



RAINBOW VOTES:

2022 LGBTIQ+ FEDERAL ELECTION SURVEY REPORT

CONTENTS

Executive summary	3
Who did we hear from?	5
1. Recruitment	5
2. The LGBTIQ+ sample	6
3. The non-LGBTIQ+ sample.....	9
About LGBTIQ+ voters	10
4. How many LGBTIQ+ voters are there?.....	10
5. How many LGBTIQ+ people are undecided voters?.....	11
6. How many LGBTIQ+ voters are swinging voters?.....	11
(a) Swinging partisan voters.....	11
(b) Swinging independents	12
7. LGBTIQ+ voters cannot be taken for granted	12
National priorities	13
8. The most important federal issues for LGBTIQ+ people	13
(a) The most important federal issues for LGBTIQ+ people overall.....	14
(b) The most important federal issues by LGBTIQ+ subpopulation.....	16
(c) The most important federal issues for undecided LGBTIQ+ voters	18
9. How important are LGBTIQ+ issues in determining who you vote for?.....	19
(a) The importance of LGBTIQ+ issues overall.....	19
(b) The importance of LGBTIQ+ issues by LGBTIQ+ subpopulation	20
(c) The importance of LGBTIQ+ issues for undecided LGBTIQ+ voters.....	21
LGBTIQ+ priorities	22
10. LGBTIQ+ issues of importance to LGBTIQ+ people	22
(a) The most important LGBTIQ+ issues to LGBTIQ+ people overall	24
(b) The most important LGBTIQ+ issues by LGBTIQ+ subpopulation	27
(c) LGBTIQ+ issues of importance to trans and gender diverse people	28
(d) LGBTIQ+ issues of importance to intersex people.....	30
(e) LGBTIQ+ issues of importance to undecided LGBTIQ+ voters.....	31
11. Other LGBTIQ+ issues of importance to LGBTIQ+ people	32
Non-LGBTIQ+ survey respondents	33
12. The importance of LGBTIQ+ issues to non-LGBTIQ+ people.....	33
(a) The most important federal issues for non-LGBTIQ+ people.....	33
(b) The importance of LGBTIQ+ issues in determining your vote.....	33
13. Support for LGBTIQ+ issues among non-LGBTIQ+ people.....	34

CONTENT WARNING

This document includes content regarding suicide, conversion practices and discrimination against LGBTIQ+ people. If this content triggers something for you, you can contact **Lifeline** on 13 11 14 (24 hours/7 days) or **QLife**, LGBTI peer support and referral, on 1800 184 527 (3pm-midnight, 7 days).

ABOUT EQUALITY AUSTRALIA

Equality Australia is a national LGBTIQ+ organisation dedicated to achieving equality for LGBTIQ+ people.

Borne out of the successful campaign for marriage equality, and established with support from the Human Rights Law Centre, Equality Australia brings together legal, policy and communications expertise, along with thousands of supporters, to redress discrimination, disadvantage and distress experienced by LGBTIQ+ people.

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We acknowledge that our offices are on the land of the Kulin Nation and the land of the Eora Nation and we pay our respects to their traditional owners.

We thank the thousands of people who responded to our survey.

To the extent that this report communicates any electoral matters, it is authorised by Anna Brown, Equality Australia, 414 Elizabeth Street Surry Hills NSW.

Our federal election work has been made possible thanks to the funding support of Tripple and Maniferra, together with thousands of Equality Australia supporters across the country.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At least 850,000 voters in Australia are estimated to be LGBTIQ+ people.

Based on a national online survey conducted by Equality Australia in February and March 2022, this report documents the national issues and specific LGBTIQ+ issues that matter most to LGBTIQ+ people this upcoming federal election, along with analysis on the extent to which LGBTIQ+ issues determine the way LGBTIQ+ people and allies vote.

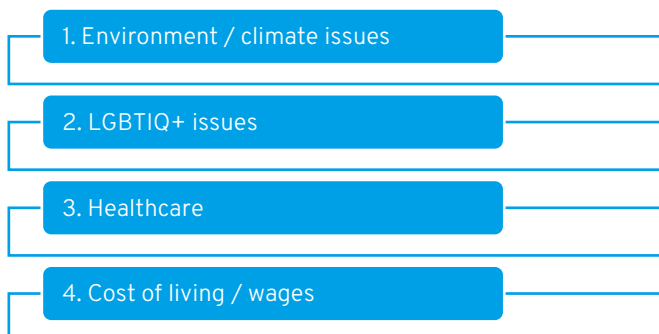
7,902 people responded to our LGBTIQ+ federal election survey, including 5,578 LGBTIQ+ people currently living in Australia.

People of all ages, locations, diverse characteristics and cultural backgrounds were represented in the sample, recruited through Facebook advertisements and direct community outreach. When compared with leading Australian research on LGBTIQ+ populations, our LGBTIQ+ sample is among the largest collated in Australia.

KEY TAKE OUTS:

- **Undecided and swinging LGBTIQ+ voters:** Around 1 in 3 LGBTIQ+ voters are currently undecided or considering changing their vote at this federal election.
- **The top national issues for LGBTIQ+ people this federal election:** The environment/climate issues and LGBTIQ+ issues are the two issues in the upcoming federal election of greatest importance to LGBTIQ+ survey respondents, followed by healthcare and the cost of living/wages. For undecided LGBTIQ+ voters in particular, LGBTIQ+ issues are the most important federal issue.

The top national issues for LGBTIQ+ people this federal election



- **LGBTIQ+ issues turn votes:** LGBTIQ+ issues are very important in determining who LGBTIQ+ people vote for. 93.6% of LGBTIQ+ survey respondents aged 18 years or over say that LGBTIQ+ issues are important in determining their vote, among whom 68.2% say LGBTIQ+ issues are 'very important' in determining who they vote for. Those proportions are even higher among LGBTIQ+ survey respondents who are undecided voters, younger, female, First Nations, from non-English speaking backgrounds, have a disability, and who are trans and gender diverse and/or intersex.
- **The top LGBTIQ+ issues this federal election:** Removing religious exemptions in anti-discrimination laws, ending LGBTIQ+ conversion practices and ending unnecessary medical treatment on intersex people without personal consent, are the most important federal LGBTIQ+ issues for LGBTIQ+ people overall. These are also the three most important issues for LGBTIQ+ survey respondents who are undecided voters.

- **LGBTIQ+ people are fairly united on the LGBTIQ+ issues that matter:** Every LGBTIQ+ issue has strong support across the whole LGBTIQ+ population. This includes issues specific to trans and gender diverse people and/or intersex people, which are particularly important to these subpopulations – including ensuring better access to gender affirming healthcare and ending unnecessary medical treatment on intersex people without personal consent.

The LGBTIQ+ issues that matter to LGBTIQ+ people this federal election

<p>1. Removing religious exemptions in anti-discrimination laws</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important* - 96.9% • 'Very important' - 90.2% 	<p>2. Ending LGBTIQ+ conversion practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important* - 96.7% • 'Very important' - 87.2% 	<p>3. Ending unnecessary medical treatment on intersex people without personal consent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important* - 94.2% • 'Very important' - 76.8%
<p>4. Increased funding for LGBTIQ+ suicide prevention and mental health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important* - 96.4% • 'Very important' - 76.7% 	<p>5. Count us in the Census</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important* - 96.4% • 'Very important' - 76.7% 	<p>6. Ensuring LGBTIQ+ inclusive government programs, services and decision-making</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important* - 94.8% • 'Very important' - 69.4%
<p>7. Better access to gender affirming healthcare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important* - 90.6% • 'Very important' - 67% 	<p>8. Better funding for LGBTIQ+ services and organisations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important* - 91.6% • 'Very important' - 56.4% 	<p>9. Seeing Australia take a leading role on LGBTIQ+ issues globally</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important* - 85.3% • 'Very important' - 53.1%

* Total proportion of LGBTIQ+ survey respondents identifying this issue as 'important' or 'very important' to them.

- **LGBTIQ+ issues are important to LGBTIQ+ allies too:** LGBTIQ+ issues are given high importance among non-LGBTIQ+ voters who are allies of LGBTIQ+ people. 74.9% of non-LGBTIQ+ survey respondents in Australia aged 18 years or over said that LGBTIQ+ issues were important in determining who they vote for, among whom 40.5% said that LGBTIQ+ issues were 'very important' in determining their vote. Non-LGBTIQ+ survey respondents supported all the LGBTIQ+ issues listed in the survey, especially removing religious exemptions in anti-discrimination laws, ending LGBTIQ+ conversion practices and ending unnecessary medical treatment on intersex people without personal consent. Overall, LGBTIQ+ issues ranked as the third most important federal issue for non-LGBTIQ+ survey respondents after environment/climate issues and healthcare.

WHO DID WE HEAR FROM?

Between 19 February and 18 March 2022, Equality Australia obtained 7,902 responses to its federal election survey, including from 5,578 LGBTIQ+ people currently living in Australia. People of all ages, locations, diverse characteristics and cultural backgrounds were represented in the sample, recruited through Facebook advertisements and direct community outreach.

1. RECRUITMENT

The survey was open between 19 February and 18 March 2022. Survey respondents were recruited through Facebook advertisements, social media, direct email outs and community outreach among LGBTIQ+ individuals, stakeholders and organisations. Facebook advertisements that ran between 3 and 15 March 2022 were responsible for a significant number of responses, followed by mail outs to Equality Australia's supporter database and outreach among its network of community organisations. We also promoted the survey at Mardi Gras Fair Day on 20 February 2022.

Overall, we received 7,902 responses to our survey, with 7,776 people currently living in Australia. Out of the 7,776 people currently living in Australia, there were 5,578 LGBTIQ+ people, 1,979 non-LGBTIQ+ people, and the remainder did not provide a response to the questions on sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex variation.

Straight (cis) woman, 45-54 years, from Victoria said:

"I am a Christian faith leader and believe in full equality, access, and inclusion for LGBTIQ+ people in all areas of decision making in Australian society. I would like to see government kept accountable to the principle of secular policy making that ensures equality for all..."

Straight (trans) woman, 18-24 years, from Victoria said:

"I am a trans woman who recently began my transition. I am faced with the daunting process of having to sacrifice a lot of time and energy toward saving for medically necessary surgeries. I am lucky enough to have a strong queer community around me for support, however learning to fully embrace myself and step in to my power is difficult in a world that views your existence as some kind of trickery, delusion, or abomination. I have spent too long hiding my light and I simply want to live in a world where nobody has to have that kind of fear put into them."

Gay (cis) man, 55-64 years, from New South Wales said:

"I am a ... white gay man with a transgender daughter. I feel that most of my personal issues of equality have been dealt with during my lifetime, starting with the decriminalisation of homosexuality when I was ... [young]. However, my daughter is a member of a group that is the prime target of the right-wing culture wars, and her need for safety and equal treatment is paramount for me."

2. THE LGBTIQ+ SAMPLE

5,661 LGBTIQ+ people responded to our survey, with 5,578 LGBTIQ+ people currently living in Australia.

By comparison with leading Australian research on LGBTIQ+ populations, the LGBTIQ+ sample in our survey sits among the largest collated in Australia, with the largest sample of trans and gender diverse people and the second largest sample of intersex people compared with recent leading Australian studies.

