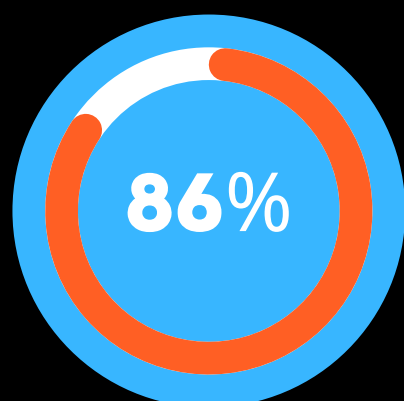


Townsville

LGBTIQ+

COMMUNITIES

2.0 Survey, July - December 2023



Of people feel their access to safe and affirming healthcare is moderate to high, with 22% of people feeling in the middle.



"ALL THE HEALTH PROFESSIONALS I KNOW ARE VERY WELCOMING TO THE QUEER COMMUNITY."

"Some services aren't safe as staff aren't suitably trained to service or even Approve of Our Community. Limited education and local bias."



"It will take me at least 6 months before I have access to gender affirming hormone therapy. This is worrying when thinking about teens who are early in puberty and need time-sensitive puberty blockers."

"I PUT IT IN THE MIDDLE BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE MUCH EXPERIENCE WITH DEALING WITH HEALTH PRACTITIONER."

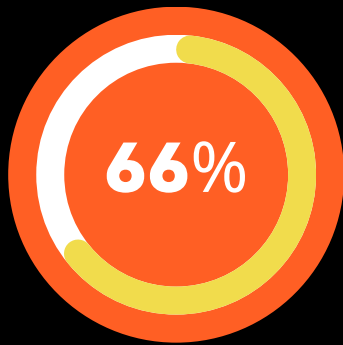


"I DO NOT FEEL CONFIDENT IN DISCLOSING MY GENDER IDENTITY TO HEALTHCARE OFFICIALS AS I FEEL I WILL RECEIVE INFERIOR MEDICAL TREATMENT."

"The majority of trans healthcare in my area appears to be funnelled through one clinic. This clinic is quite far away and not easily accessible."

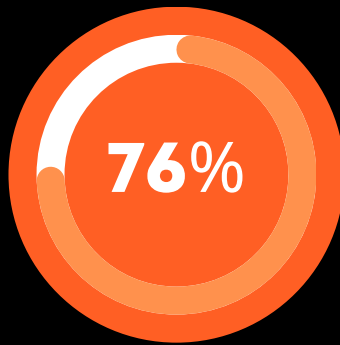


Townsville



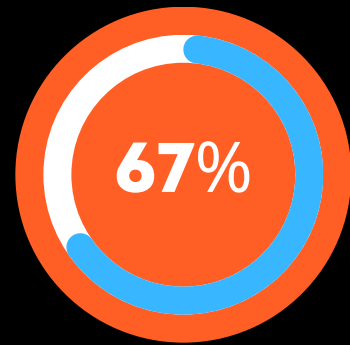
OF PEOPLE

Rate accessing government and community services moderate to high.



OF PEOPLE

Rate participating comfortably in community events moderate to high.



OF PEOPLE

Feel moderate to highly like a marginalised member of the community.

HOW WOULD YOU RATE ACCESSING SAFE AND AFFIRMING HEALTHCARE WHERE YOU LIVE?

"I PUT IT IN THE MIDDLE BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE MUCH EXPERIENCE WITH DEALING WITH HEALTH PRACTITIONER."



The majority of trans healthcare in my area appears to be funnelled through one clinic. This clinic is quite far away and not easily accessible without a car or license, or bus."

"It took a lot of digging and asking around to find the one clinic here I'm told does gender-affirming care. Easy Access should involve widespread knowledge of where to go for such resources, and the fact that there seems to be only one clinic for the entire city that is confirmed safe and inclusive for us is disappointing."

"I've had reasonably good experiences with getting psychological help over the years through organizations like Headspace (early on) and JCU Health (while a student). The 10 free sessions a year for psychology were a lifesaver when going through a particularly bad patch of major depression. I've been able to get bulk-billed Doctor appointments. I think Medicare is a great institution, which is vital to be protected. Culture-wise, there still feels like a reasonable amount of judgement around queer culture and choices within the healthcare system. I also understand that while my experiences have been reasonable, I mostly present as a white male. I have trans and POC friends in the community that have some very difficult experiences. There is also notable difference between older and younger generations of medical practitioners, with the younger being much less judgmental in my experience."



