

Inquiry into anti-LGBTIQ+ hate crimes in Victoria

2026

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About NAPCAN

The National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN) is Australia's leading national organisation dedicated to the prevention of child abuse and neglect through advocacy, education, and community engagement.

We promote the message that child abuse is preventable by addressing the underlying social issues that lead to cycles of abuse, building community capability through evidence-based programs such as Love Bites and Safer Communities for Children, and leading the national conversation through National Child Protection Week.

Our work places the rights of the child at the centre. NAPCAN believes that children and young people are the experts on their own experiences and need to be included in decision-making spaces. As part of NAPCAN's commitment to giving children and young people a voice on issues that affect them, this submission has been prepared by members of the NAPCAN Youth Speak Out council, a diverse group of 20 young people aged 13-25 from every state and territory of Australia. This submission is informed by consultation with the entire NYSO council, the expertise of NAPCAN staff, and the perspectives of many young people across the country that we have spoken to.

NAPCAN prevention efforts have been funded by a combination of state, federal, philanthropic and self-generated revenue streams for nearly 40 years. We are proud to have 3 current youth advisors in Victoria. NAPCAN has an extensive network across Victoria and a highly engaged prevention workforce, who deliver respectful relationship education programs, protective behaviours training, child safe organisation training and mandatory reporter training, all with a prevention lens.

Inquiry into anti-LGBTIQA+ hate crimes in Victoria

Executive Summary

This inquiry takes place in the context of a recent spate of high profile instances of young people luring LGBTIQA+ people on dating apps and physically, sexually, and verbally abusing them. However it is also taking place in the context of rising LGBTIQA+ discrimination across the political, media, and international landscape. In this submission we emphasise the importance of considering all forms of LGBTIQA+ discrimination, as hate crimes can only be solved by addressing the underlying attitudes that contribute to them. Our NAPCAN Youth Speak Out council are well-versed in the prevalence of hateful content online, and collectively describe an internet landscape that is increasingly unmoderated and permissive of hateful content. We discuss the importance of respectful relationships education as a tool to prevent anti-LGBTIQA+ hate by fostering basic respect for social differences, as well as place-based community services that provide support after hate and discrimination has occurred. We also summarise existing data that demonstrates a high prevalence of hate and violence towards LGBTIQA+ individuals, as well as widespread heterosexist attitudes among young people.

Key recommendations

1. That the findings and recommendations of this inquiry should consider and relate to broader LGBTIQA+ discrimination beyond solely hate crimes, and consider societal influences beyond online platforms.
2. That the government should avoid a 'tough on youth crime' approach, and instead prioritise prevention, early intervention, and restorative solutions for young people who perpetrate anti-LGBTIQA+ hate crimes.
3. That the government should increase funding for holistic respectful relationships education that emphasises intersectionality and respect for difference.
4. That the government should increase funding for the engagement of parents and carers in respectful relationships education.
5. That the government should increase funding for comprehensive pornography education, with a focus on respect and critical media analysis, as part of respectful relationships education.
6. That the government should fund place-based and accessible community services that provide LGBTIQA+ people with supports tailored to their situation.
7. That the government should expand funding for LGBTIQA+ support hotlines.
8. That the government should encourage casual and positive representation of LGBTIQA+ people in media and culture through its support for the arts, in order to normalise and expose audiences to LGBTIQA+ identities.
9. That the government should implement the recommendations of Teach Us Consent's 'Fix Our Feeds' campaign, to give social media users autonomy over their social media feeds.
10. We recommend that dating apps are required to more thoroughly ensure that underage users do not gain access to these platforms, either through amendments to the voluntary Code or through government regulation
11. That the government should implement the recommendations of the NSW *Inquiry into Gay and Transgender hate crimes between 1970 and 2010* where relevant to the Victorian context.

