



their voice

Views of LGBTIQ+ students and their allies in the ACT

background

- ACT Safe and Inclusive School's Initiative (SAIS) visited LGBTIQ+ and ally student groups from March to May 2021
- There were 2 data samples:
 1. Student Focus Group Sample
 2. Single school case study sample

Students were asked, when it comes to supporting LGBTIQ+ students at school

1. what is working well?
 2. what needs more work?
- All responses were grouped into themes and sub-themes for each sample and question

demographics

school focus group sample

- 10 student groups
- 9 ACT Public Schools + 1 Independent/Catholic/Private
- 7 High Schools + 3 Colleges
- Student Groups - 163 responses

case study sample

- 140 responses

what is working ?

Top 3 themes

school focus group sample

1. Access to a student group and safe space (36%)
2. The school and staff actively affirms diversity (24%)
3. Celebration of days of significance (18%)

"student leadership is strong in our group"

"We are lucky to have a group"

"Teachers are open minded"

"teachers are accepting"

"a safe space for lgbtq kids has already made a positive impact"

"I think that the school is allowing people to become more comfortable with who they want to be and like."

Top 3 Themes case study sample

1. Access to a Student group and safe space (68%)
2. Posters and flags around the school (38%)
3. The school and staff actively affirms diversity (25%)

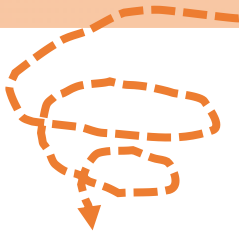


needs more work



Top 3 Themes school focus group sample

1. Better inclusion in Curriculum (45%)
2. More action/support from the school and staff (28%)
3. More work to address slurs and bullying (18%)



“teach this stuff in primary school or to younger kids. It isn’t just high school”.

“Some students using slurs/insults don’t know that they are bad or why they are bad or they won’t listen to us Teachers should do more education on why these words are harmful”.

“I would like to see more education about LGBTQI+ for everyone as a mandatory thing at our school”

“I think that there has to be more done about slurs. It's hard to go a day without hearing someone saying the f slur. With the history of the word, it's incredibly scary to hear as a member of the LGBTQI+ community.”



Top 3 Themes case study sample

1. Meaningful inclusion in Curriculum & Better awareness of diversity in the school Community (49%)
2. More action/support from the school and staff (33%)
3. Addressing slurs and bullying (28%)

Summary and recommendations

- Student groups and support from the school were highly valued by students
- Establish student groups in schools that do not currently have an equivalent forum
- future work in this area to support student leadership opportunities, community connection and social support fostered by these groups
- Prioritise better inclusion in curriculum, support from schools and staff
- Address the experiences of bullying and harassment experienced by LGBTIQ+ students.