



Trans woman with her non-binary partner and her son. *raphobe, iStock*.

Trans and Gender Diverse People's Housing Experiences: Household and Neighbourhood Safety, Housing Insecurity, and Homelessness

Findings from the TRANSform Australian national trans health survey

Department of Medicine



TRANS HEALTH
RESEARCH



Trans man with his dog. *Annie, Adobe Stock.*

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Recommended Citation

Zwickl, S., Grace, J., Manifold, C., Ward-Smith, E., Murray, J., Skewis, F., Bailey, S., Ruggles, T., Cheung, AS. Trans and Gender Diverse People's Housing Experiences: Household and Neighbourhood Safety, Housing Insecurity and Homelessness. Melbourne: Trans Health Research Group, Department of Medicine, University of Melbourne, 2025.



Welcome to Country smoking ceremony. *Richard Timbury (Casamento Photography)*.

Acknowledgement of Country

The Trans Health Research Group is based in Naarm (Melbourne), on the Lands of Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation.

We Acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the Lands and Waterways on which we work and pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders, past and present.

Sovereignty was never ceded. This always was, and always will be, Aboriginal land.

Acknowledgements

This study was run as part of the [TRANSform Project](#), a longitudinal trans-led and community co-designed research project.

We would like to send our sincerest thanks to the over 800 trans and gender diverse (trans) people who have so generously shared their experiences of housing.

Behind the scenes, there have been countless hours of discussion, data analysis, and reporting.

Thank you to the Trans Health Research Community Advisory Group who through their diverse expertise and lived experience, have provided such invaluable feedback to TRANSform, helping to improve the inclusivity and accessibility of the project.

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers who are integral members of our team, and the many TRANSform collaborators, including community organisations, advocacy groups, clinicians, fellow researchers, and scientists across the country.

This research has been approved by the Austin Health, ACON and Thorne Harbour Ethics Committees, and we are deeply appreciative of their ongoing support for this project. This research was only possible because of competitive grant funding, and we are so grateful for funding support from NHMRC, and The University of Melbourne.

About Trans Health Research Group

The Trans Health Research team are based in the Department of Medicine, at The University of Melbourne, Australia.

We conduct research with one goal: **to provide robust evidence to improve the health and wellbeing of the trans community.** Every research question we ask, every project that we do, every collaboration that we start, is aligned with our goal, and must translate to better outcomes for our community.

Our research covers three priority areas – **gender affirming hormone therapy (GAHT), mental health and wellbeing, and health care service delivery.** Our research findings have been translated into health and wellbeing programs, treatment guidelines, and health policy.

While research is our core focus, we are also advocates and passionate speakers, and routinely provide **consultation and trans health educational training** to health care professionals, government, and community organisations nationwide.

Trans Health Research place a strong focus on community-codedesigned and trans-led research. Our team includes trans men, trans women, non-binary people, and cisgender allies.

Contact Information

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Non-binary person and their femme partner. *Disabled and Here*.

Key Findings

A total of 807 trans and gender diverse people completed this 2024 Australian national survey.

Of those survey respondents living with other people:

9 in 10 (91%) reported that everyone they lived with knew they were trans or gender diverse.

9 in 10 (92%) 'strongly agreed' or 'agreed' that the person/people they lived with treated them fairly and respectfully.

In the previous 12 months:

1 in 9 (11%) had experienced violence, abuse, harassment or controlling behaviour from someone they lived with.

1 in 14 (7%) had experienced anti-trans discrimination, threats of violence, or violence from a neighbour.

1 in 17 (6%) had moved where they were living because they felt unsafe.

1 in 10 (10%) had lived somewhere they felt unsafe but did not have the option to move.

1 in 2 (52%) reported one or more type of housing insecurity.

1 in 8 (12%) reported one or more type of homelessness.

Trans and gender diverse (trans): People who have a gender different to the gender presumed and recorded for them at birth. It is a broad umbrella term inclusive of a large range of genders including trans man, trans woman, non-binary, genderqueer, genderfluid, agender, Sistergirl, Brotherboy, and more. More key definitions can be found [here](#).

Project Background

Trans and gender diverse people consistently report high rates of homelessness, driven by family rejection and socioeconomic disparities, such as high rates of unemployment. However, with recent shifts in social attitudes towards trans people (for better and worse), and the housing and cost-of-living crisis, there is a need for research focused on trans and gender diverse peoples' recent experiences of housing in Australia.

To address this research gap, an online survey focused on housing experiences was open for completion between 1 May 2024 and 31 May 2024 to anyone:

- With a gender that is different to what was presumed for them at birth (trans or gender diverse).
- Currently living in Australia.
- Aged 16 years or older.

This survey was conducted as part of the larger [TRANSform Project](#). TRANSform is an ongoing research project that aims to produce priority-based and community-led research to improve the health and wellbeing of trans communities.

Design of this survey was led by researchers with lived experience and expertise and trans and gender diverse people, with input from [ACON](#) and community members, and cisgender clinicians with extensive experience in trans health.

Survey questions with fixed-option responses are included where relevant. Respondent quotes that are used throughout the report were in response to a single free-text survey question “*Is there anything else you would like to share in relation to your housing?*” Notably, while some of the statistics presented in this report indicate that only a minority of trans and gender diverse people report negative experiences for each of the respective survey items, the respondent quotes are predominantly negative. This is likely in part due to negativity bias, with negative experiences often having a profound and lasting impact on the individuals. This highlights the importance of providing space for trans and gender diverse people to tell their stories. Names featured in this report are pseudonyms, to protect the privacy of respondents.

The study received ethical and governance approval by the [Austin Health Human Research Ethics Committee](#) (Reference Number HREC/57155/Austin-2019), [ACON Research Ethics Review Committee](#) (Reference Number 2020/03) and the [Thorne Harbor Health Community Research Endorsement Panel](#) (Reference Number THH/CREP 20-006).



Trans woman's morning routine. *Anna Tolipova*.

Statistics included in this report are descriptive only and intended to provide a broad overview of trans and gender diverse people's housing experiences in Australia. For more detailed information about the study methods and/or additional data analysis, please contact the TRANSform research team: transform-research@unimelb.edu.au.



Trans woman and her non-binary housemate. *Annie, Adobe Stock.*

Survey Respondents

Of 807 respondents:

286 (36%) were trans women.

242 (30%) were trans men.

271 (34%) were non-binary or gender diverse people.

5 (<1%) were people with a culturally-specific gender identity.

Age range 16 – 79 years (median age was 33 years).

681 (84%) were born in Australia.

33 (4%) were Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

655 (81%) had a tertiary qualification.

555 (69%) were employed, 113 (14%) were unemployed and 132 (17%) were not in the labour force.

415 (51%) had a diagnosed disability or chronic health condition.



Trans man looking out the window. *staticnak1983, iStock.*

“Housing insecurity faced by renters, particularly trans people who face employment discrimination and higher rates of disability, and thus live below the poverty line on Jobseeker payments, is my #1 worst mental health stressor. I have had several friends take their own lives related to losing hope for stable finances and housing.”

-Gavin, trans man.



“We have taken on two transgender women in our house who have had no other housing available.”

—Tori, trans woman.

Trans woman with her dog.
vandervelden, iStock.

