

# The Research

This co-design process was conducted by Mx Jacob Thomas. Jacob is a PhD candidate at Monash University in Public Health and Preventative Medicine, within the Health and Social Care Unit of the School of Public Health.

This consultation was requested by Brimbank Council staff to better understand what issues were affecting LGBTIQ+ youth within the local government area, and to understand what the Council could do to better support their LGBTIQ+ community. Council staff requested a co-design process be undertaken that included LGBTIQ+ community members, council staff, and youth work students from a local university. The combined insights from these participants were mapped over two days and informed the outputs of this consultation. A survey was conducted as part of the process to ascertain baseline data. This data informed the content of the two day sessions.

Background information on the survey, co-design process, and participants for this consultation are available below for understanding, consultation replication, and approaches to how the process can be explored further.

## Co-Design

Co-Design is a process by which community members are engaged directly into the thinking, design, and testing phases of interventions. Co-design can take many forms, and for this consultation the process of Design Thinking was adopted.



Rain Lieberman, 2020

Design Thinking offers a meaningful process as to how community members are engaged, and is backed by empathy for that community (eg LGBTIQ+ people) and is driven by data and participant expertise. The next steps for Brimbank in this process would be to Prototype and Test the recommendations.

## The survey

The survey conducted by Brimbank Council staff was split into two demographics: LGBTIQ+ people, and non-LGBTIQ+ people.

The ages the young people that complete the survey were between 12 – 25.



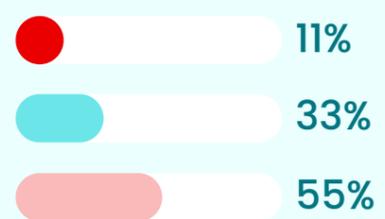
The LGBTIQ+ survey had 24 responses. 9 were over 18yrs, and 16 responses 18yrs or under. 64% of respondents were secondary school aged



The Non-LGBTQIA+ survey had 31 responses. 5 were over 18yrs, and 26 18yrs or under. 83% of respondents were secondary school aged

## The data

Over two four hour sessions, nine participants engaged in the co-design process. This included one LGBTIQ+ young person (11%), 3 Brimbank Council staff (33%), and 5 youth work students (55%).



Each participant brought personal narratives to the process and throughout the activities. Participants were asked to map the places they frequent the most often, their attachment to those places, to identify where they felt the most safe, and where they felt the least safe. Where participants felt the least safe, these insights were then used to investigate possible interventions that could be produced by Brimbank Council, which are seen in the Recommendations section. The issues identified in this report were identified in both the survey and the two day sessions.

# The findings



Unsafe places for LGBTIQ+ people



Public Transport



Public Toilets



Parks



Schools/Unis



Healthcare

## Problems with transport

Inaccessible, unsafe at night, require stealth

## Problems with parks

Unsafe at night, not enough of them

## Problems with healthcare

Discriminatory, unsafe for LGBTIQ+ people, impractical, expensive

## Problems with toilets

Dirty, unsafe at night, preference to use other options

## Problems with school/unis

Inaccessible, accrual of debt, lack support, stressful



Queer community spaces



Safest places for LGBTIQ+ people



Libraries



Home



Cafes and restaurants

# Recommendations

Transport can be improved by creating local community safety teams which can create new job opportunities, and increase services in low access areas

Public toilets can be improved by increased cleaning, being better stocked with soap, toilet paper, free period products and condoms, and having unisex toilets

Parks can be improved by having a people presence (eg, rangers) if people need to report something, and need better lighting at night

Schools/unis can be improved by Council working closely with schools/unis, and establishing joint support programs to better support the Brimbank community

Healthcare can be improved by creating dedicated facilities for LGBTIQ+, PoC and disabled groups, and by working closely with healthcare workers via training