



**Brighton
Council**

LGBTIQA+ Community Consultation Report

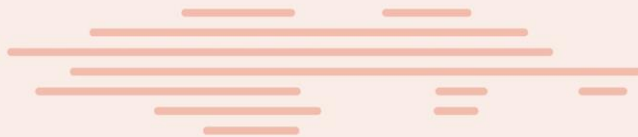


LA TROBE
UNIVERSITY



Australian
Research Centre
in Sex, Health
and Society

Brighton
going places



We acknowledge the traditional owners who once walked this country: the Mumirimina people.

The Mumirimina belonged to the Oyster Bay tribe. This was the largest tribe in Tasmania and covered 8000 square kilometres. kotalayna levee in Brighton was a significant meeting place where hundreds of generations of Aboriginal families hunted, gathered, corroboreed, camped and traded.

In the course of colonisation, dispossession of the Mumirimina was early, rapid and extensive.

We acknowledge the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community today as the continuing custodians of this land, and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

Through our words and actions we strive to build a community that reflects and respects the history and hopes for all the people of Brighton.



Summary

Why this consultation?

Brighton Council's *2050 Vision*¹ sees Brighton becoming a **thriving place** with a **proud community**, where all residents benefit from a **good life at every age** in a **comfortable home** with a **sustainable environment**, supported by a **caring Council**.

Part of achieving this vision involves making sure that we foster an **inclusive approach which empowers all regardless of who you are and where you come from**. One group that we know experience challenges in our community are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (trans), intersex, queer/questioning, and asexual people (LGBTIQ+).

Around 4.5% of Australia's population are LGBTIQ+². In Brighton, this equates to nearly 900 people³. While many LGBTIQ+ people live happy and healthy lives, ongoing discrimination and stigma against this group mean that they have poorer health, reduced outcomes at school and work, and greater housing instability than the wider population.⁴

Part of supporting our diverse community in Brighton means **boosting health and wellbeing**. Given that 37% of Brighton residents report health issues,⁵ with mental health featuring prominently, addressing the mental health and wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ residents is important for improving the overall quality of life in the Brighton area. Brighton's population is growing faster than Tasmania as a whole⁴ and Tasmania's population of LGBTIQ+ is higher than the national average.¹ Because of this, it is likely that our LGBTIQ+ community may increase with time.

We wanted to consult our community to better understand local experiences and needs. While national and state-wide⁶ data on LGBTIQ+ populations provide a background for the health and wellbeing experiences of LGBTIQ+ people in Brighton, more detail about their experiences in Brighton will help identify areas for community development.

¹ Brighton Council. (2021). *2050 Vision*. Available at: <https://www.brighton.tas.gov.au/council/2050-vision/>

² Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2024). *Estimates and characteristics of LGBTI+ populations in Australia*. Available at: <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/people-and-communities/estimates-and-characteristics-lgbt-populations-australia/latest-release#:~:text=for%20further%20information,-LGBTI%2B%20Australians.and%20lowest%20in%20older%20Australians>.

³ Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2021). *Census QuickStats: Brighton LGA*. Available at: <https://abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021/LGA60410>

⁴ Hill et al. (2020). *Private Lives 3: The health and wellbeing of LGBTIQ people in Australia*. ARCSHS Monograph Series No. 122. Melbourne, Australia: ARCSHS, La Trobe University.

⁵ Brighton Council. (2025). *About Us*. Available at: <https://www.brighton.tas.gov.au/council/about-us/>

⁶ Dwyer et al. (2021) 'LGBTIQ+ Tasmanians: Telling us the story - Final Report'. Available at: https://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0025/247147/LGBTIQ-Tasmanians-Telling-Us-the-Story-Survey-Report-May-2022.pdf

How did we consult the community?

Between October 2024 and February 2025 we surveyed LGBTIQ+ people, their families, friends, and allies who live, work, and visit the Brighton area to hear how Brighton can be more safe, welcoming and inclusive for all. The survey was designed in consultation with community members and was promoted widely through local and state-wide print and social media.

Who did we hear from?

A total of 51 individuals completed the survey. This included people of all ages (14+) who live, work, visit, and go to school in the Brighton area. We heard from a mix of LGBTIQ+ community members, as well as non-LGBTIQ+ people who are parents, family members, and those working with LGBTIQ+ people in Brighton.

What did we learn?

Most LGBTIQ+ participants felt welcome in Brighton, but concerns about safety and inclusion persist, particularly for trans and non-binary residents. Key priorities identified were LGBTIQ+ training for council staff, public all-gender toilets, and greater visibility of inclusion. Participants also highlighted the need for improved mental health services and anti-discrimination efforts in the area.

Glossary⁷

Asexual - A lack of sexual attraction to others, or low or absent desire for sexual activity or relationships. Some asexual people still seek romantic relationships with others, however, sex is not experienced as a big part of their identity or how they connect with others.