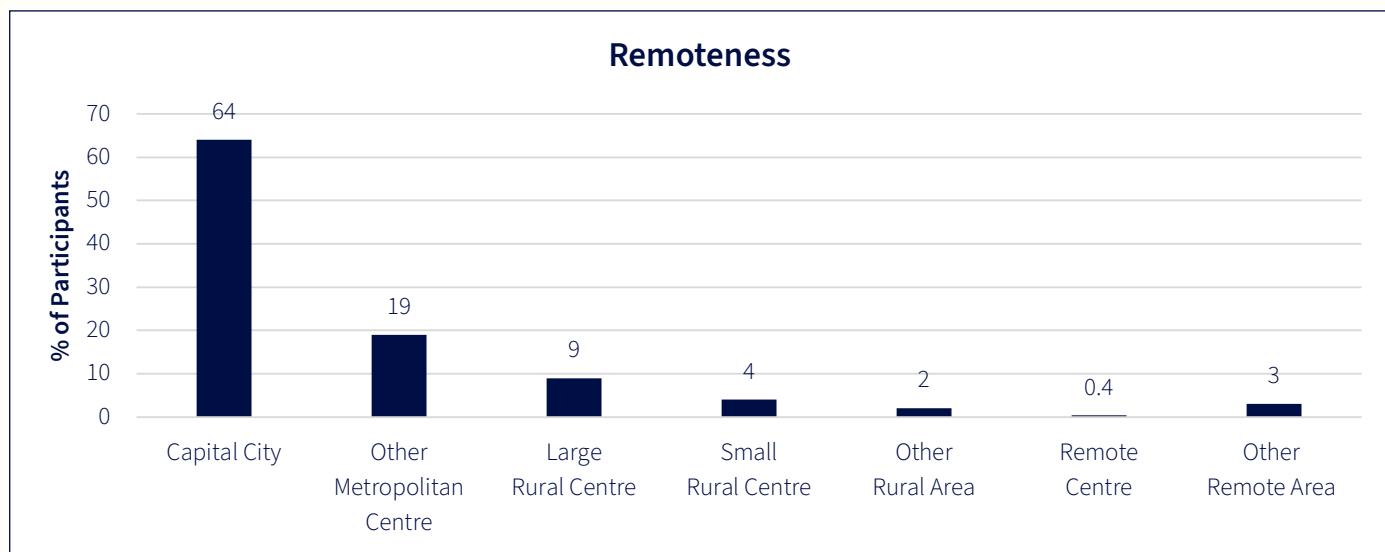
Remoteness

There are several different measures of geographic remoteness used in Australia. Using the [Australian Statistical Geography Standard \(ASGS\)](#), the Australian Bureau of Statistics reported in [June 2022](#), that 72% of the Australian general population was living in major cities, 18% in inner regional areas, 8.1% in outer regional areas, 1.2% in remote areas, and 0.8% in very remote areas.

In this survey, the [Rural, Remote and Metropolitan Areas \(RRMA\)](#) was used, making a direct comparison between this survey data and the general population data difficult.

The RRMA classification consists of three zones (Metropolitan, Rural and Remote) and seven classes. The Metropolitan zone includes (1) capital Cities, and (2) other metropolitan centres (population $\geq 100,000$). The Rural zone includes (3) large rural centres (population 25,000-99,000), (4) small rural centres (population 10,000-24,999), and (5) other rural areas (population $< 10,000$). The Remote zone includes (6) remote centres (population $\geq 5,000$), and (7) other remote areas (population $< 5,000$). In this survey, respondents were asked "Where do you currently live?" and were provided these seven RRMA classes to select from.

4 in 5 (82%) were living in a metropolitan area, 15% were living in a rural area, and just over 3% were living in a remote area.



Genderfluid person outdoors. Sophia Emmerich, Adobe Stock.

“I feel like living in the countryside [or] rural areas is much better for me psychologically, due to the city being massively overstimulating... but... it ends up being very isolating and increasing experiences of discrimination, as well as separating you from much of the rest of the queer community, who also tend to live in the city for the same reasons.”

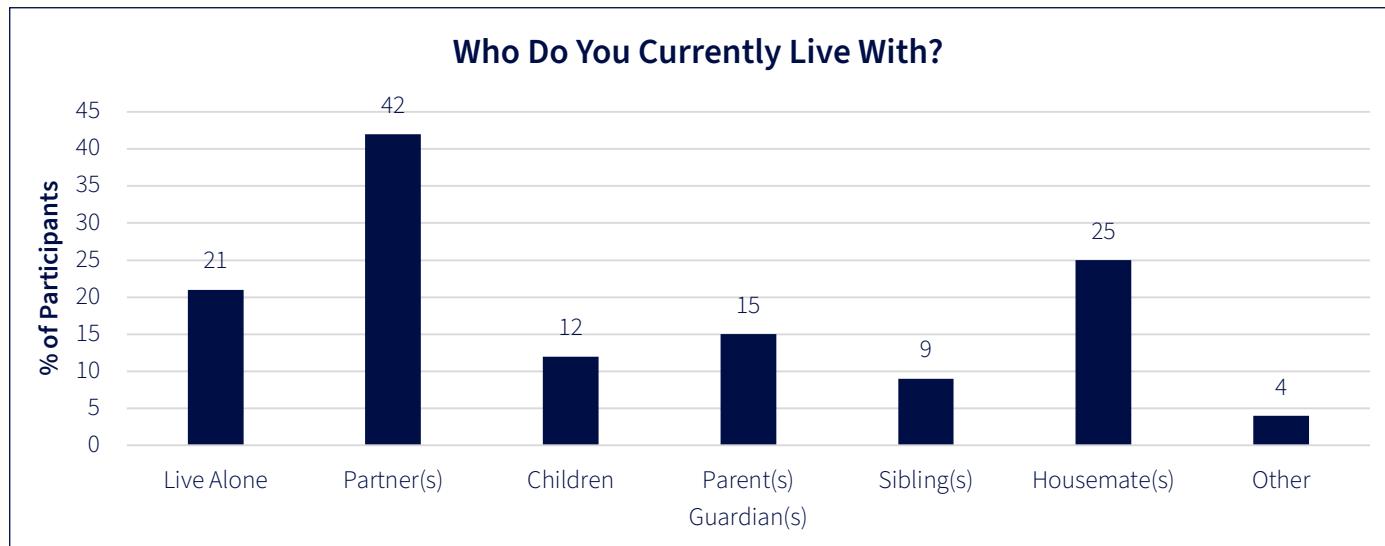
–Wolf, non-binary.

Household Size and Composition

Household composition describes the type of household and number of usual residents within a dwelling. Survey respondents were asked “*How many people do you currently live with? Include anyone who stays over one or more night on average a week*” and “*Who do you currently live with?*”

Average household size was 2.5 people, the same as for the Australian general population in the Australian 2021 Census.

1 in 2 (42%) were living with a partner/s, 1 in 4 (25%) were living with housemates, and 1 in 5 (21%) were living alone.



Note: ‘Other’ includes a range of responses such as living with extended family and carer/s. Respondents could select more than one response, so the total % figure exceeds 100%.