"ALL THE HEALTH PROFESSIONALS I KNOW ARE VERY WELCOMING TO THE QUEER COMMUNITY."

"TOWNSVILLE HAS A GREAT HEALTHCARE SYSTEM."



"IF THERE IS A PRIDE FLAG I GENERALLY THINK IT SHOULD BE SAFE."

"My partner is struggling to get a gender-affirming speech pathologist. Doctors have refused to see them, and doctors have assumed that I can't get pregnant because I am in a same-gender relationship. Queer-friendly psychologists are few and booked out. There is also nowhere to go for Self-IUI or queer-friendly fertility centres. I can't grow my family here in the way I want to."

CONTINUED...

"NEED MORE."

I find it safe as a cis-gender female accessing a doctor but find they lack understanding of lgbtiqa+ things especially in regards to sexual health. As a health worker, I know my colleagues do not always provide an affirming experience to our patients



"Don't seek out healthcare from lots of different places so can't say definitively- however, all experiences thus far have been personally quite positive."

"THE HEALTHCARE IS DEFINITELY THERE I JUST DON'T REALLY KNOW MUCH ABOUT IT OR LIKE WHAT'S AVAILABLE I GUESS."



"STILL TO THIS DAY, THE LGBTIQ COMMUNITY ARE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST AND DO NOT HAVE GREAT HEALTH OUTCOMES BECAUSE OF THIS. THE LGBTIQ COMMUNITY ARE WORRIED THAT THEY CANNOT BE THEIR AUTHENTIC SELF WITH HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS ON FEAR OF BEING REJECTED AND MISTREATED."

"I have a very safe network of supportive people who support my whole body health. My GP is fantastic and accepts my life in fullness and assists with this. She has also researched things like prep to better support my needs. I have had other doctors and health professionals who were unsupportive and caused more stress than benefit."



"I HAVE TO TRAVEL A WHILE TO GET FROM DEERAGUN INTO THE CITY WHERE THE HEALTHCARE RESIDES. THE PROCESS OF ACCESSING THAT HEALTHCARE ALSO HAS A PROCESS."

"LOCAL HEALTHCARE EXISTS ALTHOUGH CAN BE DIFFICULT TO ACCESS AT TIMES AND OFTEN UNAFFORDABLE."

CONTINUED...

"My partner is struggling to get a gender-affirming speech pathologist. Doctors have refused to see them, and doctors have assumed that I can't get pregnant because I am in a same-gender relationship. Queer-friendly psychologists are few and booked out. There is also nowhere to go for Self-IUI or queer-friendly fertility centres. I can't grow my family here in the way I want to."

"IT WILL TAKE ME AT LEAST 6 MONTHS BEFORE I HAVE ACCESS TO GENDER-AFFIRMING HORMONE THERAPY. THIS IS WORRYING WHEN THINKING ABOUT TEENS WHO ARE EARLY IN PUBERTY AND NEED TIME-SENSITIVE PUBERTY BLOCKERS."

"THERE'S A FEW MEDICAL CENTRES WITHIN DRIVING DISTANCE FROM MY PLACE."

"In my experience, finding gender affirming healthcare was rather difficult. I was only able to find where to go due to another member of my community having access to it. Prior to then, I spent 2 years trying to pursue unaffordable ways that MIGHT have gotten me to my end goal."



"After finding where to start treatment, though, I felt like I wasn't given resources on how to live in my new identity or active support in pursuing it. My endeavour has been rather lonely as I'm the only person in my community who is pursuing a change of gender."

"BECAUSE I HAVE SUPPORTIVE PEOPLE AND ACCESS TO TRANSPORT TO WHEREVER I NEED.."



"AS A BISEXUAL WOMAN WHO HAS A MALE PARTNER, MY SEXUAL ORIENTATION DOESN'T IMPACT MY HEALTH CARE CURRENTLY. BUT AS A WOMAN AND A MEDICAL STUDENT, MY ISSUES ARE OFTEN DISMISSED OR MINIMISED. ONLY WHEN I STATE THAT I MYSELF AM STUDYING MEDICINE IS WHEN I GET TAKEN SERIOUSLY BY SADLY MANY HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS."

"Access to Townsville Sexual Health services is present, and I find the Townsville Sexual Health Clinic on Gregory St to be accessible, safe and affirming. However firstly, I have had bad experience with my local GP in Townsville when trying to receive gender affirming care, and when I went to a second GP, they had no knowledge on the matter, but were at least welcoming and willing to learn.."