AUSTRALIAN SURVEYS	SAMPLE SIZE
Our LGBTIQ+ sample	5,578 LGBTIQ+ people / 1,290 LGBTIQ+ people aged under 24 years / 2,878 LBQ+ women and non-binary people / 1,695 trans and gender diverse people (692 aged under 24 years) / 100 intersex people
Private Lives 3 2021	6,835 LGBTIQ+ people aged 18 years and over / 1,506 trans and gender diverse people / 47 intersex people
Writing Themselves In 4 2021	6,418 LGBTIQ+ people aged 14-21 years / 1,697 trans and gender diverse young people / 20 intersex young people
SWASH 2020	1,588 LBQ+ women and non-binary people aged 16 and over
Australian Trans and Gender Diverse Sexual Health Survey 2018	1,613 trans and gender diverse people aged 16 and over
Trans Pathways 2017	859 trans and gender diverse people aged 14-25 years
Jones et al study of people born with atypical sex characteristics 2015	272 people 'born with congenital atypical sex characteristics'

LGBTIQ+ sample demographics

People of all ages, genders, locations, diverse characteristics and cultural backgrounds were represented among the 5,578 LGBTIQ+ people living in Australia who responded to our survey, including:

- **By gender:** 2,288 people identified as men, 2,169 identified as women, 815 were non-binary, 227 identified as a different gender and 79 did not specify a gender. In total, 1,695 (or around 30.4%) of the LGBTIQ+ cohort were trans or gender diverse.

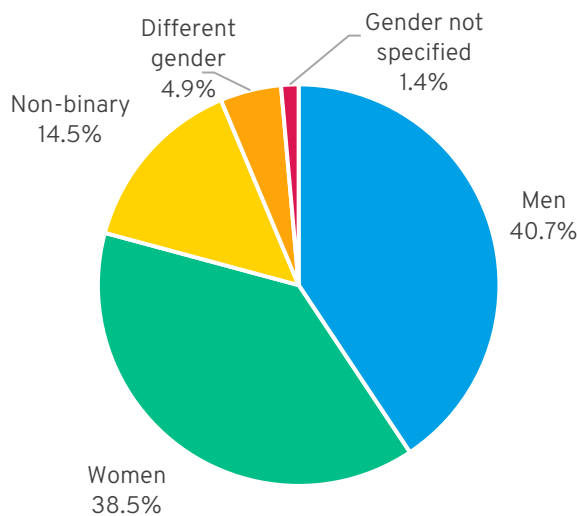


Figure 1: Australian LGBTIQ+ survey respondents by gender

- **By sexuality:** 2,784 people identified as gay/lesbian/homosexual, 1,397 identified as bisexual/pansexual, 694 identified as queer, 258 identified as asexual, 128 identified as questioning, 135 identified as another identity, 127 identified as straight/heterosexual, 26 identified as 'don't know', and 29 did not specify a sexual orientation.

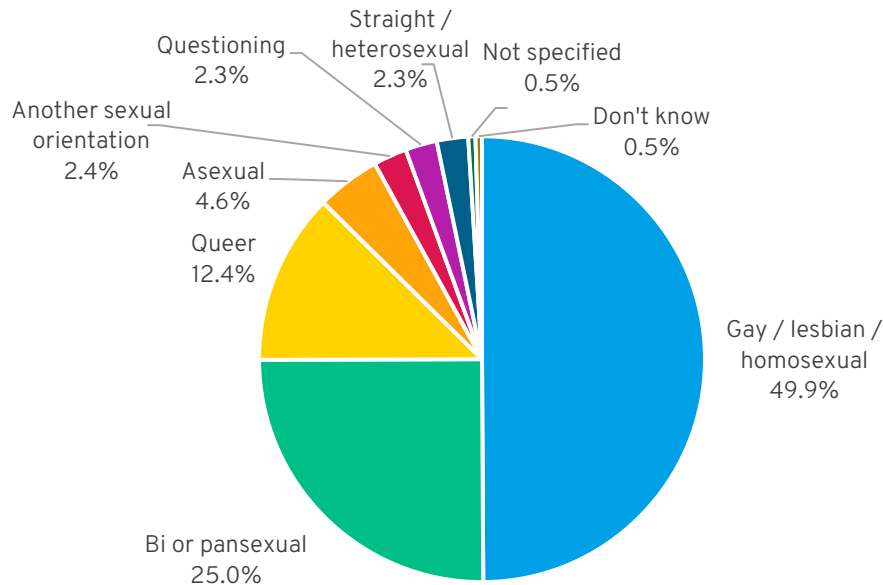


Figure 2: Australian LGBTIQ+ survey respondents by sexual orientation

- **Intersex people:** 100 people (or around 1.8% of the LGBTIQ+ cohort) indicated being born with variations of sex characteristics.
- **First Nations:** 153 people (or around 2.7% of the LGBTIQ+ cohort) identified as Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander or both. A further 56 did not know and 44 indicated that they preferred not to say.
- **Cultural / linguistic background:** 1,032 people (or around 18.5% of the LGBTIQ+ cohort) indicated hearing language(s) other than English spoken in their homes while growing up. Those languages included Afrikaans (26), Arabic (50), Cantonese (57), Croatian (10), Dutch (59), Farsi (4), French (85), German (142), Greek (65), Hebrew (26), Hindi (39), Hungarian (11), Indonesian (11), Irish (9), Italian (164), Japanese (13), Polish (16), Portuguese (14), Punjabi (13), Samoan (4), Spanish (49), Malay (13), Maltese (14), Mandarin (78), Russian (18), Tagalog/Filipino (34), Tamil (15), Turkish (12), Vietnamese (23), Yiddish (20) and other (218).
- **Disability:** 2,120 people (or around 38% of the LGBTIQ+ cohort) indicated having a disability(ies) or chronic health condition(s).
- **By location:** 1,668 people were in New South Wales, 1,667 in Victoria, 998 in Queensland, 502 in Western Australia, 394 in South Australia, 166 in the Australian Capital Territory, 132 in Tasmania, 50 in the Northern Territory, and 1 in another Australian territory. In total, 4,102 lived in a capital city or metropolitan area, 1,437 lived in a regional, rural or remote area, and 39 did not specify in which area they lived in Australia.

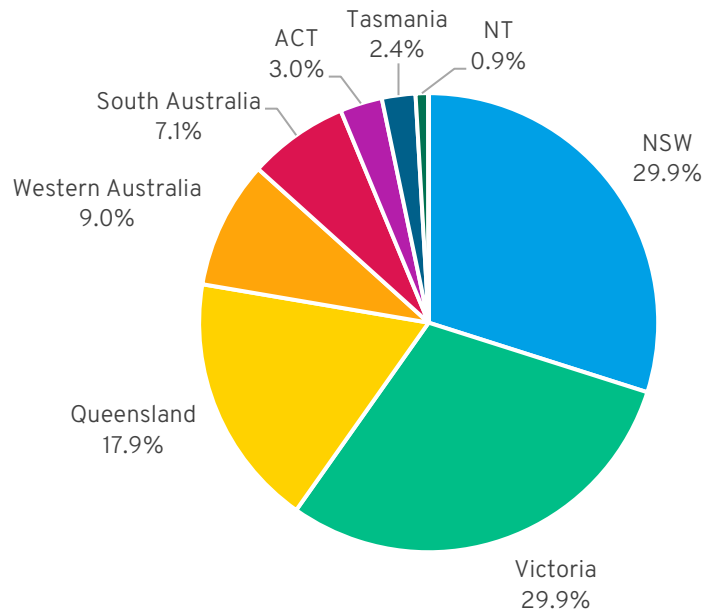


Figure 3: Australian LGBTIQ+ survey respondents by state/territory

- **By age:** 340 people were under 18 years, 950 people were aged 18-24 years, 1,228 people were aged 25-34 years, 900 were aged 35-44 years, 793 were aged 45-54 years, 753 were aged 55-64 years, 451 were aged 65-74 years, 149 were 75 years or older, and 14 did not provide their age.

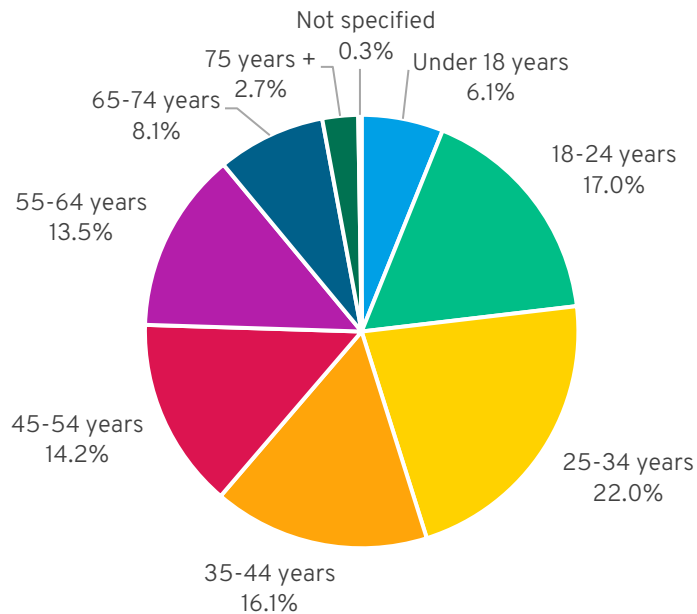


Figure 4: Australian LGBTIQ+ survey respondents by age

3. THE NON-LGBTIQ+ SAMPLE

People who were heterosexual, cisgender and endosex (**non-LGBTIQ+ people**) were also part of our survey.

1,979 non-LGBTIQ+ people living in Australia were represented in the broader sample, including of these:

- **By gender:** 845 people identified as male, 1,117 identified as women, and 17 did not specify their gender.
- **By location:** 470 people in New South Wales, 641 in Victoria, 379 in Queensland, 210 in Western Australia, 144 in South Australia, 66 in Tasmania, 57 in the Australian Capital Territory, 11 in the Northern Territory, and 1 in another Australian territory. In total, 1,319 people lived in a capital city or metropolitan area, 651 lived in a regional, rural or remote area, and 9 did not specify in which area they lived in Australia.
- **By age:** 9 people were under 18 years, 52 people were aged 18-24 years, 145 people were aged 25-34 years, 209 people were aged 35-44 years, 354 people were aged 45-54 years, 462 people were aged 55-64 years, 478 people were aged 65-74 years, 251 people were aged 75 years or older, and 19 did not provide their age.
- **First Nations and cultural/linguistic background:** 44 people (or around 2.2% of the non-LGBTIQ+ cohort) were Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander or both, and 328 people (or around 16.6% of the non-LGBTIQ+ cohort) indicated hearing language(s) other than English spoken in their homes while growing up.
- **Disability:** 500 people (or around 25.3% of the non-LGBTIQ+ cohort) indicated having a disability(ies) or chronic health condition(s).

A further 219 people living in Australia responded to our survey but did not provide sufficient information in response to the questions relating to gender identity, sex characteristics and sexual orientation for us to be able to determine whether they were LGBTIQ+ or non-LGBTIQ+ people.

Straight (cis) woman, 65-74 years, from New South Wales said:

"I'm the mother of a gay son who has had to hide his sexuality to maintain his employment in a private school."

Straight (cis) man, 35-44 years, from New South Wales said:

"I am a proud father of a trans daughter. We moved from the outer suburbs of Sydney to Inner West to find a safe place. The parents at the local public school caused a fuss over our daughter transitioning... We need leaders who support our kids safety. Not think it is ok to discriminate against them because of who they are. Leaders who support discrimination enable these people all around the country in their bigotry."

ABOUT LGBTIQ+ VOTERS

At least 850,000 voters in Australia are estimated to be LGBTIQ+ people. Based on our survey results, around 1 in 3 LGBTIQ+ voters are currently undecided or considering changing their vote at this federal election.

4. HOW MANY LGBTIQ+ VOTERS ARE THERE?

There are currently around 17 million people enrolled to vote at federal elections,¹ but the proportion of LGBTIQ+ voters among them is not precisely known. Based on a conservative estimate of approximately 5% of people who are LGBTIQ+, we estimate that there are over 850,000 LGBTIQ+ voters in Australia.

