

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) Young People

There has been increased awareness and support for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) community in Tasmania in recent years which is a step forward for this cohort of young people who once went unsupported and unrecognised. Unfortunately, LGBTI young people continue to report bullying and harassment from their peers, in the workplace and often in the wider community. This can be extremely isolating and can prevent young people from accessing information and support services. Young people identifying with the LGBTI community may experience higher rates of homelessness and research suggests that same sex attracted young people are up to six times more likely than the general population to attempt suicide, especially those living in rural and remote areas where access to support services is limited.

Young people identifying with the LGBTI community want to be accepted and included in the community and therefore it is important that efforts are made to reduce the stigma and discrimination against young LGBTI people in Tasmania. Every young Tasmanian has the right to feel safe and accepted and not fear judgment or isolation and it is important that this is aimed for.

YNOT is committed to:

- Working to reduce negative attitudes towards LGBTI young people in schools and the wider community.
- Advocating for schools and work based education programs that promote positive messages about LGBTI relationships.
- Advocating for the legal recognition of same sex relationships in Tasmania.
- Advocating for increased training opportunities in situations with sensitive sexual diversity issues and encouraging all youth workers to receive such training.
- The continuance of anti-bullying and harassment policies in schools and services for young people.



- The recognition of the importance and acceptance of same sex attracted and sexually diverse individuals across the State.

Future Vision

A Tasmania in which the LGBTI community feel safe and accepted and free to be themselves within the community. A State where there are increased numbers of services available to young people discovering their identity and where programs in schools are inclusive of the LGBTI community and information is not limited to heterosexual young people.

References

Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (2013), *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Health*, retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/lgbthealth/youth.htm>.

Nicholas 1998 in Dyson, S , Mitchell A, Smith, A, Dowsett G, Pitts M and Hillier L 2003, Don't ask, don't tell – hidden in the crowd: the need for documenting links between sexuality and suicidal behaviours among young people, report of the same-sex attracted youth suicide data collection project, monograph series no 45, Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University, Melbourne.