



Amplifying the Youth Voice during COVID-19 and beyond

Communique (Aug – Sep – Oct 2020)

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2020

- Welcome to the Amplifying the Youth Voice during COVID-19 and beyond Project that aims to improve representation of younger health consumers in decision-making processes in health services across Queensland.
- Young people have valuable experience, and feedback to give that is important to policy makers, clinicians and others in the health system.



OUR YOUTH REFERENCE GROUP (YRG)

The Youth Reference Group for the project brings together 24 young people from across Queensland, with the first meeting held on 24 September 2020.

The group is focused on three main deliverables for the project:

- Engagement with young people across Queensland about their experience of COVID-19, the barriers to engagement and priorities for health services.
- The development of a young health consumers network for Queensland, and
- A strategy aimed at increasing engagement with young people in the development and delivery of health services.



WHO'S ON THE YRG?

The Youth Reference Group is mostly made up of young women and non-binary young people, as well as young men.

The majority of the young people are from Brisbane, the Sunshine Coast and the Gold Coast, as well as Central Queensland (Charleville and Blackall) and North Queensland (Townsville).

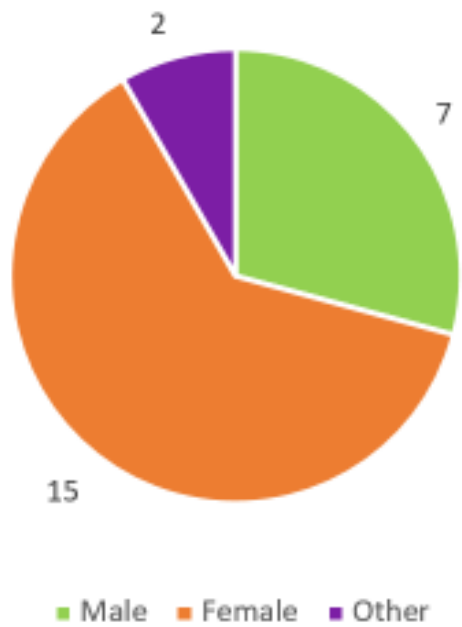
There is a fairly even split of ages from 16 years to 25 years old, with the lowest proportion in the 24 to 25 year old age category.

The lived experience of the group is broad with 14 young people identifying as having a disability or chronic condition, eight young people who identify as LGBTIQ+ and six young people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Two young people identify as being from Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander backgrounds.