Given there are no reliable population-level statistics on the number of LGBTIQ+ people in Australia, our estimate is derived from the best available population research. This research suggests that somewhere between 3-4% of people identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual, around 1% of people identify as transgender, and 1.7% are estimated to have been born with variations of sex characteristics.² However, the degree of overlap among these populations is not known, and population data is absent on other identities, such as queer, pansexual and asexual people.³ Further, the number of people reporting same gender attraction and behaviour is considerably greater than those who actually identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual – comprising approximately 9% of men and 19% of women.⁴ This makes our estimate fairly conservative.

This estimate also does not capture voters who are allies of LGBTIQ+ people. When LGBTIQ+ people are centred in families, friendship networks and communities, the number of voters connected to LGBTIQ+ people considerably multiplies. That is why our report also provides data on the views of non-LGBTIQ+ people in Australia who responded to our survey.

Our survey collected responses from 5,661 LGBTIQ+ people, 5,286 of whom were aged 18 years or over. A subset of this sample provided us with information on their voting history and voting intention. This report provides further detail on our analysis of these LGBTIQ+ people aged 18 years or over who declared their voting history and/or voting intention, and who are referred to in this report as “LGBTIQ+ voters”.

Lesbian (cis) woman, New South Wales, Labor voter said:

“... I have a nephew who is transgender. I care about the LGBTIQ+ community as a whole and have known too many people, myself included, who have been victims of discrimination. Being gay is easier now, but I can't be comfortable while transgender people are being attacked and intersex people are having important medical decisions made about their gender and unnecessary operations.”

Gay (cis) man, Western Australia, Coalition voter said:

“I don't need the government to affirm my life. I just want them out of it.”

¹ Australian Electoral Commission (2021) [Size of the electoral roll and enrolment rate 2021](#), 7 February 2022 [accessed 30 March 2022].

² Marina Carman, Claire Farrugia, Adam Bourne, Jennifer Power and Shoshana Rosenberg (2020) [Research matters: How many people are LGBTIQ+?](#) Rainbow Health Victoria, La Trobe University.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

5. HOW MANY LGBTIQ+ PEOPLE ARE UNDECIDED VOTERS?

Nearly 1 in 5 LGBTIQ+ voters are currently undecided about who to vote for at this federal election.

Out of the 4,768 LGBTIQ+ people aged 18 or over who indicated an intention to vote at this federal election, 914 (19.2%) are currently unsure as to whom they should vote for.

Out of those 914 LGBTIQ+ undecided voters:

- 620 (67.8%) live in an Australian capital city or metropolitan area;
- 277 (30.3%) live in an Australian regional, remote or rural area;
- 8 (0.9%) live somewhere in Australia (in an unspecified area);
- 7 (0.8%) currently live overseas; and
- 2 did not specify where they lived.

6. HOW MANY LGBTIQ+ VOTERS ARE SWINGING VOTERS?

Nearly 1 in 5 LGBTIQ+ people who declared voting for a particular political party at the last election are planning on changing their vote at this federal election, with a further 13.6% currently unsure who they will vote for. Meanwhile, just over 1 in 5 LGBTIQ+ voters who declared voting for an independent at the last federal election are changing their vote at this federal election, with a further 24% currently unsure who they will vote for.

(a) Swinging partisan voters

30.9% of LGBTIQ+ people who declared voting for the Liberal, National, Labor, Greens, Centre Alliance or One Nation parties at the last federal election are intending to vote for a different political party or an independent at this federal election, or are currently unsure about whom they will vote for at this federal election.

Out of the 3,883 LGBTIQ+ people who declared voting for the Liberal, National, Labor, Greens, Centre Alliance or One Nation parties in the last federal election:

- 2,658 (68.5%) are intending to vote for the same political party at this federal election;
- 530 (13.6%) are currently unsure who to vote for at this federal election;
- 491 (12.6%) are intending to change their vote to a different one of these political parties at this federal election;
- 128 (3.3%) are intending to change their vote to an independent at this federal election;
- 49 (1.3%) are intending to vote for 'another party or candidate' at this federal election; and
- 27 did not indicate their voting preference for this election.

Lesbian (cis) woman, Queensland, changing her vote said:

"It's been a constant onslaught since 2017 with the religious freedom bills, in a sense we have been in a reactive space for a long time just trying to stem the worst of the impacts on our communities, but I think it's time for positive steps such as being included in the Census and better targeted service delivery for health and mental health."

(b) Swinging independents

46.3% of LGBTIQ+ people who declared voting for an independent at the last federal election are intending to vote for a political party or another candidate at this federal election, or are unsure about whom they will vote for at this federal election.

Out of the 203 LGBTIQ+ people who declared voting for an independent in the last federal election:

- 49 (24%) are currently unsure who to vote for at this election;
- 45 (22.1%) are intending to change their vote to a political party or another candidate; and
- 106 (52.2%) are intending to maintain their vote for an independent (although, not necessarily the same one).

7. LGBTIQ+ VOTERS CANNOT BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED

Overall, approximately 1 in 3 LGBTIQ+ voters are currently undecided or considering changing their vote at this federal election. This means that LGBTIQ+ voters simply cannot be taken for granted.

When compared to how they voted in the last federal election, previous Liberal, National, Labor and Greens LGBTIQ+ voters are currently declaring less commitment to these parties (around 1 in 5 LGBTIQ+ declared Liberal, National, Labor or Greens voters are currently less committed to voting for the same party than they voted for at the last federal election). That softer commitment is not showing up in equivalent strengthening support for independents (net gain of only +0.4%). That suggests that many LGBTIQ+ voters are yet to make up their minds about who to vote for and LGBTIQ+ voters number among both swinging and undecided voters.

There are also the following groups of LGBTIQ+ voters:

- 357 who could not remember who they voted for in the last federal election: 206 (57.7%) of whom are unsure who they will vote for at this federal election and 10 (2.8%) of whom have not declared any current voting intention.
- 106 who voted for 'another party or candidate' in the last federal election: 25 (23.6%) of whom are unsure who they will vote for at this federal election and 20 (18.9%) of whom are changing their vote to one of the named political parties, or an independent, at this election.

This suggests that most parties and independents cannot take their LGBTIQ+ voters for granted, as they must both win back past LGBTIQ+ voters as well as build support among LGBTIQ+ people who are undecided or considering other candidates. The work of appealing to LGBTIQ+ voters is therefore ongoing and necessary for all parties and candidates. To appeal to LGBTIQ+ voters, it is therefore important for parties and candidates to consider the national federal issues that are important to LGBTIQ+ people, the extent to which LGBTIQ+ issues sway their vote, as well as the specific LGBTIQ+ issues they care most about.

NATIONAL PRIORITIES

The environment/climate issues and LGBTIQ+ issues are the two issues of greatest importance to LGBTIQ+ people in the upcoming federal election, followed by healthcare and the cost of living/wages. For undecided LGBTIQ+ voters in particular, LGBTIQ+ issues are the most important federal issue.

Nearly 70% of LGBTIQ+ people, including undecided LGBTIQ+ voters, say that LGBTIQ+ issues are 'very important' to them in deciding who they will vote for.

8. THE MOST IMPORTANT FEDERAL ISSUES FOR LGBTIQ+ PEOPLE

The environment/climate issues and LGBTIQ+ issues are the two most important issues for LGBTIQ+ people in this upcoming federal election, irrespective of age, rurality, disability, gender and cultural background. They are the most important issues for trans and gender diverse, and intersex people.

From a list of 15 federal issues, survey respondents were asked to identify up to 3 issues that were the most important to them in the upcoming federal election.

The federal issues (presented in a randomised order to each respondent) were: LGBTIQ+ issues; Education; Migration and refugee issues; Management of COVID-19; Cost of living/wages; Environment/climate issues; Healthcare; Housing; Social security (e.g. pensions, entitlements); Economy; Taxes; Unemployment; National security/defence; Foreign affairs; and Arts and culture.

3,875 LGBTIQ+ people responded to this question,⁵ with 3,830 people currently living in Australia.

Out of the 3,830 LGBTIQ+ people living in Australia, 1,480 people also provided a response to the subsequent open question asking whether there were any other general policy issues of importance.

Gay (cis) man, 25-34 years, from Queensland said:

"Well the lack of leadership on climate change is a disaster. I am genuinely concerned about affordability but I haven't seen anything to suggest the government or adjacent powers know how to resolve these issues with policy determinations."

Queer (cis) woman, 25-34 years, from Queensland said:

"Pivoting away from coal while supporting coal dependant regional communities..."

⁵ A response was considered valid if the respondent selected up to 3 issues (but no more than 3 issues) from the list of issues provided.

(a) The most important federal issues for LGBTIQ+ people overall

Ranked in order of importance, the following issues were the most important to LGBTIQ+ people living in Australia.

RANK	ISSUE	LGBTIQ+ PEOPLE IN AUSTRALIA WHO SELECTED THIS ISSUE AMONG THEIR 'TOP 3' MOST IMPORTANT FEDERAL ISSUES (BY NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE; N=3,830)	
1	Environment/climate issues	2,491	65%
2	LGBTIQ+ issues	2,246	58.6%
3	Healthcare	1,446	37.8%
4	Cost of living/wages	1,084	28.3%
5	Migration and refugee issues	742	19.3%
6	Social security (e.g. pensions, entitlements)	609	15.9%
7	Housing	594	15.5%
8	Education	541	14.1%
9	Management of COVID-19	371	9.7%
10	Economy	329	8.6%
11	Arts and culture	240	6.3%
12	National security/defence	151	3.9%
13	Foreign affairs	148	3.9%
14	Unemployment	122	3.2%
15	Taxes	91	2.4%

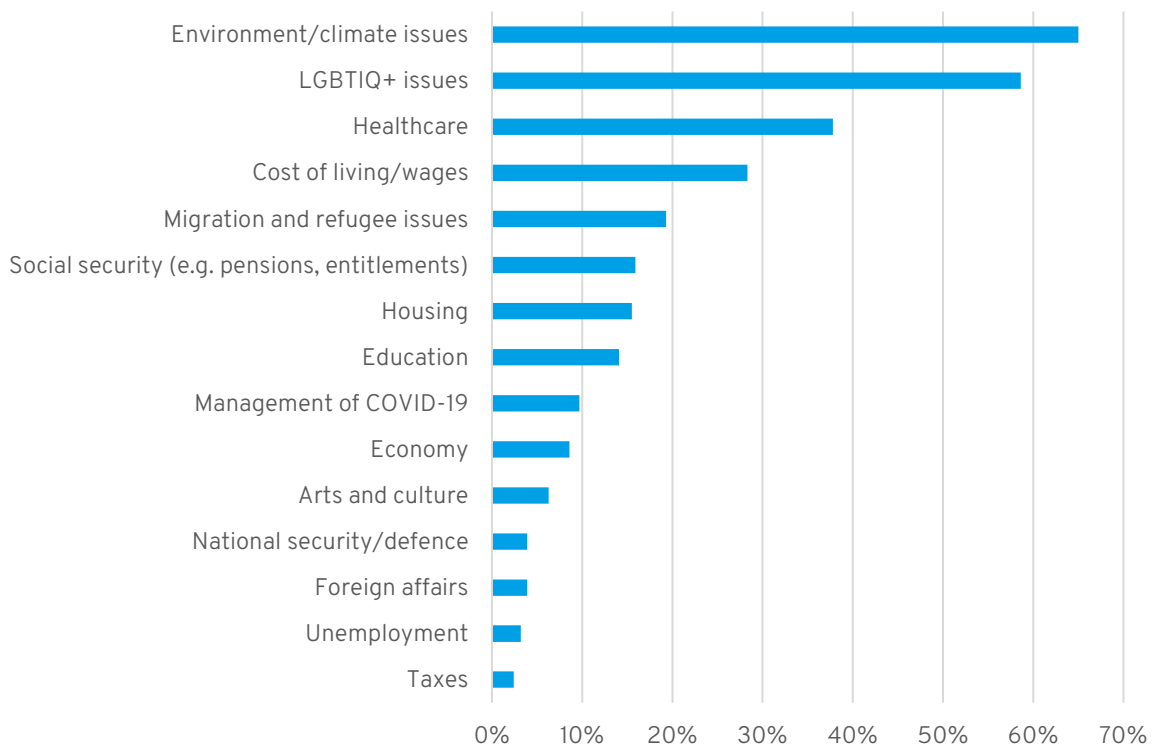


Figure 5: The top federal issues for LGBTIQ+ people in Australia

Other issues of importance

Among other issues of importance raised by LGBTIQ+ people living in Australia were integrity and corruption (e.g. a federal ICAC), aged care, disability (e.g. the NDIS), mental health, First Nations' issues (e.g. Constitutional recognition and treaty), and women's rights and safety (e.g. violence against women, gender pay gap).

