

Family violence and the LGBTIQ+ communities



Family Violence within LGBTIQ+ communities is known to occur at the same rates as for heterosexual relationships, if not higher for some communities such as bisexual, trans and gender diverse communities. SECASA acknowledges that family violence impacts and affects people differently, and a specialised and LGBTIQ+ informed approach is necessary for working with clients who have experienced violence within a LGBTIQ+ context.

Key facts:

- 1 in 3 LGBTIQ+ people experience intimate partner violence/intimate partner violence from a partner, ex-partner or family member
- LGBTIQ+ people are less likely to report or seek help for their experience of violence
- 26% of people in same sex relationships report experiencing sexual assault in their relationship

Alongside more common types of Family Violence, an LGBTIQ+ person may experience specific acts of violence relevant to their sexuality or gender. Some examples of this type of violence include:

1. Threatening to 'out' a person to their family, friends or colleagues
2. Threatening to disclose their HIV status
3. Isolating a person from the wider LGBTIQ+ communities and LGBTIQ+ specific services
4. Ridiculing a person's gender expression
5. Preventing a person from accessing gender affirming hormones or treatments for HIV or other chronic illnesses
6. Telling a person they 'deserve' the abuse because of their sexuality
7. Refusing to acknowledge someone's bisexuality or ridiculing them for having a range of partners of differing genders
8. Pressuring, forcing or tricking a person into having unsafe sex
9. Making a person have sex with other people
10. Threatening to infect a partner with a chronic illness, such as HIV.

Where to get help

The Police- 000

If in you're in immediate danger, call the Police. Otherwise, if you're not in immediate danger make contact with the LGBTIQ+ Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officer (GLLO). If you contact police, ask to speak to a GLLO if possible.

Rainbow Door- 1800 729 367 (10am-6pm)

A free specialist LGBTIQ+ helpline providing information, support, and referral for all LGBTI Victorians.

Thorne Harbour Health- 9865 6700

Provides counselling services to the LGBTI communities and also provides family violence flexible support packages for those considering leaving violent relationships or who have recently left a relationship.

Sexual Assault Crisis Line – 1800 806 292

State-wide 24 hour support for past and recent sexual assault. Immediate crisis response available for recent sexual assault. This number diverts to your local Centre against Sexual Assault during normal business hours.



We welcome lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, gender diverse, intersex and queer people into SECASA. We pledge to provide inclusive non-discriminatory services to LGBTIQ+ clients.

Resources:

Intimate Partner Violence- Australian Institute of Health and welfare (2015)

<https://aifs.gov.au/cfca/publications/intimate-partner-violence-lgbtqi-communities>

Primary prevention of family violence against people from LGBTI communitites (2017)

<https://d2bb010tdzqaq7.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2019/11/07031955/Primary-Prevention-of-FV-against-LGBTI-people-Report-Accessible-PDF.pdf>