

The Walkern Katatdjin Roadmap Report:

**Working together to support Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander
LGBTQIA+ young people to thrive**

Shakara Liddel-Hunt

The Kids Research Institute Australia
& University of Western Australia



Acknowledgment of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of this land, the Whadjuk Noongar people, and pay respects to their Elders past and present.

Based in Boorloo, on Whadjuk land, our research takes place on Country across Australia.

We extend those respects and acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the Countries upon which we have done our research



I am Indigenous. I am gay. Unlike Tyrone Unsworth, I survived

Dameyon Bonson

Tyrone Unsworth
understand his
have challenged

Young Aboriginal LGBTI people are killing themselves. We need to protect them

Allan Clarke for IndigenousX

Tiwi Islands Sistagirls attend the Sydney Mardi Gras for the first time

Posted on 04/18/2017 by Andrew Farrell Standard

ABC NEWS

Tiwi Islands Sistagirls attend the Sydney Mar...

Share

ABC is an Australian public broadcast service.



Watch on YouTube



Kunghah: Sistergirls and brotherboys unite to strengthen spirits

By Margaret Burin

Posted Mon 21 Nov 2016 at 4:27am, updated Mon 21 Nov 2016 at 9:12am



'What Matters': First Nations Mardi Gras float to highlights five key community messages

"Representation and visibility of First Nations queer people is crucial for all the queer identifying mob who may be watching from home."

When Mardi Gras is over, people still walk a difficult

ABC RN / By Daniel Browning for Away!

Posted Fri 2 Mar 2018 at 10:02am



Participants in the 1995 Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras. (Supplied: Michelle Mika)



ACON's First Nations float is gearing up for the 2020 Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras. Source: ACON



Closing the gap in Indigenous LGBTI mental health (fogaas)

ATSI Rainbow Archive

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER LGBTIQASGBB+ ARCHIVE AND PORTAL

<https://indigblackgold.wordpress.com/>

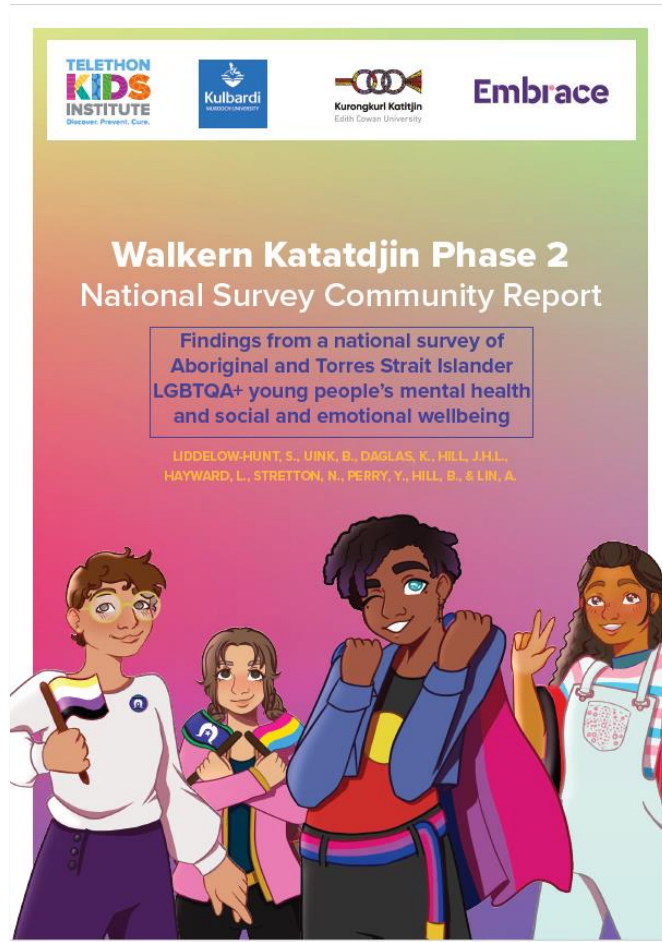
Walkern Katatdjin (Rainbow Knowledge)