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Introductory comments

Definition of hate crime

It is important firstly to define what is meant by 'hate crime'. The *Crimes Act 1958* does not use this phrase, instead referring to 'serious vilification', including 'incitement on ground of protected attribute', and 'threaten physical harm or property damage on ground of protected attribute'. Victoria Police distinguish between a hate crime, referring to the serious vilification from the Crimes Act 1958, and a hate incident, which is an act or behaviour motivated by hatred, or prejudice towards a person or group of people but does not meet the legal threshold of a crime.

NAPCAN Youth Speak Out responses

What is a hate crime?

- when someone experiences targeted hate over something that is a part of their identity - often something they can't change e.g. gender, race, sexuality, religion
- Violence motivated by someone's identity
- An act with malicious intent motivated by hatred towards a minority
- Abuse centred from bias, discrimination or hatred towards someone due to their actual or perceived minority
- A crime against a person of an identity
- when a person decides to hate on different people and makes them feel low.
- an act the is motivated by bias or hatred towards a group or person
- It's an act designed to marginalise and harm young people on the grounds of race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability or nationality.

The NAPCAN Youth Speak Out council identified a broad range of forms that LGBTIQA+ discrimination can take across the social, legal, educational, and political spheres. Their perspectives cover both small acts of casual discrimination as well as heightened levels of violence.

NAPCAN Youth Speak Out responses

What does discrimination against LGBTIQA+ people look like?

- Making rape threats against queer women, e.g. "I'll turn you straight"
- More casual comments among friends like "ah that's gay bro"
- When schools force young people to wear binary uniforms, e.g. young queer people being forced to wear a "male" or "female" uniform that does not align with their gender identity.
- Thinking that it's a choice when it's actually someone's identity and we can't control it
- Travel isn't possible to some countries due to discriminatory laws
- Discriminatory laws around gender-affirming care
- Young queer people being kicked out of home

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- Speaking negatively
- Gender reveal parties for unborn humans!
- Not including LGBTIQI folk in social stuff
- Casual homophobia / disrespectful comments
- Violence on the basis of someone's identity
- Taking away trans people's passports (e.g. USA)
- Assuming the norm is being straight and cis etc.
- Workplace discrimination
- using terms such as "gay" as derogatory language
- refusing to interact or engage with queer people or topics relating to queer people
- "It's just a phase" or "you'll grow out of it"
- Demonising male-male affection (even when it may be platonic) like hugs etc.
- Enforcement of strict gender roles - even for kids (blue/pink etc)
- Using heteronormative language "who's your boyfriend" if you are femme presenting
- Throw away comments used as insults-like "you're gay" etc.

There is a much broader spectrum of LGBTIQA+ discrimination that must be addressed in order to truly solve hate crimes. Throughout this submission we address both hate crimes and broader LGBTIQA+ discrimination together. This is because the most effective solutions are those that intervene early before discrimination escalates to hate crimes, and most of all those that prevent the attitudes and behavior leading to any discrimination in the first place. We therefore take a broad definition of hate crimes and discrimination, including acts such as conversion therapy, "corrective" rape, and discriminatory language.

Limitations of the terms of reference

While we agree that it is valuable for the committee to inquire into the online drivers of hate crimes and discrimination such as influencers, hate groups, and social media platforms, there is a broader social context missing from the terms of reference.

NAPCAN Youth Speak Out responses

What influences or causes people to discriminate against LGBTIQA+ people:

- being taught by parent or peers
- lack of exposure to the queer community
- pack mentality
- Internalized homophobia
- Religion
- Often religion, family politics, a lack of exposure, and social media/red pill content has definitely had an impact. But it also may be mob mentality, and the desire to confirm and fit in.