The Religious Discrimination Bill was also among the issues frequently raised by LGBTIQ+ people.

Genderfluid person, 25-34 years, from South Australia said:

"I'm an LGBTIQ+ person who works as a nurse and sees the lack of understanding from healthcare professionals about LGBTIQ+ people. Accessing any kind of healthcare is scary when you're gender nonconforming. I'm not out regarding my gender to my coworkers, and I don't feel it's safe for me to come out until I am able to move to a large city. Rural healthcare is very backward, and needs further support. As a nurse, it's sad that I've not felt comfortable visiting a doctor for more than 5 years."

Bi or pansexual (cis) man, 65-74 years, from Queensland said:

"I have been homeless and also think there needs to be more funding for public housing because there is a multitude of reasons that people can become homeless and nobody should be placed in that position anywhere in the world, especially not Australia."

(b) The most important federal issues by LGBTIQ+ subpopulation

We analysed the national priorities of 9 different subpopulations of LGBTIQ+ people based on age, rurality, disability, gender and cultural background, as well as trans and gender diverse, and intersex status.

LGBTIQ+ issues and environment/climate issues were ranked as the two most important issues across all these subpopulations of LGBTIQ+ people. In almost all cases, at least 1 in 2 LGBTIQ people selected these federal issues among their top 3 issues of importance.

The third, fourth and fifth most important federal issues for LGBTIQ+ people varied by subpopulation, with healthcare, cost of living/wages, housing, social security, and migration and refugee issues ranking and rating differently based on LGBTIQ+ subpopulation.

- Healthcare is more important to older LGBTIQ+ people than younger LGBTIQ+ people. Meanwhile, younger LGBTIQ+ people rank the cost of living/wages as more important than older LGBTIQ+ people, who rank social security as more important to them.
- Housing is more important among First Nations' LGBTIQ+ people and trans and gender diverse people.
- Migration and refugee issues are more important among LGBTIQ+ people with non-English speaking backgrounds, LGBTIQ+ women and young LGBTIQ+ people. They are also more important to older LGBTIQ+ people and people living in regional, rural and remote areas.

Top 5 federal issues by LGBTIQ+ subpopulation⁶

	FIRST NATIONS' LGBTIQ+ PEOPLE (N=90)	LGBTIQ+ PEOPLE GROWING UP IN HOMES WITH LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH (N=668)	LGBTIQ+ PEOPLE IN REGIONAL, RURAL AND REMOTE AREAS (N=990)
1	LGBTIQ+ issues (60%)	Environment/climate issues (63%)	Environment/climate issues (63%)
2	Environment/climate issues (43.3%)	LGBTIQ+ issues (57.6%)	LGBTIQ+ issues (59.7%)
3	Healthcare (42.2%)	Healthcare (35.8%)	Healthcare (40%)
4	Cost of living/wages (31.1%)	Cost of living/wages (30.4%)	Cost of living/wages (27.8%)
5	Housing (21.1%)	Migration and refugee issues (23.2%)	Migration and refugee issues (18%)

Bi or pansexual (cis) woman, 25-34 years, from Queensland said:

"I work in a non-government organisation delivering healthcare. I also am part of several community groups. Compared to the other groups I'm part of, it's difficult to get funding for actions targeting LGBTQ+ people. There's also serious gaps when it comes to targeted health and well-being initiatives. Our community has far higher than average suicide rates and rates of emotional distress yet I feel like we are always forgotten."

⁶ Percentages denote the proportion of people in the subpopulation identifying each of these issues as among their top 3 most important federal issues in the upcoming election.

	LGBTIQ+ WOMEN (N=1,555)	TRANS AND GENDER DIVERSE (N=1,144)	INTERSEX (N=74)
1	Environment/climate issues (67.6%)	LGBTIQ+ issues (69.1%)	LGBTIQ+ issues (66.2%)
2	LGBTIQ+ issues (59.2%)	Environment/climate issues (62.3%)	Environment/climate issues (51.4%)
3	Healthcare (40.6%)	Healthcare (41.8%)	Healthcare (33.8%)
4	Cost of living/wages (27.7%)	Cost of living/wages (28.8%)	Cost of living/wages (31.1%)
5	Migration and refugee issues (21.5%)	Housing (17.1%)	Social security (e.g. pensions, entitlements) (21.6%)

	LGBTIQ+ PEOPLE UNDER 24 YEARS (N=856)	LGBTIQ+ PEOPLE AGED 65 YEARS AND OVER (N=438)	LGBTIQ+ PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY (N=1,501)
1	LGBTIQ+ issues (68.8%)	Environment/climate issues (66%)	Environment/climate issues (61.8%)
2	Environment/climate issues (68.8%)	LGBTIQ+ issues (49.8%)	LGBTIQ+ issues (57.8%)
3	Cost of living/wages (37.7%)	Healthcare (42.7%)	Healthcare (44.3%)
4	Healthcare (34%)	Migration and refugee issues (27.9%)	Cost of living/wages (28.1%)
5	Migration and refugee issues (20.6%)	Social security (e.g. pensions, entitlements) (27.4%)	Social security (e.g. pensions, entitlements) (24.6%)

Non-binary queer person, 45-54 years, from New South Wales said:

“We're not equal in getting access to the NDIS, and in many regional areas, there is only one or two providers, which may be from a religious service, and may discriminate against us. I've had services asking intrusive questions, and most definitely not being queer friendly.”

Non-binary person, 65-74 years, from Western Australia said:

“I know that the aged care system which is largely run by religious organisations treat queer seniors really badly. I would rather die than end up in a nursing home run by a religious institution. I have begged my family and my partner not to put me in a nursing home.”

(c) The most important federal issues for undecided LGBTIQ+ voters

LGBTIQ+ issues are the number one issue for undecided LGBTIQ+ voters, with almost 2 in 3 undecided LGBTIQ+ voters ranking LGBTIQ+ issues among their top 3 most important federal election issues.

622 LGBTIQ+ people aged 18 years and over who are unsure about who they are voting for in the upcoming federal election answered the question regarding their three most important federal issues.

Ranked in order of importance, the following issues were the most important to undecided LGBTIQ+ voters.

RANK	ISSUE	UNDECIDED LGBTIQ+ VOTERS WHO SELECTED THIS ISSUE AMONG THEIR 'TOP 3' MOST IMPORTANT FEDERAL ISSUES (BY NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE; N=622)	
1	LGBTIQ+ issues	400	64.3%
2	Environment/climate issues	352	56.6%
3	Healthcare	250	40.2%
4	Cost of living/wages	211	33.9%
5	Housing	99	15.9%
6	Education	96	15.4%
7	Migration and refugee issues	94	15.1%
8	Social security (e.g. pensions, entitlements)	75	12.1%
9	Management of COVID-19	54	8.7%
10	Economy	51	8.2%
11	Arts and culture	47	7.6%
12	National security/defence	31	5.0%
13	Unemployment	24	3.9%
14	Taxes	23	3.7%
15	Foreign affairs	16	2.6%

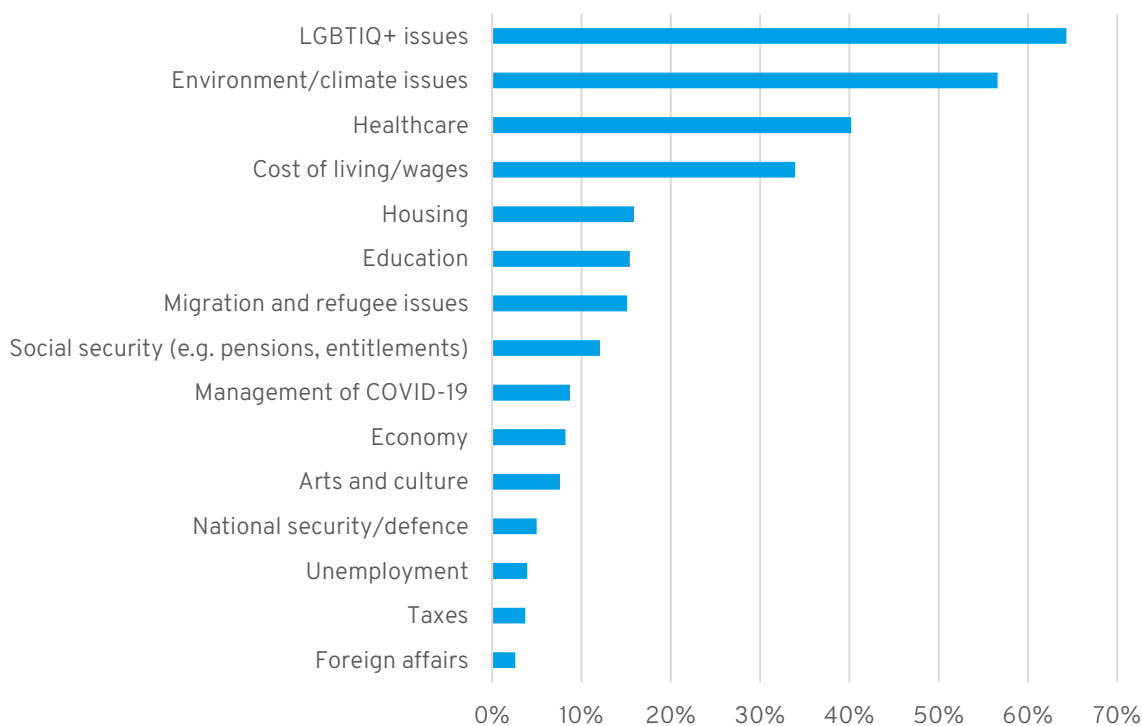


Figure 6: The top federal issues for undecided LGBTIQ+ voters

The most important federal issues by LGBTIQ+ voting history

As described above, many previous Coalition, Labor and Greens LGBTIQ+ voters are currently declaring less commitment to voting for the same party as they did at the last election, suggesting many LGBTIQ+ voters are yet to make up their minds as to whom they will vote for at this election.

Interestingly, among LGBTIQ+ Labor voters at the last election, LGBTIQ+ issues rank as the second most important issue at this federal election after environment/climate issues. Almost 6 in 10 LGBTIQ+ people who voted Labor at the last election rank LGBTIQ+ issues as one of their three most important federal issues in this election. Meanwhile, among LGBTIQ+ Coalition voters at the last election, LGBTIQ+ issues rank as the most important issue in this election. Just over 2 in 5 LGBTIQ+ people who voted for the Coalition at the last election rank LGBTIQ+ issues as one of their three most important federal issues in this election.

