

A Needs Analysis for LGBTQIASB+ Stolen Generations Survivors

Research Snapshot

About this research

The Healing Foundation partnered with Macquarie University's Centre for Critical Indigenous Studies to undertake the first dedicated study exploring the experiences and needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex or Asexual, Sistergirl, Brotherboy or otherwise diverse in terms of gender, sex or sexuality (LGBTQIASB+) Stolen Generations survivors and their families.

Eleven participants, including eight LGBTQIASB+ Stolen Generations survivors and three family members, shared their experiences of identity, belonging, healing, connection and support.

The research highlights the unique experiences of people living at the intersection of Stolen Generations histories and LGBTQIASB+ identities, and identifies opportunities to strengthen recognition, advocacy, support and connection.

What we heard

Participants described the complex and often compounding impacts of forced removal, racism, queerphobia, transphobia and exclusion from family, community and support systems.

These experiences continue to affect social and emotional wellbeing, contributing to grief, isolation and mistrust of services. Despite these challenges, participants expressed a strong desire for reconnection with family, community, culture and one another.

Participants also highlighted the importance of truth-telling, education and storytelling to increase understanding of their experiences and create pathways for healing.

➤ **Recognition matters**

Participants described feeling overlooked in both Stolen Generations and LGBTQIASB+ spaces and emphasised the importance of having their whole identities recognised and understood.

➤ **Advocacy is needed**

Participants called for greater awareness of their experiences and stronger advocacy to ensure their voices are reflected in policy, services and decision-making.



➤ **Support must be culturally safe and inclusive**

Participants highlighted the need for services that are trauma-informed, culturally safe, and affirming of LGBTQIASB+ identities.

➤ **Connection supports healing**

Storytelling, connection to culture, peer support and shared lived experience were identified as important pathways for healing and wellbeing.

What happens next?

The Healing Foundation will use the findings from this research to:

- strengthen policy and advocacy efforts to ensure the voices of LGBTQIASB+ Stolen Generations survivors inform policy, programs and public conversations
- raise awareness of the experiences of LGBTQIASB+ Stolen Generations survivors and their families
- support Stolen Generations organisations and partner services to build understanding of the experiences and social and emotional wellbeing needs of LGBTQIASB+ Stolen Generations survivors through knowledge sharing, resource development, community education and sector engagement
- continue engaging with survivors, families and communities and explore opportunities to support connection, storytelling and community-led healing

Why this research matters

This research shines a light on the experiences, strengths and priorities of LGBTQIASB+ Stolen Generations survivors and their families. Participants identified clear opportunities to improve recognition, advocacy, support and connection, providing an important foundation for future healing, policy and reform.

The findings reinforce the importance of ensuring LGBTQIASB+ Stolen Generations survivors are recognised, heard and included in conversations about healing, truth-telling and justice.

Download the full report

Acknowledgement

We acknowledge and thank the LGBTQIASB+ Stolen Generations survivors and family members who participated in this research. By generously sharing their experiences, insights and stories, participants have helped deepen understanding of the unique challenges, strengths and aspirations of LGBTQIASB+ Stolen Generations survivors. Their contributions will help inform future advocacy, awareness and healing efforts.