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- Lateral violence
- Manosphere narratives
- The Myth of Normal
- Shame
- Pity
- Weaponised religious/cultural beliefs
- Belief they are protecting
- lack of education
- Fear of difference
- Projection
- How people have been brought up, the culture that is cultivated around them, little comments that snowball and go from words to harmful beliefs
- Insecurities
- Being taught by parents/schools/religion
- statements from big leaders that influence people.
- lack of empathy
- because they are really mean

NYSO's responses reveal a combination of factors including attitudes taught by the surrounding community, a lack of education and exposure, and the discrimination perpetrated by other members of the LGBTIQA+ community. Additional factors that we identify to further influence the prevalence of hate crimes and discrimination in Victoria and Australia include:

- **The local political and media landscape**, particularly in current debates around sports participation and puberty blockers.
- **The international political and media landscape**, as countries such as the USA and UK are rapidly scaling back LGBTIQA+ rights, particularly for transgender people.
- **Widespread access to mainstream online pornography**, which often presents misogynistic, homophobic, and transphobic themes. Mainstream online pornography often fetishises LGBTIQA+ people and reinforces myths and stereotypes that lead to physical, sexual, and political violence. In the United States for example, there is a correlation where the states with the highest consumption of transgender pornography also have the most negative attitudes and restrictive laws on transgender rights (Human Rights Campaign, 2024; Lawsuit.org, 2022).
- **The ongoing social legacy of previous discriminatory laws**. Much of the LGBTIQA+ existence has only been legalised or decriminalised recently in Victoria, including:
 - Same-sex sexual activity in 1981
 - Expunging historical convictions for homosexual sexual activity in 2015
 - Same-sex marriage in 2017
 - Forced divorce to legally transition abolished in 2018
 - Conversion therapy banned in 2022

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- Non-consensual surgery on intersex babies and infants banned in 2026
- Men who have sex with men allowed to donate blood in 2026
- **Legacy of mistrust with police.** The findings from the NSW *Inquiry into Gay and Transgender hate crimes between 1970 and 2010* demonstrated the extensive historical failures of the police to keep the LGBTIQA+ community safe. High profile incidents such as the alleged 2024 murder of Luke Davies and Jesse Baird by police officer Beau Lamarre-Condon, and the current debates around the inclusion or exclusion of police at pride parades demonstrate that this mistrust still runs deeply throughout the community.
- **Domestic and family violence.** Unlike many other marginalised identities, LGBTIQA+ identity is not inherited and often not shared by the individual's family of origin, and so discrimination and abuse from family members remains common.

Therefore, while we welcome the themes that are included within the scope of this inquiry, we encourage the committee to place its findings and recommendations within the broader social context of historical and ongoing LGBTIQA+ discrimination.

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Response to terms of reference

(1) the communication and recruitment methods of anti-LGBTIQA+ influencers and hate groups that endorse anti-LGBTIQA+ hate crimes, including those creating and sharing online content steeped in racism, misogyny, transphobia, homophobia, far-right ideology and unhealthy masculinities;

LGBTIQA+ hate crimes and discrimination are widely promoted online. The Trans Justice Project and Victorian Pride Lobby's *Fuelling Hate* report found that 94% of all participants surveyed had seen online anti-trans abuse, harassment or vilification in the previous 12 months (Badge et al., 2023). Similarly the eSafety *Tipping the Balance* report found that LGBTIQ+ teens experienced hate speech at twice the national average rate (31%, compared with 15%), while 1 in 4 had been threatened with physical harm while online (25%, compared with the national average of 16%) (eSafety Commissioner, 2024).

NAPCAN Youth Speak Out responses

What kinds of homophobic or transphobic content have you or your friends seen online?

- Sexualising lesbian relationships
- Lateral violence from queer people saying they are "one of the good ones" - e.g. Blair White - often paired with conservative politics
- Rape threats against queer women
- Transvestigators trying to figure out if people are trans
- Tradwives or manosphere bros enforcing strict gender roles
- Stuff about the Heated Rivalry series and despite there being big fanbases there is also a lot of homophobia
- Instagram comments are absolutely brutal - there is so much blatant hate even from gifs all the way to full blown paragraphs just for people who they think are acting 'fruity'. A really unsafe space

From their experiences online, NYSO identified a number of key themes in the communication methods of anti-LGBTIQA+ influencers and hate groups. These include spreading misinformation and disinformation about LGBTIQA+ people, the normalisation of harmful language, misogynistic trends and communities such as the manosphere (a broad spectrum of ideologies centred around supposed male disempowerment as a result of feminism) and tradwives (online female influencers who reject the advances of modern feminism and promote traditional attitudes of femininity such as subservience to husbands), and the transphobic trend of transvestigating which is a pseudoscientific conspiracy theory that aims to prove that prominent public figures are secretly transgender.