Man hanging washing in his backyard. *David Tett.*

“I have lived alone most of the time since I transitioned, because I feel more comfortable with the privacy... but rent is getting so expensive [that] I will probably have to move to sharing, and I am really worried about it because I haven’t disclosed my trans history to anyone in this redneck town, nor do I want to, but I don’t want to have to be on guard 24/7 in my own home.”

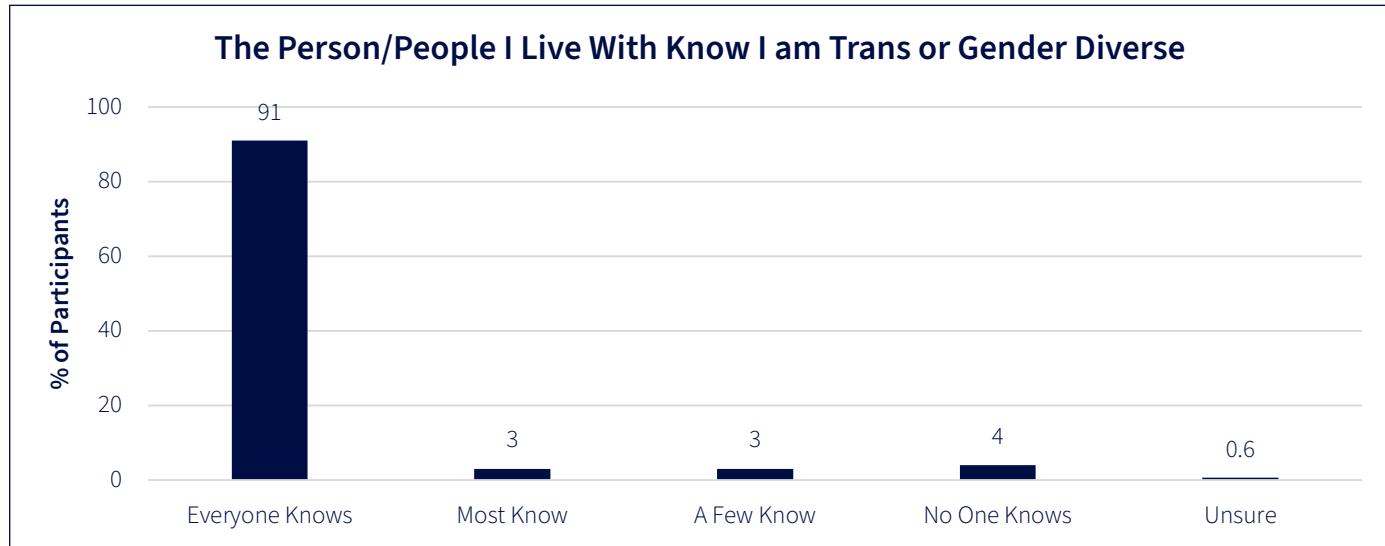
–Lamar, trans man.

Being 'Out' in the Home

Survey respondents who were living with one or more people, were asked “Does the person/people you live with know you are trans or gender diverse?”

Of those respondents living with other people:

Almost all (97%) reported that ‘a few’, ‘most’ or ‘all’ the people they lived with knew they were trans or gender diverse, while 4% reported no one they lived with knew.



Trans woman brushing her hair. *Amilciar Gualdrón*.



Trans man with his non-binary roommates. *Annie, Adobe Stock*.

“My housing situation is reliant on me not upsetting my parents. I don’t have to pay rent, and couldn’t afford it, but I have to change how I present myself, keep certain behaviours and struggles to myself, and do family things that I otherwise wouldn’t in order to avoid being kicked out of home.”

–April, trans woman.

“All of my roommates are transgender.”
–Connor, trans man.

A non-binary person with long, dark, wavy hair is sitting on a couch, looking down at a laptop. They are wearing a green sweatshirt and grey sweatpants. The background shows a bookshelf filled with books and a blue and white patterned pillow on the couch.

“I am trying to move out of home to study, but am struggling to find a safe share house to be trans in.”

—Ari, non-binary.

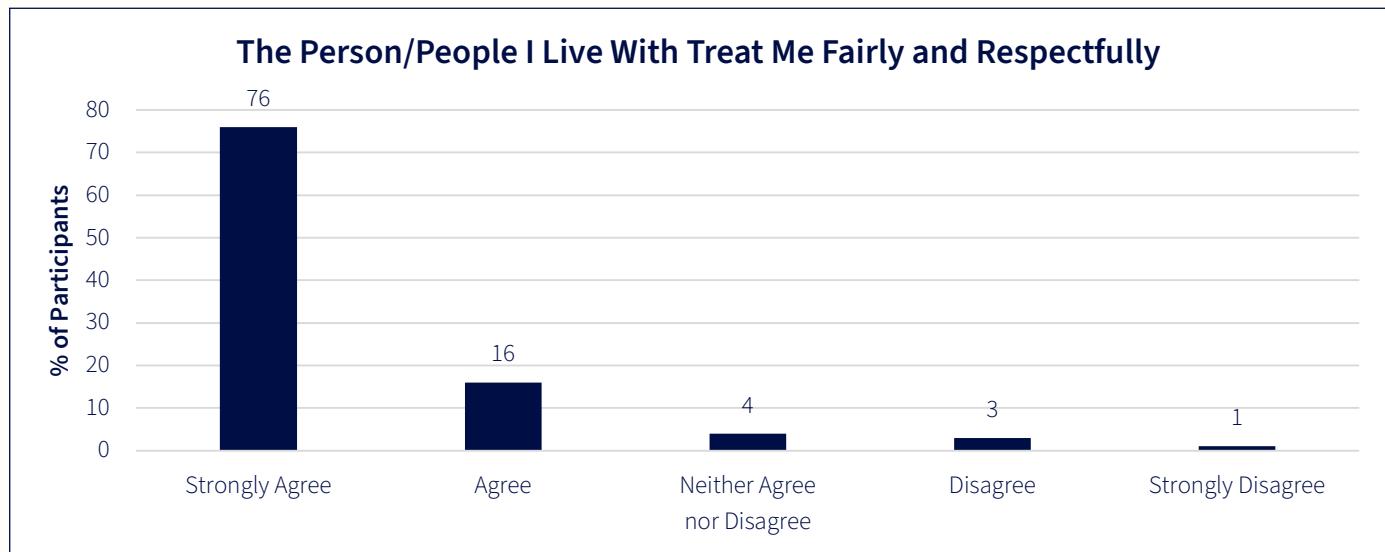
Non-binary person in their living room. *Carlos Gonzalez.*

Safety in the Home

Survey respondents who were living with one or more people, were asked to indicate the degree to which they agreed with the statement *“The person/people I live with treat me fairly and respectfully”*. Fair and respectful treatment was illustrated with the example *“they make you feel included and valued, and, if you have socially affirmed your gender, they use your correct name and pronouns.”*

Of those respondents living with other people:

9 in 10 (92%) ‘strongly agreed’ or ‘agreed’, while 1 in 25 (4%) ‘strongly disagreed’ or ‘disagreed’ that the people they lived with treated them fairly and respectfully.



