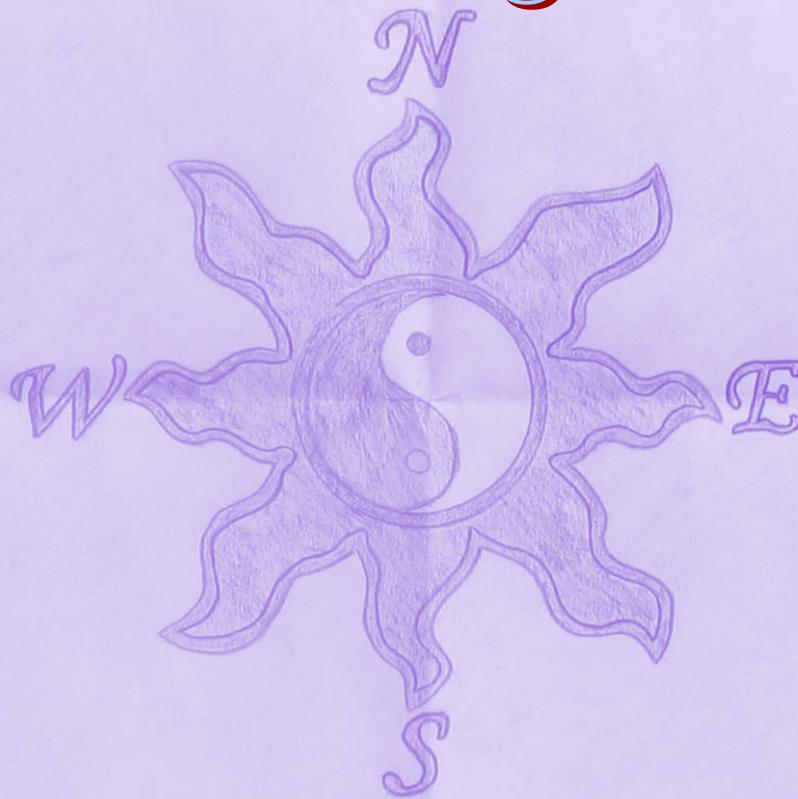


Coming out about coming in.



**Exploratory research into Open
Doors Youth Service practice
strategies, same sex attracted
young people's access to services
and general well-being.**



Coming out about coming in

Exploratory research into Open Doors Youth Service practice strategies, same sex attracted young people's access to services and general well being.

Action Research Report into the use of Drop In as an effective service delivery option for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender young people

2006

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ABOUT OPEN DOORS YOUTH SERVICE INC.

Open Doors Youth Service Inc. is funded by the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services – Reconnect programme and opened in 2001. Open Doors is an early intervention youth homelessness service for young people 12-18 years of age who are exploring, questioning or identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender (LGBT) and the families of these young people. Open Doors values and celebrates the legitimacy of lgbt identities and the diversity of lgbt culture and communities. We work in a holistic, innovative and dynamic service which works with young people in creative, accessible and culturally appropriate ways. Open Doors works within the greater Brisbane area with young people who are experiencing difficulties at home, or feeling isolated and confused. Open Doors is committed to challenging homophobia, stereotypes and discrimination and providing community education and training to services across southeast Queensland to improve the awareness and capacity of networks and communities to respond to young lgbt people's needs.

Open Doors provide the following services:

- Individual counselling and support to young people exploring issues of sexuality and gender identity;
- Assistance with accommodation, links to employment, education or training and support to access appropriate health services;
- Support and information to the families and support networks of young people to enhance relationships and understanding, enabling young people to remain in the home environment, or at least maintain positive contact; and
- Sector and Community Development to services and communities in South East Queensland to increase their connection to and support of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender young people.

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FOREWORD

This is an invaluable report about an invaluable and rare service. Open Doors is one of very few such services available to same sex attracted young people in Australia today. In the last 10 years we have learned that these young people, who comprise around 10% of the youth population in Australia, suffer serious social injustices in the form of discrimination and homophobic abuse which isolate and alienate them, and have serious impacts on their mental health and wellbeing. One way to improve the resilience of this group is to provide them with support and a place that they can access services and meet each other in a safe environment. Open Doors provides all these things.

Such a rare service needs to be constantly assessed and reflected upon by all concerned to make sure that it provides the best possible value to its clients while maintaining a challenging, fulfilling and fruitful workplace environment. *Coming Out About Coming In* does all this and more. This report is about a service that has gone beyond self-reflection to knowing its clientele and gathering the critical information that will ensure that it will always be relevant to the population it is designed to serve.

More specifically the report reflects on the 'drop in' program from the perspectives of its users, identifying strengths, gaps and future directions. As well, this is a research report about the clients of Open Doors including information about their sexuality, their mental health, their relationships, their drug use and their experiences of abuse in the community. Without this local information it would be impossible to have an appropriate and relevant service.

Beyond its immediate application, this report will be useful for all workers with young people because it will alert them to the needs of a subgroup that they serve. It may also be an inspiration to people in other states that do not have an organisation like Open Doors in terms of showing what is possible. Congratulations to all those involved in *Coming Out About Coming In*.

Lynne Hillier

Dr. Lynne Hillier is a social psychologist and Senior Research Fellow at the Australian Research Centre in Sex Health & Society whose research over the last 10 years has focused on adolescent marginalisation and sexuality. Her most recent work has been with same sex attracted young people. Her research in 1998, Writing Themselves In: a report on the sexuality health and well being of same sex attracted young people won the Public Health Award for Research Excellence and Innovation in 1999.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This research paper has been developed by Open Doors Youth Service Inc, in consultation with young people and key stakeholders, to identify the scope and needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender young people in the greater Brisbane area, and to highlight the positive nature of the practice structures being employed by this service. The paper also provides a comparative analysis of other relevant service provider agencies Drop In space and practice structures, and links key findings with the findings of the National study "Writing Themselves In Again: 2nd Report on the Sexuality, Health & Wellbeing of Same Sex Attracted Young Australians", conducted by Hillier, Turner & Mitchell (ARCSHS, 2005).

Little research has been conducted in Queensland specifically addressing and identifying accurate baseline information regarding the prevalence, needs and service gaps for young people who identify as same sex attracted or who are exploring their sexuality. The foundation of the paper recognizes the need for action in this area, while also identifying the necessity of beginning internal and external stakeholder processes to work collaboratively towards comprehensive effective services to support the well being of same sex attracted young people in the Greater Brisbane area.

The participants of this research were all young people who access Open Doors Youth Service and reside within the identified target area. While the sample size is small, the findings provide a unique glimpse of the issues experienced by these young people and of their individual capacity to find connection in a heterosexist, conservative society where being who they are is often not acceptable and an invitation for harassment.

The report presents valuable information pertaining to the success of the Open Doors Drop In program, as well as identifying crucial gaps within this practice strategy from young people's perspective. Resoundingly young people's responses when questioned as to their accessing the Drop In program revolved around feelings of personal safety, friendship and connection. Often young people experience a dispossession of a sense of community and connectedness when internally exploring their sexuality. The report highlights the positive nature of allowing young people to feel accepted by their peers and connected to a space that encourages non-judgmental & respectful acceptance of individuality. The report also emphasizes the fact that the success of practice structures developed are not independent from the issues young people who are same sex attracted or exploring their sexuality experience.

In addition, the paper explores six key aspects of young peoples lives, including Personal Details; General Health; Relationships and Feelings; Drug Use; Mental Health; Sex and Sexuality; and Experiences of Violence. The findings within these areas continue to support key findings in other national studies conducted relating specifically to young people who identify as same sex attracted. The paper identifies that young people are coming to the realization of their sexuality at a young age, with 31% of the respondents indicating that they were aware of their same sex attraction at age 12. 55% of respondents indicated that they identified their sexuality before the age of 16 years. Other findings recognize that while young people are identifying their sexuality at a young age most respondents still reside in the family home (63%), with either both parents or one parent. These figures challenge

common viewpoints that revolve around LGBT youth homelessness, yet also stimulate further discussion, particularly when viewed in conjunction with the findings relating to experiences of violence perpetuated by family members.

The findings of the paper support previously identified concepts that indicate that the societal paradigms and heterosexual culture of familial, educational and religious institutions, as well as our service systems exacerbates same sex attracted young peoples experiences of isolation, drug use pattern, mental health diagnosis and reduced well-being (Hillier et al, 2005). The paper acknowledges that identified areas of concern experienced by same sex attracted young people reflect a complex interaction between the young person, their family, their societal, cultural and educational environments.

The comparative analysis of other service's Drop In programs highlights the need for specific services that work exclusively with young people who identify as same sex attracted, to maximize safety and connection and move away from the adolescent male culture that permeates some youth services in the area. However, with this fact in mind it also recognises that in order to provide a comprehensive and effective system of support and care for young people exploring sexuality, individuals, agencies and organisations across our communities need to work together to create and maximize the protection and wellbeing of our young people. These partnerships need to be built on a collaborative basis, validating shared goals and recognising the expertise each partner brings to the process.

If I didn't come into Open Doors then I would be god knows where, pretending to be straight or something, something I'm not. J. 16 Gay

1.0 PROJECT BACKGROUND

Open Doors conducted an action research project that aimed to explore the success of Drop In, the actual needs, issues and experiences of the young people that access Drop In, and the ways in which service delivery to this target group can improve, at Open Doors and other service providers.

Some of the questions we wanted to explore include: What are the benefits Drop In provides young people? What makes it a safe space? Why is it they come to drop in and encourage their friends and peers to come along? What needs is Drop In meeting? What needs are being overlooked? What are the connections between young people's experiences and the service structure at Open Doors? What makes Open Doors different to other youth services?

Our aim was to collect strong evidence that documents the poor health and social outcomes for lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender young people, their resilience and methods of dealing with issues, the meaning and advantages of early intervention services and the things that Open Doors is missing.

This information will inform the work we undertake at Open Doors, the priorities we set, our methods of connecting with young people during Drop In and on an individual level and the key indicators of young people in need. It will assist us to use Drop In more effectively as an early intervention tool for working with LGBT young people. It will also equip us with key information that will be shared with other youth service providers in a range of contexts. It will improve our ability to collaborate with other service providers and enhance their ability to engage with lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender young people.

