



ACT
Government

Inclusive Sport Survey Summary

The Sport Experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex People in the Australian Capital Territory

The Inclusive Sport Survey is a component of the Inclusive Sport Project which addresses harassment, discrimination and bullying in sport.

Conducted by Sport
and Recreation Services,
ACT Government

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Foreword

Sporting clubs and organisations need to provide inclusive, safe and fair environments as well as prevent and deal with inappropriate behaviour, such as harassment, discrimination and bullying. To assist sporting organisations, the ACT Government is delivering the Inclusive Sport Project during 2014. A key component of the Project includes undertaking research to understand the sport experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people in the ACT.

In comparison to the research and policy work done to improve sport opportunities for other disadvantaged groups (e.g. women and girls, people with a disability, Indigenous Australians and ethnic minorities), much less has been done for LGBTI communities. To address this lack of available research, the ACT Government rolled out the Inclusive Sport Survey during September 2013. It is the first sports specific study of its type conducted in the ACT and provides findings on the sport experiences of local LGBTI people.

Over 300 people participated in the Inclusive Sport Survey from which a survey report and set of recommendations were published. The research will also guide the future roll out of the Inclusive Sport Project which includes resource development and the delivery of campaign activities and sport specific training.



Summary of main findings

- The most common 'main' sport or recreational activity identified in the survey is football/soccer (12.9%), followed by weights/circuits (8.4%) and group fitness (7.1%).
- Themes to emerge from participant's best sporting experiences include: achievement and winning – at elite and grassroots levels, being part of a team or community, being accepted and welcomed, experiencing health benefits, having the opportunity to travel and broaden life experiences, fun and friendship, gaining confidence and providing a positive contribution.
- 37.1% of respondents were 'not out' regarding their sexuality and/or being transgender.
- Over 40% of respondents have felt unsafe in a sporting environment.
- 34% of survey respondents experienced sexism in sport.
- 32.2% of respondents experienced verbal homophobia/bullying in sport.
- 7.1% of respondents experienced verbal harassment/bullying in sport based on being transgender or intersex.
- 4.4% of survey respondents experienced physical assault in sport.
- Over 50% of respondents don't know if their club or recreation provider has policies around safety and inclusion for LGBTI people, or anti-discrimination policies regarding sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex status.

Survey recommendations

1. Investigate potential partnerships with government, education institutions and sport, recreation and fitness industry agencies, so that national research can be conducted and opportunities, programs and resources that promote acceptance, understanding and inclusion of LGBTI people can be developed in a broad and coordinated manner.
2. Provide additional support and resources to assist sporting organisations to effectively implement and promote their Member Protection Policy, so it remains an effective, current and accessible document.
3. Investigate opportunities and provide guidelines for sport and recreation providers to facilitate sport and recreation participation for transgender and intersex people.
4. Build on the resources available on the Play by the Rules website and implement a range of practical and effective strategies and initiatives, to ensure that LGBTI people feel safe from harm, abuse and bullying behaviours at sporting venues.
5. Support sporting organisations that actively seek out opportunities to host sporting events and tournaments specifically for and are inclusive of the LGBTI community, so that Canberra is recognised locally, national and international as a welcoming, inclusive and progressive city that acknowledges and celebrates its diversity.

Further information

Kathy Mumberson

Play by the Rules Project Officer (ACT)
Sport and Recreation Services,
ACT Government

02 6207 7678

sport_act@act.gov.au

[www.economicdevelopment.act.gov.au/
sport_and_recreation](http://www.economicdevelopment.act.gov.au/sport_and_recreation)

Play by the Rules

www.playbytherules.net.au

Main report

The *Inclusive Sport Survey Report* is available from the Play by the Rules and Sport and Recreation Services websites.