9. HOW IMPORTANT ARE LGBTIQ+ ISSUES IN DETERMINING WHO YOU VOTE FOR?

93.6% of LGBTIQ+ people in Australia aged 18 years or over say that LGBTIQ+ issues are important to them in determining who they vote for, among whom 68.2% say LGBTIQ+ issues are ‘very important’ in determining who they vote for. LGBTIQ+ issues are also important to 94.7% of undecided LGBTIQ+ voters, among whom 69.2% say LGBTIQ+ issues are ‘very important’ in determining who they vote for.

(a) The importance of LGBTIQ+ issues overall

We asked survey respondents how important LGBTIQ+ issues were in determining who they will vote for. 5,093 LGBTIQ+ people aged 18 years or over and living in Australia responded to this question.

Out of these 5,093 LGBTIQ+ people, 68.2% said that LGBTIQ+ issues were ‘very important’ in determining who they will vote for, with a further 25.3% saying LGBTIQ+ issues were ‘important’ in determining their vote. Only 1.9% said that LGBTIQ+ issues were ‘not important’ and 4.5% said that LGBTIQ+ issues were ‘neither important nor unimportant’ in determining who they will vote for.

(b) The importance of LGBTIQ+ issues by LGBTIQ+ subpopulation

Analysing responses by 9 subpopulations of LGBTIQ+ people, we found consistently high importance given to LGBTIQ+ issues in determining how LGBTIQ+ people vote, irrespective of age, rurality, disability, gender and cultural background, or trans and gender diverse, and intersex status.

However, trans and gender diverse people and younger LGBTIQ+ people placed even greater importance on LGBTIQ+ issues in determining how they voted. While older LGBTIQ+ people placed less importance on LGBTIQ+ issues when determining their vote, still over 1 in 2 LGBTIQ+ people aged 65 years or over say that LGBTIQ+ issues are 'very important' in determining who they will vote for.

Q: WHEN YOU VOTE, HOW IMPORTANT ARE LGBTIQ+ ISSUES IN DETERMINING WHO YOU WILL VOTE FOR?	VERY IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	NEITHER IMPORTANT NOR UNIMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT
LGBTIQ+: LGBTIQ+ people in Australia aged 18 years or over (n=5,093)	68.2%	25.3%	4.5%	1.9%
Trans: Trans and gender diverse people in Australia aged 18 years or over (n=1,438)	77.5%	17.8%	2.2%	2.4%
Intersex: Intersex people in Australia aged 18 years or over (n=96)	68.8%	18.8%	5.2%	7.3%
Younger people: LGBTIQ+ people in Australia aged 18-24 years (n=917)	77.9%	18.2%	2.8%	1.1%
Older people: LGBTIQ+ people in Australia aged 65 years or over (n=583)	55.7%	33.6%	8.4%	2.2%
Women: LGBTIQ+ women in Australia aged 18 years or over (n=2,006)	71.7%	24.6%	2.9%	0.7%
First Nations: First Nations' LGBTIQ+ people in Australia aged 18 years or over (n=136)	71.3%	15.4%	3.7%	9.6%
Non-English speaking background: LGBTIQ+ people in Australia aged 18 years or over, who grew up hearing languages other than English at home (n=952)	71%	22.4%	4.6%	2%
Rurality: LGBTIQ+ people in Australia aged 18 years or over, living in regional, rural and remote areas (n=1,289)	65.9%	26.7%	5.6%	1.9%
Disability: LGBTIQ+ people in Australia aged 18 years or over, with a disability (n=1,974)	70.7%	23.9%	3.9%	1.5%

Bi or pansexual (cis) woman, 18-24 years, from New South Wales said:

"To me, anti-discrimination is the most important aspect of improving the lives of LGBT people across Australia. Many of my friends, family, and myself have to choose between living a life of honesty: being our true selves and coping hate from everywhere we turn, or dishonesty: pretending to be something we're not, hiding our inner selves and living a lie, just to avoid being abused by homophobia."

(c) The importance of LGBTIQ+ issues for undecided LGBTIQ+ voters

Among those LGBTIQ+ people aged 18 years or over who answered this question, 910 people indicated being 'unsure' about who they would be voting for in the upcoming federal election.

Out of these 910 undecided LGBTIQ+ voters, 69.2% said LGBTIQ+ issues were 'very important' to determining who they vote for, with a further 25.5% indicating that LGBTIQ+ issues were 'important' in determining their vote. Only 0.8% of undecided LGBTIQ+ voters said LGBTIQ+ issues were 'not important' in determining their vote and 4.5% said that LGBTIQ+ issues were 'neither important nor unimportant' in determining their vote.

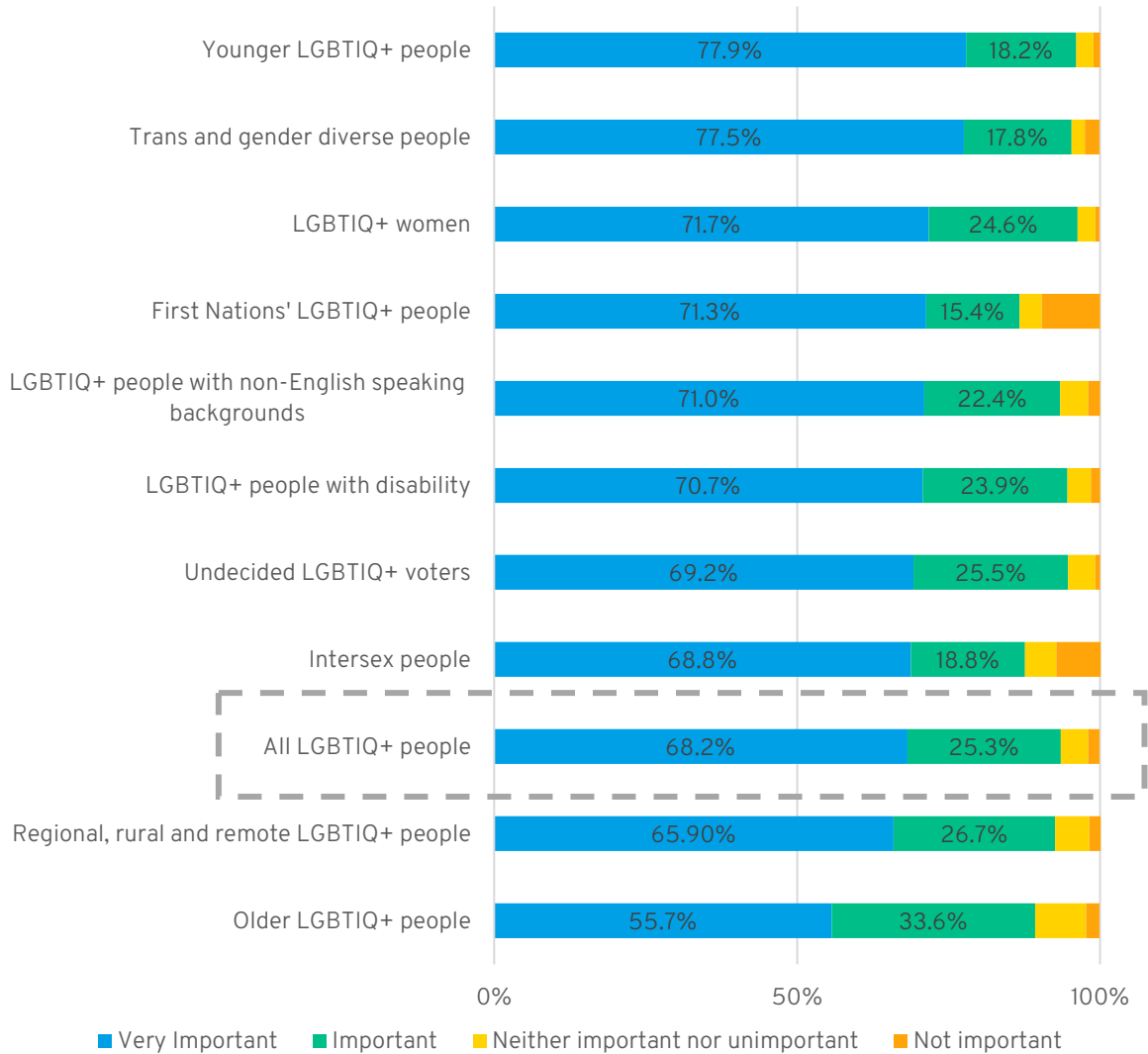


Figure 7: When you vote, how important are LGBTIQ+ issues in determining who you vote for? (By LGBTIQ+ subpopulation)

LGBTIQ+ PRIORITIES

LGBTIQ+ people are fairly united on the LGBTIQ+ issues that matter to them. Every LGBTIQ+ issue has strong support across the whole LGBTIQ+ community, including issues specific to trans and gender diverse people and/or intersex people. Younger LGBTIQ+ people in particular attach very high importance to LGBTIQ+ issues.

Among trans and gender diverse people, ensuring access to gender affirming healthcare ranked among the three most important federal LGBTIQ+ issues. 90.6% of all LGBTIQ+ people in Australia also say that this issue is 'very important' or 'important' to them.

Among intersex people, ending unnecessary medical treatment on intersex people without personal consent ranked as the second most important federal LGBTIQ+ issue. 94.2% of all LGBTIQ+ people in Australia also say that this issue is 'very important' or 'important' to them.

Overall, removing religious exemptions in anti-discrimination laws, ending LGBTQ+ conversion practices and ending unnecessary medical treatment on intersex people without personal consent, are the most important federal LGBTIQ+ issues for LGBTIQ+ people in Australia. These are also the three most important issues for undecided LGBTIQ+ voters.

Lesbian (cis) woman, 25-34 years, from South Australia said:

"I am a survivor of gay conversion practices. I see a therapist weekly and the complex trauma has affected my relationships in my life. My sense of identity."

Bi or pansexual (cis) woman, 35-44 years, from New South Wales said:

"I am a secondary teacher at a Catholic school and I'm still in the closet in my workplace for my safety. My partner and I have lived together for 4 years and we're engaged. I feel that we can't get married and have kids with the same ease as my heterosexual co-workers because they don't have to navigate an impossible system. As an educator in this system, I can't openly advocate for my students and permit them the safe space they deserve to navigate LGBTQI+ identity."

10. LGBTIQ+ ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO LGBTIQ+ PEOPLE

Removing religious exemptions in anti-discrimination laws, ending LGBTQ+ conversion practices and ending unnecessary medical treatment on intersex people without personal consent, are the most important federal LGBTIQ+ issues for LGBTIQ+ people in Australia. While LGBTIQ+ people are mostly unified on the issues that matter to them, younger LGBTIQ+ people attach even greater importance to LGBTIQ+ issues as a whole and are more likely to rank ensuring access to gender affirming healthcare as very important to them.

On a scale from 'not important' to 'very important', survey respondents were asked to identify the importance to them of 9 specific federal LGBTIQ+ issues. The federal LGBTIQ+ issues (presented in a randomised order to each respondent) were:

- ensuring the needs of LGBTIQ+ people are better reflected in Government programs, services and decision-making ('LGBTIQ-inclusive government programs');
- ending LGBTQ+ conversion practices ('Ending LGBTQ+ conversion');

- ensuring better access to gender affirming healthcare (**‘Gender affirming healthcare’**);
- ending unnecessary medical treatment on intersex people without their personal consent (**‘Intersex medical interventions’**);
- ensuring LGBTIQ+ people are protected from discrimination, including by removing carve-outs allowing religious organisations to discriminate against LGBTIQ+ people (**‘Removing religious exceptions’**);
- ensuring LGBTIQ+ people are properly counted in the Census (**‘Count us in the Census’**);
- increased funding for LGBTIQ+ suicide prevention and mental health programs (**‘Suicide and mental health’**);
- better funding for LGBTIQ+ organisations and service delivery (**‘LGBTIQ+ services’**); and
- seeing Australia taking a leading role on LGBTIQ+ issues globally (**‘LGBTIQ+ global leadership’**).