Open Doors is the only fully funded service in Queensland targeting LGBT young people and their families. LGBT young people are a highly marginalised group. They experience high levels of homelessness, poor education outcomes, high levels of family breakdown and experience significant degrees of isolation, confusion and silencing, LGBT young people are also at high risk of suicide and self harming behaviour. Whilst there has been research providing clear indications of the issues confronting lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender young people, there has been very limited research conducted in South East Queensland. This project seeks to address this gap and ensure that service delivery in this context is relevant and accessible.

Through our work with lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender young people, we are aware of the range of experiences they face. Much of our individual support work centres on these issues however, due to the high numbers of young people accessing the Drop In service, we have been unable to connect with a large number of them to ascertain their individual needs and experiences. Therefore we do not know the incidences of these experiences and the coping strategies young people employ to deal with them. It is this issue that has given us the impetus to conduct this research.

Young people who access the service for Drop In only are at the early intervention stage and have many different family, school and life experiences. Many of these young people are coming to terms with their sexuality and may access feeling very shy and uncertain about themselves. Often they have had negative experiences at home, school, in their community or all of these areas and are looking to meet other young people that are like themselves.

The transformation of these young people in a few short weeks is inspiring. Often it takes a short period of time before this otherwise shy young person is forming friendships with others and fitting into the group with ease. Their body language goes from slumped over and internally invisible to excited, chatting and a general sense of 'it will be ok'. All of the questions they have had running around their heads like: "Does anyone else have this problem at school?", "How do I know if I really am gay?" "What do other lesbian young people look like?" "Do I act the right way?" "Am I the only bisexual young person in Brisbane?" "Does everyone else feel as scared as I do?" are answered by other young people directly and some they don't even have to ask out loud. Many get the confidence to come out to their parents, friends or work mates with mostly positive response. This obvious boost to young people's self esteem and feelings of worth are of core importance when we are dealing with early intervention into youth homelessness for lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender young people as, it is their relationship with themselves and their fear of being themselves, that lead to young people making choices to leave home rather than discuss their sexuality with their parents, or leave school rather than respond to homophobia with confidence and strength.

"Being able to relax and just be when you walk in the door because no-one is 'trying' to accept you for who you are, they already do. Knowing that if I need to access help or support of a serious nature related to being queer, I can find it without the 'medicalised' undertones of seeing a doctor. The friends, the contacts and resources I have there and how they make it easier to have face to face interactions with others like me" Young person

It is our Drop In service that also provides a filter for young people initially engaging in the service. We find that some young people may come to Drop In for anywhere from a week to 6 months before engaging with the workers regarding their individual support needs and many young people find the peer support and worker support at drop in enough to meet their individual needs and don't engage in individual support.

The total number of individual young people accessing Open Doors between July 2004 and June 2005 is 352. Between December 2004 and June 2005, the average number of young people at Drop In was 60 each week, with the actual number varying between 36 and 96. Over this time, we have averaged 8 new young people each week. With 2 workers, these numbers make it difficult to form purposive relationships with each of the young people and to actively evaluate their needs and experiences in relation to further early intervention work.

The purpose of this report is to determine the needs, issues and experiences of young people who access Open Doors for Drop In on Wednesday afternoons between 12pm and 5pm. The report aims to uncover more information about young people who access Drop In and to enhance our practice strategies and responses to LGBT young people.

1.1 WHAT IS ACTION RESEARCH?

Action Research is a tool that builds on everyday practice questions and involves implementing a cyclic research process. Crane & Richardson (2000, p. 1.8) states :

“Action research achieves this by using a ‘cyclic research process’. The Research is active and ongoing. Changes that occur because of Action Research processes can stimulate new or changed Action Research directions and, in many cases, results in new strategies”.

“What would it take to improve service delivery to lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender young people in the Open Doors Youth Service Inc. context?”

To undertake this research project, we started by developing a question that would guide our action research cycles and ensure we were keeping a clear focus on our ultimate aim. As we were planning to collect information that was relevant to the services we provide at Open Doors as well as to other service providers wishing to improve service delivery to lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender young people, the question needed to be broad enough, but clear enough to ensure our conclusions were relevant.

The project involved a number of different cycles to collect the breadth of information we needed. We began with a broad plan that outlined the different information gathering we were going to undertake, each of these cycles were actioned and their cycles documented accordingly. We learnt a lot about the required resources and time intensiveness of a project such as this and the challenge of pulling together a number of different cycles to form one report. The findings from each area of information gathering have been reflected on by relevant stakeholders to ensure accuracy of information and analysis.

We used four different mechanisms to collect and collate information to answer our question. They are:

1. Review of research already conducted into the issues, needs and experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender young people.
2. Interview young people on video to gather information about their thoughts and experiences of Drop In.
3. A tick and flick questionnaire gathering information on young people’s personal experiences.
4. Interview other service providers on video to gather information about their Drop In services to compare with our service.

The processes and findings of these actions are detailed in the following sections.

2.0 REVIEW OF CURRENT RESEARCH

A vital component of this research paper has been to provide an evaluation and research tool that is reflective of the issues experienced by young people accessing Open Doors Youth Service. However, further to this a key aim within this project has been to compare our findings with other studies conducted that specifically address LGBT young people's issues and draw correlations and differences. The following provides an overview of key findings from a recent national study:

'Writing Themselves In Again' :2nd Report on the Sexuality, Health and Well-being of Same Sex Attracted Young Australians, 2005, Lynne Hillier, Alina Turner, Anne Mitchell, Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health & Society (ARCSHS), Faculty of Health Sciences La Trobe University

- 1749 young people aged between 14 & 21 successfully completed the survey
- Many young people came to a very early realisation of their sexual difference, although the majority realised at puberty (11 – 13) and there were no gender differences in age of first realisation
- 76% felt great or good about their sexuality
- Qualitative data showed that once young people reframed their experiences of homophobia as an issue of bullying and not of truths about themselves, they were more likely to feel better about being same sex attracted.
- Same sex attracted young people were more likely to be sexually active earlier than their heterosexual peers
- Young women who are same sex attracted often have sex with young men
- Rates of diagnosed STI's were 5 times higher than heterosexual peers
- Those young people who had suffered homophobic abuse were more likely to be in a relationship
- 38% had experienced unfair treatment on the basis of their sexuality
- Work and school were common sites of this discrimination
- School remains the most dangerous place for these young people to be with 74% of all the abuse happening there
- Young people who had been abused fared worse on almost every indicator of health and well-being than those who had not
- They felt less safe at school, at home, on social occasions, were more likely to self harm, to report an STI and to use a range of legal and illegal drugs
- There is a marked gender difference in drug use, with young women more likely to have used marijuana and tobacco and to have injected drugs than were young men
- Drug use is more likely to be a coping mechanism than a "lifestyle choice"
- Significant relationship between experience of homophobic abuse and drug use
- Internet remained the most important source of info about homophobia and discrimination, gay and lesbian relationships and gay and lesbian safe sex
- 80% of respondents found sex education at school to be useless or fairly useless
- Young people from CALD backgrounds were less likely to have disclosed to parents
- Young people who were Christians were often forced to choose between their sexuality and their religion – often resulting in self harm

- Young people from rural areas had more difficulty accessing information and had concerns about their isolation and fear of exposure

3.0 WHAT DID WE FIND OUT FROM YOUNG PEOPLE?

Video Interviews of Young People that attend Drop In at Open Doors

We planned to film young people talking about their experiences of coming to drop in and to have the footage edited into a documentary style resource to assist other services / communities who are looking at developing a drop in for LGBT young people.

We decided to film as many young people who would allow us, to talk about their Drop In experience. We developed a list of questions based around the type of information we wanted to find out about young people and Drop In. We filmed young people over six weeks to interview as many young people as possible. As well as inviting young people to be interviewed, we asked them to be interviewers of other young people. We filmed young people in a couple of different rooms with backgrounds to make the footage as interesting as possible. We enlisted ideas from young people to help assist us along the way, for example, interviewing young people in their nominated friendship groups.

Another proposal for capturing young people on video was to have the interviews edited into a short documentary style resource that could be used as a tool to assist communities and services on how to develop a drop in service for LGBT young people.

During the interviews young people were seated in a variety of group situations to find out what would be the best way to glean information. We trialled the idea of having young people participating in both the roles of interviewer and interviewee and in the end learned that having too many young people being interviewed at the same time affected their responses and their participation.

During the film interviews, we trialled interviewing young people in pairs, gender groups and in groups defined by their sexuality. We decided to mix it up to see if young people's answers would differ based on groupings as we observed that young people did not often answer questions with the types of prolonged or comprehensive answers we were looking for in larger groups. We also observed that young people who volunteered to be interviewers would usually only pose questions from the running sheet, and perhaps we needed to assist them to develop the skills to expand questions when young people provided responses significant to the undertaking.

We provided young people with the questions before the interviews so that they could practice their answers. We noticed that young people compared their answers and sometimes this resulted in similarities in some responses. A couple of interviews with individuals may have displayed a more open response.

We engaged a student from the film and television faculty, Griffith University to undertake the editing of the video resource. He was unable to commit to the task and contact with other campuses and editing facilities did not prove successful.

Responses:

Most to all of the young people who volunteered to be interviewed had participated in the survey. Most of the young people interviewed had accessed Open Doors Drop In for at least six months although we were mindful to capture as many diverse experiences as possible including access rates (i.e. first timers – long termers).

No transgender young people participated in the survey or the video interview, as we had no Transgender young people accessing at the time of the project.

20 young people were interviewed over six weeks and of the young people interviewed:

- 7 young women identified as lesbian;
 - 4 young women identified as bisexual;
 - 9 young men identified as gay or homosexual;
 - Most to all young people interviewed had participated or were aware of Open Doors social activities, Night Vision, and the Out Loud and Proud Festival; and
 - Most to all young people interviewed were aware of the other service **types** available to them at Open doors and could articulate the service types quite clearly and accurately.
- When questioned **“What do you like most about Drop In at Open Doors?”** nearly every young person said they liked the people who came to Drop In (inclusive of the other young people and workers) and the safe environment. A substantial amount of young people have also stated that they have had involvement with Night Vision and the Out Loud and Proud festival. There were some variances in opinions, around what people liked about Drop In, which included the environment and access to computers and music.