Understanding the social and emotional wellbeing and mental health of people who are:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
 - LGBTQA+
 - Aged 14-25 years

www.rainbowknowledge.org





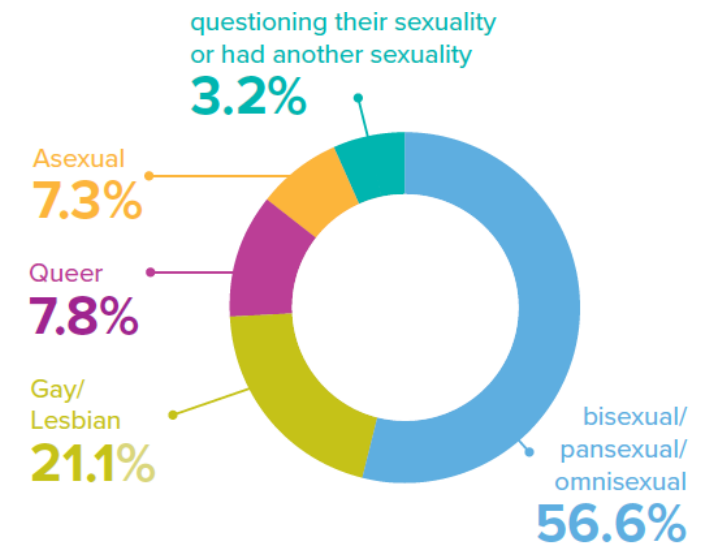
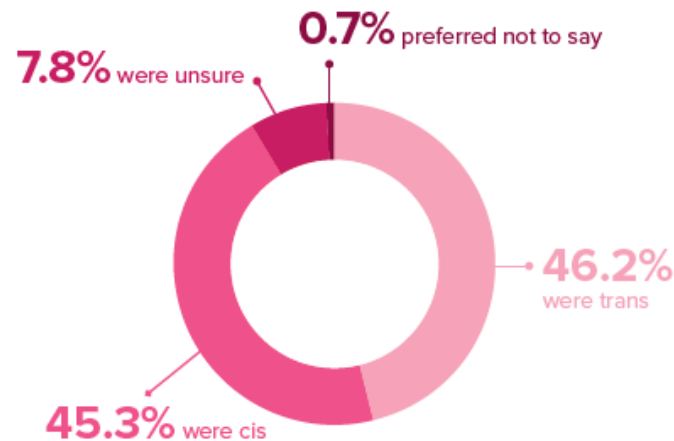
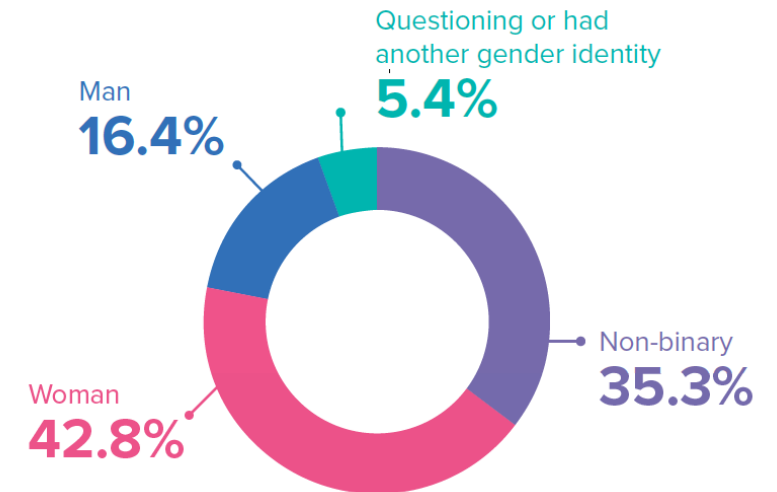
Liddelow-Hunt, S., Uink, B., Daglas, K., Hill, J.H.L., Hayward, L., Stretton, N., Perry, Y., Hill, B., & Lin, A. (2023) *Walkern Katatdjín (Rainbow Knowledge) Phase 2 National Survey Community Report*, Perth, Western Australia.