"I'VE BEEN ABLE TO ACCESS IT READILY, BUT THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO NEED TREATMENT AND NOT A LOT OF AVENUES, SO APPOINTMENTS CAN TAKE A WHILE TO GET TO. ALSO A LACK OF AFFORDABLE/ UNDERSTANDING PSYCHIATRISTS.."

PREDOMINANTLY SAFE, SEXUAL ORIENTATION IS ALMOST ALWAYS NEEDS TO BE "EXPLAINED" BECAUSE HETEROSEXUALITY IS STRONGLY PRESUMED.

CONTINUED...

"SEXUAL HEALTH IS THE ONLY PLACE THAT FEELS INCLUSIVE."

"CONVENIENCE ACCESS, HOWEVER, COULD BE MORE PROMOTING. GREAT STAFF, GREAT SERVICE. BOOKING/PHONE CALL FOR APPOINTMENT CAN BE DIFFICULT AT TIMES."

"I HAVEN'T HAD ANY TROUBLE ACCESSING SAFE HEALTHCARE."

"Access to hormone therapy is great but not gender affirming surgery. I'd have to travel to Brisbane or Gold Coast for affordable top surgery."



"I don't feel comfortable in doctors' offices because they make out being trans as something unusual and weird. Also, accessing gender-affirming Healthcare (hormone treatment) has been next to impossible because all you do is get referred to the next place, and all of a sudden, you're in Brisbane every second month to get treatment."

"HARD TO FIND SPECIALISTS ON TRANS ISSUES (ENDOCRINOLOGIST, SURGEONS)."



"IT'S PRETTY EASY TO FIND A PLACE THAT GIVES CARE."

"Not too many complaints. Just annoying having to pay for HRT. Plus I got top surgery back before it was possible through public health and it was quite expensive."



"NOT SURE WHERE TO ACCESS."

"THERE'S A FEW MEDICAL CENTRES WITHIN DRIVING DISTANCE FROM MY PLACE."

PARTICIPATING IN COMMUNITY EVENTS

Townsville



"IT'S OFTEN DIFFICULT TO GET PLACES BY BUS."

"I don't go to many events but my school has a lot of homophobia and transphobia. This youth pride walk was fun and inclusive."



'It has been difficult to find community. Many options seem to disappear (support groups, the gay bar). Others are generally difficult to find out about without already having someone know about it.'

"COMMUNITY EVENTS ARE PUBLICISED MORE ON FACEBOOK."



"IT IS GETTING BETTER BUT STILL A WAYS TO GO."

"THE QUEER COMMUNITY AND GREATER COMMUNITY IS ACCEPTING."

"Generally, this factor has been improving over the past decade. The culture is actively shifting. However, most events I attend are arts, music, and performance-related, where there is an active dialogue around LGBTIQ+ culture. For sporting events, I've never been interested (they tend to feel intrinsically "masculine" from the outside), and have no idea what embodied experiences in that community are like (e.g. NRL games, V8s, etc.)."

"Everyone here, especially the geeky community is very welcoming and open to different identities."



PARTICIPATING IN COMMUNITY EVENTS

Continued...



"TOXIC COMMUNITY."

"THIS TOWN IS NOT AS SAFE OR PROGRESSIVE AS PLACES LIKE SYDNEY."

"THERE'S ALWAYS A FEAR OF JUDGEMENT."

"WE DON'T HAVE MANY EVENTS."

"The pride march was fantastic but it was the only event this year and had protesters. Public support all year and for all ages is needed."

"Generally, this factor has been improving over the past decade. The culture is actively shifting. However, most events I attend are arts, music, and performance-related, where there is an active dialogue around LGBTIQ+ culture. For sporting events, I've never been interested (they tend to feel intrinsically "masculine" from the outside), and have no idea what embodied experiences in that community are like (e.g. NRL games, V8s, etc.)."

"WHEN THEY HAPPEN, THEY ARE AWESOME."

"A LOT OF ACTIVITIES ARE WELCOMING AND FUN."

PARTICIPATING IN COMMUNITY EVENTS

Continued...



"Everyone here, especially the geeky community is very welcoming and open to different identities."



"DON'T GO OUT ENOUGH BUT ALL COMMUNITY EVENTS IVE BEEN TOO HAVE BEEN POSITIVE."

"GOOD COMMUNITY IN TOWNSVILLE, LOTS OF ACTIVITIES."



"I FEAR JUDGEMENT AND DISCRIMINATION FROM OUR COMMUNITY."

"I can comfortably participate in community events as I am not easily identified by others as bisexual."