“Its ok to be who you are and it’s ok to live with your sexuality, you don’t have to hide it.” D, 17 Lesbian

- When young people were asked **“What do you NOT like so much about Drop In at Open Doors?”** most young people stated that they were happy with the overall set up. Most young people stated that they wanted Drop In to be open for longer hours and possibly the weekend to enable young people (i.e school students) who could not attend to participate. A major response indicated that young people did not like not knowing people when they first accessed Drop In.

“You can be yourself, that there is a place for people to be themselves. You don’t feel judged, you can be truthful. You get judged all the time at school and at home and people on the street.” Lucy, 14 Bisexual

- When young people were asked **“What would you change at Drop In to make it better?”**, again the response was to have extended opening hours to accommodate school students.

“Maybe another drop in on a Saturday so the school kids can come” J, 16 Gay

- When young people were asked **“What do you think about the Drop In space/environment at Open Doors?”** most young people responded that they enjoyed the space. There were some differing ideas about the location of Open Doors with some young people citing that they would prefer Drop In to be in a central location such as the city.

“Open Doors has been there most of the way with me. Drop in is just excellent, a place to relax and unwind. You don’t have to worry about if you’re on the street being called faggot, you just feel really safe here, it’s one of the big things I like about Open Doors. J,16 Gay

- When young people were asked, **“What kinds of activities would you like to see happen at Drop In?”** Young people had a variety of responses of what they would like to do. A majority of young people were happy to just “be at Drop In”. Other young people said they’d like to have activities including art type workshops, dance and drama workshops.

“If we came and there was a set program I reckon a lot less people will come cos it’s the spontaneity that makes it exciting” D, 18 Lesbian

- All responses from young people when asked **“What do you think about the workers hanging out with you during Drop In?”** were positive. Young people said they find the workers hanging out cool and comfortable.

“Place to be ourselves, where we don’t have to worry about being paid out on or worry about being called a dirty dyke or lesbian or faggot or anything like that, you can feel safe. And it can show you that there is not just one way of being gay, like everyone can be gay and be who they are as well”. W, 17 Lesbian

Quotes about Drop In from young people

J, 19, Gay.

"I'm always in here coming to talk to someone or see someone or using the computer, it's like a big family here, so yeah, it's great."

D, 17, Lesbian

"It's ok to be who you are and it's ok to live with your sexuality, you don't have to hide it. I've learnt lots from the young people here and I am so glad that I have met them."

Lucy, 14, Bisexual

"You can be yourself, that there is a place for people to be themselves. You don't feel judged, you can be truthful. You get judged all the time at school and at home and by people on the street, like if you dress differently and that."

G, 18, Gay

"It's really positive and accepting, they've come for the same reason I have and they are here to be around like minded people and everyone is here to help each other".

J, 19, Gay

"You get to talk to people who've had a tough life and it helps to put your life in perspective and grow as a person".

D, 18, Lesbian

"I like meeting new people, I'm shy but I like to meet the new ones and watch them grow up, because I see that drop in helps them even if they don't get counselling or anything cos young people here are very supportive".

"If we came and there was a set program I reckon less people will come cos it's the spontaneity that makes it exciting".

D, 16, Gay

"I heard about Open Doors from a friend at a party. When I first came I was a bit nervous and it made me feel more open. I wasn't out so much when I first came here and talking to other people they were out to their family, so I told my mum and she was like "Wow I've got a gay son, let's go shopping".

W, 17, Lesbian

"To hang out with other gay people that have been through the same things as me, my straight friends don't understand everything, it's good to have gay friends as well as straight friends so you can interact with them on different levels".

M, 17, Gay

"I come cos it's a great place to meet people and escape from my life".

D, 16, Bisexual

"Just somewhere to hang, to get away from society. Things can really get to you".

W, 17, Lesbian

"Place to be ourselves, where we don't have to worry about being paid out on or worry about being called a dirty dyke or lesbian or faggot or anything like that, you can feel safe".

"And it can show you that there is not just one way of being gay, like everyone can be gay and be who they are as well".

J, 16, Gay

"If I didn't come into open doors, then I would be god knows where, pretending to be straight or something, something I'm not."

"Maybe another drop in day on a Saturday so the school kids can come in".

"It's really diverse and heaps of people from different backgrounds and stuff and you get to meet different people. It's a love hate relationship with some people. You come in and you see your friends and new people, you're always open to new people. I'm open to people here".

"Open Doors has been there most of the way with me. Drop In is just excellent, a place to relax and unwind. You don't have to worry about if your on the street being called faggot, you just feel really safe here, it's one of the big things I like about open doors. It's like a home away from home, like if you are upset or something, you can talk to Meagan or Nerida. If you have something you are worried about, it's always there, no matter what sort of situation you are in you are able to get advice, it's really supportive of everything".

L, 20, Lesbian

"I try and be comfortable in my regular life, but there are some places that I feel, you're looking a bit dykey today, better be careful. It's the nature of the place that makes it safe, it's about being lgbt. There's heaps of information about safe sex, coming out, everything to do with being lgbt and it's really hard to come across that stuff in other places".

"I don't think it reaches a huge female demographic. I notice a lot more males here than females and it makes me wonder if there are a lot of girls out there that are not able to access for some reason. I don't know what those reasons would be though".

N, 19, Lesbian

"I've learnt more about myself coming here over the years. First time I came I was really confused and being gay was wrong and shameful and so confusing. Coming here you felt you're not alone there are others here, and you can talk to them".

4.0 PERSONAL INFORMATION QUESTIONNAIRE

Our plan was to develop and implement a personal information questionnaire to find out information about young peoples' health and well being and their experiences to assist us in our drop In practice (see Appendix A). Self-reported health status is often a good indication of the actual health of a person. People's perceptions of their own health have been shown to be good, independent predictors of their future health care use and their long-term survival.

The first part of the data collection involved designing a questionnaire to ascertain personal information about young people and their experiences. A 'tick and flick' questionnaire composed of 42 questions in seven sections was designed specifically around the types of information we wanted to find out about young people who access drop In. We looked at surveys such as the Young People's Health and Wellbeing National Survey", and the "Writing Themselves In" survey to assist us in composing a survey of our own that would meet our report needs and could also be a useful tool to compare our information to the National data. The initial questionnaire was designed and critiqued by staff, and suggestions were made to section seven "Abuse and Assault" to make the questions more user friendly to young people. The language used to ask the questions was refined and it was determined that we ask a silly fun question straight afterwards to end the survey on a cheerful note.

The timeframe for return of the questionnaire ran over six weeks and we took into account peak times such as school holidays and the lead up to the Out Loud and Proud festival to receive a maximum amount of return. We provided lollipops to encourage as many young people as possible to participate in the survey and explained to young people why we were surveying them. To ensure confidentiality a sealed box was provided. Young people filled the surveys out in the general drop In area but also had the opportunity to complete the surveys in two of the worker's offices for privacy. Collation and analysis began once the questionnaires ceased to come in.

67 young people responded to the survey representing a response rate of over 90%. Now that the survey has been developed, Open Doors can initiate a follow up analyses with young people in 12 months time.

After the data was received, collation was undertaken by the Sector Development worker and a volunteer, and put into a database for cross-referencing. A database was developed specifically to capture the information. The data was then placed into various theme sets, which included, personal information, general health, relationships and feelings, drug and alcohol use, mental health, sex and sexuality, experiences of violence and abuse. These theme sets were used to develop charts that assisted us to find out specific break down of information about young people in terms of age, gender, sexuality and personal experiences.

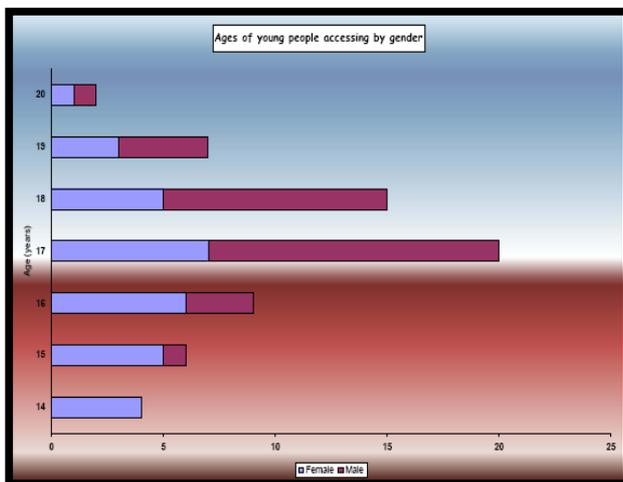
We provided young people with the survey results in the form of a guessing game. Young people were asked to guess the amount of young people who reported information around each of the particular survey themes. Their responses to the information were recorded on film. Most young people during the feedback of the survey results were happy to discuss their opinions.

The following graphs represent the major findings of the study in terms of the six aspects of young peoples' lives that were researched, including their:

- Personal Details
- General Health
- Relationships and Feelings
- Drug Use
- Mental Health
- Sex and Sexuality, and
- Experiences of Violence and Abuse

4.1 PERSONAL DETAILS

4.1.1 Age and Gender of Young People Accessing Open Doors



There were 28 young women and 27 young men who took part in the survey. This is indicative of Drop In only on occasion. Over the past 3 years, there have most often been more young men than young women with the variance being as high as 70% - 30%, but on average it sits at 60% - 40%. It is not common for there to be more young women than young men at Drop In.

The young people accessing Open Doors during the time of the survey were aged between 14 and 20 years. Over half the young people who access Drop In are aged between

17 and 18 years of age, making up 58%. Less than 4% of young people aged 20 years and over access Drop In. This spread of ages is consistent with Drop In statistics from Open Doors on average over the past 2 years.

