

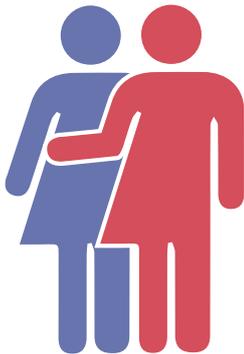
# LGBTI CARER FACTS

Many lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people care for a partner, friend or family member. This may be someone living with a disability, mental health challenge, chronic or terminal illness or an older person. LGBTI carers and carers of LGBTI people need affordable inclusive services to support their caring role.

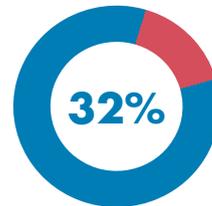
LGBTI carers have diverse experiences, religious, cultural and linguistic backgrounds and 'L-G-B-T-I communities'.



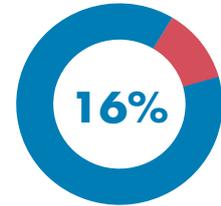
Between 15-30% of LGBT people are currently in caring roles.



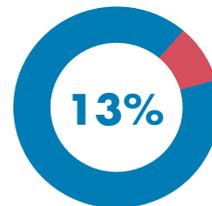
LGBT carers support family and friends with:



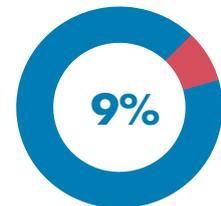
Age related needs



Long term illness

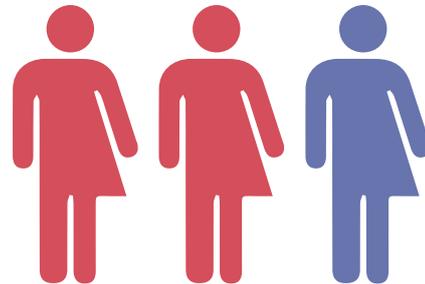


Disability



Illness, accident  
or surgery

Around one-third of LGBTI carers say being LGBTI affects how and when they access support services.



## CARING IN LGBTI COMMUNITIES

Research shows some LGBTI communities\* have strong traditions and unique 'care models':

- Older LGBT people often rely on intimate partners and friend carers.
- 'Family of choice' may replace biological family as the primary source of support.
- Others may be expected to take on care for biological family if seen as 'single'.
- Fear of discrimination can prevent LGBTI people from seeking services or disclosing their sexuality, gender identity or intersex status.
- Lesbians, bisexual and trans women spend more hours caring than other groups.

\* Research on Intersex carers in Australia is limited. Discrimination, violence and stigma in the general community suggests there may be additional barriers to accessing support and advocacy.

## LGBTI CARERS FACE MANY CHALLENGES

- Balancing work, life and caring.
- Social isolation, stress and mental health impacts.
- Discrimination based on sexuality, gender identity and intersex status.
- Lack of recognition of their identity, experiences and relationships.
- Limited access to affordable inclusive services.
- 'Invisibility' of their carer role within some LGBTI communities.
- Financial disadvantage and limited job opportunities.

**Carer Advisory Line 1800 242 636**  
**[www.carersvictoria.org.au](http://www.carersvictoria.org.au)**

Sources: OII Australia website <https://oii.org.au> Private Lives 2: The second national survey of the health and wellbeing of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) Australians (La Trobe University 2012); An extra degree of difficulty: An evidence based resource exploring the experiences and needs of older LGBTI carers and the carers of older LGBTI people (La Trobe University 2016); Young LGBTIQ Carers online survey (Carers Victoria 2015); Survey of the Health and Wellbeing of LGBTI Older People in NSW 2013-14 (Hughes & Kentlyn 2014); Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings (Australian Bureau of Statistics 2012)