Depending on the federal LGBTIQ+ issue, between 5,164 and 5,226 LGBTIQ+ people in Australia responded to this question, and 1,500 LGBTIQ+ people also provided a response to a subsequent open question asking whether there were any other LGBTIQ+ issues of importance to them.

Lesbian intersex woman, 45-54 years, from Victoria said:

“I am a person born with an intersex variation that survived inappropriate medical intervention as a child without my consent. This included genital surgeries, having my gonads removed, and being given hormones without my consent. I was made to feel like a complete freak despite nothing being wrong with me.”

Non-binary queer person, 18-24 years, from South Australia said:

“I’m a non-binary person who is quite early on in their transition. I was on a waiting list to organise an appointment to pursue HRT [hormone replacement therapy] for seven months, and by the time I have the appointment it will have been almost a full year due to the lack of medical practitioners able or willing to provide affirming healthcare. I am visibly trans, and generally feel uncomfortable presenting as myself in public and using facilities that I should feel no anxiety about using.”

Queer (cis) woman, 35-44 years, from New South Wales said:

“I run support groups at my school and hear the daily bullying students face, the anxieties they feel about being Catholic but not being fully accepted by their institute of their faith, the cluelessness of teachers and executive staff who have no LGBTIQ+ awareness training or are actively homophobic. We have also had four suicides at my school (which breaks my heart) and more in my community, most of whom were LGBTIQ+ identified. I also have a young son and I am afraid of sending him to school because I don’t want him to experience discrimination for having two mums.”

(a) The most important LGBTIQ+ issues to LGBTIQ+ people overall

Ranked in order of the issues receiving the greatest proportion of 'very important' responses, the following federal LGBTIQ+ issues were the most important to LGBTIQ+ people in Australia.

ISSUE	VERY IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	NEITHER IMPORTANT NOR UNIMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT
Removing religious exceptions: Ensuring LGBTIQ+ people are protected from discrimination, including by removing carve-outs allowing religious organisations to discriminate against LGBTIQ+ people (n=5,226)	90.2%	6.7%	1.5%	1.6%
Ending LGBTIQ+ conversion: Ending LGBTIQ+ conversion practices (n=5,164)	87.2%	9.5%	1.8%	1.4%
Intersex medical interventions: Ending unnecessary medical treatment on intersex people without their personal consent (n=5,223)	76.8%	17.4%	4.2%	1.6%
Suicide and mental health: Increased funding for LGBTIQ+ suicide prevention and mental health programs (n=5,224)	76.7%	19.7%	2.5%	1.1%
Count us in the Census: Ensuring LGBTIQ+ people are properly counted in the Census (n=5,208)	73.7%	20.5%	4.2%	1.6%
LGBTIQ+ inclusive government programs: Ensuring the needs of LGBTIQ+ people are better reflected in Government programs, services and decision-making (n=5,211)	69.4%	25.4%	3.5%	1.7%
Gender affirming healthcare: Ensuring better access to gender affirming healthcare (n=5,200)	67%	23.6%	6.0%	3.3%
LGBTIQ+ services: Better funding for LGBTIQ+ organisations and service delivery (n=5,206)	56.4%	35.2%	6.2%	2.3%
LGBTIQ+ global leadership: Seeing Australia taking a leading role on LGBTIQ+ issues globally (n=5,212)	53.1%	32.2%	11.5%	3.2%

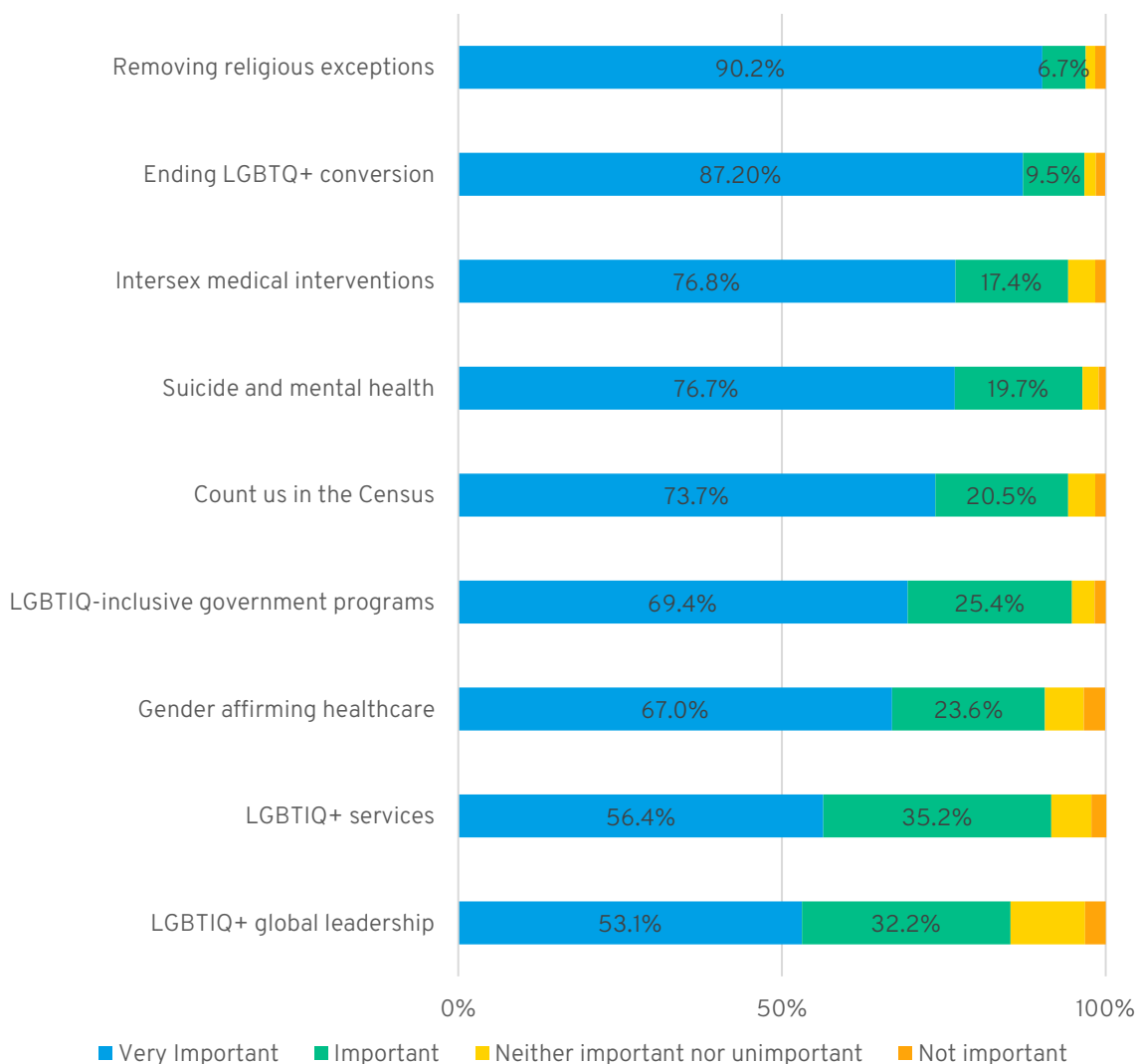


Figure 8: The top federal LGBTIQ+ issues for LGBTIQ+ people in Australia

Removing religious exemptions in anti-discrimination laws, ending LGBTQ+ conversion practices and ending unnecessary medical treatment on intersex people without personal consent, are the most important federal LGBTIQ+ issues to LGBTIQ+ people in Australia as a whole.

Critically however, all federal LGBTIQ+ issues received strong support from across the LGBTIQ+ cohort, with every issue being identified as either 'very important' or 'important' by at least 85% of LGBTIQ+ survey respondents. This included issues of particular relevance to subpopulations of the LGBTIQ+ community, such as:

- ending LGBTQ+ conversion practices, which was identified as 'very important' or 'important' to 96.8% of LGBTIQ+ people in Australia;
- ending unnecessary medical treatment on intersex people without personal consent, which was identified as 'very important' or 'important' to 94.2% of LGBTIQ+ people in Australia; and
- ensuring better access to gender affirming healthcare, which was identified as 'very important' or 'important' to 90.6% of LGBTIQ+ people in Australia.

Given the question asked people to identify the LGBTIQ+ issues of most importance to them, it is clear that LGBTIQ+ people in Australia are united on the issues that matter to them – and even LGBTIQ+ issues which do not personally affect them are still very important to them.

Queer (cis) woman, 55-64 years, from the Australian Capital Territory said:

“I volunteer with an LGBTIQ+ charity that receives no ongoing funding. In that role I spend lots of time supporting people who are homeless, and mentally unwell. Until we have data on the size of our community, we are pushing uphill to make a case for real funding.”

Asexual (cis) woman, 55-64 years, from Victoria said:

“I have an adult child who is trans. He has attempted suicide four times. It has been very difficult to find the right support network for him. Lack of practitioners with an understanding and commitment to providing appropriate support for trans and gender diverse people on top of the difficulties of covid-19 have meant a long period without psych support.”

Bi or pansexual (cis) woman, 35-44 years, from Western Australia said:

“My child is trans and the current waitlist for gender diversity health services is 3-5 years.”

Gay (cis) man, 45-54 years, from Tasmania said:

“Throughout my life I have encountered discrimination and abuse due to being a gay man. Verbal abuse and on one occasion physically bashed and hospitalised. I was also ostracised by my family and made homeless at the age of 14 for not conforming to the rules of the cult/religion I was raised in. I suffered a lot of internalised homophobia as a result, and have attempted suicide countless times. I have struggled with my mental health for most of my life.”

(b) The most important LGBTIQ+ issues by LGBTIQ+ subpopulation

We analysed the LGBTIQ+ priorities of 7 different subpopulations of LGBTIQ+ people based on age, rurality, disability, gender and cultural background. We also analysed the LGBTIQ+ priorities of trans and gender diverse people and intersex people, which are discussed further below.

The table below shows the proportions of people in each LGBTIQ+ subpopulation group who selected 'very important' to each of the specific LGBTIQ+ federal issues.

LGBTIQ ISSUES: PROPORTION OF 'VERY IMPORTANT' RESPONSES	LGBTIQ +	UNDER 25 YEARS ⁷	65 YEARS OR OVER ⁸	LGBTIQ+ WOMEN ⁹	FIRST NATIONS ¹⁰	NESB ¹¹	RURAL, REGIONAL & REMOTE ¹²	DISABILITY ¹³
Removing religious exemptions	90.2%	93.5%	89.5%	91.3%	82.7%	88.9%	90%	91.4%
Ending LGBTIQ+ conversion	87.2%	93.8%	85.2%	88.8%	79.6%	85%	88.9%	89.7%
Intersex medical interventions	76.8%	84.1%	76.1%	80.6%	76.4%	76.1%	79.0%	81.9%
Suicide and mental health	76.7%	84.3%	70.3%	79.1%	77.9%	77.5%	77.6%	79.5%
Count us in the Census	73.7%	76.5%	69.6%	75.6%	68.6%	73.2%	75.6%	75.2%
LGBTIQ+ inclusive government programs	69.4%	76.8%	62.5%	71.5%	67.9%	69.2%	69.7%	71.9%
Gender affirming healthcare	67%	85.8%	51.1%	71.3%	68.6%	65.5%	65.9%	71.2%
LGBTIQ+ services	56.4%	61.7%	47.1%	58.8%	59.3%	57%	58.9%	60.4%
LGBTIQ+ global leadership	53.1%	60.5%	46.5%	52.9%	60.7%	54.5%	54.2%	54.7%

Queer (cis) woman, 45-54 years, from New South Wales said:

"Compared to LGBTQIA+ people in repressive countries we are incredibly privileged here. We have an ethical obligation to help. From my work in health promotion I know we have fantastic evidence-based experience to share..."

