

Twenty10 answers to additional Questions:

1. Can you define homophobia?
2. Can you define transphobia?
3. Mr Humphreys in his evidence (Hansard, page 20) said “I am sorry – I think it is about 50,000 for the year.” Does the 50,000 refer to contacts made to QLife nationally or the NSW arm of QLife?
4. Regarding the contacts made to QLife (specify if national or NSW), what were the number of people referred on to Lifeline and Kids Helpline for further assistance in:
 1. 2011/2012?
 2. 2012/2013?
 3. 2013/2014?
 4. 2014/2015?
 5. 2015/2016?
 6. 2016/2017?

Answers for Questions 1 and 2

The NSW Council of Social Service (NCOSS) defines Homophobia and Transphobia¹:

Homophobia refers to the irrational fear or hatred of, or aversion to, people who are homosexual (gay or lesbian), or who are perceived to be homosexual. Homophobia can operate at a range of levels, including: (1) institutional (policies or procedures that discriminate), (2) interpersonal (through people’s actions and the way they treat other people) and (3) internalised (where a person feels ashamed of who they are and less worthy because they are gay or lesbian or same-sex attracted).

Trans-phobia refers to the irrational fear or hatred of, or aversion to, people whose gender identity does not match dominant cultural expectations about what it means to be male or female. This includes people whose gender identity does not match their physical/biological sex assigned at birth.

Homophobia, transphobia and biphobia are recognised internationally by the United Nations² and the World Health Organisation³, leading to the founding of the International Day Against Homophobia, Bi-phobia, Intersexism and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) Day⁴.

¹ New South Wales Council of Social Service (2015). Beyond the myth of ‘pink privilege’: Poverty, disadvantage and LGBTI people in NSW. A scoping review of the evidence. p.ii.

² Source: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=56776>. Accessed 28/03/2018.

³ Source: <http://www.who.int/life-course/news/events/intl-day-against-homophobia/en/>. Accessed 28/03/2018.

⁴ Source: <http://dayagainsthomophobia.org/>. Accessed 28/03/2018.

The United Nations lists a range of activities as homophobic and transphobic:

*Homophobic and transphobic violence has been recorded in all regions. Such violence may be physical (including murder, beatings, kidnappings, rape and sexual assault) or psychological (including threats, coercion and arbitrary deprivations of liberty). These attacks constitute a form of gender-based violence, driven by a desire to punish those seen as defying gender norms.*⁵

The Australian IDAHOBIT website further defines transphobia as “negative feelings or actions towards someone who's trans or gender diverse” and describes homophobia as including verbal abuse, specifically, “name-calling, rumours and using abusive words” because of someone’s sexuality. They specify that it can occur “online, face to face and affect everyone by creating spaces where people feel unsafe and like they can't be themselves”.⁶

While homophobic and transphobic behaviours are often demonstrated toward people based on their actual identity, people are also targeted based on their presumed sexual orientation or gender identity.⁷

Australian research has consistently shown higher rates of interpersonal homophobia and transphobia including bullying, harassment and violence towards LGBTI people and highlighted the harmful impact of these behaviours on their lives and wellbeing.⁸ This is particularly the case for young people

Sixty-four per cent of Australian LGBTIQ young people have experienced verbal abuse, 18 per cent reported physical abuse and 32 per cent reported experiencing other forms of homophobia and transphobia including “social exclusion, rejection by families, discrimination, inequality, harassment and violence faced by many gender variant and sexuality diverse young people”.⁹

Rates for transgender and gender diverse young people are even higher: 89 per cent experienced peer rejection¹⁰ and 74 per cent reported bullying because of gender identity¹¹

⁵ United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (2011) Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights: Discriminatory laws and practices and acts of violence against individuals based on their sexual orientation and gender identity Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. p.8.

⁶ Source: <https://www.idahobit.org.au/index.php/get-active/the-stats>. Accessed 28/03/2018.

⁷ United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (2011) Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights: Discriminatory laws and practices and acts of violence against individuals based on their sexual orientation and gender identity Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. p.9.

⁸ Australian Human Rights Commission (2015). Resilient Individuals: Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity & Intersex Rights - National Consultation Report. P 15.

⁹ Robinson, K., Bansel, P., Denson, N., Ovenden, G. and Davies, C. (2014). Growing Up Queer: issues facing young Australians who are gender variant and sexuality diverse. Young and Well Cooperative Research Centre, Melbourne. p. 23.

¹⁰ Strauss, P., Cook, A., Winter, S., Watson, V., Wright Toussaint, D., Lin, A. (2017). Trans Pathways: the mental health experiences and care pathways of trans young people. Summary of results. Telethon Kids Institute, Perth, Australia. p.48

¹¹ Strauss, P., Cook, A., Winter, S., Watson, V., Wright Toussaint, D., Lin, A. (2017). Trans Pathways: the mental health experiences and care pathways of trans young people. Summary of results. Telethon Kids Institute, Perth, Australia. p.59

LGBTIQ young people are at greater risk of suicide than their peers, with depression and anxiety experienced by some “associated with continually negotiating homophobia and transphobia alone, without the support of family, friends, or teachers, [which] can result in suicidal ideation, self-harming, and alcohol and drug abuse”.¹²

Answer for Question 3.

The national total number of logged contacts for QLife (calls and webchats) for calendar year 2017 was 19,899.

Answer for Question 4.

Qlife does not have an easily accessible data set from project beginning (mid 2013) until December 14. The more reliable iCarol data set begins January 2015. Call logs do not necessarily record referrals to other services or if those services included Lifeline or Kids Helpline.

For more information contact Rebecca Reynolds, Executive Director National LGBTI Health Alliance: [REDACTED]

¹² Robinson, K., Bansel, P., Denson, N., Ovensen, G. and Davies, C. (2014). Growing Up Queer: issues facing young Australians who are gender variant and sexuality diverse. Young and Well Cooperative Research Centre, Melbourne. p. 23.