundation of meaningful inclusion.

### 8. Community Culture

Inclusion is also about how a space feels. A truly inclusive community feels relaxed, creative, and pressure-free. It allows young people to be themselves without fear or self-censorship. Formal, rigid, or overly structured environments were described as alienating, whereas welcoming, arts-based, and youth-driven spaces made people feel they could breathe and be open.

Young people want to belong to communities where there's room to grow, try new things, make mistakes, and connect without judgment. This culture of acceptance is especially important in spaces that support identity exploration.

**“Community should feel liberating... space to discover myself.”**

**Young person, 2025**

### 9. Systemic Issues & Barriers

Despite some positive experiences, systemic issues remain a major barrier. Schools, healthcare, justice systems, and many workplaces were described as unsafe or hostile environments. Symbolic inclusion was often undermined by inaction or backlash, like inclusive signs being removed, or trans students' pronouns not being respected. There is a strong demand for system-wide accountability. Inclusion can't just exist in bubbles; it must be consistent across all parts of life. Young people are watching closely and can tell when inclusion is a checkbox exercise versus a core value.

**“School wouldn't use my name or pronouns.”**

**Young person, 2025**



## Question 2

### What stops you from attending places, events, programs, and activities?

#### 1. Accessibility & Inclusion

Young LGBTIQ+ people identified several key barriers to accessing inclusive spaces and services. Transport costs, geographic isolation, lack of disability access, sensory needs, and age restrictions were all commonly raised as challenges that limit participation. To address these, they recommended funding free or low-cost public transport and providing clear, detailed accessibility information—such as where gender-neutral toilets, wheelchair access, and sensory-friendly areas are located. There was also a call to build more inclusive public spaces, especially in regional areas, and to ensure that events and services cater not just to under-18s but also to older youth and younger adults up to age 30.

**“Fund free or low-cost public transport.”**

Young person, 2025

**“Clear accessibility information (e.g., toilets, wheelchair access, sensory-friendly features).”**

Young person, 2025

**“Build inclusive public spaces, especially in regional areas.”**

Young person, 2025

**“Ensure events and spaces cater to under-18s”**

Young person, 2025

#### 2. Youth-Led, Peer-Informed Services

Young people emphasised the importance of services being co-designed and run by diverse youth themselves. Embedding lived experience in service design and delivery builds trust and relevance. When young people see peers leading services, it feels safer and more inclusive because the environment reflects their realities and identities.

**“Feels inclusive when it’s led by young people from different backgrounds.”**

Young person, 2025



## Question 2

### 3. Education & Awareness

Improving education and awareness around diverse identities and intersectionality was a strong priority. Young people want public education campaigns that increase understanding, as well as mandatory training for staff across government agencies and service providers. They stressed that training must come from people with lived experience to be effective and authentic.

**“The government should spread awareness and education.”**

**Young person, 2025**

**“Actual mandatory training about diverse identities from young people with lived experiences.”**

**Young person, 2025**

### 4. Safe & Inclusive Spaces

There was a clear call for more queer-specific spaces, particularly for under-18s who often feel excluded. These spaces must be culturally safe and affirming not only for LGBTIQ+ people but also for people of colour, people with disabilities, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people. Several young people noted that many current queer spaces feel white-centric and lack adequate facilities such as gender-neutral toilets or quiet sensory-friendly areas.

**“As an Aboriginal young person some places feel too white-centric.”**

**Young person, 2025**

**“There’s a tendency for the community to be polarised... a lack of intersectional approaches to accessibility and inclusion.”**

**Young person, 2025**

### 5. Intersectionality & Representation

Young LGBTIQ+ people stressed that inclusion must recognise overlapping identities, including disability, race, culture, age, gender diversity, and mental health. Many noted a tendency within communities to operate with a binary understanding of gender or to focus mainly on mainstream queer identities, which can leave many people feeling excluded. There was a call for broader, more intersectional approaches that actively include marginalised groups.



## Question 2

### 6. Community-Led Solutions & Feedback

Young people want services to be dynamic, responsive, and co-created with the communities they serve. This includes providing anonymous ways to give feedback and involving local decision-making to ensure services meet evolving needs. They highlighted the importance of openness to change and continuous learning within service providers.

**“Always be open to change and learning.”**

Young person, 2025

### 7. Systemic Change

For lasting impact, young LGBTIQ+ people called for systemic changes that support grassroots initiatives, regional pride events, and creative inclusive programs like drag storytimes. They emphasised the importance of passing strong anti-discrimination laws and embedding inclusivity requirements within public service contracts. Funding queer youth spaces and making queer-friendliness a key contractual outcome was identified as a crucial step forward.

