



Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex

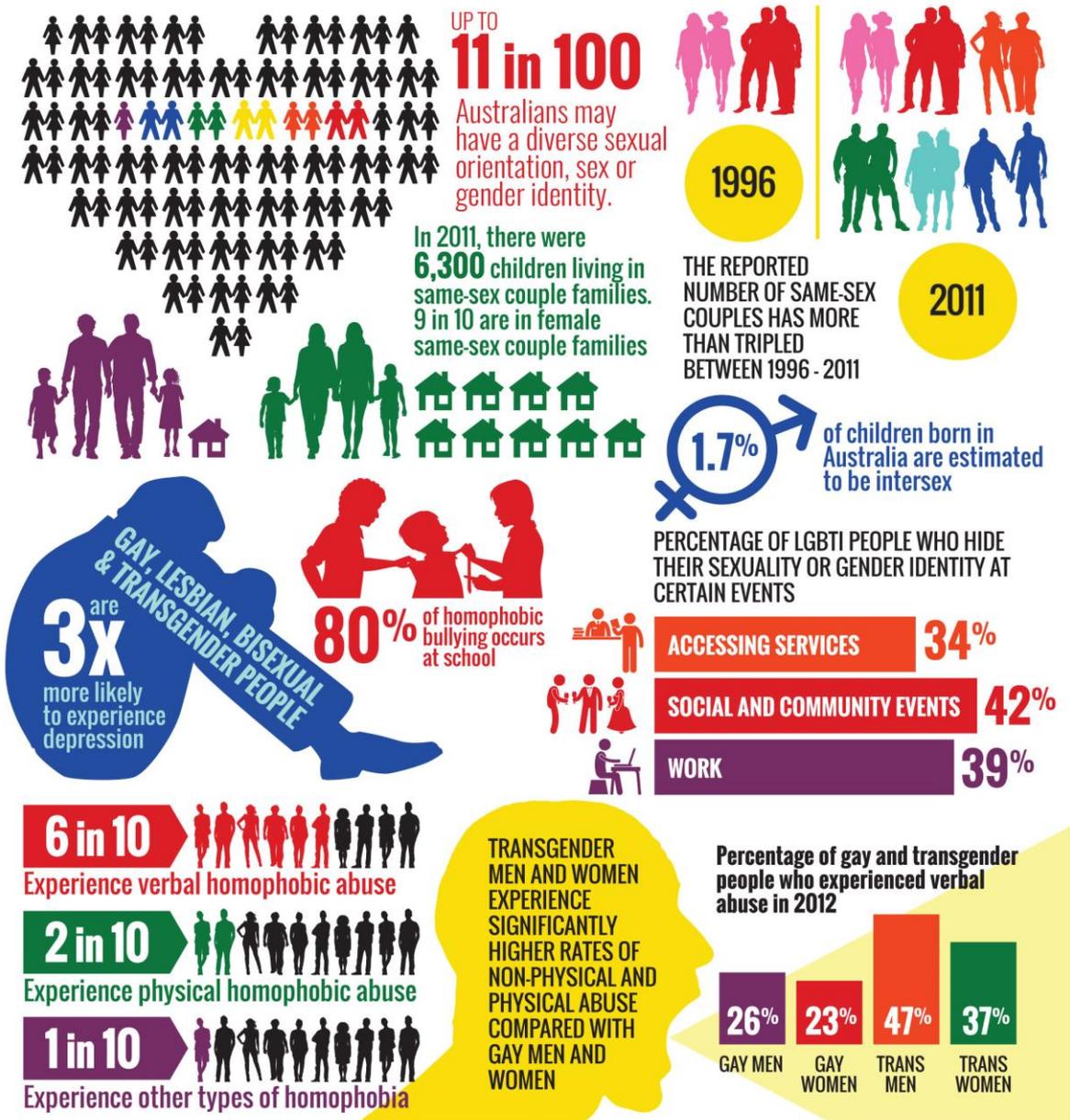
According to the Human Rights commission, 11 in 100 Australians are of diverse sexual orientation, sex or gender identity.