Bisexual – A person who is sexually and/or romantically attracted to people of the same gender and people of other genders.

Cisgender - A term describing people whose gender identity is in line with the expectations based on the sex they were presumed at birth. (e.g. someone who was presumed female at birth who describes themselves as a woman is a cisgender or 'cis' woman).

Gay - An person who identifies as a man and is sexually and/or romantically attracted to other people who identify as men. The term gay can also be used in relation to women who are sexually and/or romantically attracted to other women.

Gender - Refers to how you understand who you are and how you interact with other people. Many people understand their gender as being female or male. Some people understand their gender as a combination of these or neither. A person's gender identity refers to their deeply held internal and individual feeling of their gender. Gender can be expressed in different ways, such as through behaviour or physical appearance.

Gender diversity - Acknowledges that there are many different ways to identify outside of the binary of male/man and female/woman.

Heterosexual – A person who is only sexually and/or romantically attracted to people of a different gender to them.

Intersex - Refers to people with innate variations of sex characteristics (genetic, hormonal or physical) that do not conform with medical norms for female or male bodies. Being intersex is a naturally occurring variation in humans and there are lots of ways someone can be intersex. Not all people with such characteristics identify as intersex.

Lesbian – A person who identifies as a woman and is sexually and/or romantically attracted to other people who identify as women.

⁷ Dwyer et al. (2021) 'LGBTIQ+ Tasmanians: Telling us the story - Final Report. Available at: https://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0025/247147/LGBTIQ-Tasmanians-Telling-Us-the-Story-Survey-Report-May-2022.pdf

LGBTQIA+ - An acronym for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer/questioning, asexual and other people of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities. This acronym is widely used and has been adopted by all Tasmanian Government departments, however, there are other terminologies and expressions that people use.

Non-binary - Refers to someone who does not identify as exclusively male or female.

Queer - A term people often use to express fluid identities and orientations. Some people use queer to describe their own gender and/or sexuality if other terms do not fit. For some people, especially older people, 'queer' has negative connotations, because in the past it was used as a derogatory term.

Pansexual - A sexual orientation describing people who are sexually and/or romantically attracted to any people regardless of their gender identities.

Sex - The legal status that was initially determined by sex characteristics observed at birth (i.e. female, male).

Sex characteristics - A person's physical sex features such as their chromosomes, hormones, and reproductive organs.

Sexual orientation - Describes a person's physical, romantic, and/or emotional attraction to another person. Sometimes the term 'sexuality' is used to mean the same thing.

Transgender (trans) - An umbrella term for people whose gender identity and/or expression is different from cultural expectations based on the sex they were presumed at birth. For example, if someone is presumed female at birth but lives as a man, they are a trans man. Being transgender does not imply any specific sexual orientation. Trans people may identify as straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual, etc.

The **Progress Pride Flag** adds a chevron to the traditional rainbow flag to highlight inclusion and progress. It features black and brown stripes for LGBTQIA+ people of colour, and pink, blue, and white for the trans community—emphasising the need for continued equity, visibility, and justice across the LGBTQIA+ spectrum.



Consultation Results

About the participants

A total of **51 participants** completed the survey. Most participants were local residents who identified as members of the LGBTIQ+ community.

Age:

The age distribution ranged from 14-65+, with the largest proportion falling within the 25–34 (23.5% $n=12$) and 45–54 (23.5% $n=12$) age brackets.

Age Group	Number of Respondents (n)	Percentage (%)
14–17	6	11.8%
18–24	4	7.8%
25–34	12	23.5%
35–44	10	19.6%
45–54	12	23.5%
55–64	4	7.8%
65 or older	3	5.9%
	Total: 51	100%

Gender:

51.1% ($n=24$) of respondents were women, 25.5% ($n=12$) were men, and 17% ($n=8$) were non-binary. Approximately 23.4% ($n=11$) of participants were trans (reported that their gender was different from the one assigned at birth).

No participants indicated that they were born with a variation of sex characteristics (this is sometimes called being intersex).

Connection to LGBTIQ+ community:

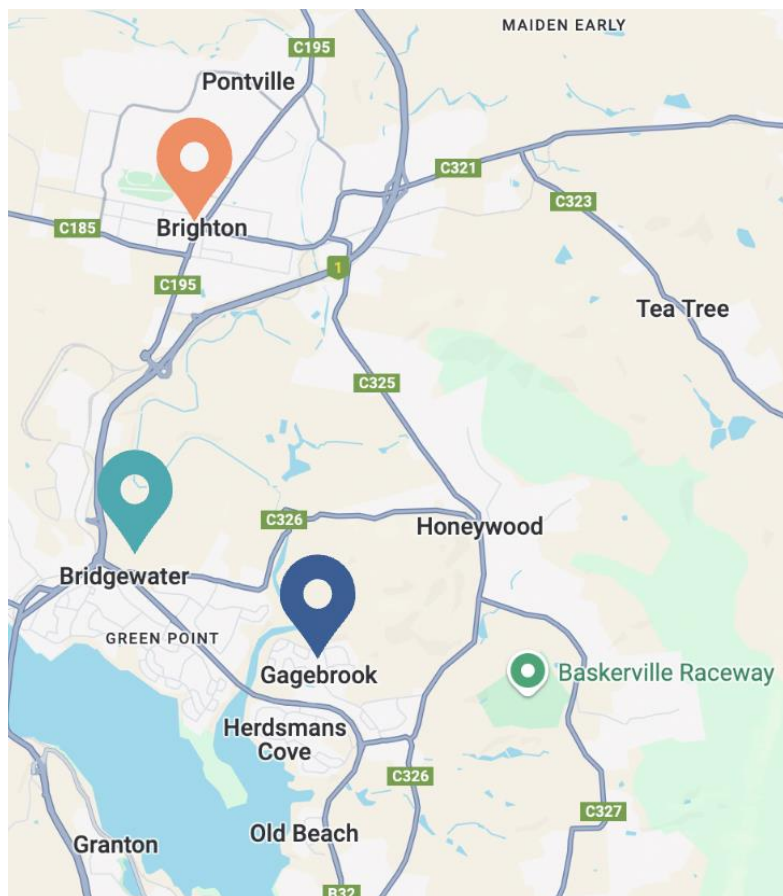
Most participants (55.3% $n=26$) identified as part of the LGBTIQ+ community, while others were parents (10.6% $n=5$), family members (31.9% $n=15$), or friends/partners (29.8% $n=14$) of LGBTIQ+ people.

While 38% ($n=18$) identified as heterosexual or straight, other participants identified with a range of

sexual orientations including: bisexual/pansexual (23.4% $n=11$), gay or lesbian (17% $n=8$), queer (17% $n=8$), and asexual/demisexual (8.5% $n=4$).

Among LGBTIQ+ participants, the majority (59.2%) felt part of the Tasmanian LGBTIQ+ community, and reported that being part of that community was a positive thing for them (66%). This compares similarly to population levels of LGBTIQ+ community-belonging and positive perceptions of community-belonging nationally⁸ and state-wide⁹.

Residential Location and Connection to the Brighton Area:



The majority of participants (76.6% $n=36$) lived in the Brighton area.

Additionally, 31.9% ($n=15$) indicated that they worked or went to school in the area, while 21.3% ($n=10$) reported socialising or engaging in recreational activities there. A smaller proportion had previously lived in the area or regularly visit.

Among the 36 respondents who provided location data, the most common places of residence were **Brighton** (21.3% $n=10$), **Gagebrook** (19.2% $n=9$), and **Bridgewater** (14.9% $n=7$). Smaller proportions of participants lived in Herdsmans Cove, Old Beach, Pontville, and Dromedary.

19.2% ($n=9$) of participants lived outside the area in areas such as Broadmarsh, Clarence, Glenorchy,

Claremont, Montrose and Hobart.

Cultural Background:

Nearly all participants (97.9% $n=46$) were born in Australia, though the sample was culturally diverse. **31.9% ($n=15$) of participants were Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander**, likely reflecting Brighton's higher population of these groups than the Tasmanian and national average.¹⁰ **The majority (66.7% $n=30$) of participants described their cultural background as Anglo-Celtic**, while smaller proportions identified as Eastern European, Middle Eastern, and African. No participants

⁸ Hill et al. (2020). *Private Lives 3: The health and wellbeing of LGBTIQ people in Australia*. ARCSHS Monograph Series No. 122. Melbourne, Australia: ARCSHS, La Trobe University.

⁹ Hinton et al. (2024). *LGBTQ+ mental health and suicidality: Tasmania Briefing Paper*. Melbourne, Australia: Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University

¹⁰ Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2021). *Census QuickStats: Brighton LGA*. Available at: <https://abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021/LGA60410>

spoke a language other than English at home.

Education:

Participants reported **higher levels of education compared to the broader population of Brighton and Tasmania as a whole.**¹¹ 31.9% ($n=15$) holding a graduate or postgraduate degree, 17% ($n=8$) a bachelor's degree, and 14.9% ($n=7$) having completed TAFE. Others had completed Year 12 (8.5%) or had lower levels of schooling.

Work:

46.8% ($n=22$) were in full-time work, while others reported working part-time (14.9% $n=7$), casually (10.6% $n=5$), or being students (19.1% $n=9$). A smaller proportion identified as self-employed or retired.

Disability:

Reflecting what we know about the broader population in Brighton,¹² **36.2% ($n=17$) of respondents identified as having a disability**, being neurodiverse, or having a long-term physical or mental health condition.