**“Make it a key outcome and condition of contract that public services are queer-friendly.”**

Young person, 2025

**“Fund queer youth spaces.”**

Young person, 2025

**“I wish someone’s personality and vibe took precedence over their identity or their sexuality/gender.”**

Young person, 2025



## Question 3

### What actions do you want to see the State Government take over the next three to five years to improve the lives of young LGBTIQ+ people?

#### 1. Mental Health & Service Access

Young LGBTIQ+ people face significant challenges accessing affirming mental health services. Many noted a shortage of professionals trained in LGBTIQ+ cultural competency, which leads to unmet needs and discomfort during care. For those living in regional Western Australia, long travel distances and unreliable telehealth services create additional barriers. Confidentiality concerns are also prominent in small, close-knit communities where privacy is difficult to maintain. Moreover, there is a lack of mental health programs specifically tailored to youth, which contributes to feelings of social isolation and invisibility, especially when visible support and representation are missing.

**“Key challenge in regional areas is the limited access to LGBTIQ+ affirming mental health services.”**

Young person, 2025

**“Fear of discrimination in small towns/ communities is still very real.”**

Young person, 2025

**“You cannot make decisions on behalf of people. We need to value lived experience.”**

Young person, 2025

**“The onus of working towards inclusivity should not only be the work of the community you're looking to engage.”**

Young person, 2025

#### 2. Visibility & Community Support

Participants highlighted the urgent need for safe and visible spaces in schools, hospitals, and public settings to reduce isolation and foster connection. Support must be consistent across all regions, ensuring no one is left behind due to geography. Young people emphasised that community-led and co-designed services, shaped by those with lived experience, are more effective and trustworthy. They also pointed out that the responsibility to create inclusive environments should not fall solely on the LGBTIQ+ community.



### Question 3

**“We need to stop fearmongering over LGBTIQ+ inclusion being a weapon of a 'woke agenda'”**

Young person, 2025

#### 4. Education & Cultural Change

Increasing LGBTIQ+ awareness was seen as crucial for reducing stigma and misinformation. Young people want education embedded in schools, covering topics like sex education and peer support—and society to recognise that LGBTIQ+ rights are human rights. There was concern over the use of fearmongering tactics to oppose inclusion, and a call to acknowledge the ongoing prevalence of prejudice.

#### 5. Intersectionality & Representation

Respondents emphasised again the importance of recognising intersectional identities, including neurodivergence, disability, and race, to avoid tokenism and one-dimensional approaches.

They called for holistic, inclusive consultation processes that respect the diversity within LGBTIQ+ communities, highlighting that no single lived experience can represent all.

**“LGBTIQ+ people do not exist in silos... many of us also have experiences with neurodivergence and mental health challenges.”**

Young person, 2025

**“One person's lived experience is so important to hear and value – but it is NOT everyone's experience.”**

Young person, 2025



## Question 4

### How can the WA Government can best work with and for LGBTIQ+ people and communities in WA?

#### 1. Listen, Include, and Pay Us for Our Lived Experience

Young LGBTIQ+ people are asking not just to be heard, but to be actively included in decision-making, design, delivery, and leadership. Lived experience must be respected as expertise, and paid accordingly. One-off focus groups or token consultation won't cut it. What's needed is ongoing, resourced, youth-led participation.

**“Just listen to us, please.”**

Young person, 2025

#### 2. Embed Co-Design and Long-Term Youth Partnerships

There was strong support for embedding co-design as a standard government practice, not just an occasional method. Young people want real partnerships where they help design policies, programs, and services from start to finish. These must be resourced, transparent, and long-term—not one-offs tied to political cycles.

#### 3. Make Engagement Accessible and Inclusive

Consultation needs to be easier to access, especially for young people who face barriers such as needing parental consent, living regionally, or having disabilities. Youth suggested better advertising, clearer incentives (such as vouchers or payment), and multiple ways to contribute (e.g. anonymous submissions, online tools, in-person co-design workshops).

**“We need ongoing opportunities to work with you, not just inform you.”**

**“Embedding co-design into the forefront of government engagement.”**

**“Personally, I hate surveys, make it interactive and meaningful.”**

**“Create better incentives for engagement in research, like money.”**

Various Young People, 2025



## Question 4

### 4. Strengthen Legal Protections and Rights

Young people called for stronger hate speech and hate crime laws, improved anti-discrimination protections, and legal recognition of non-binary people in health and ID systems. There's frustration at the slow pace of legal reform, especially around gender affirmation and the spread of harmful misinformation.