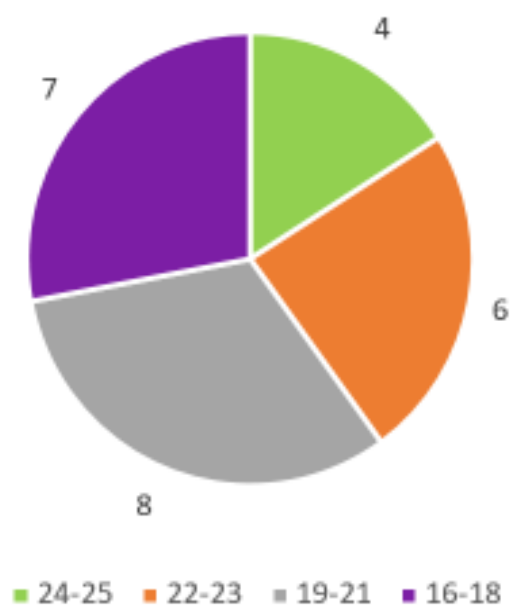


AGE AND GENDER ON THE YRG

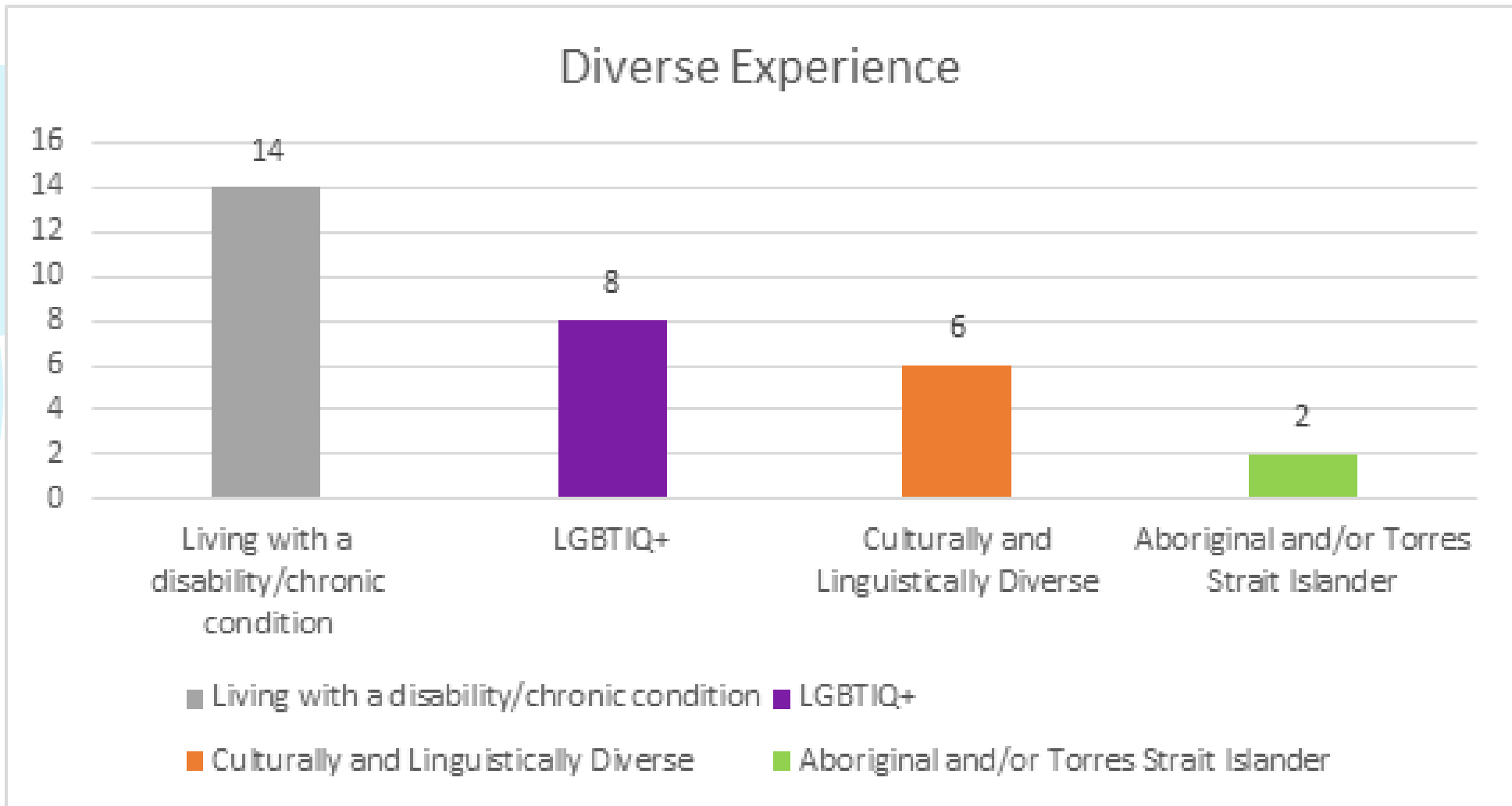
Gender



Age



DIVERSITY ACROSS THE YRG



YRG WORK SO FAR

- Come together for 4 meetings in 4 weeks
- 524 messages on the online platform
- Co-created Kitchen Table Discussion outline for implementation in November
- Brainstormed on Youth Network mechanisms
- Preparing feedback for the development of a youth engagement strategy

WHAT THE YRG IS TALKING ABOUT RIGHT NOW

- Telehealth
- Mental Health
- Barriers to accessing health services
- Ways to make access easier
- Empathy in the health system
- Cost of health care for young people

Young Queenslanders access all sorts of different kinds of health services (public and private hospitals, allied health etc) but especially GPs.

Young people aren't taken seriously and there is also a lack of knowledge about services available.

Outlining costs upfront before it happens is important, especially for young people living out of home

Telehealth has been a positive experience during the pandemic. There is less travel time and it's very convenient.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?



- The Youth Reference Group is keen to connect with young people across Queensland. If you're interested in being part of the project, get in touch.
- If you're an organisation who is already working with young people in the health sector and would like to collaborate or if you have an interest in engaging young people in the work you're doing, or you just want stay in the loop, email us and let us know.
- Contact:
leonie.sanderson@hcq.org.au or Chelsea.gourgaud@hcq.org.au