¹¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2021). Census QuickStats: Brighton LGA. Available at: <https://abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021/LGA60410>

¹² Brighton Council. (2025). About Us. Available at: <https://www.brighton.tas.gov.au/council/about-us/>

LGBTIQIA+ People and their Families Living, Working, and Visiting the Brighton Area

Attachment to Place:

Participants were asked a series of questions to gauge their level of attachment to the Brighton area. These included the extent to which they agreed with statements such as: “The Brighton area is very special to me,” “I am very attached to the natural environment in the Brighton area,” and “I feel part of the Brighton community.”

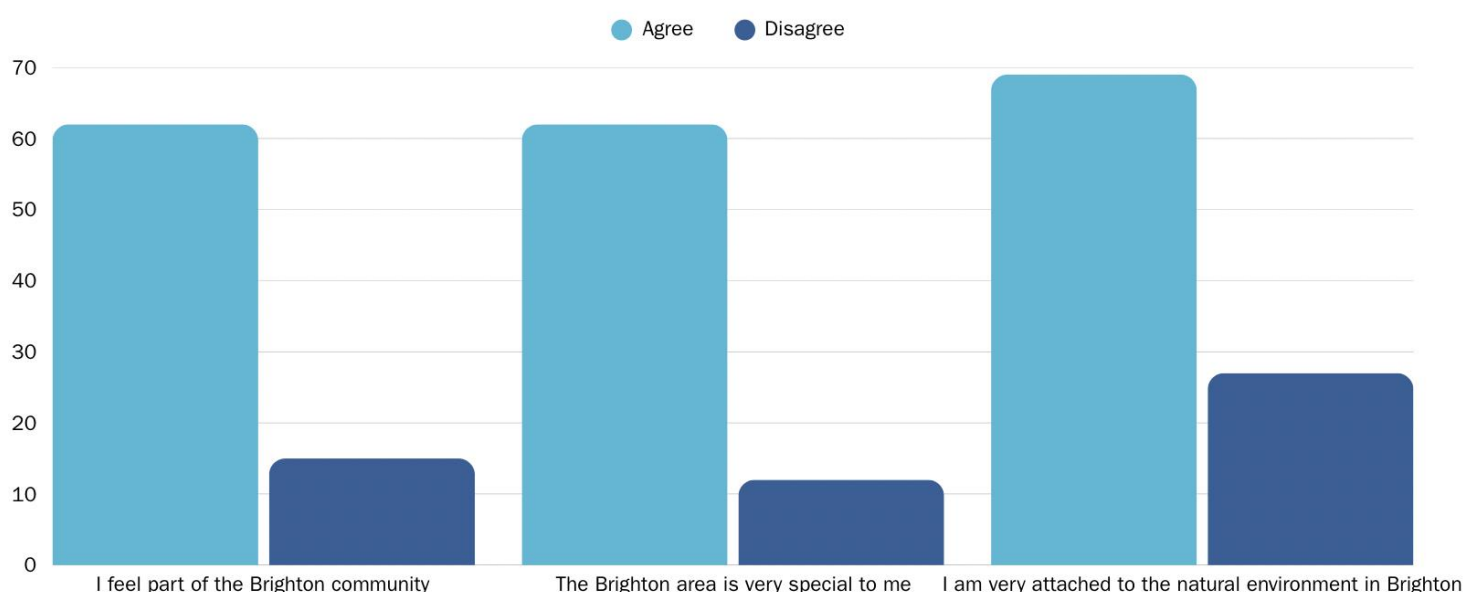
When asked about their sense of belonging, **62.5% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they felt part of the Brighton community**, while 22.5% neither agreed nor disagreed, and 15% disagreed or strongly disagreed.

The Brighton area was described as very special by 62.5% of participants, while 30% held neutral views, and 7.5% disagreed. Similarly, 47.5% of respondents stated that living in Brighton was an important part of their identity, whereas 40% neither agreed nor disagreed, and 12.5% disagreed.

In terms of the natural environment, **69.2% of participants reported feeling strongly attached to the area's natural surroundings**. However, when asked whether Brighton was the best place for the activities they enjoy, responses were more varied—25.7% agreed, 45% were neutral, while 27.5% disagreed.

Trans and gender diverse participants were highly represented among those with low-levels of connection to the Brighton area.

These results suggest that while many participants felt a connection to the Brighton community and valued its natural environment, there were mixed perspectives on the area's personal significance and its suitability for various activities.