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NAPCAN Youth Speak Out responses

How do online groups and influencers promote LGBTIQ+ discrimination?

- Online podcasts often seem to be really conservative, and there's kind of underlying homophobia/transphobia that normalise these narratives.
- Slippery slope arguments e.g. fake news about litter boxes in bathrooms at schools
- Lateral violence from influencers who claim to be "one of the good ones" - Blair White etc.
- Transvestigators
- Public ridicule of trans figures, Dylan Mulvaney etc.
- Manosphere narratives & pick-up artist nonsense
- Tradwives perpetuating a limited view of femininity
- Equating nationalism/national identity with heteronormative nuclear family imagery
- They make it super casual to sprinkle hate and discrimination towards the LBGQTQA+ community - it makes the future of young people complacent and bystanders to this hate because it becomes so normalised
- Participating in harmful "trends"
- Equating pedophilia with queer identity
- Giving homophobic influencers a platform
- the apps hardly take them down
- word choice

The *Fuelling Hate* report (Badge et al., 2023) also found that in-person speaking events and tours have a strong impact on increasing online hate and discrimination. It found a substantial uptick in online anti-transgender hate coinciding with the 2023 tour of Australia by Kelly-Jay Keen, a British anti-transgender influencer who goes by the name Posie Parker online. One NYSO member commented on how online influencers and hate groups '[equate] nationalism/national identity with heteronormative nuclear family imagery'. This can be seen at Kelly-Jay Keen's Melbourne event where there was a public demonstration of neo-Nazis on the steps of Victorian Parliament, highlighting the connection between LGBTIQ+ hate and racism and far-right ideology.

(2) current strategies to counter anti-LGBTIQ+ hate crimes, particularly among young people and how these could be strengthened;

NAPCAN's focus is on prevention, and so our recommendations for countering hate crimes are primarily outlined in Term of Reference 3. However we caution the committee against following the recent path of other state and territory governments of a 'tough on youth crime' approach. Harsher criminal penalties for children who perpetrate anti-LGBTIQ+ hate crimes do not strengthen social cohesion or address the underlying drivers of the hate. Instead it exposes children to a system that entrenches them in cycles of disadvantage and recidivism. For young people coming into contact with the youth justice system, we strongly encourage the use of diversion, intervention, and restorative pathways instead.

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In general, youth crime diversion and early intervention programs prove to be more effective and economical than incarceration. Allard et al. (2007) conducted a meta analysis of eight Australian prevention and early intervention programs. It examined the short- and long-term outcomes of these programs on offending, and found the programs had a reduction in offending of between 18% and 91%. They also found that the cost of intervention was generally offset by the future economic savings. This is important, given that in Australia the cost of housing a young person in detention is now \$1.3 million per young person per year (SCRGSP, 2026). The 2023 *Jailing is Failing* report from the Justice Reform Initiative had similar findings, showing that early intervention and prevention strategies have helped reduce anti-social and problematic behaviours up to 48% and have a 5-31% annual reduction on specific crimes. It also found that prevention methods prove extremely effective when compared to pre-sentencing detention methods that have shown a 33% increase in recidivism for children and young people (JRI, 2023).