"It depends on the community with which that social event is occurring. Through the uni, I have managed to find various groups that are more open-minded and accepting of who I am. It is still scary to think about what people outside of those groups would treat me if I tried to join their communal activities."

"I DON'T HAVE ANY HOMOPHOBIC FEARS LOCALLY."

PARTICIPATING IN COMMUNITY EVENTS

Continued...



"LIVING ALRIGHT BUT CAN STRUGGLE WITH CONNECTION WITH PEOPLE."



"Everyone here, especially the geeky community is very welcoming and open to different identities."

"I'm decently comfortable in participating in community events, no trouble for the most part."

"ITS DIFFICULT TO FEEL SAFE."



"THERE ARE NOT A LOT OF LGBTQI EVENTS."

"There's still a lot of hate outside of the LGBT+ community, and there's some toxicity inside of it as well."



"Not a people person."

"I THINK THAT THE WAY I PRESENT MAKES ME FEEL SAFE."

PARTICIPATING IN COMMUNITY EVENTS

Continued...



"BECAUSE THEY CAN BE FUN AND GET TO SOCIALISE."

"I've been out in my identity for 8 months and not had a single issue with other patrons at public events or whatever. Townsville has surprised me in this regard."



"I feel as though the community isn't the most welcoming but those who are LGBT+ have made so many of their own spaces that have allowed us to take a place in society where we are less threatened."

"I'M PRIVILEGED IN HOW MY PRESENTATION IS PERCEIVED AND HAVE A DEGREE OF INNATE CONFIDENCE."



"COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IS UNCOMFORTABLE. PEOPLE OFTEN RELUCTANT/AWKWARD WHEN TOPIC IS NOT HETEROSEXUAL BASED."

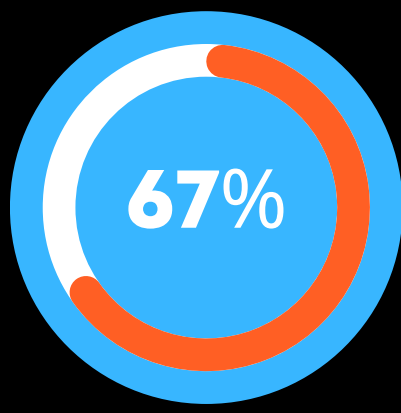
"Public events are met with comments from unsafe people, and there is a fear of unsafe people entering our spaces. Allies are valued but I don't think they should be allowed to enter ALL of our queer spaces and events.."



"It depends on the community with which that social event is occurring. Through the uni, I have managed to find various groups that are more open-minded and accepting of who I am. It is still scary to think about what people outside of those groups would treat me if I tried to join their communal activities."

"THERE WAS A YOUTH PRIDE EVENT BUT NOTHING SPECIFIC FOR THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY OUTSIDE OF ADULT, ALCOHOL BASED EVENTS."

FEELING MARGINALISED



67% of people reported moderately to high, and very high levels of feeling marginalised members of their community.



"I AM OFTEN MISGENDERED."

"It doesn't feel like there is Inclusion within any spaces for First Nations People within the LGBTQIA+2S Family. Alot of fractured groups trying to survive."



"Frequently misgendered, often a bystander in transphobic or homophobic discussions even when I do not bring the topic up or attempt to avoid it."

"WORKPLACE LOCALLY IS NOT REALLY SUPPORTIVE AND LOCAL GROUPS CAN BE DAUNTING TO INTERACT WITH."



"I DO NOT FEEL CONFIDENT IN EXPRESSING MY GENDER AND SEXUALITY INTERACTING WITH ANY GOVERNMENT BODY OR SCHOOLING SYSTEM."

"It doesn't feel like there is Inclusion within any spaces for First Nations People within the LGBTQIA+2S Family. A lot of fractured groups trying to survive."

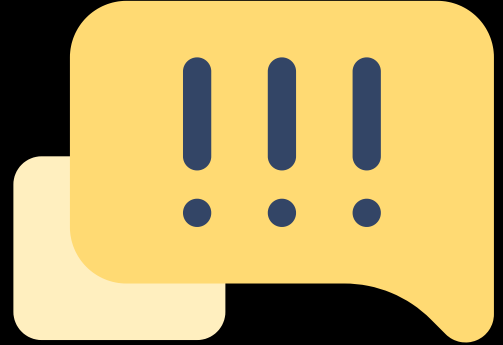
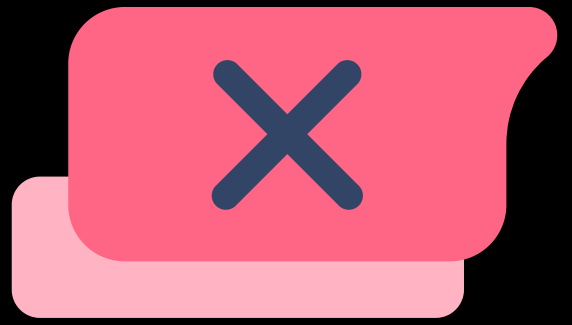


"DISABLED."