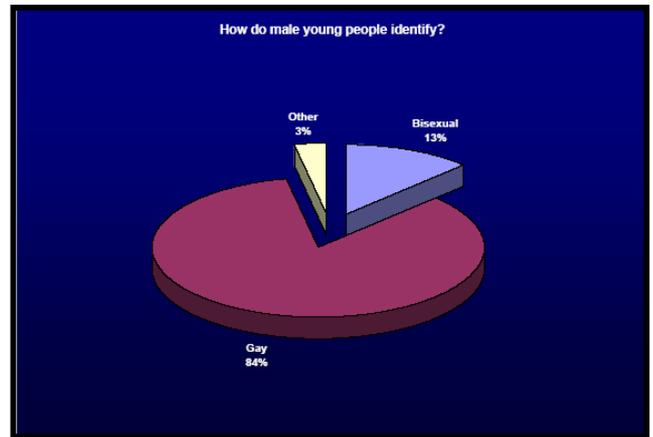
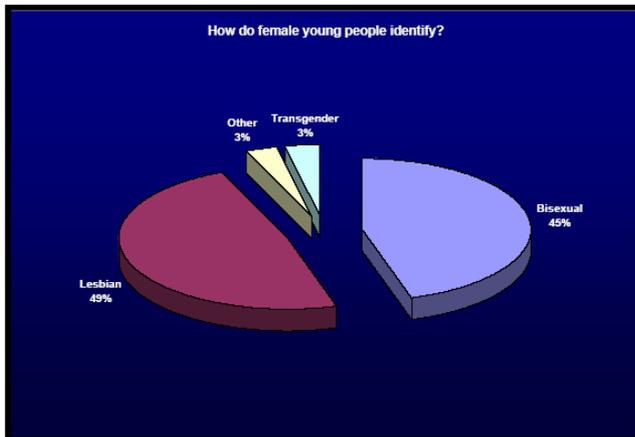
Young men are represented mostly in the 17 and 18 years of age and make up the most significant proportion of young people accessing Drop In at Open Doors. Young women were more evenly spread across age groups. There are significantly more young men accessing Drop In than young women in the 17 to 20 year age groups. The opposite is true in the younger age groups, where young women make up a larger percentage.

Given the majority of referrals into the service are from peers, it is of no surprise that the ages of young men are concentrated in the 17 -18 year age group. It is during this period that young men are more likely to seek the support of peer relationships. Young women, although still accessing through peer referrals, often will attend drop in individually or with one friend and attend to form relationships with a broad range of young people.

When we asked young people for their feedback on this question, there was some surprise that the numbers of young men and young women were so close. One young woman stated:

"There's always been more boys than girls. For all the time I have been coming here, there have always been a higher number of boys than girls, and I don't really know why that is. The boys are picked on at school a lot for being gay, more than the girls".

4.1.2 Identity



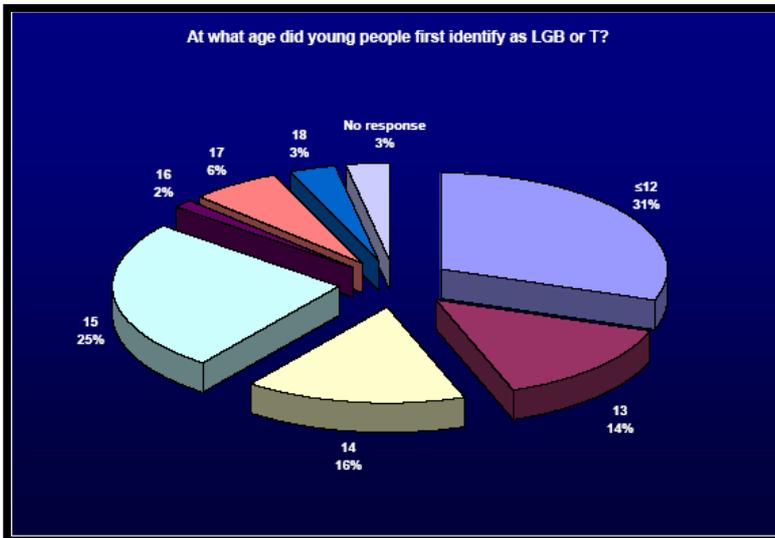
The sexual identity of young women sampled shows a marginal difference (4%) in young women who identify as lesbian (49%) and young women who identify as bisexual (45%). 3% identified as transgender when asked to identify their sexuality. These same samples identified as female when asked to identify their gender. A small percentage (3%) identified as 'other', and provided a short statement around their behaviour and varying degrees of same sex attraction to describe how they identify.

A significant proportion of young men (84%) identified as gay or homosexual with a lesser proportion (13%) identifying as bisexual or other. The survey indicates that young men who identified as having a gay sexuality (84%) were significantly higher than young women who identified as lesbian (49%). The 3% of young men identifying as 'other' wrote that they identify as 'me'.

The difference in identity between young men and young women is also documented in 'Writing Themselves In Again' (Hillier *et al*, 2005) where they found 46% young women identified as bisexual compared to only 19% of young men and 45% of young women identified as lesbian compared to 78% of young men who identify as gay.

We asked the young people that access Open Doors what they thought and the young women were surprised that so many identified as bisexual, but they weren't surprised at the number of young men that identified as gay versus those that identified as bisexual. Some young people thought the difference had something to do with age, others thought it was about acceptance. There was an assumption that bisexual young women were more socially acceptable and that young people choose to identify their sexuality based on how they think others will react rather than how they feel on the inside. One young person stated, "I know when I was uncomfortable about being gay I used to tell people that I was bisexual. It was a phase I was going through before I felt okay with myself. So maybe some people filling out the survey were going through that". Unfortunately there were no bisexual young women

present when we went through our findings with young people, so they were not able to share their experiences and stories.

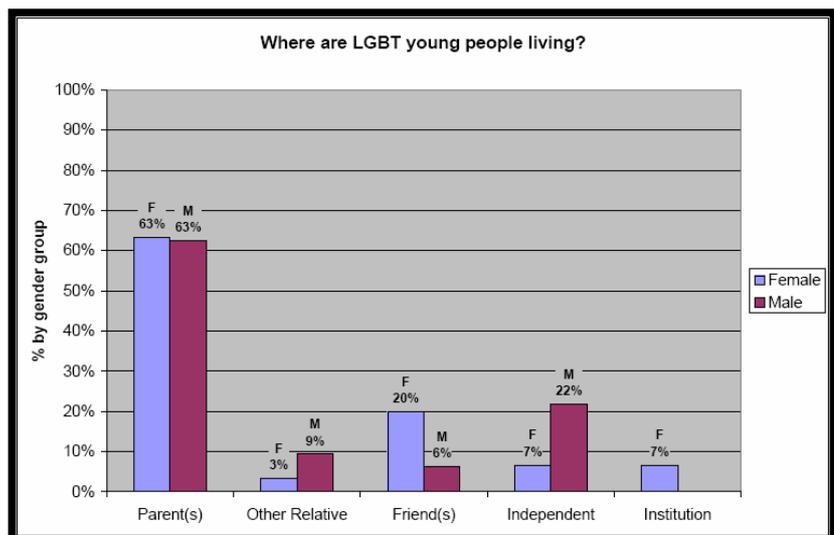


We asked young people, *at what age did they first identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender*. The survey indicated that the majority of young people are identifying as Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual between the ages of 12 and 15. There were marginal differences between the young men and young women in the samples. We can not determine from our study whether gender influences the age that young people first identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual.

These figures correspond to a similar question asked in the “Writing Themselves In Again” (Hillier *et al*, 2005) study, where they found, for more than one third of respondents, realisation came long before puberty and a further 55% realised around the age of puberty. From their qualitative findings for this question, they broke down the process of realising sexual identity into the 10 different categories of ‘always knew’, ‘sudden dawnings’, ‘dreams’, ‘sexual attraction’, ‘falling in love’, ‘having sex’, ‘disclosure from others’, ‘pornography’, ‘lesbian and gay visibility’ and ‘reflection’.

4.1.3 HOME WORK AND STUDY

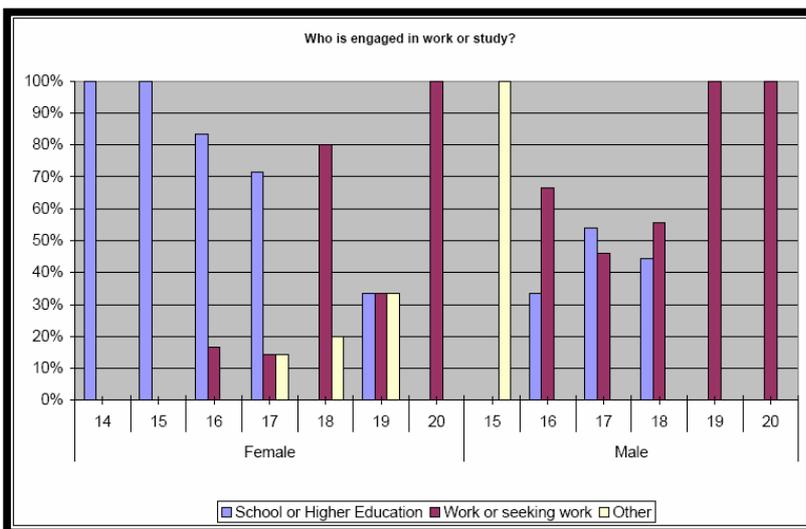
The study indicated most young people who access Drop In are living at home with either or both parents. There were no significant differences between young men and young women in terms of where young people were residing. 63% of young people are living with either or both parents. There were slightly more young men living independently than young women (22% versus 7%), and slightly more young women indicating that they were living



with friends when compared to that of young men (20% versus 6%). This indicates however, that over a quarter of young people accessing Open Doors are no longer living with their family.

These numbers are also similar to those in the "Writing Themselves In Again" (Hillier *et al*, 2005) study, where they found most of the young people (68%) were living in the family home. The remainder were living in a shared flat or house (15%), on their own (5%), at their boy/girlfriend's house (4%), with relatives (3%) or in a boarding house (3%).

There were mixed responses from young people when we asked for *their feedback on the amount of young people living at home with their family*. One young woman said it was a medium amount, further stating, "Most people when they come out, some get treated really bad. When one of my friends came out, his parents kicked him out, because they didn't accept him at all". Another young person stated, "I think today's generation of parents care more about their children, not just about themselves. So when I came out, my mother said, Fantastic!! Let's go shopping! I think people are realising that it's not that big a deal, there's more to life than just a person's sexuality".