Attachment to Community:

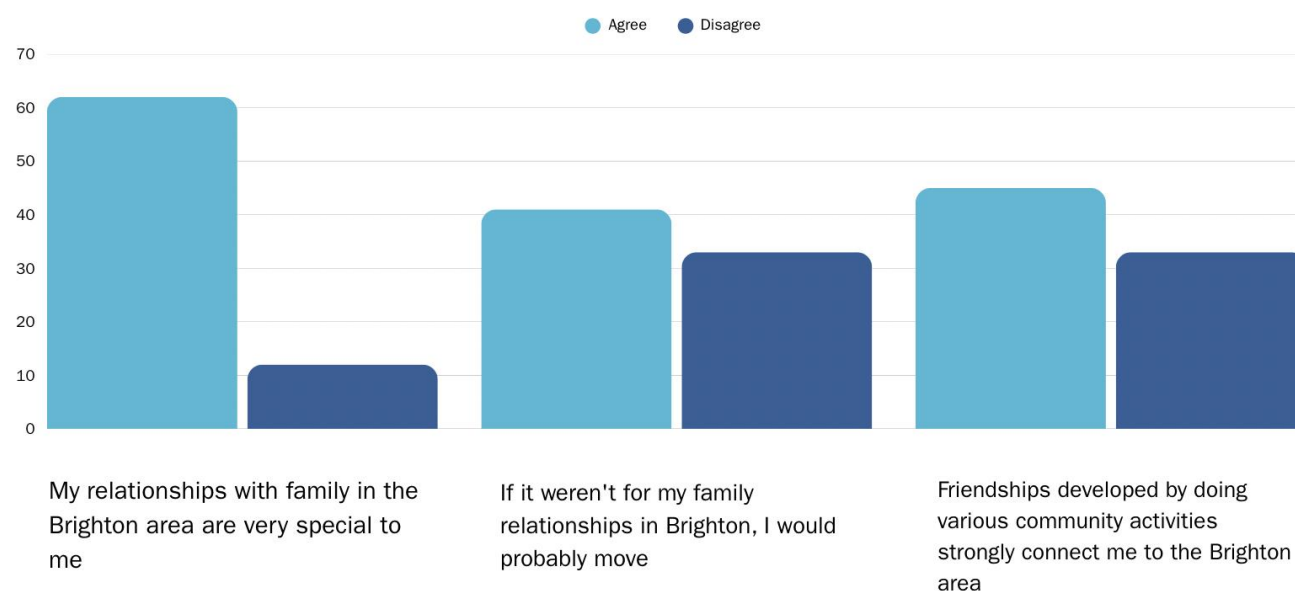
Participants were asked a series of questions to gauge their levels of attachment to the community in the Brighton area. These included the extent to which they agreed with statements such as: “My relationships with family in the Brighton area are very special to me” “Friendships developed by doing various community activities strongly connect me to the Brighton area.”

Participants reported varied experiences regarding their sense of community in Brighton. When asked about the role of family in their connection to the area, **62.5% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that their relationships with family in Brighton were special to them.** However, 25% neither agreed nor disagreed, and 12.5% disagreed.

For some, family was a key reason for staying in Brighton—41% agreed that they lived in the area because of their family, while 33% disagreed, and 26% remained neutral. Similarly, 47.5% stated that without their family relationships, they would likely move away, though 25% neither agreed nor disagreed, and 27.5% disagreed.

Friendships and social connections also played a role in participants' sense of belonging. **45% agreed that friendships formed through community activities helped them feel connected to Brighton,** while 35% neither agreed nor disagreed, and 20% disagreed.

These results suggest that while family and friendships contributed to some participants' sense of belonging, community ties were not universally strong, with a notable proportion of respondents feeling neutral or disconnected from the area.



Places Participants Visited in Brighton and Their Perceptions:

"A lot of the time the problem is not knowing whether people in public support LGBT, not knowing whether to have your guard up or not" - Participant

Participants reported visiting a variety of public spaces in the Brighton area over the past 12 months. The most frequently visited locations included general public areas, bus stops, public toilets and parks.

Location visited in past 12 months	Number of Respondents (n)	Percentage (%)
Brighton Civic Centre	22	53.6%
Community halls	14	34.1%
Cris Fitzpatrick Community Park	18	43.9%
Bridgewater Parkland	18	43.9%
Bridgewater Foreshore Parkland	16	39%
Bond Place	16	39%
Ted Jeffries Memorial Park	12	29.2%
Brighton Regional Sports Pavilion	10	24.3%
Public toilets	19	46.3%
Council offices	13	31.7%
Other parks and playgrounds	17	41.4%
Bus stops/public transport	19	46.3%
Other public spaces in the area (e.g. streets, shopping centres)	29	70.7%

When asked about **safety** in these public spaces, most participants (48.7%) reported feeling "safe," while 23.1% felt "very safe." However, a significant portion (15.4%) felt "neither safe nor unsafe," while 12.8% expressed feeling "unsafe."

