

SEXUAL AND GENDER DIVERSITY AMONG YOUTH: HEALTH SECTOR RESPONSES

Sexual and gender diverse young people tend to experience poorer wellbeing, mental health and physical health than the general population. Positive health sector interactions are crucial for ongoing healthcare engagement but negative experiences are commonly reported. Obstacles to care include assumptions of heterosexuality, professional discomfort, lack of health professional knowledge and lack of resources and referral networks. This presentation identifies health sector responses to improve outcomes for sexual and gender diverse young people including education, training and professional development, the creation of evidence-based guidelines and standards of care, and the release of position statements by key professional bodies. It draws on both experience in the sexual and reproductive health sector to signal the importance of engaging young people in service design and delivery and the role of the Rainbow Tick national Accreditation Program in supporting LGBTI-inclusive services.