"THERE IS DEFINITELY A PRESUMPTION THAT PEOPLE LIKE ME AREN'T THE NORM, AND THAT WE ARE OUTLIERS. "

FEELING MARGINALISED

Continued...



"People still say things like why do you do you need idahobit day, we don't get a day for heterosexuals. I purposely don't have any rainbow items on my car or home as I don't want to make myself a target."



"Townsville is still very against gays I feel. So sometimes it's hard to feel included."

"I'M QUEER AND BROWN SOOO."



"DON'T GO OUT ENOUGH, BUT WHEN I DO IM STILL SOMEHWAT SCARED TO GO OUT IN ANYTHING TOO OPENLY QUEER."

"I don't really face discrimination that much but it could also be because I'm not very open about it. I have gotten a few uncomfortable comments not because of my sexuality but being a girl."



"This has a lot to do with the culture of the city and my own characteristics. I'm ASD, non-binary, polyamorous, and queer, with social anxiety disorder. There are very few circumstances, in any city, that I wouldn't feel on the margins for embodied experience. But this is also a deeply internal experience. Culture shift and education (both myself and community) has made me feel less alienated over time.."

"I WAS NERVOUS ABOUT SHARING MY IDENTITY UPON MOVING HERE, BUT SO FAR NOBODY HAS CRITICISED OR DISCRIMINATED AGAINST ME BECAUSE OF IT."

FEELING MARGINALISED

Continued...



"SUPPORTIVE FAMILY AND WORKPLACE, NO ISSUES."

"The LGBTIQ population is small in comparison to our hetronormative brothers and sisters."



"Townsville still has a lot of work to do to be more LGBTIQ affirming and accepting."

"AGAIN, NOT TOO OFTEN AS I AM MORE HETEROSEXUAL PRESENTING. I OFTEN DON'T FACE THE DISCRIMINATION MY LGBT+ BROTHERS AND SISTERS DO. I REALLY ONLY FACE MODERN DAY SEXISM."



"DUE TO EXTERNAL FACTORS, SUCH AS THE POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT, I FIND MYSELF FEELING DIFFERENT TO THOSE AROUND ME, OR LIKE I HAVE TO BE CAREFUL ABOUT WHERE I GO LEST I PROVOKE THE WRONG KIND OF COMPANY."

"I feel extremely marginalised as there's no support for nonbinary individuals, and there's a lot of hatred for aspect individuals (asexual, aromantic, arosce, demisexual, etc.). The town I live in has many transphobic and homophobic people, and it is very prominent in social media groups for my town."



"Transphobic and homophobic language are used openly and unabashedly at work from customers, and sometimes staff members. 50% of my week is spent at work so this is a large dominating facet of my life, and in Townsville, it is hardly accepting."

"MY HOME IS AN UNENJOYABLE ENVIRONMENT BECAUSE MY SINGLE PARENT (MUM) ISN'T ACCEPTING OF WHO I AM, AND IT MAKES ME FEEL SHAMEFUL TO BE WHO I AM AND EXPRESS WHO I AM IN PUBLIC."

FEELING MARGINALISED

Continued...



"I AM CONSTANTLY HARASSED DUE TO MY IDENTITY."

"I don't feel marginalised often, but when it happens, it's mostly just in small social settings and differences in interaction between myself and cis women."

"People say they don't have a problem with gays but feel the need to voice outdated and offensive opinions on things that don't concern or affect them. People are often judgmental to those who are different to them or their idea of "normal"."

"THERE IS NOT A TRANSGENDER SUPPORT/ SOCIAL GROUP."