In terms of diversion and early intervention programs specifically for hate crimes, the evidence is limited. A study of the Countering Violent Extremism Unit in the NSW youth criminal justice system (Barracosa & March, 2022) found that the pluralistic and non-punitive approach to supervision, client-focused assessment and case management processes of radicalised or at-risk youth was effective. It found that widespread resourcing of multidisciplinary practitioners and programs can be used to account for developmental and psychosocial vulnerabilities in addition to violent extremism risk factors amongst youth offenders. These approaches should be supplemented by youth-specific countering violent extremism practitioner expertise, and a range of violent extremism case management and risk assessment measures. Studies also suggest that restorative justice processes, which focus on dialogue and reconciliation between offenders and victims, are effective in the hate crime context (Stanford Law School Policy Lab & Brennan Center for Justice, 2021; Walters, 2014).

(3) current anti-LGBTIQA+ hate crime prevention initiatives, and how these could be strengthened;

NAPCAN stresses the importance of holistic and general prevention initiatives. As discussed in Term of Reference 1, anti-LGBTIQA+ hate crimes and discrimination do not exist in isolation from other hate crimes and discrimination, including those against First Nations, multicultural and multifaith communities, people with disability, women, and more. They are all derived from an underlying lack of respect and appreciation for social differences. In NAPCAN's experience from 20 years of delivering respectful relationships education, conversations on complex and nuanced topics such as relationships, consent and intersectionality cannot be effective without first establishing a basis of respect for other people and their wellbeing and unique experiences. NAPCAN's adolescent respectful relationships education program *Love Bites* begins by exploring the concept of intersectionality, encouraging students to consider how all aspects of their identity contribute to their social advantage or disadvantage in different ways. Then throughout the program from this basis, students cover the different topics through examples and scenarios that represent diverse relationships and experiences.

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This approach reflects the recommendations of the NYSO council about the importance of casual representation of LGBTIQA+ people in media and culture, in order to normalise and expose audiences to LGBTIQA+ identities. The approach is confirmed by evidence which shows that representations of people from marginalised communities in media reduces the prejudice towards those communities among non-marginalised people (Banas et al., 2020; Żerebecki et al., 2021).

However it is not enough to equip solely students with these skills. A key element of NAPCAN's whole-of-community approach to respectful relationships education that still needs more support is a parenting component. Parents and carers have a strong influence on young people's attitudes towards gender and sexuality (The Men's Project, 2025), yet NAPCAN's experience is that parents and carers do not feel equipped to have conversations with their young people. Ensuring that young people receive consistent messaging about respect across the classroom and the home is essential to shifting broad cultural attitudes. We recommend greater government funding for respectful relationships education programs that engage parents and carers.

NAPCAN Youth Speak Out responses

How can we prevent LGBTIQA+ discrimination?

- spreading awareness and teaching young people so that they learn at a young age.
- Visibility of queer people in "mainstream" culture - e.g. characters who just happen to be gay, and it's not the entire point of them being in the TV show
- Educate on DSM criteria for gender Dysphoria
- explain health stats on LGBTIQA+
- Talking to young people about queerness early. The earlier young people can be taught to accept it, the better. And educating families as well. It's also important to work with religious institutions to create change, because they often encourage hateful narratives about LGBTIQA+ people.
- positive social media representation
- Empathy
- Laws
- Education
- legislation
- Removing stigma by having conversations
- positive media representation
- Holding people to account
- Sex & healthy relationships education
- Awareness
- Teaching upstander behaviour
- Politicians condemning discrimination both in Australia and overseas - calling it out
- Legislation protecting queer people
- pulling people up on their bias

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(4) existing public and online safety initiatives supporting LGBTIQA+ community members who have experienced hate crimes, including how these supports could be strengthened;

NYSO has provided a range of suggestions for different support initiatives, including expanding eSafety's ability and resources to remove hateful content, providing mental health support for victims, and funding safe clubs and spaces for young LGBTIQA+ people. They also recommend legal support including compensation in civil court, and improved police systems to support victims in their help seeking process.

NAPCAN Youth Speak Out responses

How can the government or community organisations support people who have experienced LGBTIQA+ discrimination?