National survey

Primarily online

Open Feb-Jun 2022

619 participants responded

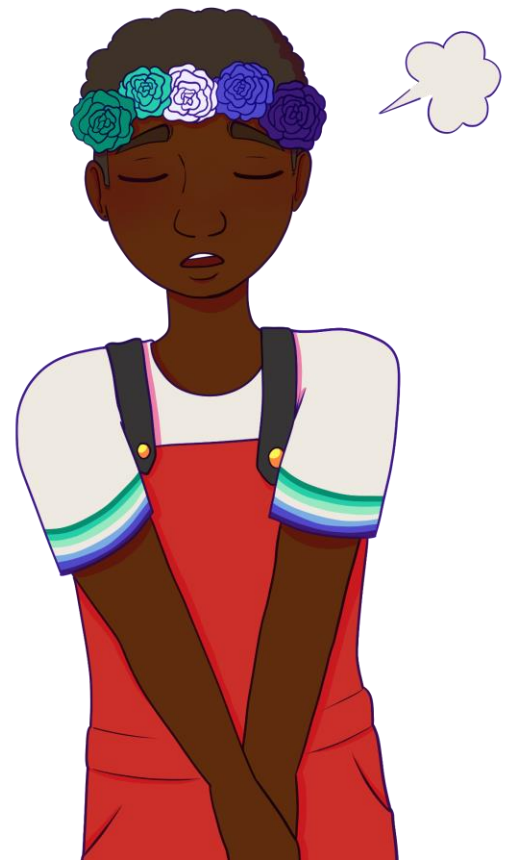




SEWB Diagram adapted from Gee et al., (2014)

Suicide attempt and psychological distress among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTQA+ young people

- 45.5% of participants had attempted suicide in their lifetime.
- In the last 12 months, 19% had attempted suicide.
- 92% reported either high or very high levels of psychological distress.
- Young people mostly commonly reported depression (68.1%), generalised anxiety (64%) and social anxiety (55.3%).

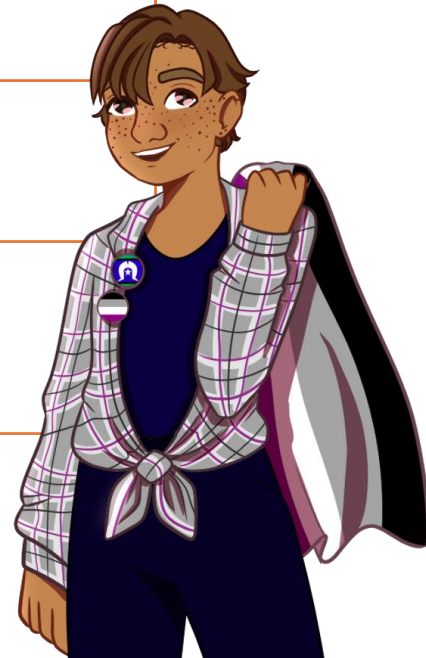


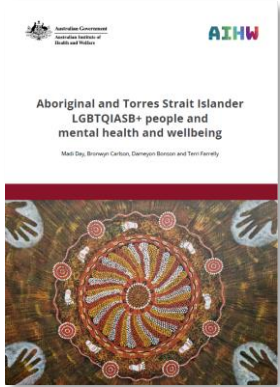
Factors associated with lower odds of thinking about, planning or attempting suicide

Age
Being asexual
Acceptance from parents, siblings, other family, community and Elders
Pride in being Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

Factors associated with greater odds of thinking about, planning or attempting suicide

Being queer
Having a disability or chronic illness
Often seeing fair media representation
Feeling seen by fair media representation
Racism in dating and romantic relationships





“**Discrimination and violence** targeting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and LGBTQIASB+ people can impact all aspects of life, including access to employment, health care, housing and participation in people’s own communities and in broader Australian society.

Disconnection and exclusion from community, culture and Country are risks to social, cultural and emotional wellbeing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTQIASB+ people. **Colonisation** introduces religious ideology to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, contributing to discrimination and violence towards Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are also LGBTQIASB+.

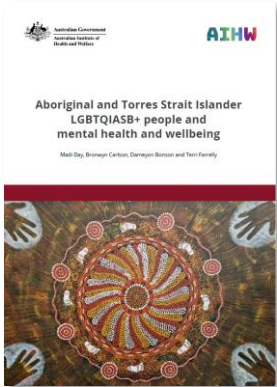
Day M, Carlson B, Bonson D and Farrelly T, (2023). *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTQIASB+ people and mental health and wellbeing*. Catalogue number IMH 15, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Australian Government.