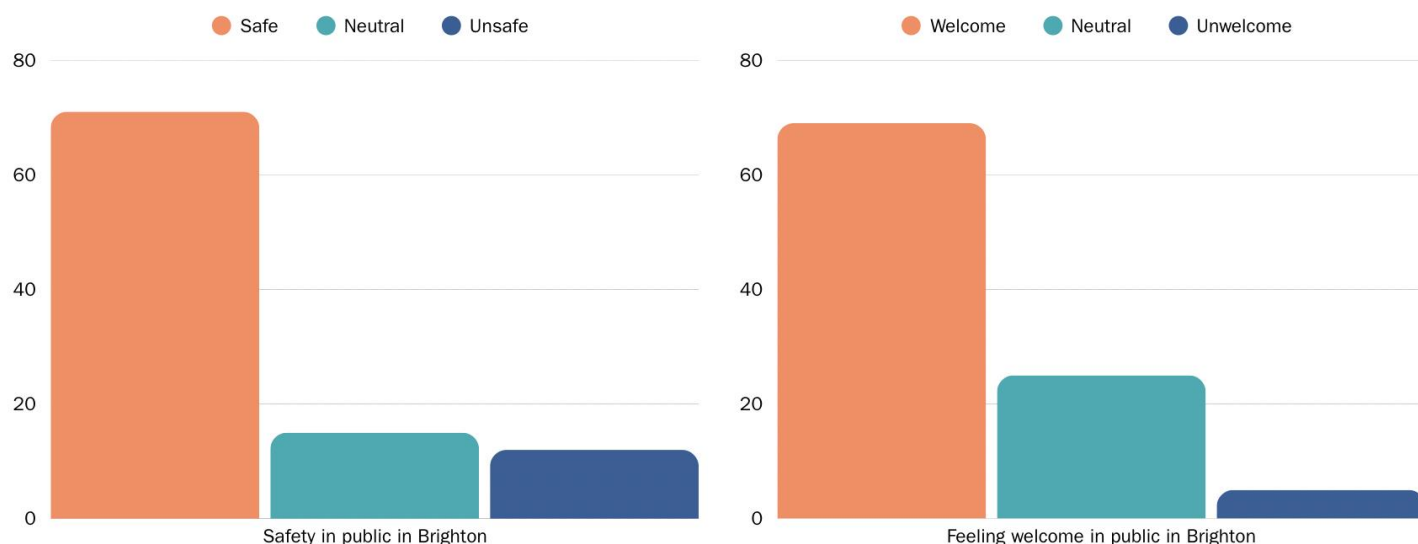
Of the small number of participants who reported feeling unsafe in public spaces in Brighton, all were members of the LGBTIQ+ community (or preferred not to say) and the majority were women or non-binary people.

Perceptions of **welcomeness** were generally positive, with 69.2% feeling either "welcome" or "very welcome." However, 25.6% felt neutral, and a small number (5.1%) reported feeling "unwelcome" or "very unwelcome."

Of those few who reported feeling unwelcome or very unwelcome, all were non-binary people.

These results show that while most participants felt safe and welcome in Brighton's public spaces, some expressed concerns about safety and inclusion.

"More work to remove hateful graffiti would be appreciated." - Participant



Discrimination and Harassment:

"We need to be accepted as part of the community. Occasionally groups of young people walking the streets will abuse me or my partner. This has to stop otherwise we do not feel welcome in the community." - Participant

Participants reported mixed experiences of bullying, harassment, or discrimination in the Brighton area relating to their LGBTIQ+ identities.

32.3% of LGBTIQ+ participants reported experiencing bullying, harassment, or discrimination in Brighton in their lifetime, with 22.6% experiencing these in the past year.

This is markedly lower than the rates of discrimination reported in the past year by LGBTIQ+ adults nationally (57%),¹³ and state-wide (sexual orientation: 57.6%; gender identity: 85%).¹⁴ Based on these figures, while this small sample of LGBTIQ+ community members may not have experienced high rates recent discrimination *in the Brighton area*, it is likely that this population still faces substantial challenges elsewhere and continue to require local responses and support. Notably, **participants who were most likely to have ever experienced discrimination in Brighton were trans or non-binary people and cisgender gay men.**

Participants were also likely to have seen or heard about discriminatory incidents happening to

¹³ Hill et al. (2020). *Private Lives 3: The health and wellbeing of LGBTIQ people in Australia*. ARCSHS Monograph Series No. 122. Melbourne, Australia: ARCSHS, La Trobe University.

¹⁴ Hinton et al. (2024). *LGBTQ+ mental health and suicidality: Tasmania Briefing Paper*. Melbourne, Australia: Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University

others. A total of **32.3% reported witnessing or hearing about someone else being bullied, harassed, or discriminated against due to their LGBTIQ+ identity in Brighton**, while 64.5% had not.

For those who had ever experienced or witnessed discrimination ($n=18$) against LGBTIQ+ people in Brighton, most common locations included public spaces including businesses, public transport, and parks, with a smaller proportion experiencing or witnessing discrimination in local sporting and healthcare facilities.