- eSafety Commission - taking content down
- Teasing the perpetrators to create a feeling of shame, "isn't it so silly that people would think like this in 2026? That's really unintelligent" etc. If people are using personal attacks, sometimes you can only get through to them with personal attacks in return
- Option to opt-in to having a cop of the same gender etc. if it would make you feel more safe when reporting
- Create more coverage and celebration for queer communities, also free access to GOOD mental health support services
- Compensation in civil court + criminal convictions for hate crimes
- they can support people experiencing discrimination by providing websites to help their mental health
- Stop saying the "A" stands for ally - erases asexual and aromantic identities
- Some of my Queer friends go to groups within their clubs and schools that are specifically for young queer people, where they are able to talk about their experiences with homophobia, and connect more with the queer community.
- Focussing on acceptance and inclusion.

NAPCAN further emphasises the importance of place-based and community-based support systems. With a lack of trust towards police and legal systems, LGBTIQA+ people may instead turn towards community for support. It is important that systems are set up with a 'no wrong door' approach, so that help seekers can engage with any service and be directed to the most appropriate service. An example of this functioning well in Victoria is the work of Drummond Street Services. Drummond Street has a general intake team who then direct the person to the relevant service. They provide access to numerous specialised services for LGBTIQA+ people, including Pride in Place for housing support, Q Family for family support, the Village for parents of trans and gender diverse children, (in)Visible for young LGBTIQA+ people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, SETs for migrants, QHub and Qspace for mental health support, Inclusive Rainbow Support for people with disability, the Zone

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for alcohol and other drug support, and more. We recommend funding services that are set up to provide support in these ways.

We also recommend expanding government funding for support hotlines, particularly QLife, the largest support line for LGBTIQA+ people. While a number of other support lines are able to provide 24/7 support, QLife only operates for six hours per day. Expanded funding could help ensure longer operating hours and increase LGBTIQA+ people's access to support when it is needed.

(5) the role and responsibilities of social media and digital platform owners in preventing and responding to anti-LGBTIQA+ hate crimes;

Given the current context of a spike in dating app-facilitated hate crimes, it is important in this discussion to address three types of digital platforms: social media platforms, dating apps, and pornography platforms.

On social media platforms, the NYSO council emphasised the role and responsibility of social media platforms in moderating hate speech and discrimination online. The young people describe a culture shift across social media platforms in recent years where content moderation and safeguards for users have been wilfully abandoned by high profile decision makers such as Elon Musk and Mark Zuckerberg. Young people are now navigating an online landscape with more consistent and more intense exposure to hateful ideologies. Notably, NYSO did not identify the Australian social media age restrictions as a solution. NAPCAN has previously opposed the introduction of the social media age restrictions on the grounds that it will not prevent young people from accessing social media, and suggests instead that regulatory effort should be directed towards safeguarding the user experience online. We therefore instead recommend that the government implement the Teach Us Consent 'Fix Our Feeds' campaign, which is calling for legislation to give social media users the ability to opt in to recommender algorithms. This is inspired by the European Union's 2024 Digital Services Act, which has already succeeded in giving social media users the ability to opt out of recommender algorithms online and choose a different algorithm, such as viewing only friends' posts in chronological order.

The recent series of LGBTIQA+ hate crimes perpetrated by young people have been enabled by dating apps. Dating apps have so far avoided the recent increase in government regulation faced by social media, pornography, and gaming platforms due to the Online Dating Code of Conduct, a voluntary self-regulated code created by the dating app industry. While the Code aims to prevent sexual, physical, and emotional harm for users, and prevent the exploitation of children, it does not address young people offending on the platforms. We recommend that dating apps are required to more thoroughly ensure that underage users do not gain access to these platforms, either through amendments to the voluntary Code or through government regulation.