Due to socioeconomic disparities, including high rates of unemployment and financial strain, many trans and gender diverse people live with housemates in share houses (share a dwelling with people they are not partnered or related to), as a means to reduce housing costs. Survey respondents were asked *“Have you experienced difficulty finding a trans-friendly share house?”*

Of those who had ever looked to join or create a share house:

1 in 5 (21%) had difficulty finding a trans-friendly share house in the previous 12 months.

“I am lucky to live in an all-trans share house. However, finding housemates that are disability-friendly has been much harder”.

–Witt, non-binary.

Domestic and family violence is defined by [The Centre for Family Research and Evaluation](#) as involving one person exerting their power and control over another person, such as an intimate partner or family member. This can take a number of forms, including: (1) physical violence, (2) emotional or psychological abuse, such as putting someone down or monitoring their behaviour and movements, (3) social abuse, such as stopping someone contacting family or friends, (4) online abuse, such as sending threatening messages or stalking them online, (5) sexual assault and pressure to have sex, and (6) financial abuse, such as controlling access to money.

Survey respondents were asked *“In the last 12 months, have you experienced any violence, abuse, harassment or controlling behaviour from someone you currently live with?”* and *“Do you currently live with someone you fear may be violent, abusive or controlling towards you?”*

A young man with short, vibrant blue hair and a green polo shirt is smiling and eating from a bowl of food with a spoon. He is wearing a blue watch on his left wrist. The background is a kitchen setting with a large terracotta pot and some hanging decorations.

"In my last share house I was bullied, harassed, and assaulted for being trans and disabled."

-Aaron, trans man.

Trans male amputee eating dinner. *Erdark, iStock*.

1 in 9 (11%) had experienced violence, abuse, harassment or controlling behaviour from someone they lived with, in the previous 12 months.

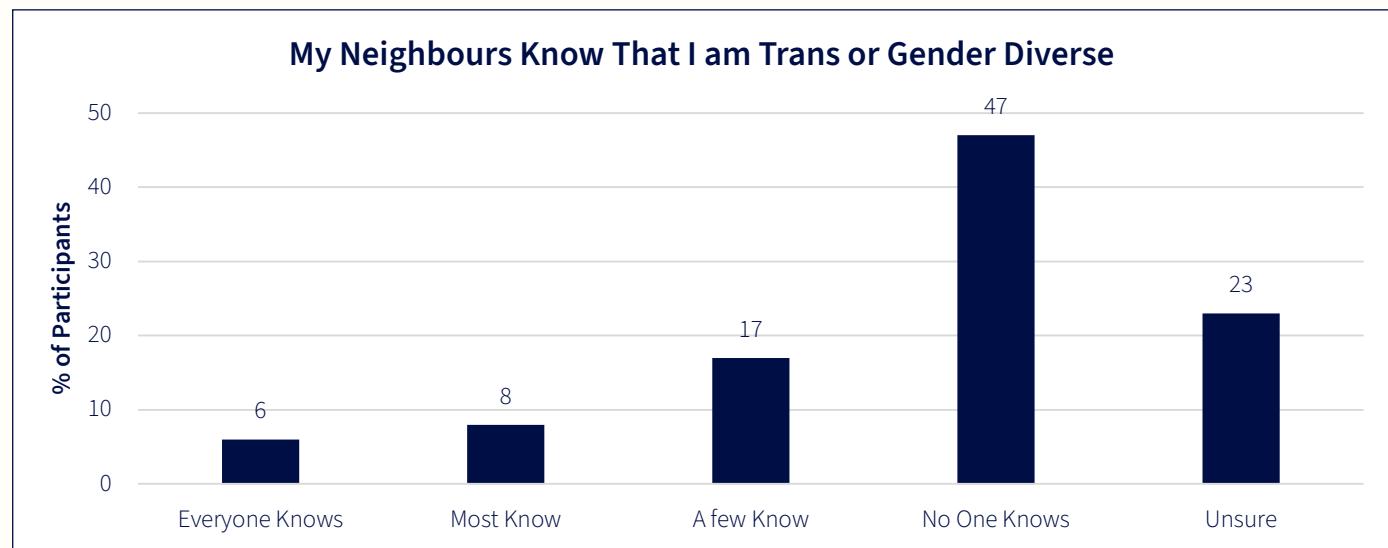
1 in 13 (8%) were currently living with someone they feared may be violent, abusive or controlling towards them.

Being 'Out' to Neighbours

Survey participants were asked “*In your current home, do your neighbours know that you are trans or gender diverse?*” Neighbours were defined as including “*other people living in your apartment block, housing complex, or living facility, or if living in a house, the people living in surrounding houses.*”

Of those survey respondents with neighbours:

1 in 2 (47%) reported that 'none' of their neighbours knew they were trans or gender diverse, while 1 in 3 (31%) reported that at least 'a few know'.



Trans woman with her friend. Juan Aizpuru, iStock.

“[I] transitioned ten years ago, neighbours gave me no grief over it and readily changed how they addressed me and still continued to converse with as before.”

–Olivia, trans woman.

“I have never introduced myself to my neighbours due to fear of them picking up I am trans/them not being accepting of me.”

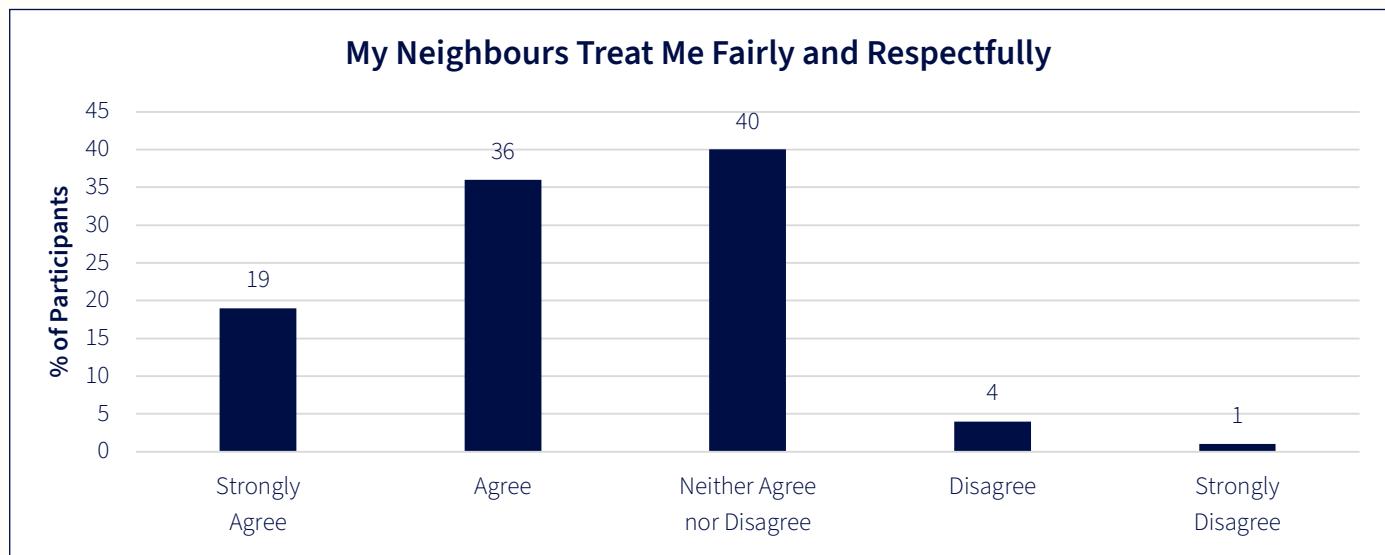
–Ryan, trans man.

