

EXPECTATIONS AND EXPERIENCES OF 'INCLUSIVE' SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE IN THE QUEER GENERATIONS STUDY

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Introduction: The promotion of 'inclusive' health practice is increasingly stressed in health policy, with a particular focus on recognizing and welcoming people of diverse gender identities and sexual orientations. However, we know little about how past and contemporary forms of 'inclusion' are understood and experienced by different groups of LGBTQ youth, including in relation to sexual and reproductive health care services.

Methods: In this paper, we draw on qualitative interviews conducted with two 'social generations' of LGBTQ Australians who were born in either the 1970s or in the 1990s and grew up in either regional and urban New South Wales, Victoria or Western Australia. This presentation examines main themes in the interview data related to 'health', with a particular focus on expectations for and experiences of making use of 'inclusive' sexual and reproductive health services.

Results: Members of both social generations were generally articulate in the language of inclusion and confident in understanding their rights to securing safe and supportive care practices and settings. Although few informants had seriously negative experiences of their own to share, particularly as the majority of informants tended to seek out GP and sexual health services known to be queer-friendly, the cultural narrative of discrimination against LGBTQ people remained strong. Reproductive health care in particular was described as lagging behind in its efforts to promote sexual and gender diversity and failing to understand that sexuality and gender need not define parenting, fertility and contraception preferences and needs.

Conclusion: Successfully promoting sexual and gender diversity in health care requires more careful attention to the expectations and the experiences of those who represent gender and sexual minority perspectives, making no assumptions about what inclusion means and how it might be best enacted across different groups and different fields of practice.