Pornography platforms have a responsibility to prevent and respond to LGBTIQA+ hate crimes and discrimination. Firstly, pornography platforms host and distribute content that contributes to

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anti-LGBTIQA+ narratives, including the fetishisation of lesbian women and transgender people (Puhl, 2010). It also commonly depicts violence against women (Lim et al., 2016), with Seida & Shor (2019) finding that same-sex pornography has even more depictions of aggression than different-sex pornography. This is important given the prevalence of pornography consumption. The average age of first exposure to online pornography is 13, while 52% of young men and 25% of young women encounter online pornography at least once a week (eSafety Commissioner, 2023). We therefore recommend the implementation of comprehensive pornography education as part of sex, health, and relationships education in schools, in order to give young people the skills to critically analyse the pornography they are consuming and the impact it may be having on their attitudes towards LGBTIQA+ people. Additionally, pornography platforms commonly enable image-based abuse and non-consensual sharing of intimate videos, an issue raised by the NYSO council as particularly affecting LGBTIQA+ Australians. Popular pornography sites both allow anyone to upload content and allow anyone to download videos, making it particularly difficult to prevent the spread of non-consensual images and videos.

NAPCAN Youth Speak Out responses

What role do social media and digital platform owners have in preventing and responding to LGBTIQA+ discrimination?

- Restricting image-based abuse, AI-generated harms etc. - this also protects queer people
- having trigger words that are censored e.g. slurs - a better system to filter out hate comments and speech and then forward them to a page about respect and learning/empathising more with LGBTIQA+ community.
- Twitter being bought out - and safeguards for queer people (e.g. content filters) being removed - made things a lot worse
- the role they have is to keep viewers safe from seeing this and influencing new people from seeing this.
- allowing people to express themselves and share their thoughts
- Making reporting easier for the victim of bystander
- Not supporting harmful podcasts/influencers/accounts
- Definitely creating restrictions on this kind of content, so that young people can't access it. However, if possible, all online creators who encourage hateful narratives about Queer people should be banned.
- Banning bullies

(6) existing empirical data regarding the prevalence and trends of anti-LGBTIQA+ hate crimes Australia-wide;

The existing data suggests that hate, discrimination, and hate crimes against LGBTIQA+ people are a serious issue in Australia. Firstly it is important to note the likely underreporting of hate crimes due to

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the historical and ongoing mistrust of the police by the LGBTIQA+ community. The NSW *Inquiry into Gay and Transgender hate crimes between 1970 and 2010* (NSW Parliament, 2021) strongly highlighted the failures of the police to keep the LGBTIQA+ community safe and found that it is the responsibility of the police to rebuild community trust. In the meantime, this mistrust of the police and reporting mechanisms raises the risk of intimate partner violence going unaddressed in LGBTIQA+ relationships and hate crimes going underreported.

With limited reliability from police and crime data, it is important to consider self-reported evidence too. A study of almost 7000 LGBTIQA+ Australian adults found that 59% of participants experienced at least one form of anti-queer victimization in the past twelve months (Mitchell et al., 2026). The *Fuelling Hate* report (Badge et al., 2023) found that in the previous 12 months, 49% of transgender participants experienced anti-trans abuse, harassment or vilification online, and 47% experienced it in-person. 15% of trans participants experience anti-trans violence in the previous 12 months. A report from the Australian Human Rights Commission found that almost three quarters of LGBTIQA+ people had experienced some type of bullying, harassment or violence on the basis of their sexual orientation, gender identity or sex characteristics (AHRC, 2015).

Another limitation of police data is that hate crimes may be registered in other categories, particularly domestic and family violence (NSW Parliament, 2021). In terms of intimate partner violence, the Victorian report of the *Private Lives 3* survey (Hill et al., 2021) found that 61.1% of LGBTIQA+ participants in Victoria reported ever experiencing intimate partner violence, and 50.7% reported ever experiencing verbal, physical or sexual intimate partner violence. Emotional abuse (48.1%) was the most commonly reported form of intimate partner violence, followed by verbal abuse (43.3%), physical violence (25.0%) and sexual assault (21.4%).