The study found that 52% of young people attending Drop In were attending school or higher education, 23% were working and 13% were looking for work. There are more young women between the ages of 14 and 17 attending school than young men. Of the young people attending school, 43% were in year 10, 35% in year 11 and 22% in year 12.

Young Women:

100% of young women aged 14 and 15 are attending school.
 84% of young women aged 16 and 72% of young women aged 17 are attending school.
 100% of young women aged 20 indicated that they were working or looking for work.

Young Men:

When compared to young women, there were significantly more young men aged 16 indicating that they were working or seeking work than attending school.
 The study indicated a marginal difference between young men who were attending school and young men seeking or engaged in employment at ages 17 and 18.
 100% of young men aged 19 and 20 indicated that they were working or looking for work.

The study indicated that there are more young women than young men engaged in school or higher education and more young men aged 17 and over working or seeking work than

young women. Overall, just over 6% of young people identified their engagement with education or employment as 'Other', however their descriptions tended to indicate they were seeking work, or did not give any reason behind possible disengagement.

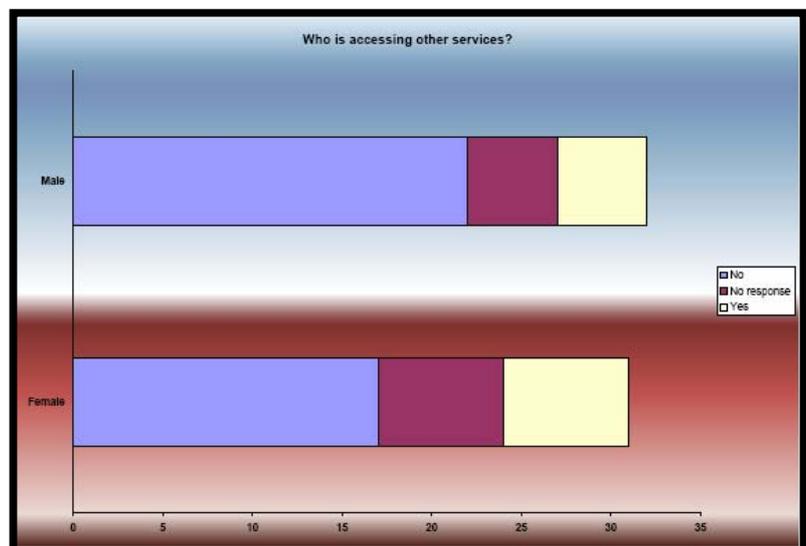
These figures are of no surprise to us. Compared to the young people we see for individual counselling and support, who are commonly overrepresented in independent living, and are either unemployed or not attending school, the young people accessing Drop In are more diverse and tend to have more stable home environments. We still consider this to be early intervention work with these young people however, as some of them are not out to their parents yet and for others, the process of developing an identity that LGBT can be complex and difficult to deal with. Others whilst not identifying issues at home also may be dealing with adverse experiences at school or work due to their sexual identity and need the support and acceptance of others to deal with the violence and discrimination in their lives.

We asked young people *what they thought the amount of young people going to school was* and they thought it was about 50/50. Young people were happy that a lot of people were attending school, "It shows a lot of us are there trying to get a better education".

4.1.4 ACCESS TO DROP IN AND OTHER SERVICES PROVIDED BY OPEN DOORS

The survey showed that the majority of young people only access during Drop In (67%).

The study indicated marginal differences between young men and young women who access Drop In when asked if they have accessed Open Doors for other service types, ie. counselling, family support, assistance with housing etc (16% total). Similar numbers in both genders chose not to respond to the question (16%).



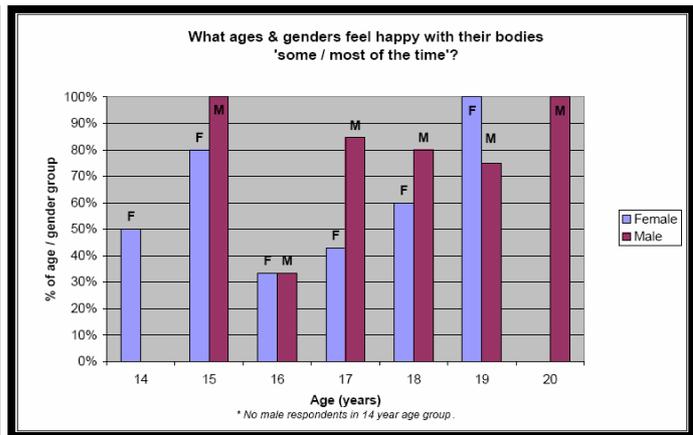
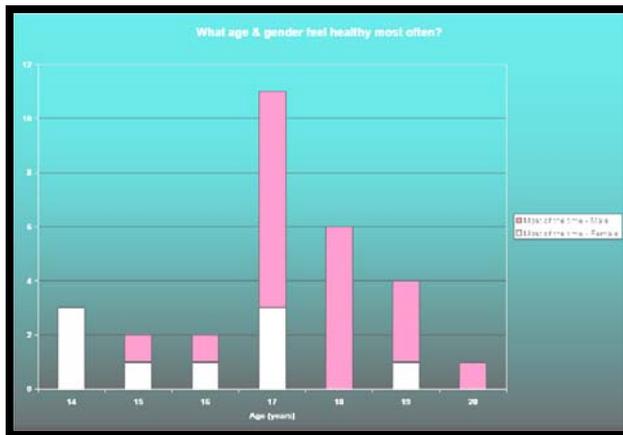
The length of time young people have been accessing Drop In is spread quite evenly. The highest percentage is young people who have accessed for 12 months or more at 29%, followed by young people who were accessing for the first time at 20%, young people that have accessed for 6 months or more at 18%, those that have accessed 3 months or more at 16%, followed by young people who have accessed 2 – 5 times at 15%.

Our service statistics support this and confirm that we most commonly have young people connected into the service for long periods of time. Some of those young people also access counselling and support services and many of the young people that have been accessing for longer periods of time are also asked to participate in other services provided by Open Doors including training and community development with other services and communities. We

also rely on young people who have been accessing for longer periods of time to be role models and provide support to the newer young people.

4.2 GENERAL HEALTH

The study indicated those who felt healthy most of the time were young men, significantly more than young women. The study did not provide any indicators for what "feeling healthy" may be, young people were left to their own individual interpretation of this question. 74% of young people indicated that they exercise some or most of the time, with 25% stating hardly ever.



We asked young people *what they thought the number of people that say they feel healthy was* and there was general surprise that there is a high number of young people that feel healthy most of the time. One young person stated, "It depends how I feel everyday. Some days I get up and feel really bad, and other days I feel really good".

Overall, young people indicated marginal differences between age groups in both genders when comparing those that feel happy with their bodies, some or most of the time. Overall, more young men reported feeling happy with their bodies some/most of the time compared to young women in the same age groups.

The most significant difference indicated that over 80% of young men aged 17 reported that they were happy with their bodies some or most of the time compared to just over 40% of young women aged 17. For both genders, those within the 16 year age group were less likely to feel happy with their bodies at just over 30%.

The study indicated the most significant amount of young people who reported hardly ever talking to staff or other young people about their health and wellbeing were:

Young people aged 15 (females 80%) (males 100%).

Young men aged 19 (>70%) and

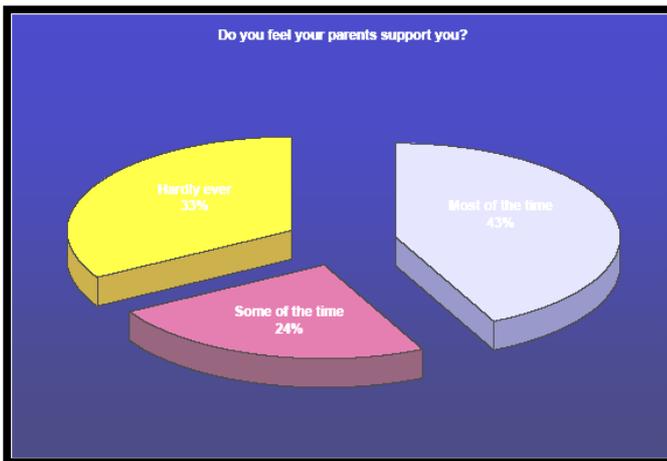
Young women aged 16 (>60%).

Over 50% of young women aged 14 – 18 hardly ever talk about their health and wellbeing.

We asked young people *whether other young people influence their ideas about health and well being*. 56% said they did some or most of the time and 44% said hardly ever. When we asked them to identify the areas that other young people provide influence around, they stated things such as body image, receiving support and self esteem.

4.3 RELATIONSHIPS AND FEELINGS

4.3.1 Parents



The study indicated that of the young people accessing 'Drop In':

- 43% reported that they feel supported by their parents *most of the time*
- 24% reported feeling supported by parents *some of the time*, and
- 33% reported *hardly ever* feeling supported by parents.

Of the 21 samples in the study who indicated that they did not feel supported by their parents, the most significant numbers were between the ages of 15 and

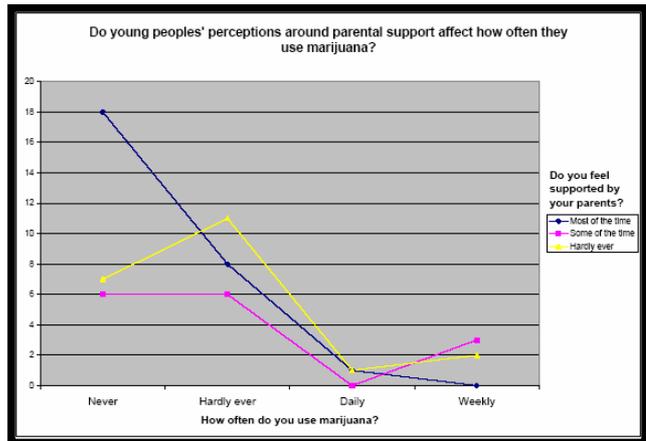
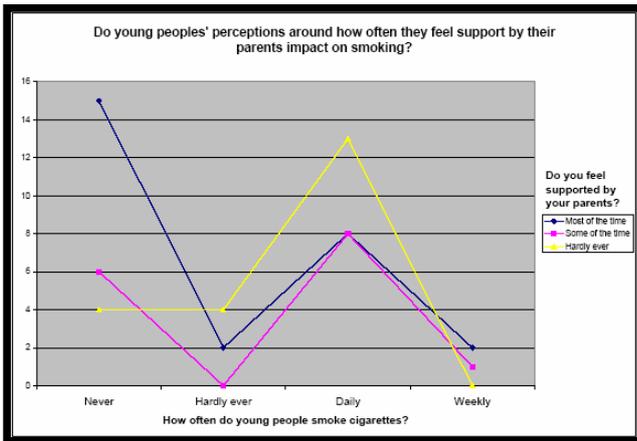
18. The differences between genders are slight given the small sample.

