## Summary

## Children and Young People with Disability Australia (CYDA) is the national representative organisation for children and young people with disability aged 0 to 25 years.

CYDA hosted a consultation in December 2021 with 11 participants that sought to understand the intersecting experiences of LGBTQIA+[[1]](#footnote-0) young people with disability in medical and healthcare settings. The consultation was co-designed by a working group of young disabled people.

### What young people said:

Key themes that emerged included the need for a more intersectional approach in healthcare, inadequate understanding and confidence around gender diverse and neurodivergent[[2]](#footnote-1) people, limited instances of healthcare providers with lived experience of these intersecting identities, a systemic issue of medical practitioners making incorrect assumptions, and a lack of dedicated or appropriate services to affirm people’s identities.

## Recommendations

### Recommendations for government:

* Commit to the development of a national LGBTQIA+ Healthcare Strategy, which includes a focus on healthcare for disabled clients, young clients, gender diverse clients, and neurodivergent clients.
* Invest in research exploring the experiences of LGBTQIA+ disabled young people, including a focus on transgender and gender diverse-specific health outcomes and treatments. Provide additional funding under the National Disability Advocacy Program[[3]](#footnote-2) to work in collaboration with specialist advocacy organisations to develop tailored advocacy approaches for LGBTQIA+ people with disability.

### Recommendations for healthcare settings and medical service providers:

* Investigate opportunities to de-clinicalise medical spaces and to make them more inviting for queer disabled clients.
* Implement the suggestions to improve patient-care for young queer disabled people made in this paper, including ensuring spaces meet physical accessibility requirements and utilising digital platforms, such as social media, to support engagement.

### Recommendations for healthcare regulators and peak medical bodies:

* Engage collaboratively with LGBTQIA+ and Disability Representative Organisations to develop accredited LGBTQIA+ cultural competency training for health professionals, as well as improving existing training through engagement with lived experience.

### Recommendations for medical professional development and education providers:

* Engage with LGBTQIA+ and Disability Representative Organisations to collaboratively examine opportunities for improvements to the education and development pipeline to support more LGBTQIA+ and disabled people entering healthcare professions.
* Work with healthcare settings and medical service providers to identify opportunities for on-the-job, ongoing education and training which is co-designed with the LGBTQIA+ disabled community.

1. LGBTQIA+ stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Aromantic/Asexual, with the ‘+’ being an umbrella for all other gender, sexual, and romantic minorities. Detailed definitions available at: [Your guide to words and definitions in the LGBTQIA+ community (minus18.org.au)](https://www.minus18.org.au/articles/your-guide-to-words-and-definitions-in-the-lgbtqia+-community) [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
2. ‘Neurodivergent’ is a non-medical umbrella term for people whose brain works differently. It typically refers to, but is not limited to, conditions such as autism, ADHD, epilepsy and Tourette’s syndrome [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
3. Commonwealth of Australia. (2022). Available at: [National Disability Advocacy Program (dss.gov.au)](https://www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/disability-and-carers/program-services/for-people-with-disability/national-disability-advocacy-program-ndap) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)