Safety in the Neighbourhood

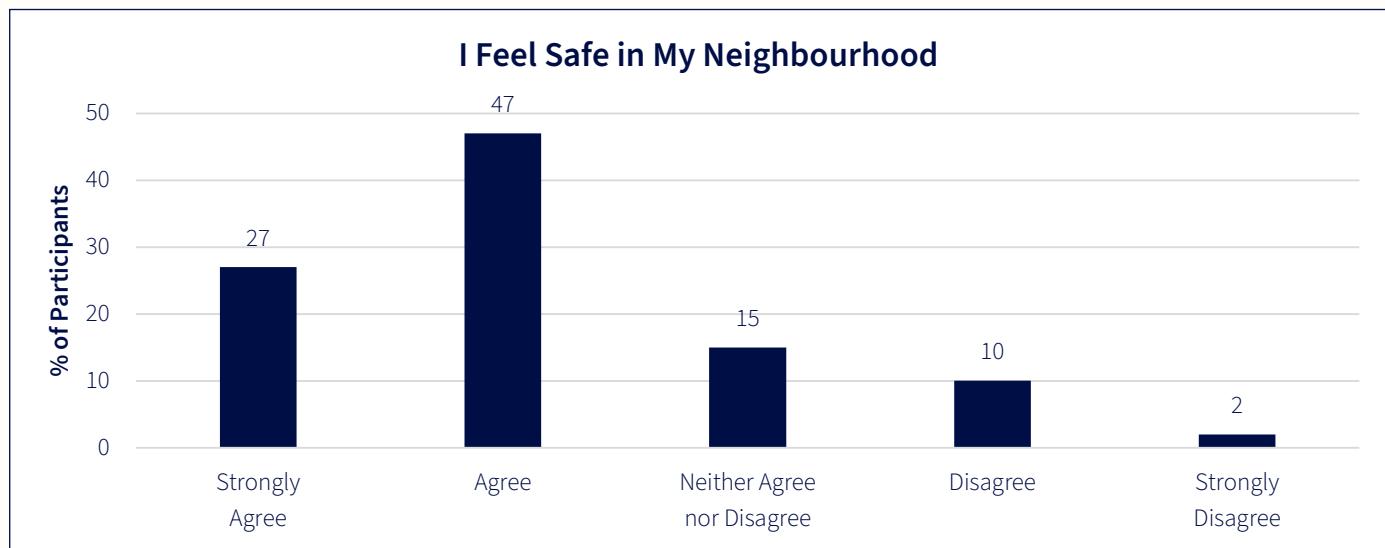
Survey participants were asked to indicate the degree to which they agreed with the statement “*My neighbours treat me fairly and respectfully*”. Fair and respectful treatment was illustrated with the example “*they make you feel included and valued, and, if you have socially affirmed your gender, they use your correct name and pronouns.*”

Of those survey respondents with neighbours:

1 in 2 (55%) ‘strongly agreed’ or ‘agreed’, while 1 in 25 (4%) ‘strongly disagreed’ or ‘disagreed’ that their neighbours treated them fairly and respectfully.



7 in 10 (74%) ‘agreed’ or ‘strongly agreed’, while 1 in 8 (12%) ‘disagreed’ or ‘strongly disagreed’ that they felt safe in their neighbourhood.



“There were already trans and queer people in the building when we moved in... so we knew it'd be pretty safe.”

–Carys, trans woman.



Non-binary person and their transfeminine partner. *Gender Spectrum Collection.*

“I’m transmasc and I have no issues passing as male, legally or socially... My partner is visibly a trans woman, and our former housemate was much more clearly non-binary, and we’ve never had issues from neighbours.”

–Niall, non-binary.

Survey respondents were also asked “Have you experienced anti-trans discrimination, threats of violence or violence from a neighbour?”

1 in 14 (7%) had experienced anti-trans discrimination, threats of violence, or violence from a neighbour in the previous 12 months.

“My neighbours are passively hostile because of my trans status... They won’t speak to me or recognise me.”

–Michelle, trans woman.

“In the last month, I have been verbally harassed by men driving by.”

–Scarlett, trans woman.

Moving for Safety

Survey respondents were asked “Have you moved where you were living because you did not feel safe?” and “Have you lived somewhere you felt unsafe but you did not have the option to move?” because of “feeling unsafe due to threats of violence or violence from people you are living with, your neighbours, or other people.”

In the previous 12 months:

1 in 17 (6%) had moved where they were living because they felt unsafe.

1 in 10 (10%) had lived somewhere they felt unsafe but did not have the option to move.



Girl decorating her dad's beard. Dmytro Sidelnikov.

“I have a vacant block that I wish to build a house on... As a trans man, I am frightened of how they would accept a trans person in this remote part of [Australia].”

–Brandon, trans man.

“I am paying 50% of my income in rent. I have chosen to live in an area with high rents because it feels safe for me and accommodates both my gender identity and disability.”

–EJ, non-binary.

“[I] left my hometown because I would regularly be harassed and physically assaulted in public for being trans.”

–Hope, trans woman.

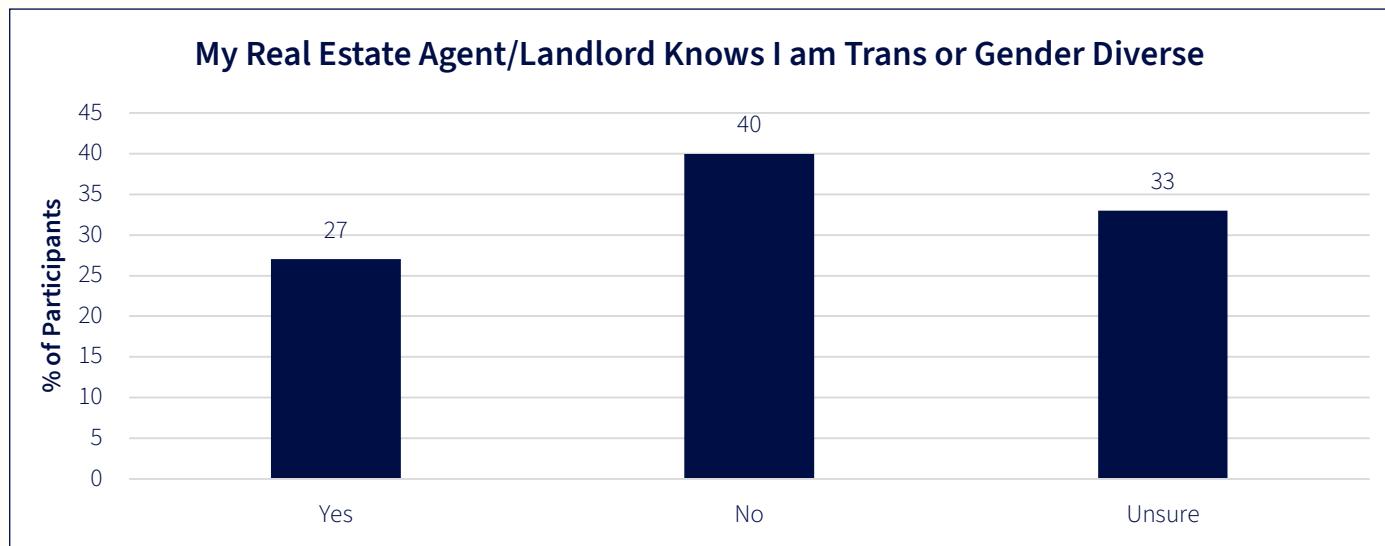
Rental Experiences

Survey respondents were asked “Are you currently living in a rental property?” Those who were renting were asked “Does your current real estate agent or landlord know you are trans or gender diverse?” and to indicate the degree to which they agreed with the statement “My current real estate agent/landlord treats me fairly and respectfully”. Fair and respectful treatment was illustrated with the example “if you have socially affirmed your gender, they use your correct name and pronouns.”