A 2014 Australian survey found that 3.6 per cent of women and 3.3 per cent of men surveyed identified as non-heterosexual, rising to 16.1 per cent and 8.8 per cent when sexual identity, attraction and experience was taken into account.¹ It is estimated that between 1-2% of the population are transgender. [Intersex Human Rights Australia](#), recommend using an approximate figure of 1.7% of births being intersex, when considering the population size.

The 2016 Census counted just under 46,800 same-sex couples living together in Australia. This represents a 39% increase since the 2011 Census, which counted 33,700 same-sex couples. Data on same-sex couples first became available in 1996. In the 20 years to 2016, the reported number of same-sex couples has more than quadrupled. Younger people accounted for almost all of the increase in the number of same-sex couples between the 2011 and 2016 Censuses. Half (51%) of the increase was for the cohort aged 20-29 years in 2016, with an additional 35% of the increase in the cohort aged 30-39 years in 2016. In 2016, about 146,800 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were living with a partner and, of these, 1.2% (about 1,700 people) were living with a partner of the same sex. Same-sex partners were more likely to be affiliated with Buddhism than those in opposite-sex couples (3.9% compared with 2.7%) and less likely to be affiliated with Hinduism (0.5% compared with 2.4%) or Islam (0.7% compared with 2.4%).

¹ Smith, A, Rissel, C, Richters, J, Grulich, A & de Visser, R 2014 "Sex in Australia 2", http://www.ashr.edu.au/pdf/sex_in_australia_2_summary_data.pdf

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex People



2014 Face the Facts www.humanrights.gov.au/face-facts



Source: <https://www.humanrights.gov.au/education/face-facts/face-facts-lesbian-gay-bisexual-trans-and-intersex-people>

Same-Sex Couples living in the NMR – Census 2016

According to the ABS census 2016, in all LGAs besides Yarra, there are more female same sex couples living together. In the City of Yarra there is twice as many male in same sex relationships living together.

Gender and Sex (Transgender and Intersex)

The 2016 Census allowed participants to indicate a gender or sex diversity beyond male or female. However to do this, they needed to contact the ABS and specifically ask for an online form that would allow their gender/sex to be capture correctly. Further, it is common for one person to complete responses on behalf of other household members. They may not know or respect how the other household members would report their sex

or gender. This means that some people might not have had the opportunity to report their own gender or sex. While the ABS had arrangements to provide private forms on request, some respondents may not have been aware of these or may have chosen not to take this additional step. This has no doubt resulted in an underrepresentation of trans, gender diverse and intersex people in the census.

The below tables shows the number of people reporting a valid and intentional gender or sex other than male or female and the how they chose to self-describe their gender or sex.

SUMMARY STATISTICS FOR SEX/GENDER OTHER THAN MALE OR FEMALE, 2016		
Response to the Sex question	Numbers	Rate per 100 000 people
Other responses	1 260	5.4
Valid and intentional sex/gender other than male or female		

DESCRIPTORS FOR PERSONS REPORTING DIVERSE SEX/GENDER IDENTITY, 2016		
	Numbers	%
Intersex/Indeterminate	40	3.2
Trans male	70	5.5
Trans female	100	7.5
Transgender not elsewhere classified	170	13.2
Non-binary	220	17.3
Another gender	230	18.1
Other not further defined(c)	440	34.9
Persons	1 260	100.0

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing, 2016

The ABS conducted a small pilot test during the operations of the 2016 Census to test attitudes and responses among the wider population, and to gain insights to guide future data collection of gender or sex. Approximately 29,000 addresses were selected in the pilot test and sent a letter with an access code that took them directly to a special online form. There approximately 190 people in the pilot test who provided a valid and intentional gender or sex response other than male or female. This represents a rate of 257 per 100,000 people, over fifty times as likely as the rest of Australia who were not explicitly given a choice other than male or female.

This document is created by Lisa Tribuzio, Diversity Advisor from the North Metro Sector Development team. Diversity Advisors are funded by both the Victorian State Government and the Commonwealth and support HACC-PYP and CHSP funded organisations to undertake diversity planning. For any questions regarding this document, email lisat@hwpcp.org.au

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