Rates of reporting a **suicide attempt** were:

- Highest among those who had experienced verbal abuse, sexual assault or social exclusion based on their gender or sexual orientation in the past 12 months.

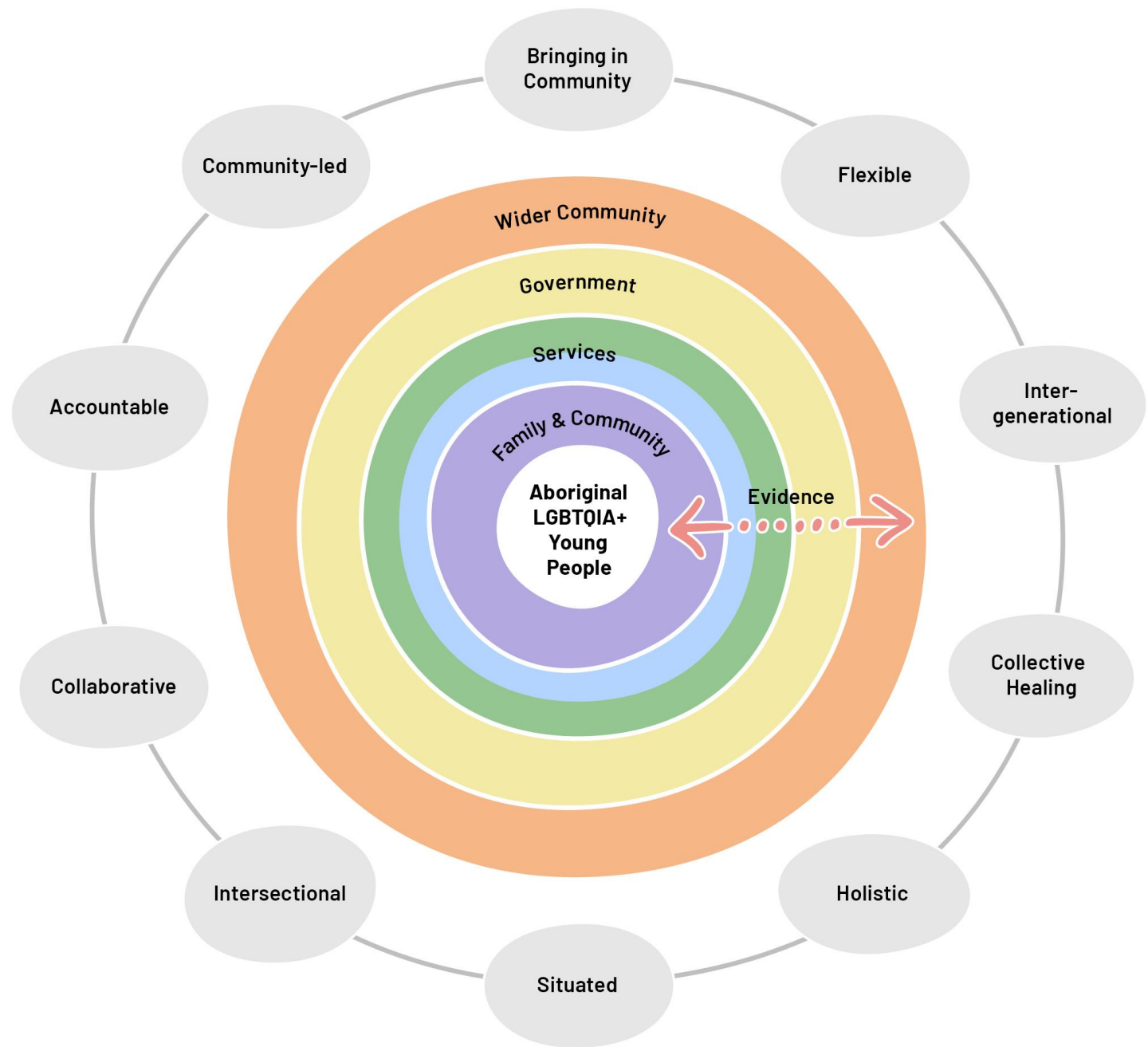
Amos N, Lim G, Buckingham P, Lin A, Liddelow-Hunt S, Mooney-Somers J, Bourne A, on behalf of the Writing Themselves In 4, Private Lives 3, SWASH, Trans Pathways, Walkern Katatdjinn and Pride and Pandemic Teams. (2023) *Rainbow Realities: In-depth analyses of large-scale LGBTQA+ health and wellbeing data in Australia*. Melbourne: Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University.