⁷ N=1,169 to 1,175, depending on the LGBTIQ+ issue.

⁸ N=553 to 569.

⁹ N=2,003 to 2,029.

¹⁰ N=137 to 140.

¹¹ N=966 to 976.

¹² N=1,329 to 1,346.

¹³ N=1,986 to 2,001.

Across the 7 subpopulations of LGBTIQ+ people, removing religious exemptions in anti-discrimination laws and ending LGBTIQ+ conversion practices were the two most important LGBTIQ+ issues, regardless of age, gender, rurality, disability and cultural background. For young LGBTIQ+ people, ending LGBTIQ+ conversion practices ranked as the number one LGBTIQ+ issue of importance.

Age emerged among LGBTIQ+ people as a delineator of priorities. LGBTIQ+ people aged under 25 years ranked 'ensuring access to gender affirming healthcare' as the third most important LGBTIQ+ issue, and were more likely than LGBTIQ+ people aged 65 years and over to rank LGBTIQ+ issues as 'very important'.

Bi or pansexual (cis) woman, under 18 years, from Victoria said:

"Personally I feel very discriminated against at my high school because of the amount of people that think it's all just a joke in terms of teenagers or youth identifying as queer. It makes me feel invalid and I still haven't come out to my family because I am afraid of the stigma that comes with my sexuality as a result of ignorance and discrimination in Australia."

Non-binary person, 18-24 years, from New South Wales said:

"At the moment I'm living in a small town and there's not much support for the LGBT community in things such as events and get togethers because it's so important to know you have others like you around."

(c) LGBTIQ+ issues of importance to trans and gender diverse people

Removing religious exemptions in anti-discrimination laws, ending LGBTIQ+ conversion practices and ensuring access to gender affirming healthcare are the three most important LGBTIQ+ issues to trans and gender diverse people in Australia.

Between 1,564 and 1,574 trans and gender diverse people in Australia responded to this question.

Ranked in order of the issues receiving the greatest proportion of 'very important' responses, the following federal LGBTIQ+ issues were the most important to trans and gender diverse people in Australia.

ISSUE	VERY IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	NEITHER IMPORTANT NOR UNIMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT
Removing religious exemptions: Ensuring LGBTIQ+ people are protected from discrimination, including by removing carve-outs allowing religious organisations to discriminate against LGBTIQ+ people (n=1,574)	92.4%	4.8%	0.8%	1.9%
Ending LGBTIQ+ conversion: Ending LGBTIQ+ conversion practices (n=1,564)	90.3%	7.0%	1.0%	1.8%
Gender affirming healthcare: Ensuring better access to gender affirming healthcare (n=1,569)	85.9%	10.4%	1.4%	2.4%

ISSUE	VERY IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	NEITHER IMPORTANT NOR UNIMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT
Intersex medical interventions: Ending unnecessary medical treatment on intersex people without their personal consent (n=1,572)	84.9%	11.8%	1.7%	1.6%
Suicide and mental health: Increased funding for LGBTIQ+ suicide prevention and mental health programs (n=1,571)	81.3%	15.1%	1.9%	1.7%
LGBTIQ+ inclusive government programs: Ensuring the needs of LGBTIQ+ people are better reflected in Government programs, services and decision-making (n=1,571)	76.6%	19.6%	1.8%	2.0%
Count us in the Census: Ensuring LGBTIQ+ people are properly counted in the Census (n=1,568)	75.8%	19.1%	3.2%	2.0%
LGBTIQ+ services: Better funding for LGBTIQ+ organisations and service delivery (n=1,568)	65.9%	27.9%	4.1%	2.1%
LGBTIQ+ global leadership: Seeing Australia taking a leading role on LGBTIQ+ issues globally (n=1,567)	58.5%	28.1%	10.1%	3.3%

Ensuring access to gender affirming healthcare was identified as 'very important' to 85.9% of trans and gender diverse people in Australia, making it the third most important federal LGBTIQ+ issue after removing religious exemptions in anti-discrimination laws and ending LGBTQ+ conversion practices.

When compared to LGBTIQ+ people as a whole, trans and gender diverse people in Australia are also more likely to give higher importance to 'ending unnecessary medical treatment on intersex people without personal consent', 'ensuring the needs of LGBTIQ+ people are better reflected in Government programs, services and decision-making' and 'better funding for LGBTIQ+ organisations and service delivery'.

Gay (trans) man, 25-34 years, from Queensland said:

"As a transgender man, and a single parent, I struggle to make ends meet with my hormone replacement therapy, and the potential for saving enough for 'top surgery' isn't an option. Upwards of \$15,000 for double bilateral mastectomy for a transman. That isn't even slightly possible for someone in my position."

Queer non-binary person, 25-34 years, from Victoria said:

"It was extremely difficult to access queer suicide prevention hotlines especially during the pandemic. This and gender-affirming health care need way more funding. But unless we are counted in the Census, it is going to be difficult."

(d) LGBTIQ+ issues of importance to intersex people

Removing religious exemptions in anti-discrimination laws, ending unnecessary medical treatment on intersex people without their personal consent, and ending LGBTQ+ conversion practices are the three most important LGBTIQ+ issues to intersex people in Australia.

Between 92 and 94 intersex people in Australia responded to this question.

Ranked in order of the issues receiving the greatest proportion of 'very important' responses, the following federal LGBTIQ+ issues were the most important to intersex people in Australia.

ISSUE	VERY IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	NEITHER IMPORTANT NOR UNIMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT
Removing religious exemptions: Ensuring LGBTIQ+ people are protected from discrimination, including by removing carve-outs allowing religious organisations to discriminate against LGBTIQ+ people (n=94)	83%	3.2%	5.3%	8.5%
Intersex medical interventions: Ending unnecessary medical treatment on intersex people without their personal consent (n=94)	79.8%	12.8%	1.1%	6.4%
Ending LGBTQ+ conversion: Ending LGBTQ+ conversion practices (n=93)	75.3%	15.1%	3.2%	6.5%
Gender affirming healthcare: Ensuring better access to gender affirming healthcare (n=93)	72.0%	14.0%	5.4%	8.6%
Count us in the Census: Ensuring LGBTIQ+ people are properly counted in the Census (n=93)	67.7%	19.4%	2.2%	10.8%
Suicide and mental health: Increased funding for LGBTIQ+ suicide prevention and mental health programs (n=93)	65.6%	20.4%	5.4%	8.6%
LGBTIQ+ inclusive government programs: Ensuring the needs of LGBTIQ+ people are better reflected in Government programs, services and decision-making (n=93)	65.6%	21.5%	5.4%	7.5%
LGBTIQ+ services: Better funding for LGBTIQ+ organisations and service delivery (n=92)	56.5%	26.1%	8.7%	8.7%
LGBTIQ+ global leadership: Seeing Australia taking a leading role on LGBTIQ+ issues globally (n=93)	49.5%	29.0%	8.6%	12.9%

Ending unnecessary medical treatment on intersex people without their personal consent was identified as 'very important' to 79.8% of intersex people in Australia, making it the second most important federal LGBTIQ+ issue between removing religious exemptions in anti-discrimination laws and ending LGBTQ+ conversion practices. When compared to LGBTIQ+ people as a whole, intersex people in Australia are also more likely to give higher importance to 'ensuring better access to gender affirming healthcare'.

Lesbian intersex woman, 45-54 years, from Western Australia said:

“I’m intersex and we need to end normalising surgeries, we need to protect intersex people from harm and this should be done at a federal level.”

(e) LGBTIQ+ issues of importance to undecided LGBTIQ+ voters

Removing religious exemptions in anti-discrimination laws, ending LGBTQ+ conversion practices and ending unnecessary medical treatment on intersex people without their personal consent are the three most important LGBTIQ+ issues to undecided LGBTIQ+ voters.

Between 900 and 913 LGBTIQ+ people aged 18 years or over who are ‘unsure’ about who they will vote for in the upcoming federal election responded to this question.

Ranked in order of the issues receiving the greatest proportion of ‘very important’ responses, the following federal LGBTIQ+ issues were the most important to undecided LGBTIQ+ voters.

ISSUE	VERY IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	NEITHER IMPORTANT NOR UNIMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT
Removing religious exemptions: Ensuring LGBTIQ+ people are protected from discrimination, including by removing carve-outs allowing religious organisations to discriminate against LGBTQ+ people (n=912)	89.4%	7.6%	1.6%	1.4%
Ending LGBTQ+ conversion: Ending LGBTQ+ conversion practices (n=900)	88.6%	8.1%	2.4%	0.9%
Intersex medical interventions: Ending unnecessary medical treatment on intersex people without their personal consent (n=911)	78.3%	17.5%	3.4%	0.9%
Suicide and mental health: Increased funding for LGBTIQ+ suicide prevention and mental health programs (n=913)	76.9%	19.5%	2.4%	1.2%
Count us in the Census: Ensuring LGBTIQ+ people are properly counted in the Census (n=912)	74.2%	19.4%	5.3%	1.1%
LGBTIQ-inclusive government programs: Ensuring the needs of LGBTIQ+ people are better reflected in Government programs, services and decision-making (n=911)	70.4%	25%	3.5%	1.1%
Gender affirming healthcare: Ensuring better access to gender affirming healthcare (n=908)	67.1%	23.2%	6.1%	3.6%

ISSUE	VERY IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	NEITHER IMPORTANT NOR UNIMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT
LGBTIQ+ services: Better funding for LGBTIQ+ organisations and service delivery (n=910)	57.4%	34.7%	6%	1.9%
LGBTIQ+ global leadership: Seeing Australia taking a leading role on LGBTIQ+ issues globally (n=911)	53.7%	30.4%	13.7%	2.2%

Gay (cis) man, 25-34 years, from Queensland said:

“I have struggled with my sexuality and mental health from a young age. I feel that if we had better services equipped to help me I wouldn’t have gone through a lot of turmoil. I wouldn’t wish that to repeat for younger generations.”

11. OTHER LGBTIQ+ ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO LGBTIQ+ PEOPLE

In an open question, survey respondents were also asked if there were any other LGBTIQ+ issues of importance to them. 1,500 LGBTIQ+ people in Australia provided a response to this open question.

Many LGBTIQ+ people identified a range of services that were necessary to meet the needs of LGBTIQ+ people, with unmet need being particularly acute in regional areas. In addition to providing inclusive mainstream services such as health and disability care, the unique characteristics of LGBTIQ+ experience warranted specialised services in areas such as aged care, family support (including family formation and separation), domestic and family violence, and social support. Many respondents said that the delivery of such services required properly recognising intersectionality within the LGBTIQ+ population, including for First Nations LGBTIQ+ people and LGBTIQ+ people from multicultural backgrounds. Trans and gender diverse respondents also highlighted the need for targeted services in the areas of health (including mental health), as well as homelessness and housing support. Non-discriminatory access to facilities and public places, as well as inclusion in sport and barriers to the recognition of gender (particularly in some jurisdictions with legal barriers to amending birth certificates), were also highlighted.