1 in 2 (54%) survey respondents were living in a rental property at the time of the survey.

Of those who were renting:

4 in 10 (40%) reported their real estate agent or landlord did not know they were trans, and a further 3 in 10 (33%) were ‘unsure’.



“In order to secure a rental, I hid my gender identity from the real estate agency. I used a different email address than usual (my email has ‘mx’ in it) and have hidden any pride-related items whenever there has been an inspection.”

–Cade, non-binary.

“I take down my LGBTQIA+ flag during rental inspections just in case they are anti-LGBTQIA+ and would not renew [my] lease.”

–Troye, trans man.

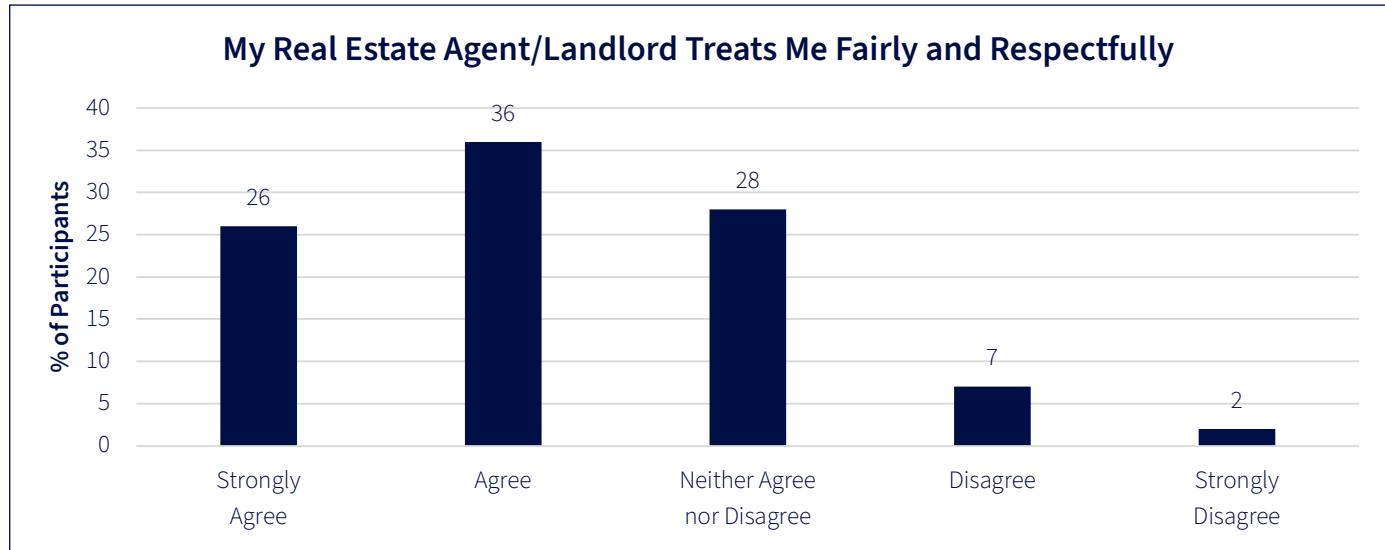
“We decided it would be easier for me not to go on the lease, because I’m trans and haven’t changed my official documents but have been on [testosterone] for five years.”

–Patrick, trans man.

“I feel anxiety about trying to find somewhere to rent while visibly looking trans/non-binary, and when I have to do it next time I will try to disguise my transness/pass as cis while inspecting rentals, etc.”

–Kai, non-binary.

6 in 10 (62%) 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' while 1 in 11 (9%) 'disagreed' or 'strongly disagreed' that their real estate agent or landlord treated them fairly and respectfully.



Couple relaxing in bed together. *All/Go*.

“My landlord lives next door, we have a great relationship and they often help us out in small ways as friendly neighbours do (e.g. take our bin out for us, fix any house issues).”

-Bronwyn, trans woman.

“My estate agent knows I’m trans, and my rent has increased drastically the last two years I have lived here, and I have accepted the increases because the threat of trying to move elsewhere and possibly being rejected for places due to discrimination and becoming homeless has been too great.”

-Chloe, trans woman.



Non-binary trans man reading his emails. *Gender Spectrum Collection*.

“My previous real estate manager would send me emails with my female name, even though I said I don’t use this name anymore. Because I don’t have any document with the new name, there wasn’t much I could do.”

-Miguel, trans man.

“The landlady ended up harassing me and my partner, being racist and transphobic toward us and our relationship and our religion.”

-Heleen, trans woman.

Of those who had ever rented from a real estate agent or landlord, in the previous 12 months:

1 in 50 (2%) had been unfairly refused a rental property, due to anti-trans discrimination.

1 in 100 (1%) had been unfairly evicted or pushed not to renew a lease, due to anti-trans discrimination.



Non-binary person reading paperwork. *EyeEm*.

“Applying for housing is always an extra bit stressful because I have to disclose my birth/legal name, as I’m not financially stable enough to change my legal documentation. I also always have to be worried that a potential landlord may be discriminatory.”

–Ace, non-binary.

“I’ve had trouble finding places to live in the past due to being trans and also years of being a homeless sex worker have made people reluctant to rent to me.”

–Izzie, trans woman.

“A previous real estate agent consistently deadnamed me when I transitioned while living there and then evicted me. This was because I disagreed with a huge rent rise, but I also felt it was personal.”

–Micky, trans man.



Trans man with his mother. *Drs Producoes*, *iStock*.

“I am unsure whether my landlord would refuse to renew my lease if he realised I was trans. It is becoming more difficult to hide. Even if he doesn’t evict me, I fear he will refuse to provide a reference in my new legal name and that I will end up homeless as a result. I have not faced difficulty yet, but I live in fear of it.”

–Mitch, trans man.

“I have put off my official name and gender change because I am a little bit nervous about updating lease with my name and hoping I can put that part of name change off until we can move house and I can just sign on a new one as a new person.”

–Greyson, non-binary.

Housing Insecurity

Housing insecurity, as defined by [Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute framework](#), has six dimensions: (1) housing mobility; moving home that arises from circumstances beyond people's immediate control and which they would not otherwise have chosen, (2) housing instability; includes but is not restricted to mobility, and caused by change in people's housing, and vulnerability to change in their housing that is beyond their immediate control, (3) lack of privacy; not having the control to exclude others, or at least not totally, from one's home, such that one feels under surveillance by others, (4) feeling unsafe; feeling of being unsafe both inside and outside the dwelling, (5) lack of belonging; feeling lack of emotional support and supportive relationships both inside and outside the dwelling, and (6) lack of physical comfort; having to live in poor housing conditions that impact health, physical enjoyment of their dwelling and ability to relax and feel at home.