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTQIAB+ people show **significant agency and resilience** in the face of violence, marginalisation and discrimination.

...the following identified risks to wellbeing are not the result of some vulnerability inherent with being an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person who identifies as LGBTQIAB+, but rather are the **outcomes of experiences of racism, discrimination, marginalisation, homophobia and transphobia...**"

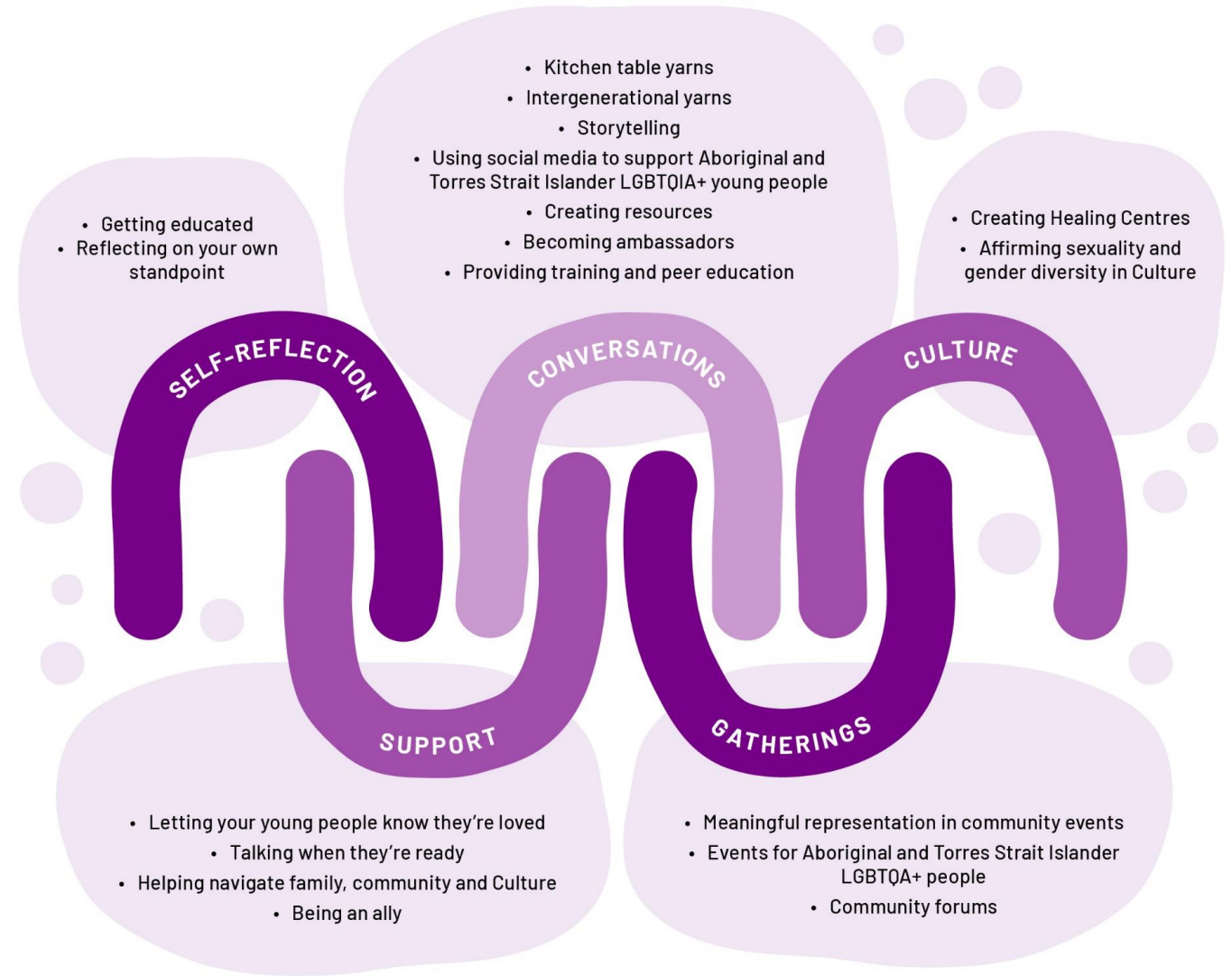
Day M, Carlson B, Bonson D and Farrelly T, (2023). *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTQIAB+ people and mental health and wellbeing*. Catalogue number IMH 15, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Australian Government.