Location	Percentage (%)
Work	11%
Public Transport	22%
Retail and hospitality businesses	44%
Parks	22%
Sporting club	5%
Healthcare setting	5%

If you or someone you know has experienced bullying, harassment, or discrimination relating to their LGBTIQ+ identity, there is support available:

Working It Out: Tasmania's gender and sexuality support service, visit: <https://www.workingitout.org.au/> or call 6231 1200 to arrange a free and confidential support session

QLIFE: free anonymous LGBTIQ+ peer support & referral ([www.qlife.org.au](http://www qlife.org.au)) Phone & web chat 3pm till midnight every day – Ph: 1800 184 527

Lifeline: 24/7 Crisis support and suicide prevention (www.lifeline.org.au) – Ph: 13 11 14

BeyondBlue: 24/7 mental health information & qualified support for you or someone else (www.beyondblue.org.au) – call: 1300 224 636

Kids Helpline: Free and confidential support service for children and young people, visit <https://kidshelpline.com.au/> or call 1800 55 1800

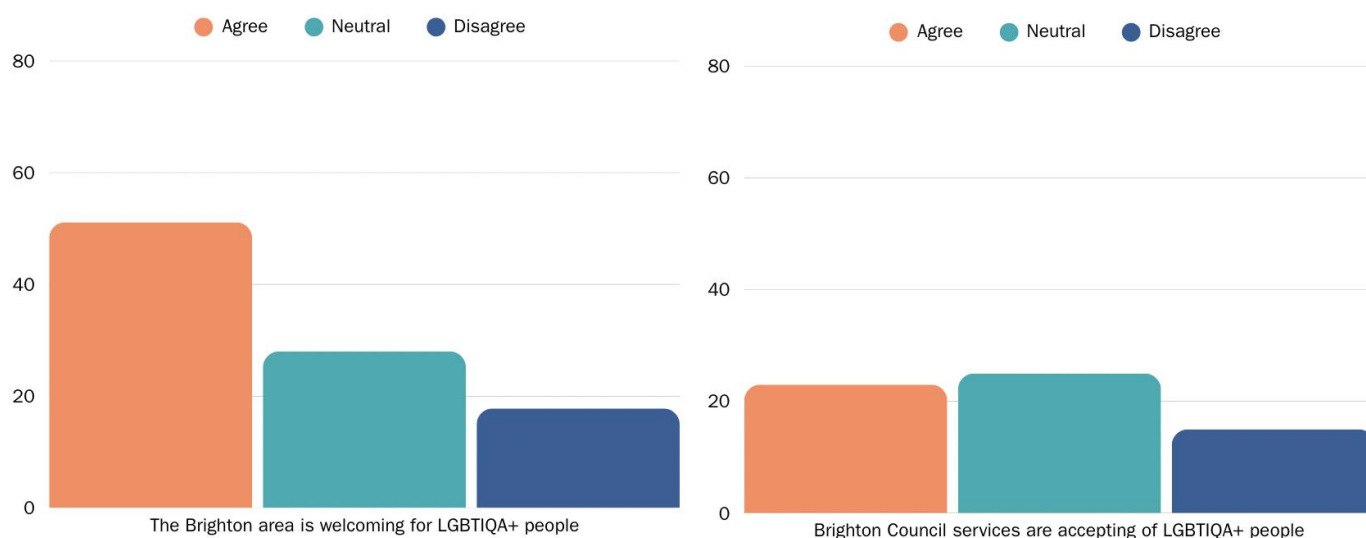
Headspace: Youth mental health service provider (12-25 years). Go to www.headspace.org.au to find your local centre.

13YARN: Free confidential support service for mob, 24/7 from any mobile or pay phone – 13 92 76

Head to Health: mental health advice, support & help services in your area (www.headtohealth.gov.au). Phone support 8.30am - 5pm weekdays (except public holidays)– call: [1800 595 212](tel:1800595212).

LGBTQIA+ Inclusion in Brighton

While **51.2%** of respondents agreed that the Brighton area is welcoming for LGBTQIA+ people, others were either neutral (28.2%) or disagreed (17.9%). The majority of participants also believed that **Brighton Council services are accepting of LGBTQIA+ people** (57.5%), though smaller proportions were neutral (25%) or disagreed (15%). Trans and non-binary people represented the majority of those who disagreed.



Among trans and non-binary participants, **59%** felt that their local community in Brighton had affirmed their gender in ways that were important to them. This is markedly higher than the 35% of trans and non-binary adults nationally who reported the same.¹⁵

Participants identified several **key actions that they felt would best support LGBTQIA+ people**, their families, and friends in the Brighton area. The top three priorities were:

1. LGBTQIA+ Inclusion Training for Brighton Council Staff and Elected Members

- Many participants emphasised the need for local government representatives to receive training on LGBTQIA+ inclusion to foster a more welcoming and supportive community.