In this survey, respondents were asked "*In the last 12 months, have you experienced any type of housing insecurity?*" and were provided the option of indicating one or more of the six dimensions of the housing insecurity, as defined by the [Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute framework](#).

In the previous 12 months:

1 in 2 (52%) survey respondents reported one or more type of housing insecurity.

This included:

1 in 6 (18%) had to move house due to circumstances beyond their immediate control.

1 in 5 (19%) had change to or vulnerability to change in their housing.

1 in 8 (12%) did not have control to exclude people from their home.

1 in 8 (12%) had the feeling of being unsafe both inside and outside their home.

1 in 3 (29%) experienced a lack of connection to the local area and community.

1 in 5 (22%) were living in poor housing conditions that impacted their health, physical enjoyment and ability to relax at home.

"Despite bad wear and damage to property and mold problem which has affected my health, the landlord has raised the rent and I will soon no longer [be] able to afford rent on my own, but I can't find safe/affordable housing yet."

-Laura, trans woman.

"I am vulnerable to homelessness if my landlord/real estate put the rent up or want to sell, as I am now unable to work due to ill health from transphobic bullying at my previous job."

-Adam, trans man.

"My apartment is basically falling apart, but it's affordable and I don't want to ask them to fix things and risk them hiking up the price of rent to cover the costs. The ceiling leaks, the oven doesn't seal and needs to have a heavy item wedged against the door to be able to cook anything, the windows and doors don't quite fit in their frames properly, and handles for doors and taps regularly need to be reattached."

-Hunter, non-binary.



“I’m in transitional housing... I’m always home due to disability... There is nowhere for privacy from visitors... this means I don’t feel comfortable inviting people over, [which] isolates me from friends and community. I need and deserve to be able to host people while maintaining [a] level of privacy in my own home. I’ve not seen basically any private rental that’s accessible to me, so I don’t exactly have options to look at other places.”

-Ethan, trans man.

Disabled
man outside
his home.
Unai Huiz

Homelessness

When a person does not have suitable accommodation alternatives, they are considered homeless if their current living arrangement (1) is in a dwelling that is inadequate, (2) has no tenure, or if their initial tenure is short and not extendable, and/or (3) does not allow them to have control of, and access to, space for social relations.

In the general Australian population, homelessness is difficult to estimate. The [2021 Census](#) estimated that 48 people per 10,000 population (0.48%) were homeless on census night, and the [Australian Homelessness Monitor 2024](#) indicates the homelessness has continued to rise in Australia.

In this survey, respondents were asked “*In the last 12 months have you experienced any type of homelessness?*” and were provided with the option of indicating one or more of the six types of homelessness, as defined by the [Australian Bureau of Statistics Homeless Operational Groups](#).

In the previous 12 months:

1 in 8 (12%) survey respondents reported one or more type of homelessness.

This included:

1 in 50 (2%) had lived in improvised dwellings, tents or sleeping out (rough sleeping).

1 in 143 (0.7%) had stayed in supported accommodation for the homeless.

1 in 10 (9%) had stayed temporarily with other households (e.g. couchsurfing).

1 in 250 (0.4%) had lived in a boarding house.

1 in 25 (4%) had lived in other temporary lodgings.

1 in 100 (1%) had lived in a severely crowded dwelling.

“I have been homeless twice...

My current housing is a cabin in a caravan park because it is the only place that will accept me [after] 3 years searching and applying for properties.”

–Blake, trans man.

“I was able to relocate earlier this year to public housing with the help of a trans-friendly women’s support organisation. Public housing did not discriminate [based on] my gender.”

–Bridgette, trans woman.

“I was kicked out of my family home... due to coming out as trans, and have been receiving harassment from one of my parents since.”

–Alvie, trans man.

“My housing is perpetually transient, and I am part time living in a campervan with my dog.”

–Jessie, non-binary.

“I’m homeless and itinerant. I move when I have to. I’m not ‘living somewhere’. I’m passing through at all times.”

–Sarah, trans woman.

“[I] experienced transphobic conflict with immediate family in late teens and felt unsafe in the suburb I was residing. This led me to couch surf until I was thankfully able to secure safe housing.”

–Gabriel, trans man.

Recommendations

This research demonstrates high rates of housing instability and homelessness amongst trans and gender diverse people in Australia. While a majority felt they were treated fairly and respectfully in their household, poor treatment by neighbours and real estate agents and landlords were more common.

These findings highlight the urgent need to reduce the barriers trans and gender diverse people experience to securing safe and stable housing and improve their household, neighbourhood, and renting experiences.



A couple painting their new home. *Anna Tolipova*.



Trans woman taking notes, doing paperwork. *EyeEm*.

Trans-Inclusive Prevention Strategies

Government, and family violence and housing organisations and services must commit to reducing family violence, housing insecurity, and homelessness amongst trans and gender diverse people, including the development of targets and action plans.

Safer homes, safer communities. Implement public education campaigns and neighbourhood inclusion programs to reduce stigma and promote safe, welcoming homes and communities for trans and gender diverse people (similar to the Victorian Government initiative "The unsaid says a lot").

Stronger protections and enforcement. Ensure anti-discrimination laws are upheld by government services, service providers and programs, and strengthen tenancy laws and rental processes to prevent discrimination, including mandatory training for real estate agents, and housing providers.

Financial support. Increase financial supports (rent assistance, subsidies, and income support), to provide direct relief to financial hardship and reduce risk of housing insecurity and homelessness among trans and gender diverse people.

Non-binary person baking with their friends. *Disabled and Here.*Queer housemates. *Robert Sant'Anna.*

Trans-Inclusive Housing Policies, Services, and Programs

Government, and family violence and housing organisations and services must commit to developing and implementing co-designed trans-inclusive policies, services and programs.

Specialised housing services and pathways. Develop targeted family violence and housing programs that cater to the needs of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander trans and gender diverse people, trans people with disability, trans young people, and others who face compounded risks of homelessness. This should include investment in community-led family violence and housing initiatives and partnerships with trans organisations to co-design safe and affirming family violence and housing solutions.

Inclusive mainstream services and pathways. Mandate government-funded services and programs to identify trans and gender diverse people as a priority group in their strategies, have policies that explicitly address discrimination against trans and gender diverse people, provide mandatory regular relevant and appropriate training and education around trans-inclusion, to equip staff with the tools to be active allies, maintain data collection systems that are inclusive of trans and gender diverse people, and ensure gender-specific services and spaces are inclusive of trans and gender diverse people.

Family violence and housing rights literacy. Work with trans community stakeholders to improve family violence, housing discrimination and rights literacy amongst trans and gender diverse people.

Trans-Inclusive Research and Evaluation

Researchers must ensure future family violence, housing, and homelessness research accurately and meaningfully includes trans and gender diverse people.