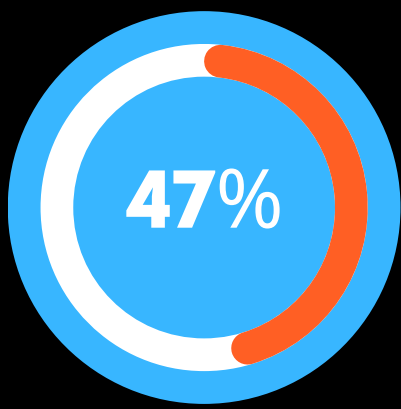
"WHEN I HAVE EXPRESSED MY SEXUALITY, I HAVE OCCASIONALLY BEEN DISMISSED OR OUTRIGHT CHALLENGED BY BOTH LGBT AND CISHET PEOPLE. I DON'T EXPRESS MY SEXUALITY ANYMORE AS I AM IN A HETEROSEXUAL RELATIONSHIP AND FEAR DISCRIMINATION."

"As a cis woman straight presenting, I don't feel concerned, but I know how cruel this city can be. There is so little understanding of trans people and the entire community will suffer from disinformation."

"I feel fairly safe, but it's hard to get preferred pronouns accepted."

"TSV IS SO FAR REMOVED FROM ALOT OF THINGS AND WE GET OVERLOOKED ALOT."

HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED DISCRIMINATION WHERE YOU LIVE?



47% of people said they have been discriminated against, and 21% said they are unsure if they have been discriminated against.



"RACISM & COLOURISM. BEING PUT DOWN AND SHUT DOWN."

"Rentals have been said no because they want a 'family' when I was applying with my partner and child. I have on a number of occasions asked if we are sisters on a date. Not all places are safe to go."



"Maybe I'm lucky, or maybe it's because I don't tell very many people."

"MOCKED FOR MY GENDER IDENTITY BY COWORKERS."



"MOSTLY IN SCHOOL, BULLIES FINDING ANYTHING TO PICK ON ME ABOUT.."

"In my family home. Mum wasn't accepting when I came out."



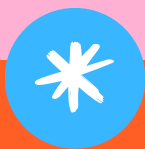
Townsville

HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED DISCRIMINATION WHERE YOU LIVE?



Continued...

"I CAN'T PROVIDE A SOLID ANSWER AS I'M UNSURE IF SOME OF MY EXPERIENCES HAVE BEEN DISCRIMINATORY."



"CONSISTENT MISGENDERING IN THE WORKPLACE, SEEING PERSISTENT HATRED IN SOCIAL MEDIA GROUPS FOR MY CITY, HAVING MY IDENTITY QUESTIONED BECAUSE OF HOW I PRESENT IN MY MAKEUP/CLOTHING CHOICES."

"I HAVE BEEN CALLED (NAMES) A LOT IN MY LIFE, ESPECIALLY WHEN I CUT MY HAIR SHORTER. SOMETIMES, IF I MENTION MY EX-GIRLFRIEND IN A CONVERSATION, I WILL FEEL UNSAFE AROUND SOME PEOPLE."



"Ignorant kids yelling slurs and unsupporting middle-aged people who thinks my identity is just being "woke"."

"I have been verbally abused in shopping Centers for dressing masculine, I have been kicked out of home, physically abused by senior work colleagues, called disgusting names by others."

"IT'S MOSTLY JUST BEING IDENTIFIED INCORRECTLY THROUGH SPEAKER PHONES."



"HARASSMENT, SLURS, THREATS OF VIOLENCE AND THREATS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT."

"I've been misidentified and laughed at."



HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR EXPERIENCE OVERALL LIVING IN TOWNSVILLE?



"MOSTLY GOOD BUT MANY GROUPS ARE NOT SUPPORTIVE."



"UNSAFE, BECAUSE OF THE CRIME RATE MAINLY."

"Could have more & better services and events."

"TOWNSVILLE IS CERTAINLY IMPROVING, BUT PEOPLE WHO ARE UNSUPPORTIVE ARE CASUAL IN BRINGING UP THEIR DISAPPROVAL."



"IT'S FINE. DON'T WANNA STAY BUT NOT IN AN IMMEDIATE RUSH TO LEAVE."


"I LIKE TOWNSVILLE BUT WILL MOVE AWAY WHEN MY CHILD IS FINISHED SCHOOL. IT ISN'T SAFE TO BE ME IN PUBLIC."



"GREAT BUT HARD AS THERE IS NO SAFE PLACE FOR THE GAY COMMUNITY TO MEET."


"I RECENTLY VISITED PORTLAND, OREGON AND WAS REMINDED WHAT A SMALL TOWN AND SMALL-MINDED APPROACH PEOPLE IN TOWNSVILLE HAVE, ESPECIALLY REGARDING NON-BINARY PEOPLE, TRANSGENDER PEOPLE AND USING PRONOUNS."

