LGBTI Homelessness

Drivers, policy reform and service delivery needs

Ruth McNair

National Homelessness Conference
August 2018
Outline

1. LGBTI specific drivers & homelessness

2. Systemic reforms needed

3. Service delivery and LGBTI inclusive practice
LGB people and homelessness - Australia

Ever experienced homelessness
2014 General Social Survey Australia, n=12,932

Gender identity not asked

LGBT youth homelessness prevalence

Data from service providers:

- **US** - LGBTQ people account for 20-40% of homeless youth [1]
- **Canada** – LGBTQ people account for 29.5% [2]

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www.dev.truecolorsfund.org

LGBTIQ homelessness projects

A/Prof Ruth McNair
Dr Cal Andrews
Dr Sharon Parkinson
A/Prof Deborah Dempsey

Caveat - intersex

www.lgbtihomeless.org.au/
LGBTQ homelessness project findings


Risk factors and pathways into homelessness

- *Structural* violence, harassment, explicit and implicit discrimination
- *Individual* vulnerability - especially family rejection and conflict, mental health, and childhood trauma and sexual assault
Risk factors
Interviews with 19 homelessness services staff, and 17 LGBT people

- Lack of family acceptance (gender, sexuality), not feeling safe to be self
- Mental health – trauma, anxiety, substance use (coping mechanism, daily discrimination)
- Social isolation and not knowing who to ask for help
- Discrimination in private rental market, education and employment (visibility, pressure to ‘pass’ to compete)
- ‘Multilayered’, ‘cascade’ of events, repeated episodes
- Lacking ID, gaps in rental histories
Structural barriers to LGBT inclusion

- A lack of inclusive LGBT policies within services
- Lack of data collection regarding LGBT people in homelessness services
- Inadequate LGBT training in mainstream services
- Very few LGBT specific homelessness services
- Lack of detailed understanding of reasons for LGBT homelessness

Reforms needed in all of these areas.
Data collection – Launch housing 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender identity</th>
<th>She/her</th>
<th>He/him</th>
<th>They/them</th>
<th>Name only</th>
<th>Prefer to self-describe (specify)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do you have an intersex variation?</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Trans</td>
<td>Sistergirl</td>
<td>Brotherboy</td>
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Launch Housing is a place where human rights are respected and people of diverse genders and sexual orientations are welcomed and supported.
National LGBTIQ inclusive practice guidelines for housing and homelessness services – in development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NATIONAL GUIDELINES – EXAMPLE AREAS FOR SERVICE WORKERS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Respectful communication</td>
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<td>2. Discrimination and barriers</td>
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<td>3. Disclosure and confidentiality</td>
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<td>4. Intersectional issues and diversity inclusion</td>
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<td>5. Recording LGBTIQ status</td>
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<td>6. Safe environment</td>
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<td>7. Support, referral, and advocacy</td>
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<td>8. Community housing and the private rental market</td>
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ADDITIONAL SECTION FOR MANAGERS

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR CLIENTS
LGBTIQ Safe Housing Network – pilot underway 2017-2019

Pilot with 100 LGBTIQ people at risk of homelessness

Allocate case worker and peer support worker

2 pilot sites -
Drummond St Services
Uniting Kildonan Shepparton

Referrals – LGBTI inclusive:
Housing: – rental, social, transitional, youth foyers
Support – mental health, AOD, education, workforce

Evaluation
Pre and post surveys with participants
Interviews with selected participants and workers

Kildonan
Thank you

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