Sex and gender data. All family violence, housing, and homelessness research should be inclusive of trans and gender diverse people, including utilisation of the two-step approach to collecting sex recorded at birth and gender data, as recommended by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, National Health and Medical Research Council and the Medical Research Future Fund, and Trans Health Research guidelines.

Community co-design. All family violence, housing, and homelessness research should be co-designed with community members with lived/living experience, including trans and gender diverse people.

Intervention evaluation. Research that evaluates experiences and outcomes of different models of interventions and pathways, should be inclusive of trans and gender diverse people, to ensure interventions and pathways are appropriate and meeting the unique needs of this population (such as The Evaluation of the FV Refuge to Recovery for LGBTIQ+ People).

Additional Resources

For Trans and Gender Diverse People

Domestic and Family Violence. Information by and for trans people, from TransHub.

Housing & Homelessness. Information by and for trans people, from TransHub.

Say it Out Loud. Resource for LGBTQA+ communities to help them have healthy relationships, get help for unhealthy relationships and support their friends, by ACON.

Trans femme. Resource to support healthier relationships between trans women and men, by Zoe Belle Gender Collective.

Another Closet: LGBTIQ Domestic & Family Violence. Information and resources on domestic and family violence, particularly in LGBTIQ relationships, by LGBTIQ Domestic Violence Interagency.

For Service Providers

LGBTIQ+ Inclusive Practice Guide for Homelessness and Housing Sectors in Australia. Guidance on inclusive practice for agencies in Australian homelessness and housing sectors, by LGBTIQ+ Health Australia.

Pride in Prevention. An LGBTIQA+ family violence prevention project, including an evidence guide, messaging guide for organisations and practitioners, and evaluation guide, by Rainbow Health Australia.

See, Hear, Believe. E-learning resource for frontline workers to improve knowledge and skills to better support LGBTQ+ people experiencing domestic and family violence, by LGBTQ Domestic Violence Awareness Foundation.

LGBTI Housing & Homelessness Projects. Resources for LGBTIQA+ people and services, about LGBTIQA+ homelessness, by the University of Melbourne.

LGBTIQ+ Homelessness in Victoria. Current approaches and framework for evaluating future initiatives over, by The Victorian State Government.

For Researchers

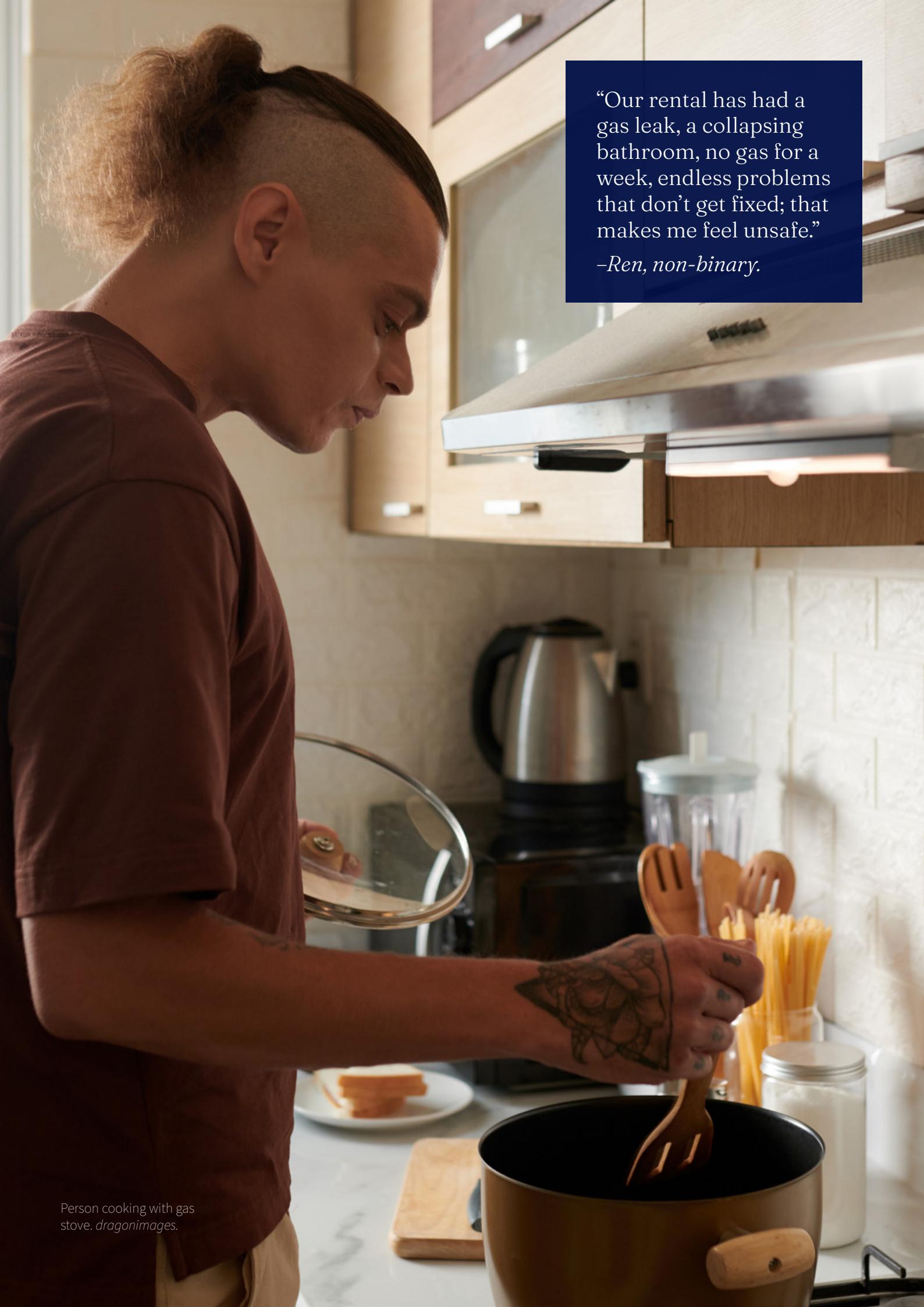
Including trans people in research guidelines. Written and video guidelines on how to include trans and gender diverse people in research using the two-step process for collecting sex recorded at birth and gender data, by Trans Health Research.

Trans Research Resources. Information about ethical research with trans and gender diverse people, LGBTIQA+ Research Ethics Committees, and key Australian trans health research publications, collated by Trans Health Research.

LGBTIQ+ Experiences of Poverty. A research review and recommendations on LGBTIQ+ experiences of poverty, including homelessness, by Equality Australia.

There Is No Safe Place At Home. A research report on LGBTIQ+ experiences of domestic and family violence by Equality Australia and Centre for Family Research and Evaluation.

Opening Doors. A research report investigating LGBTIQA+ experiences in seeking help from family, domestic, and sexual violence services, by the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University.

A person with a shaved head and a tattooed arm is cooking in a kitchen. They are wearing a maroon t-shirt and are focused on stirring a pot on the stove. The kitchen has light-colored wooden cabinets and a stainless steel range hood. In the background, there is a kettle on the stove and a plate of butter on the counter. A wooden cutting board and a jar of flour are also visible.

“Our rental has had a gas leak, a collapsing bathroom, no gas for a week, endless problems that don’t get fixed; that makes me feel unsafe.”

–Ren, non-binary.