### 5. Improve Healthcare Access and Understanding

Many young people face barriers accessing gender-affirming and queer-friendly healthcare. They asked for more providers trained in queer identities, informed consent models, and easier pathways without medical gatekeeping. Young people also want to be involved in designing their own healthcare services—including representation on panels and strategy teams.

**“Create stronger hate crime and hate speech laws, including against distributing hateful material.”**

Young person, 2025

**“Update discrimination legislation.”**

Young person, 2025

### 6. Reach Rural, Regional & Remote Communities

Young people outside metro areas often face isolation, poor service access, and limited visibility. There's a strong desire for localised, well-funded support, including regional Pride events, health outreach, and digital tools. Services must also recognise overlapping identities (race, disability, class, etc.) and make intentional space for intersectional inclusion.

**“Help young people seeking gender-affirming care.”**

Young person, 2025

**“Reduce the medicalisation of gender care, more informed consent.”**

Young person, 2025

**“Include queer people in designing their own healthcare services. More than consulting.”**

Young person, 2025



## Question 4

### 7. Create Inclusive Systems and Structures

Young people want to see permanent structures within government that reflect their communities, such as designated queer positions, ongoing youth reference groups, and open feedback channels. There's a need for inclusive infrastructure (e.g. gender-neutral bathrooms), legal support (e.g. changing ID), and platforms to self-advocate.

**“Create designated queer positions in government.”**

Young person, 2025

### 8. Don't Wait for Crisis or Political Timing

A clear message: don't only come to the LGBTIQ+ community when it's politically convenient. Inclusion must be sustained beyond election seasons or sudden policy pushes. It should be visible, proactive, and rooted in community wellbeing, not crisis response.

**“Prove you're helping the community in times of need.”**

Young person, 2025

### 9. Tackle Misinformation and Shift Public Culture

Young people are frustrated by harmful public narratives that label queer inclusion as 'woke ideology.' They want the government to lead public education, challenge myths (like those about puberty blockers), and make it clear that LGBTIQ+ rights are human rights. A visible commitment to culture change matters.

**“Not just talking to us during times of political importance or without action.”**

Young person, 2025



# Minus 18 Queer Here Now Report 2025 \*

## COMPLETED BY 177 YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 13-25

### 1. Experiences of Anti-LGBTQIA+ Hate

- 55% of WA LGBTQIA+ youth have experienced it in the past
- 10% experienced it in the last year

**“Negative comments still hit hardest – they’re shouted in public, online, or whispered behind backs.”**

#### Online bullying is ongoing

- 36% have faced it at some point
- 25% experienced it in the past 12 months

#### Physical threats and harm are real

- 50% have experienced threats
- 34% have experienced physical harm

#### Media impacts mental health

- 75% feel affected by negative news/media about LGBTQIA+ issues

**“Even when I’m safe at home, the news makes me feel like I’m under attack.”**

### 2. Safety Being ‘Out’

- 60% are out to all their in-person friends
- 53% are out online

#### Public, sport, and work still feel unsafe

- Only 15% feel safe being out in public
- Only 13% feel safe in sport

### 3. The Power of Queer Friendships

- 84% say they’re very or extremely important

**“Queer friends aren’t just friends, they’re survival.”**

#### Queer Events: Motivation vs Barriers

- 78% likely or very likely to attend in-person events

#### Top reasons to go:

- Fun/enjoyment (86%)
- Making friends (81%)
- Celebrating queer joy (78%)

#### Top barriers:

- Not knowing anyone (68%)
- Anxiety meeting people (55%)
- Transport issues (55%)
- Cost (52%)