Family and community

...can support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTQIA+ young people through creating visibility, education and safe places.

Family and community also have a responsibility to provide input into services and demonstrate that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTQIA+ inclusion is a priority for their communities.



Services


...can support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTQIA+ young people through providing inclusive care which is sustainably embedded into their practice.

The goal of inclusive care is for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTQIA+ young people to feel safe from the moment they enter a service and to receive the care that's right for *them*.

Services also have a role in empowering families and communities to achieve their actions and advocating to government.




'Finding strengths' actions exist to identify your service's current strengths, build a strong foundation, and understand what needs to be done and who should be involved. These actions focus on reflection and relationship building.


- 
- Transparency and truth-telling
 - Defining and identifying resourcing
 - Representation in decision-making
 - Policy and commitment mapping
 - Stakeholder mapping
 - Employing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTQIA+ people
 - Creating communities of practice

FINDING STRENGTHS

'Learning, building, growing' actions seek to embed a commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTQIA+ inclusion to ensure that it is sustainable. These actions focus on concrete changes you can make in your service.

- 
- Embedding inclusion in Strategic and Operational plans
 - Embedding in Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)
 - Undertaking training
 - Updating in-house information systems
 - Making bathrooms accessible
 - Developing strengths-based resources
 - Developing tools, measures, interventions, and therapies
 - Developing tiered training
 - Workplace policy to ensure inclusion

'Embedding' actions push beyond day-to-day inclusion into systems and evaluation. These actions focus on sustainability.

- 
- Employing an Inclusion Officer
 - Updating externally managed information systems
 - Monitoring and evaluating inclusion practice
 - Embedding inclusion into Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)
 - Developing a trainee-to-trainer program
 - Seeking accreditation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTQIA+ inclusive practice

EMBEDDING



TRANSFORMING THE SYSTEM

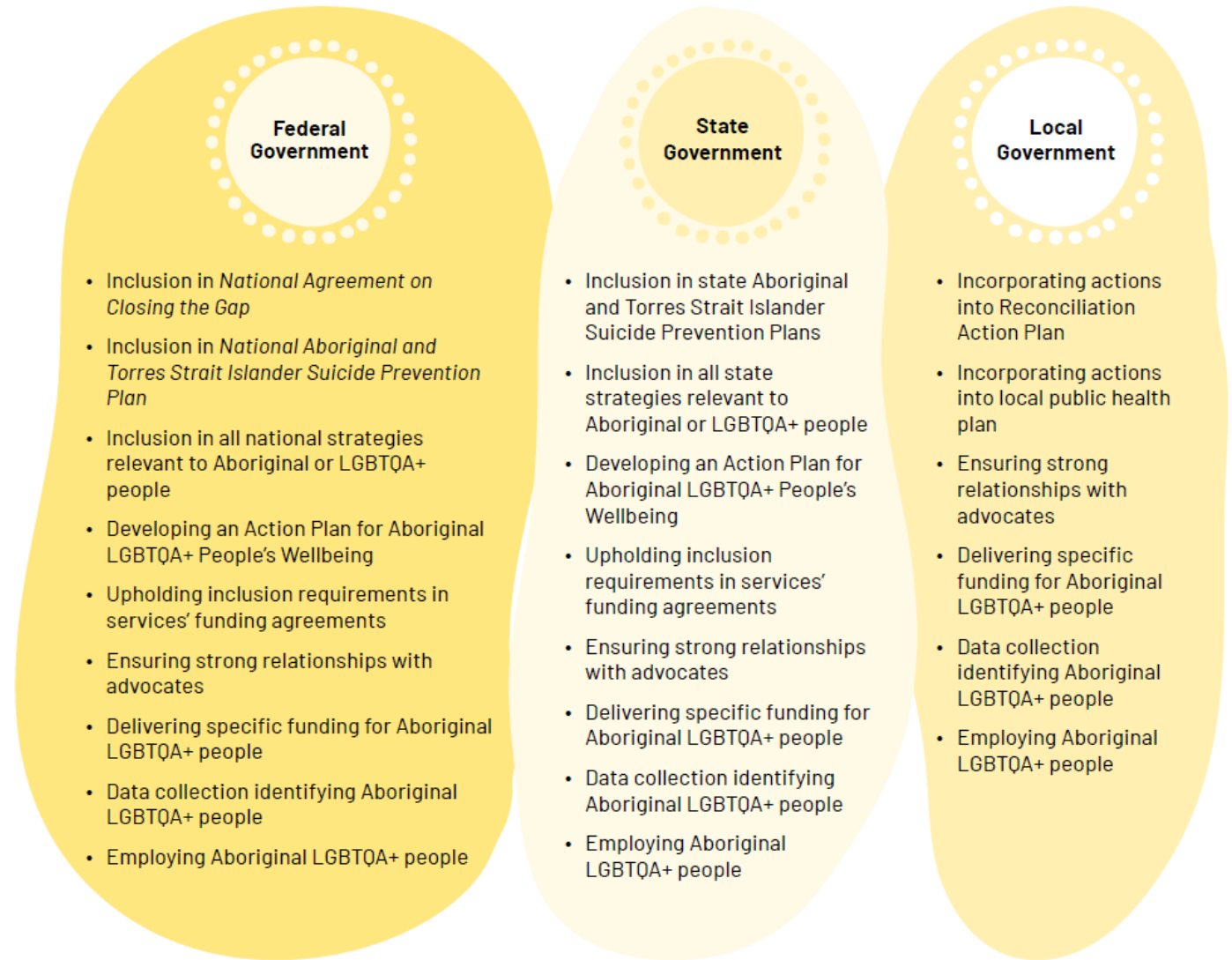
- Culturally inclusive practice
- Culturally inclusive workforce
- Improved mental health record
 - Wrap-around care