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR EXPERIENCE OVERALL LIVING IN TOWNSVILLE?



Continued...


"COULD BE BETTER. I THINK I WOULD FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE GOING OUT IN GENERAL IF THE GENERAL POPULATION HERE WAS MORE UNDERSTANDING."




"It's getting old for me."

"It is a beautiful city with some really amazing people and opportunities but the community often treats the positives as though they were not good enough. I find what I enjoy a lot of people say was average."

"IT'S PRETTY FUN, A LITTLE BLAND SOMETIMES, AND ACTIVITIES CAN GET REPETITIVE, BUT I'VE LIVED IN TOWNSVILLE MY WHOLE LIFE, SO IT'S ALL RIGHT."



"IT'S DONE WELL IN THE I GOT TO GO THROUGH SCHOOL AND DO UNIVERSITY, BUT I AM NOT GOING TO STAY HERE LONG-TERM."




"WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH QUEER/PRIDE EVENTS IN TOWNSVILLE, WE ARE MISSING HAVING A QUEER PUB/CLUB."

"It is expensive; housing is hard to get, there are not many mental health services that are affordable, too many social gatherings are alcohol focused, there's not a lot of queer support services, psychologist waiting times are months long, the world is hard to live in these days."

"I'M STILL IN THE STAGE WHERE I'M EXPLORING THE TOWNSVILLE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE. I ENJOY LIVING IN TOWNSVILLE BECAUSE IT ISN'T TOO LARGE OF A CITY THAT I BECOME ALIENATED AND IT ISN'T TOO SMALL THAT I BECOME TARGETED EITHER."

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR EXPERIENCE OVERALL LIVING IN TOWNSVILLE?




Continued...

"IT'S GOOD BUT IT'S STARTED TO DECLINE OVER THE YEARS WITH LOTS OF SHOPS CLOSING DOWN."



"Other than cursory glances, my experience living in Townsville has been a positive one."

"Tolerable but not accepting. The people I know are kind and mean well. People I don't know are often antagonistic. The attitude towards non-heteronormative people in Townsville is one of disdain and disgust from my POV. There is not many services to access sex health outside of one very good clinic, and your GPs, who may or may not be able to help depending on their experience with queer clientele. There is little government support for trans people to pursue gender reassignment. There is little to do as a queer person who wants to express their identity in terms of social events that aren't just drinking on Flinders St."




"IT'S OKAY, MANY IMPROVEMENTS NEED TO HAPPEN BUT I AM PRIVILEGED TO BE HERE."



"COULD BE A LOT WORSE; HAS SOMEONE WAY TO GO IN SOME AREAS."

"People have very restricted and judgmental views. They are often reluctant to listen or learn about new ideologies or topics that challenge their original ways of thinking. Older people often use their age, and poor excuses to consistently verbalise their negative opinions on sexuality and race."



"RIGHT NOW, I WANT TO LEAVE AND MOVE TO A LARGER, MORE SYMPATHETIC CITY WHERE THERE ARE MORE SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES FOR QUEER PEOPLE AND YOUTH."

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR EXPERIENCE OVERALL LIVING IN TOWNSVILLE?



Continued...

"TERRIFYING."

"Can be lonely and isolated at times."



"Townsville is fine, it's not great, it's not bad. I wish we would be recognised more and not seen as a little town in the middle of nowhere."

"I ENJOY THAT IT'S BIG ENOUGH FOR THINGS TO HAPPEN HERE, AND FOR EVENTS AND CONCERTS TO VISIT US, BUT STILL SMALL ENOUGH SO AS TO NOT BE OVERWHELMING. PUBLIC TRANSPORT SUCKS THOUGH."



"IT'S A PRETTY GOOD PLACE."

"VERY UNCLEAR HOW AND WHERE I CAN PARTICIPATE IN LGBTIQ+ EVENTS. NO TOO MUCH INFORMATION."



"IT'S OKAY."

"Ehhh."

WHAT CHANGES AND SUPPORTS WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY?



"MORE VISABLE AND PROMOTED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT."

"SCHOOLS BEING TAUGHT ABOUT LGBTQIA+ ISSUES AND WHAT IT IS AND IT'S NORMAL."



"HOLISTIC HEALTH SERVICES."

"More supports for non-youth LGBT+ people, and reaching out in general to older members of the community who may have joined later in life. I myself am still able to take advantage of youth events and services, but am on the verge of aging out of these services, and it is unclear where to go from there."