When looking at the identity breakdown of young people that hardly ever feel supported by their parents, the study indicates that young people who identify as gay or bisexual are reporting in higher numbers that they hardly ever feel supported by their parents, however the sample size is small.

As would be expected from the results, there was a lot of different opinions from young people when we asked them *what amount of young people report feeling supported by their parents most of the time?*. One young person stated, "High because generally most young people these days get all their needs and support, emotionally, financially from their parents. It's the majority, not just some". Another stated, "I said low because parents suck!".

The smoking habits of young people correlated fairly strongly to the level of support they reported from their parents, where:

- young people who felt supported 'most of the time' by their parents were almost four times more likely to report that they **never smoked cigarettes** than those who 'hardly ever' felt supported; and
- young people who reported that they **smoked on a daily basis** were twice as likely to be those that 'hardly ever' felt supported, than those that felt their parents supported them 'most of the time'.

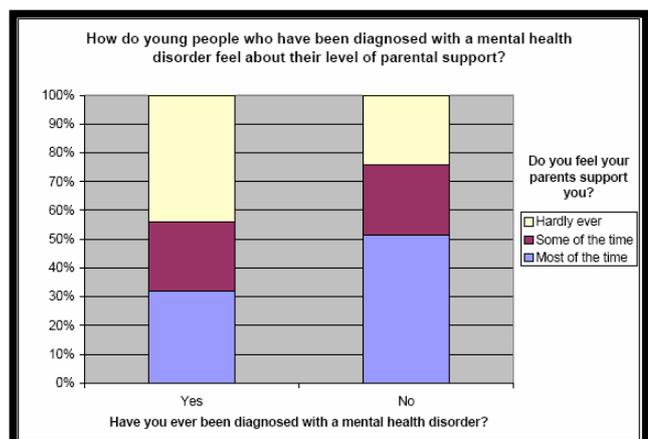
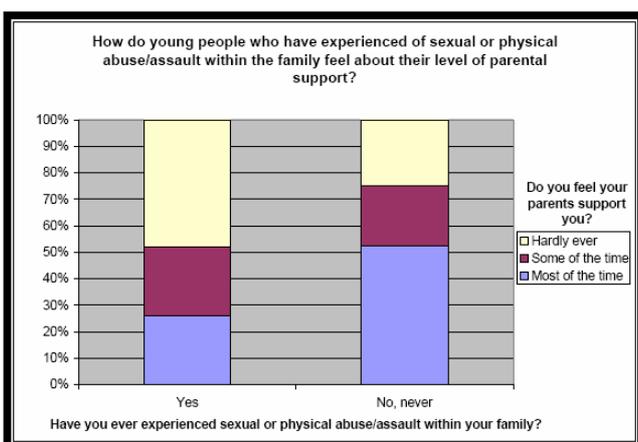


Marijuana use did not seem to correlate as strongly with feelings of parental support as cigarette smoking. However those that reported feeling supported 'most of the time' made up over 60% of young people who 'never' use marijuana, compared to just over 15% for those that 'hardly ever' feel supported.

Generally though, this chart shows that the incidence of marijuana use is not very high among those accessing Drop In at Open Doors. Only 7 individuals (12%) across all groups represented report using marijuana on either a daily or weekly basis.

As with marijuana use, use of non prescription drugs, such as amphetamines, ecstasy and IV drugs, does not appear to be highly represented among young people accessing Open Doors. Over 70% of young people across all groups report 'never' using non prescription drugs. Making up this group are those that:

- feel supported 'most of the time' 33%;
- those that 'hardly ever' feel supported 22%; and
- those that feel supported by their parents 'some of the time' 16%.



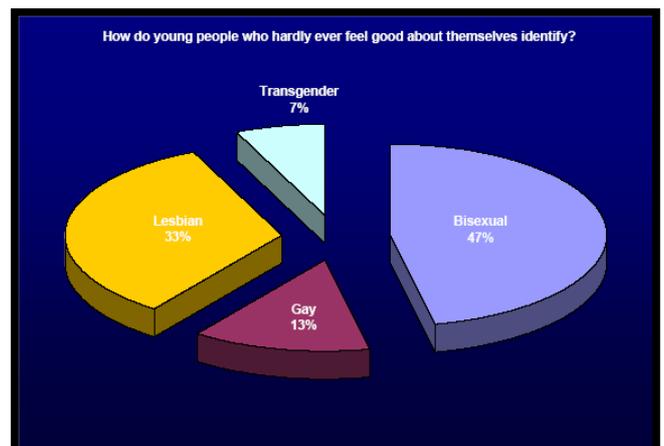
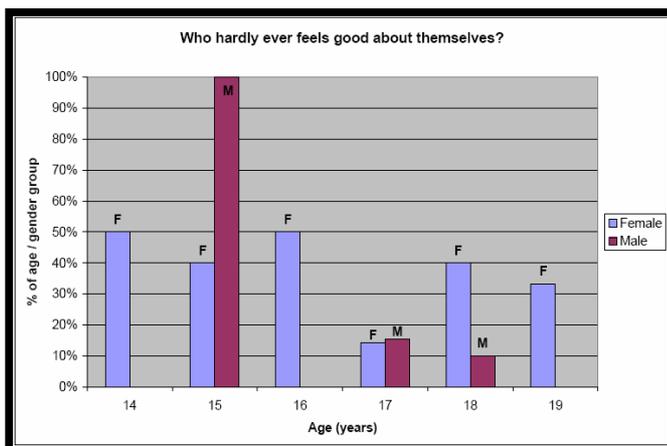
The study also provided data on the breakdown by feelings of parental support, for those that had experienced sexual and/or physical abuse/assault within the family. This chart shows that just under 50% of those that have experienced physical or sexual assault within the family 'hardly ever' feel supported by their parents. This is significantly higher than those who feel supported 'most of the time' who are represented at just over 25%.

This trend is almost reverse for those who have never experienced this kind of abuse / assault within the family, where those that feel supported most of the time make up just over 50%, and those that 'hardly ever' feel that their parents support them make up 25%.

The study looked at feelings of parental support for those that had and had not been diagnosed with a mental health disorder, finding that:

- almost 65% of young people with a mental health diagnosis 'hardly ever' felt they had parental support, compared to almost 25% of young people with no diagnosis, and
- just over 30% of young people with a mental health diagnosis felt they had their parent's support 'most of the time', against over 50% of young people who had not been diagnosed with a mental health issue.

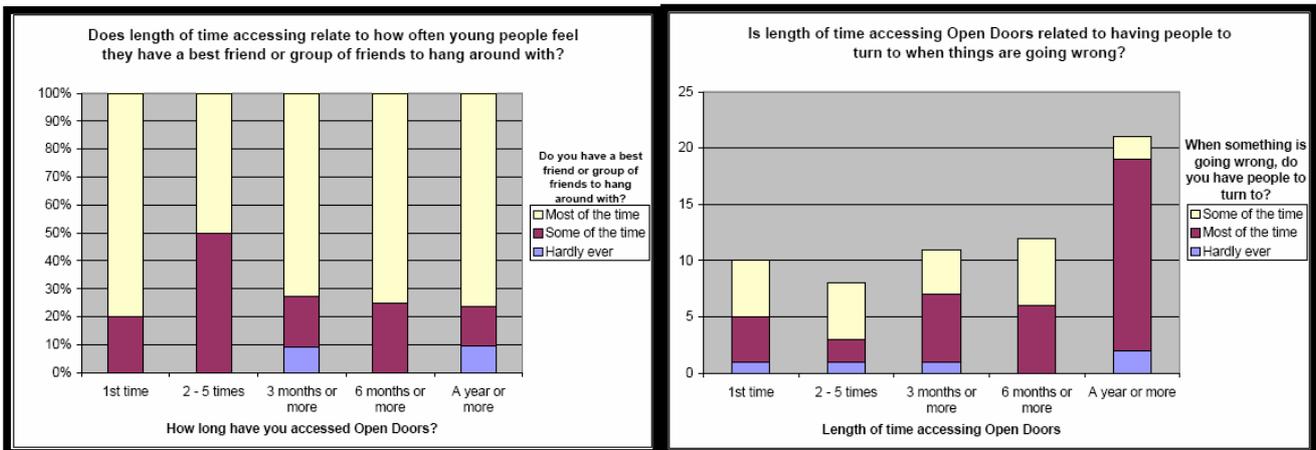
4.3.2 How Young People Feel About Themselves and Their Peer Relationships



The study indicated that young women across most age groups are reporting that they hardly ever feel good about themselves. 100% of young men aged 15 reported hardly ever feeling good about themselves, representing there is generally a significant difference between young men and young women in this instance.

The study indicates that most young people who report that they do not feel good about themselves identify as bisexual (47%) or lesbian (33%). As we saw earlier, most young men identify as gay (84%), rather than bisexual (13%). This means that the two highest groups represented in this chart are made up of mostly young women. This fits in with the higher number of young women 'hardly ever' feeling good about themselves.

The study indicates that 73% of young people who are reporting hardly ever feeling good about themselves are residing at home with their parents.