‘Transforming the system’ actions imagine the best possible care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTQIA+ young people. Excellent care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTQIA+ young people is likely to be excellent care for a wide range of people. These actions focus on working together to radically reshape service provision.

Government

...can support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTQIA+ young people through changes to policies and strategies, establishing and maintaining strong relationships with advocates, identifying Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTQIA+ people in data, employing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTQIA+ people, and providing targeted funding.

Governments also play their part by empowering services and maintaining their responsibility to community.



Wider community

...can support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTQIA+ young people through shaping the broader culture and seeking out opportunities for allyship in their everyday lives.

Additionally, everyone has a role to play in ensuring that local, state and federal governments are aware of the importance of supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTQIA+ young people and are held accountable for doing so.

- Get educated
- Be vocal about your support of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTQIA+ people
- Learn to be an upstander
- Normalise and celebrate diversity
- Make a donation
- Volunteer your time
- Figure out what you can do in your job
- Advocate to government
- Be an educated voter

HERE ARE SOME RESOURCES AND POSTERS YOU CAN USE

- [Walkern Katatdjijin](#) resources
- [VACCHO x Jay Kulbardi](#) posters
- [Charlotte Allingham \(@coffinbirth\)](#) posters

You can find more resources on
[Health/InfoNet](#) or [WellMob](#)

Evidence

Responses to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTQIA+ young people need to be driven by reliable evidence, not assumptions about their needs. This is currently made difficult by the scarcity of data about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTQIA+ people of any age, although there has been a significant increase in research about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTQIA+ people in recent years.

For evidence about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTQIA+ young people to be reliable it needs to be supported by a rigorous process for Indigenous Data Sovereignty (IDS, Walter, 2018).

When done properly, IDS ensures that research is controlled by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people at every point in its lifecycle. This additionally means that data is relevant to communities' needs, reflects Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander worldviews, and is collected according to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ways of working. In practice, this requires establishing strong Indigenous Data Governance processes.

Those responsible for evidence should be directed by the data needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTQIA+ communities, which form part of the broader project of self-determination.

Who is responsible for providing evidence?