**“I want to go, but getting there, not knowing anyone, it just makes it too hard.”**

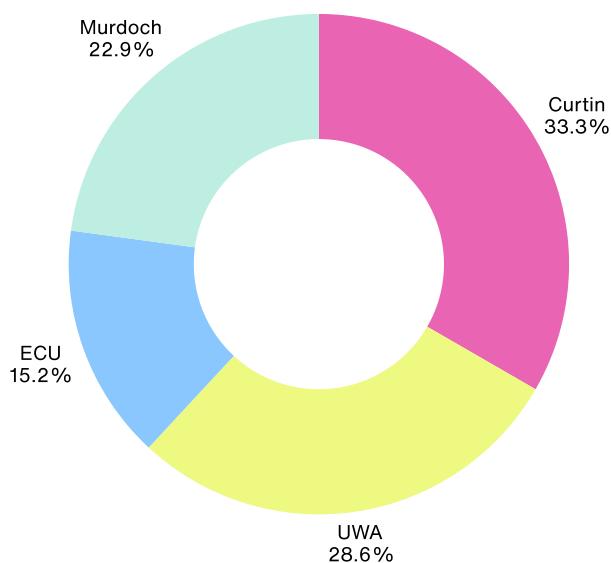
\*Minus18 uses LGBTQIA+ as their preferred acronym whereas YPN uses LGBTIQ+ as decided in the WA LGBTIQ+ Inclusion Strategy Reference Group.



## Uni O-Week Stalls

### ENGAGED WITH 350 STUDENTS YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 18-25

The Youth Pride Network attended 4 University Pop-Ups and supported 1 University in promoting the Strategy Survey and having conversations with young people about their ideas about the Strategy.



#### 1. Safe and Accessible Spaces

Discussions brought up a common theme amongst most young people of not having or having a lack of safe spaces or spaces that are safe and accessible. With an important consideration for safe spaces were people with various needs, ensuring that they are considered in the design and decisions of spaces (i.e. using a venue that is not up stairs with no elevator due to wheelchair inaccessibility).

#### 2. Inclusive Education

While many visual cues are regularly seen by LGBTIQA+ young people attending tertiary education, many of these young people feel that it can be tokenistic, with staff not receiving training, or that training not being mandatory. Young people feeling that even with the flag there needs to be further education done by Universities for staff and more generally.

#### 3. Supporting Queer Clubs

Young people, especially those involved in Queer Clubs noted that many of the universities have pride/rainbow/queer clubs but many of them lack resources and support to effectively facilitate many events and hold safe spaces. Recommendations were made to have resources to support clubs on how to effectively manage organisations, committees and events to ensure safety, accessibility and longevity.

# Recommendations

## 1. Embed Lived Experienced in All Decision-Making

- Co-design policies, programs, and services for LGBTIQ+ young people
- Create paid roles for young people with lived experience in reference groups and advisory panels
- Ensure diverse representation across race, culture, disability, neurodivergence, and regional backgrounds

## 2. Improve Accessibility and Inclusion in Public Spaces

- Fund free or low-cost public transport, especially for regional young people
- Ensure clear accessibility information (e.g. toilets, wheelchair access, sensory-rooms etc.)
- Build inclusive infrastructure, including gender-neutral toilets and quiet spaces
- Design events and services for all age groups, including under 18s and young adults (25-30)

## 3. Expand Safe, Queer-Specific Spaces

- Increase the number of queer youth spaces, especially within regional areas
- Ensure cultural safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth, people of colour and people with disabilities
- Support safe all-ages queer spaces

## 4. Strengthen Education, Awareness & Staff Training

- Mandate comprehensive LGBTIQ+ training for staff across government, education and healthcare
- Include queer history and identity education in the school curriculum
- Combat misinformation and fearmongering through public campaigns with young people.

## 5. Fund and Support Peer-Led Services

- Prioritise funding for youth-led peer-informed services
- Support grassroots initiatives, and regional prides
- Ensure services are co-designed and run by young people from diverse backgrounds

## 6. Advance Legislative and Structural Reform

- Update anti-discrimination legislation to include protections for gender identity and expression
- Remove legal barriers to gender transition and improve access to gender-affirming care

## 7. Promote Mental Health Access and Support

- Fund LGBTIQ+ affirming mental health service, especially in regional WA
- Improve telehealth reliability and confidentiality in small communities
- Develop youth-focused mental health programs that are culturally competent