The study indicated that most young people felt that they had a best friend or a group of friends to hang around with most of the time and 22% some of the time. The chart shows however, that there is a significant difference for young people who have been accessing 1 – 2 months, with 50% reporting that they had a best friend or group of friends only some of the time. This reduces to around 17% for those that have accessed for 3 months or more.

We believe this has something to do with a changeover of peers and friendships for the young people that access Drop In. Initially, when young people first access, they have their friendship network that may be made up of heterosexual friends. After attending Drop In, they may lose some of the friends they initially had before making firmer friendships with the young people they have met at Open Doors.

The study indicated that young people who have been accessing Drop In for 12 months or more reported having support most of the time when compared to young people who had been accessing Drop In for less than 12 months.

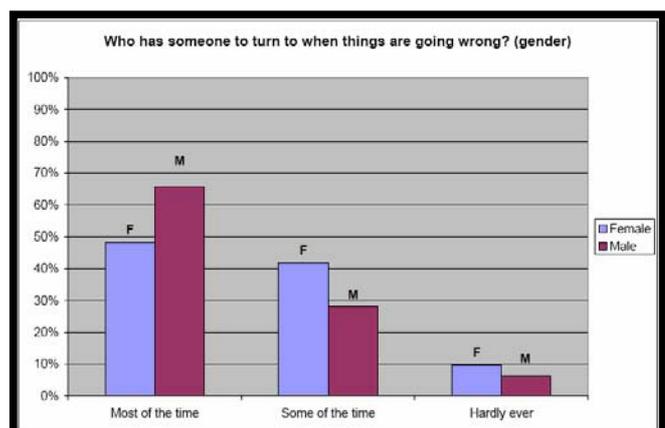
The study indicates that a significant amount of young people feel they have someone to turn to for support most of the time at 54%, with 38% identifying some of the time.

The study showed a marginal difference in gender between young people who reported feeling supported most of the time, some of the time and hardly ever.

The study indicates that young people sampled in the higher age groups report in higher numbers, to have someone to turn to when something goes wrong.

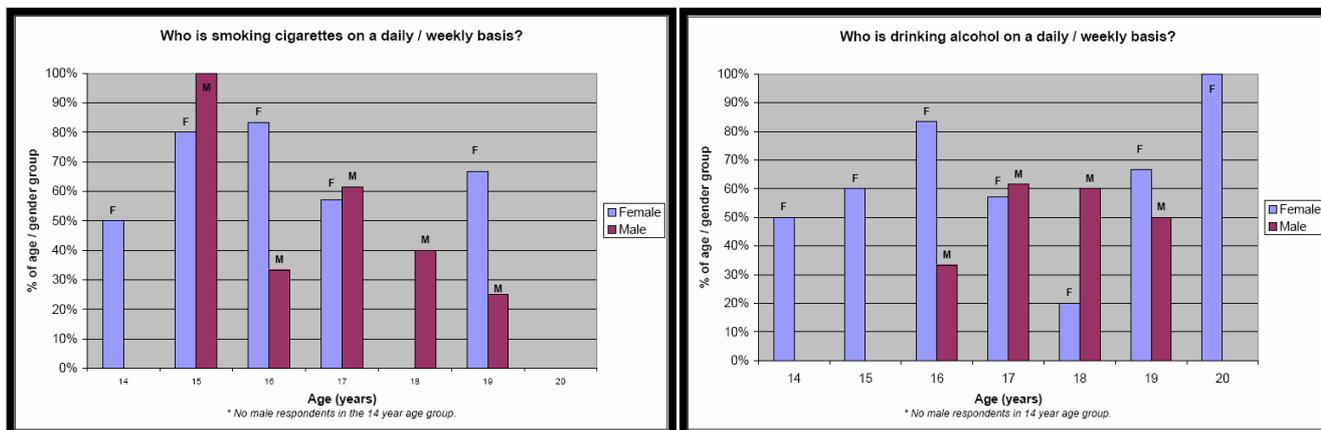
The study also indicates that a significant amount of young people from across all age groups are reporting to have someone to talk to when something goes wrong - most of the time.

Other significant indicators include:



- 25% of 14 year olds 'hardly ever' have someone to turn to; and
- just over 20% of 16 year olds feel they 'hardly ever' have someone to turn to when things go wrong.

4.3.3 Drugs and Alcohol



42% of young people indicated that they smoke cigarettes daily, 5% weekly, 9% hardly ever and 44% never. The study indicated that both young men and women aged 15 are the most significant reported smokers in the sample. The study also indicated marginal differences between young men and young women across most of the age groups, except for 16 year olds, where over 80% of young women reported that they smoked cigarettes on a daily/weekly basis compared to 35% of young men of the same age.

This is similar to the findings in the 'Writing Themselves In Again' (Hillier *et al*, 2005) study where 53% of young people reported having smoked cigarettes, with more young women than young men smoking.

All young people when asked stated they thought a high number of young people smoked cigarettes on a regular basis.

89% of the young people involved in the study indicated that they had that they had drunk alcohol. Of these, 7% indicated they drank daily, 44% drank weekly and 38% drank hardly ever. The study indicates that the young women sampled are reporting to drink alcohol on a daily /weekly basis in more significant numbers than their male counterparts however 60% of the 18-year-old men sampled reported to drink alcohol on a daily / weekly basis compared to only 20% of young women of the same age.

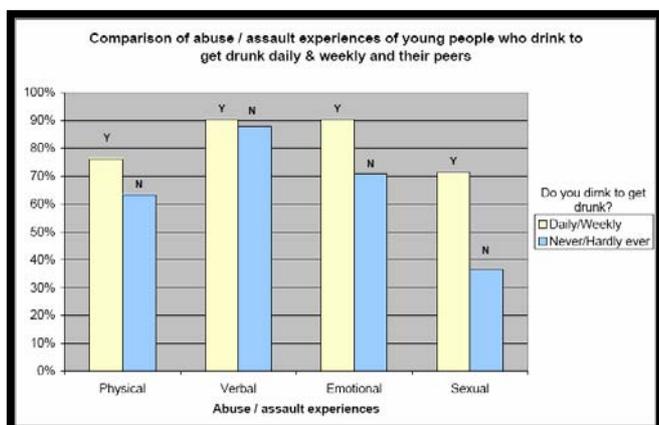
In the younger age groups where both genders are represented:

- 60% of 15 year old young women drink on a daily / weekly basis compared to 0% of young men; and
- 83% of 16 year old young women drink on a daily / weekly basis compared to just 33% of young men.

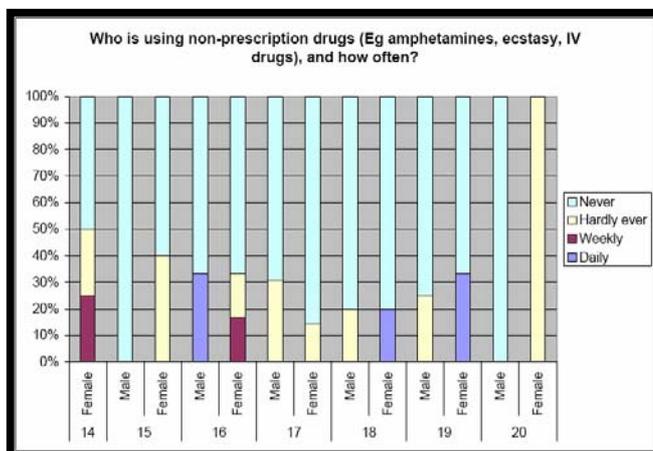
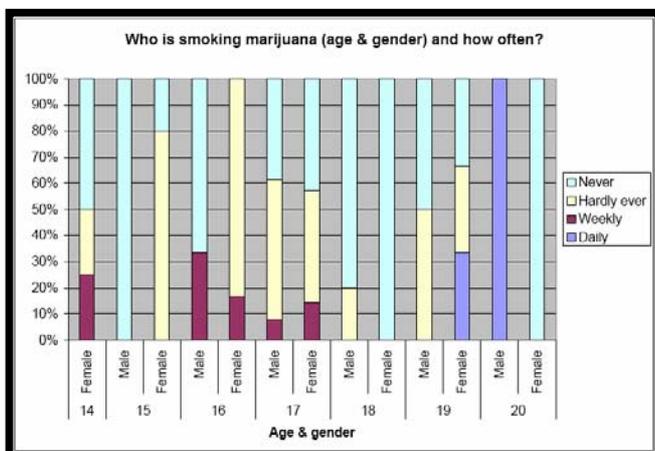
When asked *whether they drink to get drunk*, 78% identified that they did, with only 4% drinking to get drunk daily, 29% weekly and 44% hardly ever.

In the 'Writing Themselves In Again' (Hillier *et al*, 2005) study, they found 90% of young people had drunk alcohol, with 5% daily, 51% weekly, 28% monthly and 16% a few times a year. They also found that significantly more young women reported having drunk alcohol (92%) than young men (82%). So again, the numbers are similar to the national sample.

When we asked young people *how many people use alcohol on a regular basis*, there was a unanimous feeling that it was a high number. Some of the comments include: "It's high because you're supposed to be 18 to do it and it's a novelty". "Younger people watch the older crowd drink and want to see how it feels".



The study indicates that overall, there is a small or marginal difference between young people who report having experienced physical, verbal or emotional abuse and who consume alcohol on a regular basis and young people who have not and do not consume alcohol on a regular basis. There is a difference however, between young people who have experienced sexual abuse and who drink to get drunk daily and weekly (71%) and those that have not (37%).



The study indicates that 45% of young people that access drop In have smoked marijuana. A total of 13% of young people identified that they smoke either daily or weekly.

Of the young people who reported smoking marijuana, 35% of young women aged 19 and 100% of young men aged 20 reported smoking marijuana daily. No young people aged 18 years and younger report using marijuana on a daily basis. Young women reported using marijuana more than young men.

The findings from 'Writing Themselves In Again' (Hillier *et al*, 2005) are again similar to those within our sample, with 44% stating they had tried marijuana.

Open Doors staff were a little surprised at these findings, as we thought more young people were using marijuana on a frequent basis. This possibly indicates that those who are using marijuana are more likely to be accessing individual support than those that aren't.