- Researchers (e.g., research projects resulting in papers, reports, guidelines and interventions)
- Services (e.g., client data, evaluation)
- Governments (e.g., Census and ABS data, government agency data, reporting against progress)

WALKERN KATATDJIN ROADMAP REPORT

Working together to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
LGBTQIA+ young people to thrive

Liddel-Hunt, S., Hayward, L., Hill, B., Perry, Y., Wilson, M., Stretton, N., Anderson-Hyde, M.J.,
Andrews, L., Bagshaw, D., Baptist, R., Bassett-Bokic, N., Berry, M., Blow, T., Cameron, D., Cox, L.,
Daglas, K., Dau, D., Devezy, Y., Eddy, S., Fowler, J.A., Henderson, C., Hill, B., Hill, J.H.L., Hunt, A.,
James, J., Lee, T., Makuru, K., McGillivray, B., Morrison, J., Riley, N., Storey, D., Strobel, N.,
Thorne, S., Wade, A., Waples-Crowe, P., Weir, V., Wells, K., Wishart, E., Uink, B.* & Lin, A.*



ILLUSTRATIONS BY KAEYA MILTON

<https://www.rainbowknowledge.org/roadmap>

Walkern Katatdjín
Rainbow Knowledge



[Home](#) [About Us](#) [About the Projects](#) [Findings](#) [Get Support](#) [News](#) [Join us!](#)

Walkern Katatdjín Roadmap Report



Shania Eddy (SHQ), Aunty Vivienne Weir, Duc Dau (Wungening Aboriginal Corporation) and Sam Gibbings (Transfolk WA) tell us why the Roadmap matters to them.

www.rainbowknowledge.org/roadmap



access the webpage now



Walkern Katatdjijin Rainbow Knowledge

A graphic of a rainbow flag with horizontal stripes of black, red, yellow, green, and blue, rendered in a hand-painted style.

Research team: Prof Bep Uink, Shakara Liddelow-Hunt, Prof Braden Hill, Prof Ashleigh Lin, A/Prof Yael Perry, Lily Hayward

Roadmap Authors:

Liddelow-Hunt, Shakara; Hayward, Lily; Hill, Braden; Perry, Yael; Wilson, Mirella; Stretton, Natasha; Anderson-Hyde, MJ; Andrews, Lindey; Bagshaw, Dorothy; Baptist, Rhubarb; Basset-Bokic, Natalie; Berry, Michael; Blow, Tahlia; Cameron, Danielle; Cox, Lynette; Daglas, Kate; Dau, Duc; Devezy, Yohann; Eddy, Shania; Fowler, James; Henderson, Cheyeanne; Hill, Brenda; Hill, James; Hunt, Alana; James, Jakob; Lee, Tony; Makuru, Kurtis; McGillivray, Barbara; Morrison, Jim; Riley, Nathan; Storey, Dion; Strobel, Natalie; Thorne, Shirley; Wade, Anom; Waples-Crowe, Peter; Weir, Vivienne; Wells, Kirsten; Wishart, Emery; Uink, Bep & Lin, Ashleigh

The Kids Research Institute Australia; Kurongkurl Katitjin, Edith Cowan University; Australian Indigenous Healthinfonet, Edith Cowan University; The University of Western Australia; Kulbardi Aboriginal Centre, Murdoch University

Contributing organisations:

Blak Pride WA; Kimberley Blak Pride Ltd.; North Metropolitan Health Service Youth Mental Health; Sexual Health and Blood-borne Virus Program; Western Australian Department of Health; Sexual Health Quarters; Transfolk WA; The University of Queensland Poche Centre for Indigenous Health; Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO); Wungening Aboriginal Corporation; Yorgum Healing Services; Youth Pride Network

Artist: Kaeya Milton (@kaeangelwings)

Graphic designer: Kelli Savietto

Walkern Katatdjin Rainbow Knowledge



The ethics of this research project have been approved by:

Western Australian Aboriginal Health Ethics Committee (WAAHEC) #1000
Department of Health and Menzies School of Health Research Top End HREC (TEHREC) #2021-3997
Central Australian Health Research Ethics Committee (CAHREC) #2021-3997
Aboriginal Health Research Ethics Committee (AHREC) #04-21-924
Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council NSW (AH&MRC) #1787/21
Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) #EO231-20210114
ACON Research Ethics Review Committee #202118

This project is funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)

Further information: Rainbow.Knowledge@telethonkids.org.au or see www.rainbowknowledge.org.au