# Recommendations

## 8. Foster Community Led Feedback and Accountability

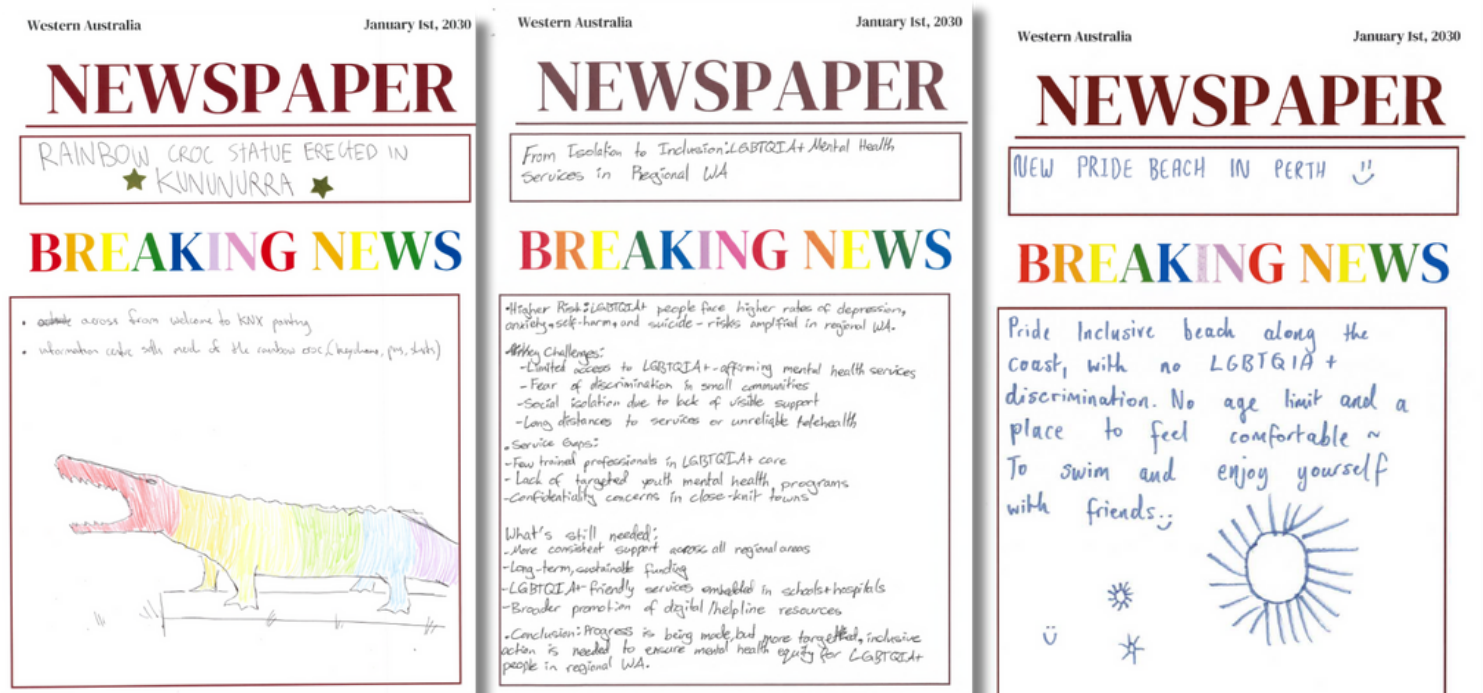
- Implement anonymous feedback mechanisms
- Ensure services are responsive and evolve based on community input

## 9. Increase Visibility and Representation

- Support an Inclusion ministerial portfolio to be established in Cabinet
- Promote diverse representation in media, education and public service
- Recognise intersectional identities and avoid tokenism

## 10. Enhance Event Accessibility and Engagement

- Remove barriers to event participation (e.g. cost & transport)
- Offer incentives and advertise events through youth-friendly channels
- Prioritise events that celebrate queer joy, creativity and connection





## Conculsion

The voices of LGBTIQ+ young people across Western Australia have spoken with clarity, courage, and conviction. Their stories reveal not only the barriers they face which include discrimination, invisibility, systemic exclusion, but also the powerful vision they hold for a future where inclusion is not just promised, but practiced.

We have an opportunity to declare that every LGBTIQ+ young person deserves to feel safe, seen, and celebrated. That inclusion must be intersectional, intentional and informed by lived experience. Recognising that queer joy, resilience and leadership are not just valuable, they are vital.

Inclusion is not a checkbox, it is a commitment. We need to uplift LGBTIQ+ young people, they need a future that is safer, stronger and more vibrant for everyone. LGBTIQ+ Young people through these consultations want the LGBTIQ+ Inclusion Strategy to be the beginning of that future; driving whole-of-government change and reform across Western Australia.

The Youth Pride Network continues to work towards our goals of working to create a Western Australia in which all LGBTIQ+ young people are fully included, accepted and celebrated by their community. We call on the Government to continue to **Listen, Act, Empower and Transform!**

**"You cannot  
make  
decisions on  
behalf of  
people. We  
need to value  
lived  
experience!"**

**Young person, 2025**