LGBTIQ+ respondents also identified the need for LGBTIQ+ inclusion in education, particularly inclusive sex education and anti-bullying policies, as well as access to confidential information and support in schools and in the community. Some respondents also wanted to see education targeted to the general community and workplaces to build greater understanding of LGBTIQ+ issues. Possible areas of focus were reducing discrimination towards trans people, promoting the visibility of asexual and bisexual people, and reducing stigma of people living with HIV.

Finally, a number of discrete issues were also mentioned, including lifting the ban on blood donation for gay and bisexual men; protection for people seeking asylum from LGBTIQ+ based persecution; addressing inconsistencies in legislation relating to LGBTIQ+ rights across jurisdictions; increased representation of LGBTIQ+ people in politics and public life; more consistent use of inclusive language, and support for LGBTIQ+ arts and culture.

NON-LGBTIQ+ SURVEY RESPONDENTS

LGBTIQ+ issues are also important to non-LGBTIQ+ people, with 74.9% of non-LGBTIQ+ survey respondents saying that LGBTIQ+ issues are important in determining who they vote for. Overall, LGBTIQ+ issues ranked as the third most important federal issue to non-LGBTIQ+ survey respondents.

Non-LGBTIQ+ survey respondents supported all of the LGBTIQ+ federal priorities, especially removing religious exemptions in anti-discrimination laws, ending LGBTQ+ conversion practices and ending unnecessary medical treatment on intersex people without personal consent.

LGBTIQ+ issues have an amplifying effect on voter behaviour. They are given high importance among non-LGBTIQ+ voters who are allies of LGBTIQ+ people.

12. THE IMPORTANCE OF LGBTIQ+ ISSUES TO NON-LGBTIQ+ PEOPLE

We analysed the responses of non-LGBTIQ+ survey respondents to each of the questions discussed above. Non-LGBTIQ+ survey respondents were identified as those who were cisgender, did not have variations of sex characteristics and identified as straight/heterosexual.

The recruitment through Facebook opened the survey to a wide range of potential respondents across Australia. The following results were observed notwithstanding the survey received some responses from respondents who expressed outright hostility towards LGBTIQ+ people in the comments they left in open response questions.

(a) The most important federal issues for non-LGBTIQ+ people

1,529 non-LGBTIQ+ people living in Australia responded to the question regarding the three most important issues for them in the upcoming federal election. Almost 1 in 3 non-LGBTIQ+ survey respondents ranked LGBTIQ+ issues among their top 3 issues in this federal election, making LGBTIQ+ issues the third most important issue after environment/climate issues and healthcare for non-LGBTIQ+ people living in Australia who responded to our survey.

Given this is not a representative sample, it is not possible to extrapolate that LGBTIQ+ issues are the third most important issue in this election for all voters. However, it is significant that out of a total 5,359 LGBTIQ+ and non-LGBTIQ+ people who answered this question, nearly 30% were not LGBTIQ+ themselves but still ranked LGBTIQ+ issues among the most important issues to them in this election. This demonstrates the amplifying effect of LGBTIQ+ allies among Australian voters, who place great importance on LGBTIQ+ issues when they decide who to vote for.

Straight (cis) woman, 75 years or older, from Victoria said:

“A friend’s daughter is trans and I am interested in supporting her so that she can be the best support possible for her daughter. Society through the ages has provided roadblocks for people who don’t identify as heterosexual.”

(b) The importance of LGBTIQ+ issues in determining your vote

Out of the 1,903 non-LGBTIQ+ people in Australia aged 18 years or over who responded to the survey, 74.9% of people said that LGBTIQ+ issues were important in determining who they vote for, among whom 40.5% said that LGBTIQ+ issues were ‘very important’ in determining their vote.

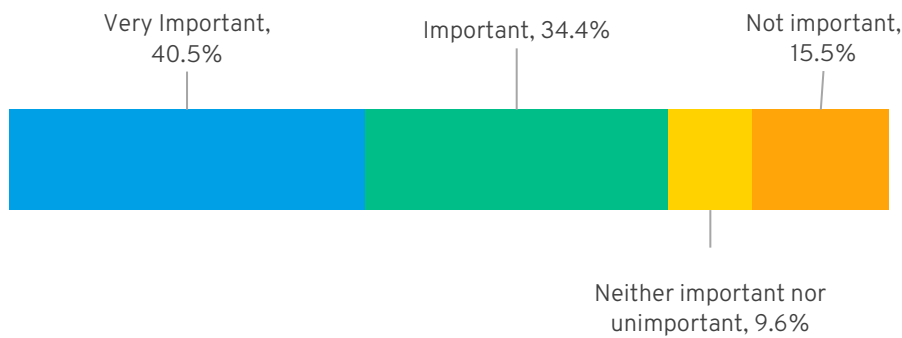


Figure 9: When you vote, how important are LGBTIQ+ issues in determining who you will vote for? (By non-LGBTIQ+ people aged 18 years or over in Australia)

Further, out of the 316 undecided non-LGBTIQ+ voters who responded to the survey, 77.2% of people said that LGBTIQ+ issues were important in determining who they vote for, with 45.6% saying that LGBTIQ+ issues were 'very important' in determining their vote.

Straight (cis) woman, 65-74 years, from New South Wales said:

"As a heterosexual woman in my early 70s none of these issues have affected me personally. However, I have seen gay people bullied and know of two young gay lads who have taken their lives. One was only 17 and was a much loved member of the family."

13. SUPPORT FOR LGBTIQ+ ISSUES AMONG NON-LGBTIQ+ PEOPLE

All LGBTIQ+ issues received strong support among non-LGBTIQ+ people who responded to the survey, with removing religious exemptions in anti-discrimination laws, ending LGBTQ+ conversion practices and ending unnecessary medical treatment on intersex people without their personal consent receiving the most support.

Ranked in order of the issues receiving the greatest proportion of 'very important' responses, the following federal LGBTIQ+ issues were the most important to non-LGBTIQ+ people in Australia who responded to the survey.

ISSUE	VERY IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	NEITHER IMPORTANT NOR UNIMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT
Removing religious exemptions: Ensuring LGBTIQ+ people are protected from discrimination, including by removing carve-outs allowing religious organisations to discriminate against LGBTQ+ people (n=1,832)	73%	9.1%	4.3%	13.6%

ISSUE	VERY IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	NEITHER IMPORTANT NOR UNIMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT
Ending LGBTQ+ conversion: Ending LGBTQ+ conversion practices (n=1,807)	71.6%	11.2%	5.7%	11.5%
Intersex medical interventions: Ending unnecessary medical treatment on intersex people without their personal consent (n=1,831)	67.9%	17%	6%	9.2%
Suicide and mental health: Increased funding for LGBTQ+ suicide prevention and mental health programs (n=1,832)	60.1%	22.8%	6.4%	10.8%
Count us in the Census: Ensuring LGBTQ+ people are properly counted in the Census (n=1,832)	55.4%	24.2%	7.6%	12.8%
LGBTIQ+ inclusive government programs: Ensuring the needs of LGBTQ+ people are better reflected in Government programs, services and decision-making (n=1,833)	48.8%	29.2%	7.1%	14.9%
Gender affirming healthcare: Ensuring better access to gender affirming healthcare (n=1,823)	48.4%	27.4%	8%	16.1%
LGBTIQ+ services: Better funding for LGBTQ+ organisations and service delivery (n=1,824)	38.3%	34.1%	11.2%	16.4%
LGBTIQ+ global leadership: Seeing Australia taking a leading role on LGBTQ+ issues globally (n=1,822)	38.3%	31.7%	12.5%	17.6%

Straight (cis) man, 45-54 years, from Queensland said:

“My daughter identifies as bisexual. These issues therefore have a very personal import.”

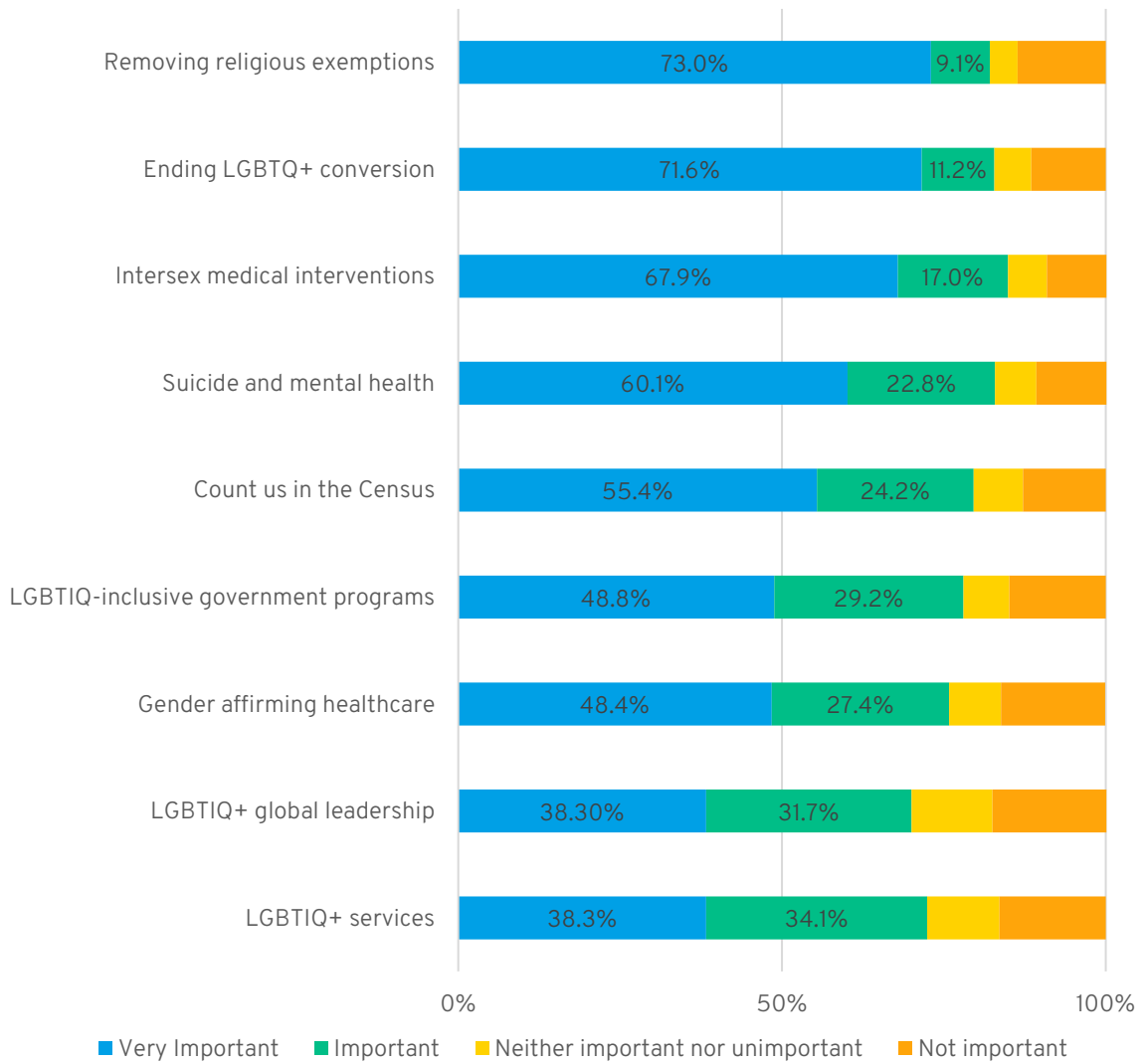


Figure 10: Support for federal LGBTIQ+ issues among non-LGBTIQ+ people in Australia