LGBTIQA+ people are also at risk of unique forms of family and domestic violence, particularly from their family of origin. These include pressuring a person to conform to gender norms or stopping them from accessing gender-affirming care, "corrective" rape (a hate crime in which the victim is raped because of their perceived sexual orientation), threatening to 'out' the person's gender, sexuality, or intersex status, exiling a person from their family due to their sexuality or gender, forcing a family member into conversion therapy (DSS, 2022). The Australian Child Maltreatment Study (Higgins et al., 2025) studied the prevalence among Australians of five types of child maltreatment: physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, exposure to domestic violence, and neglect. It found that rates of child maltreatment were extremely high for young LGBTIQA+ young people. 90.5% of gender diverse young people experienced some form of child maltreatment, with 77% experiencing multiple types. 85.3% of young people with diverse sexualities experienced child maltreatment, with 64.3% experiencing multiple types.

Anti-LGBTIQA+ attitudes are also a cause for concern in Australia. The Jesuit Social Services' Adolescent Man Box Report (The Men's Project, 2025) studied a range of restrictive gendered attitudes among young people, with a key finding being the prevalence of heterosexism among young people, especially young boys. Approximately half of adolescent boys agreed with the sentiments that '*being thought of as*

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gay makes a teenage boy seem like less of a man', 'teenage boys should never act like a girl', 'a good way to seem manly is to not act gay', and 'a teenage boy who wears nail polish is hard to take seriously'. A third of teenage boys agreed that 'it's embarrassing to have a lot of gay friends', and a quarter agreed that 'it would be embarrassing for a teenage boy to say that he is interested in being a hairdresser'. It is important to note that for each of these attitudes, a much smaller but still sizable portion of young girls agreed with the sentiments.

The available evidence collectively indicates that LGBTIQA+ hate crimes and discrimination are a serious issue in Australia at all levels of severity, from adolescent attitudes around gender roles through to domestic, family, and sexual violence and hate crimes.

(7) the impact of anti-LGBTIQA+ hate crimes on diverse LGBTIQA+ communities, including Rainbow Mob, people with disability, and multifaith and multicultural community members;

LGBTIQA+ people from other marginalised communities face unique and compounded challenges. We encourage the committee to give special focus to the submissions from organisations and individuals representing these intersectionalities.

NAPCAN Youth Speak Out responses

How do different identities interact with LGBTIQA+ discrimination?

Rainbow Mob

- First Nations people already experience very diverse challenges from external communities - Risk losing your own cultural community/identity
- Brotherboy/sistergirl identities

People with disability

- Disability can make it more challenging to physically perform gender expression (e.g. doing makeup etc) - which can make feelings of dysphoria or external discrimination worse.

Multicultural communities

- Its a lot more normalised that LGBTIQA+ communities are underground especially in immigrant background families because in the countries that we've come from its fully illegal to be gay, that said these communities exist and support each other very well but can't be open about it

Faith and religion

- Excommunication - losing community - kicked out of church etc.
- Within religions young people lose their community because they may be excluded from services, or cut off by their families on religious grounds.

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(8) interjurisdictional strategies and methods to combat anti-LGBTIQA+ hate crimes across borders;

No response.

(9) the relevant work of the Commissioner for LGBTIQA+ Communities, relevant government advisory groups, including but not limited to relevant community, health and law enforcement organisations to combat anti-LGBTIQA+ hate crimes.

Much work still needs to be done in Australia to heal the rift between law enforcement and the LGBTIQA+ community. Solving anti-LGBTIQA+ hate crimes will remain difficult while we still have underreported and misclassified data on hate crimes. We recommend implementing the recommendations of the NSW *Inquiry into Gay and Transgender hate crimes between 1970 and 2010* where relevant to the Victorian context, particularly recommendation 5: "That the NSW Police Force ensure that its computerised operational policing system (COPS) adequately captures and records lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) hate crimes" (NSW Parliament, 2021).

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