"MORE SUPPORT FOR THE TRANS COMMUNITY, ESPECIALLY IN THE FACE OF GROWING BIGOTRY."

"MORE WIDESPREAD AND WELL-ADVERTISED ACCESS TO GENDER-AFFIRMING CLINICS, AS WELL AS RESOURCES FOR ANYONE TO ACCESS FREE, CONFIDENTIAL MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT EASILY."



"MORE EVENTS LIKE THE PRIDE PICNIC, QUEER BALL, ETC."

"More queer event supported. Better access to support and services for the Queer and, more so, the trans community. Educational programs at the schools to understand difficult family situations. a government-funded family and fertility clinic."

WHAT CHANGES AND SUPPORTS WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY?



Continued...

"A LOCAL HANGOUT FOR THE GAY COMMUNITY AND EVEN MORE SUPPORT."

"MORE LGBTQ+ EVENTS AND COMMUNITY THINGS PLEASE!"



"MAYBE MORE EVENTS AND THINGS DEDICATED TO SAFE SPACES?"

"I think community events that raise visibility are important, the normalization of the LGBTIQ+ community, which often just comes through the hard slog of one small meaningful conversation at a time, while ensuring extra education (especially in schools, building on a much more broad and health-driven version of traditional sex ed)."



"I'M NOT A FAN OF PRIDE AS RAINBOWS AND PARADES - BUT I AM A BIG FAN OF HOW MUCH THAT MEANS TO PEOPLE WHO DO LOVE IT AND HOW THAT VISIBILITY CAN SLOWLY SHIFT PUBLIC ATTITUDES ON INCLUSIVITY."

"Engaging the community members who are already working in this field in Townsville and bringing them together would likely make a big difference too (I think this is already partially being done, but the more the better)."



"awareness and education for EVRRYONE and not tolerating hateful behaviour. i just want to live and exist in peace and that would be easier if people understood us better."

"MORE YOUTH ENGAGEMENT."

WHAT CHANGES AND SUPPORTS WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY?



Continued...

"EVOLUTION. STOP FOCUSING ON THE CBD. IT IS DEAD, AND INVEST INTO THE OUTER SUBURBS THAT HAVE BEEN LEFT SURVIVING ON NOTHING FOR DECADES TO REVITALISE AND ENERGISE THE WHOLE CITY AGAIN."



"MORE LGBTIQ AFFIRMING SUPPORTS."

"AFFORDABLE HOUSING, ACCESSIBLE MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT, MORE QUEER SUPPORTS."

"I think a supportive LGBTIQ group would be fun. Maybe involve some political chat, a forum to open up about sexual wellness and safety, a platform to allow others to let their natural thoughts air and be in a safe zone doing so. I feel we all have similar thoughts but don't share out of judgement."



"HOPEFULLY LESS CONFLICT BETWEEN NEIGHBOURS AT MY UNIT COMPLEX."

"I'd like to see more spaces for LGBTQ-inclusive environments. Currently, it's hard to think of somewhere to go and just do something with friends. We need more opportunities for safe socialisation, as this would provide a gateway for not only branching out into socialising with other communities but also inviting the community to come and socialise with us."



"More non-alcohol influenced events, more social gatherings and ways to meet other queer people. I don't really have any friends like me and for that I feel alone."

"MORE COMMUNITY EVENTS OF LGBT+ YOUTH AND WELCOMING ATMOSPHERE FOR THOSE WHO ARE NOT SURE."

WHAT CHANGES AND SUPPORTS WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY?



Continued...

"MAYBE LIKE A SWIM DAY OR SOMETHING MORE COMMUNAL."

"MORE LGBT MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS, ACCESS TO MORE SURGICAL OPTIONS IN TOWNSVILLE."



"It's ignorance and unwillingness to change that is the problem. In my opinion, people cannot change if they are unwilling to be educated. More safe places and supports in places for LGBTQIA youth would be beneficial."

"WORKSHOPS, GATHERINGS FOR QUEER AND GENDER NON-CONFORMING YOUTH."



"JUST LET ME LIVE MY LIFE IN PEACE."

"CRACKING DOWN ON PREVENTING HATE CRIMES AND DISCRIMINATORY BEHAVIOUR."



"A transgender social group."

MORE QUEER AND ARTS CULTURE.

"EDUCATION ON BOTH PARTS, REMOVE STIGMA ABOUT IDENTITY AND INFORM BOTH LGBTQ AND NON ABOUT BEING RESPECTFUL OF EVERYONE'S LEGITIMATE IDENTITIES."