2. Public All-Gender Toilets

- Accessible, gender-inclusive public facilities were seen as an important step toward making public spaces safer and more inclusive for transgender, non-binary, and gender-diverse residents and visitors to the area.

3. More visible signs of LGBTQIA+ Inclusion for local venues and businesses

- Participants wanted better visibility of and access to LGBTQIA+ services, suggesting that the council could play a role in connecting people to relevant community supports.

¹⁵ Hill et al. (2020). *Private Lives 3: The health and wellbeing of LGBTIQ people in Australia*. ARCSHS Monograph Series No. 122. Melbourne, Australia: ARCSHS, La Trobe University.

Other frequently mentioned priorities included:

- Flying rainbow flags or installing a rainbow zebra-crossing,
- LGBTIQ+ ally badges for council staff, and
- Increased engagement and consultation with the LGBTIQ+ community.



When asked **what resources are most needed to support LGBTIQ+ people** in the Brighton area more generally, participants prioritised the following:

1. Mental health services and support groups
2. Educational resources
3. Police and emergency services education

“Having groups and events for queer people to have a stronger sense of community within Brighton”
– Participant

Recommendations

The results of our community consultation survey reflect the need for the following actions:

1. Strengthen LGBTIQ+ Inclusion Training for Council Staff and Elected Members

- Implement regular LGBTIQ+ awareness and inclusion training for all council staff and elected members, including as part of standard onboarding procedures for new staff.
- Ensure training includes specific content on the needs of trans and gender diverse people, given that they reported lower levels of safety and affirmation in the community.
- Develop clear policies and guidelines for addressing discrimination and harassment in council-run services and spaces.

2. Improve Visibility of LGBTIQ+ Inclusion in Public Spaces

- Introduce visible markers of inclusion, such as a rainbow flags, a rainbow zebra-crossing, “Everyone is Welcome” stickers for businesses, and LGBTIQ+ ally badges/lanyards for council staff.
- Promote and display LGBTIQ+ resources in community centres and local businesses.
- Actively celebrate LGBTIQ+ events and days of significance, such as TasPride (January/February), International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersex discrimination, and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) (May 17) and Trans Day of Visibility (March 31).

3. Enhance Safety and Accessibility in Public Spaces

- Increase efforts to prevent discrimination and harassment in key locations, particularly in shops, public transport hubs, and recreational areas.
- Improve council oversight of safety concerns by working with local businesses and public transport services to implement anti-discrimination policies.
- Support initiatives that provide safer spaces for young LGBTIQ+ people, such as youth drop-in centres or inclusive community events.

4. Expand Access to Mental Health and Support Services

- Advocate for increased mental health services that specifically cater to LGBTIQ+ residents.
- Work with local health providers to ensure services are inclusive and affirming of LGBTIQ+ people and their families.
- Support peer-led community groups that foster connection and mental wellbeing among LGBTIQ+ residents.

5. Provide More Gender-Inclusive Public Amenities

- Conduct an audit of existing facilities to ensure they are inclusive and accessible for all residents.
- Install more all-gender public toilets in council buildings, parks, and recreation areas.

6. Foster Ongoing Engagement with LGBTIQ+ Community Members

- In line with Kingborough, Hobart City and Glenorchy City Councils, establish an LGBTIQ+ advisory group to provide ongoing feedback on council policies and initiatives.
- Continue community consultations to track changes in LGBTIQ+ residents' experiences over time and ensure ongoing engagement.
- Partner with LGBTIQ+ organisations and local groups to co-design local programs and events.

7. Improve Awareness of LGBTIQ+ Support Services

- Develop and maintain a comprehensive list of LGBTIQ+ support services and make it easily accessible on the council website.
- Promote educational resources that support families of LGBTIQ+ people in the Brighton area.

Summary

This consultation highlights Brighton Council's commitment to fostering a safe, inclusive, and welcoming community for LGBTIQ+ residents, visitors, and their families. While many participants reported feeling a sense of belonging and connection to Brighton, concerns remain—particularly among trans and gender diverse people—about safety, visibility, and access to inclusive facilities and services. Participants expressed strong support for increased LGBTIQ+ awareness training for council staff and elected members, public all-gender toilets, and greater representation of LGBTIQ+ people and services in the community. Addressing these priorities is vital to ensuring Brighton continues to grow as a vibrant and supportive place for all. Council has an important leadership role to play in supporting mental health and wellbeing, challenging discrimination, and strengthening social connection. Ongoing engagement with LGBTIQ+ community members will be key to tracking progress and ensuring that local programs, services, and spaces meet the needs of everyone who lives, works, or visits the Brighton area.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to Working It Out, Under One Rainbow, and Equality Tasmania for their advice in developing this consultation survey and assistance with promoting the survey in their networks.