The young people when asked, were also a little surprised at the number of young people that use marijuana regularly, they thought it would be higher. One young person stated, "Young people will always try things, it doesn't matter what it is, so I say high".

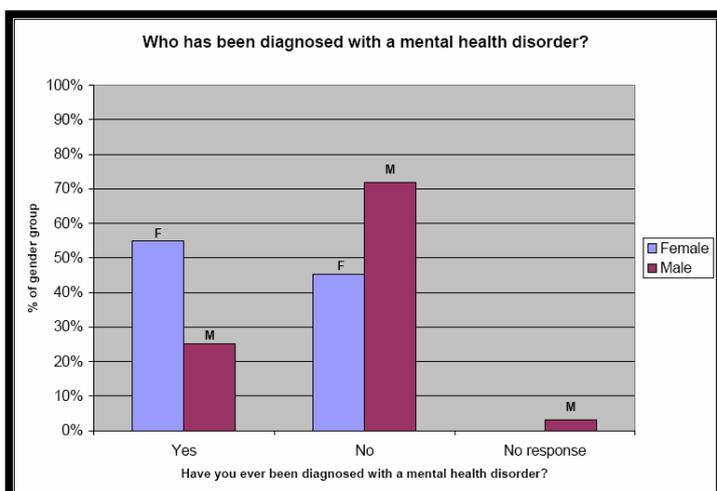
The study indicates that a significant amount of young people across all age groups (71%) are reporting never using non-prescription drugs. Of those that have used non-prescription drugs, 5% of young people reported using them daily, 4% weekly and 20% hardly ever.

The study also suggests that of the people reporting to use non-prescription medication, young women are the most significant sample.

As the question asked broadly about non-prescription drugs, we are not able to discern how many young people use drugs intravenously, or whether they are using drugs typically found in the gay and lesbian nightclub scene, eg. ecstasy or crystal meth.

Young people stated that they thought there were a lot of people trying party drugs. One young person stated, "Weed is so OUT these days, everyone is trying party drugs". We also asked young people about their experiences of drug and alcohol use. 43% indicated that after using alcohol or drugs they had lost control, with 35% stating they hadn't and 20% saying they were unsure. When asked if *after using alcohol or drugs had they experienced a time when they couldn't remember what happened afterwards*, 51% said yes, 29% said no and 18% were not sure. We also asked them whether they had gotten into trouble and 44% said yes, 38% said no and 18% were unsure. This shows us that young people's use of alcohol and drugs can be problematic, with up to half experiencing some sort of negative reaction. We can also deduce from this, that it is likely that young people are binge drinking, which has further detrimental health outcomes.

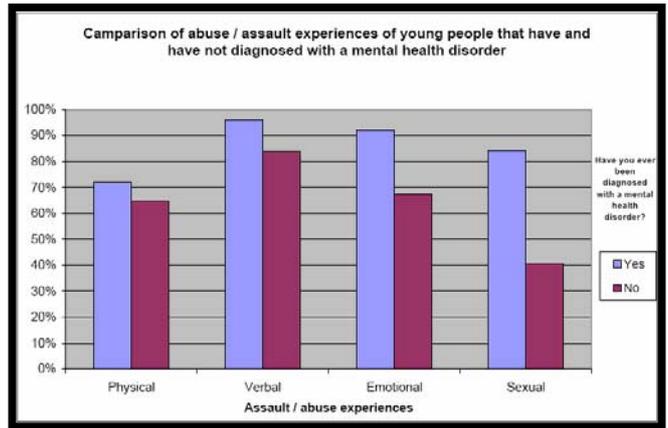
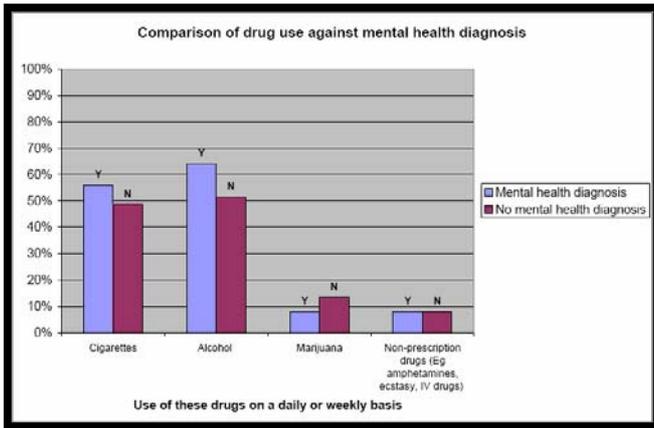
4.4 Mental Health



A total of 42% of young people that participated in the study have been diagnosed with a mental health issue. The study suggests that more young women (55%) reported being diagnosed with mental health issue than young men (25%). 22% of young people are currently taking medication for their mental health issue.

We asked young people *what is the amount of young people who have a*

mental health diagnosis, and there were a lot of conflicting responses. There was a sense that there was a medium level of young people that were diagnosed with a mental health issue but a higher number of young people who experienced mental health issues but do not access mental health practitioners to receive a diagnosis. Some of the comments included: "It's medium 'diagnosed' because people don't go to shrinks anymore, shrinks are stupid". "I say medium but half the time you know yourself if you are depressed. There's no point in going to get diagnosed".



The study indicated small differences in the patterns of drug use between young people with a mental health diagnosis, and those without. Other than for marijuana, young people with mental health diagnoses tended to use substances more regularly:

- Cigarettes mental health diagnosis 56% v 49% no mental health diagnosis;
- Alcohol mental health diagnosis 64% v 51% no mental health diagnosis;
- Marijuana mental health diagnosis 8% v 14% no mental health diagnosis;
- Other dugs mental health diagnosis 8% v 8% no mental health diagnosis.

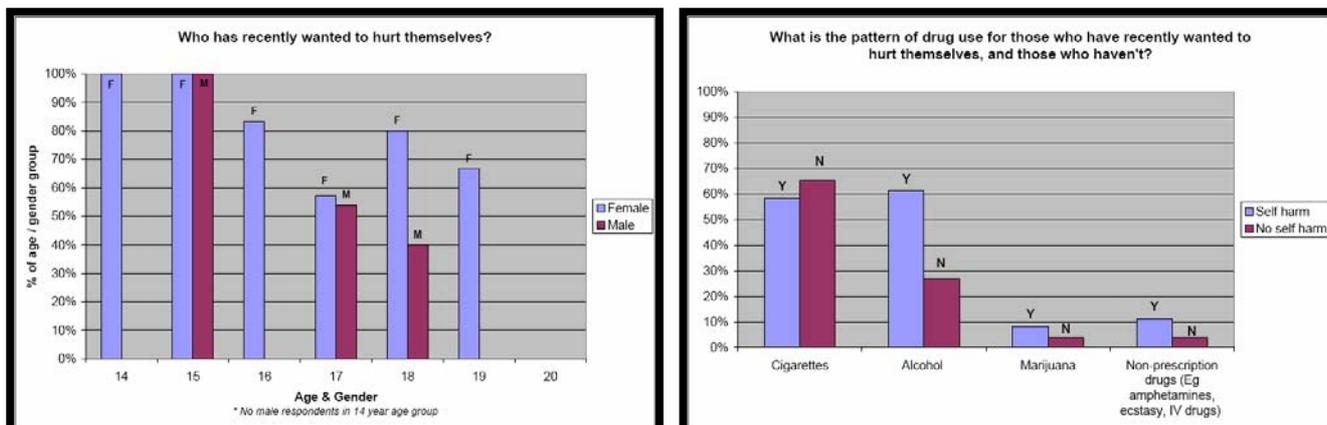
Looking at young people's experiences of violence, the study showed a significantly higher experience of *sexual* abuse / assault for young people with a mental health diagnosis (84%). than those who had not been diagnosed with a mental health issue (41%).

Emotional abuse was the next most significant difference, showing 92% of young people who had been diagnosed with a mental health disorder, against 67% of those who had not.

Physical and verbal violence against young people was quite high for both groups:

- Physical – Mental Health Diagnosis (72%) and No Mental Health Diagnosis (65%); and
- Verbal – Mental Health Diagnosis (96%) and No Mental Health Diagnosis (84%).

4.4.1 Self Harm



Self harm appears to be an issue for a high percentage of young people accessing Open Doors, with 58% of young people identifying as having recently wanted to hurt themselves. Young men and women aged 14 & 15 years indicated that 100% have recently wanted to self harm. These age groups make up 16% of all young people accessing Open Doors.

At the other end of the scale, young men and women aged 20 years indicated that no one has recently wanted to self harm, but represent only 3% of young people accessing.

In the 19 year age group, representing 11% of all young people accessing, the same is true of young men, but not young women. 67% of 19 year old women accessing have recently wanted to self harm.

This difference between young men and women is again reflected in the 18 year age group, where 80% of young women have recently wanted to self harm – twice the percentage of young men in the same group. This group represents almost a quarter of all young people accessing Open Doors. In the 17 year age group – where almost a third of young people are represented – the difference evens out dramatically. Of the young women in this age group, 57% have recently wanted to self harm, compared to 54% of young men.

We asked young people *what they did when they most recently felt like self harming* and young people responded either with the way they self harmed, or what they did to stop themselves from self harming. Here are some examples of those responses:

- Cut.
- Left my house.
- Ended up in hospital because I overdosed.
- I realised that it was a stupid idea and decided that I cared too much about other people's feelings to actually do anything serious.
- Found my girlfriend.
- Sliced my wrist.
- Unlike previously I had friends who stopped me.
- Got help off my Mum's friends and our guidance officer at school.
- Talked to friends.

- I cut myself, drink, overdose.
- Drank, done drugs.
- I cried, and called a friend and cut myself.
- I wrote poems and talked to friends.
- Nearly jumped off a skyscraper.
- I overdosed and nearly died.
- Cut my shoulder with a razor blade.
- Write in a journal, cry, talk to friends.
- Cut my arms.
- Cried - but didn't do nothing.
- Passed out.

The breakdown on the use of drugs between young people who have recently wanted to self harm and those who have not only shows small differences for most substances:

- Cigarettes – 7.05% difference;
- Marijuana – 4.49% difference; and
- Other drugs - 7.26% difference.

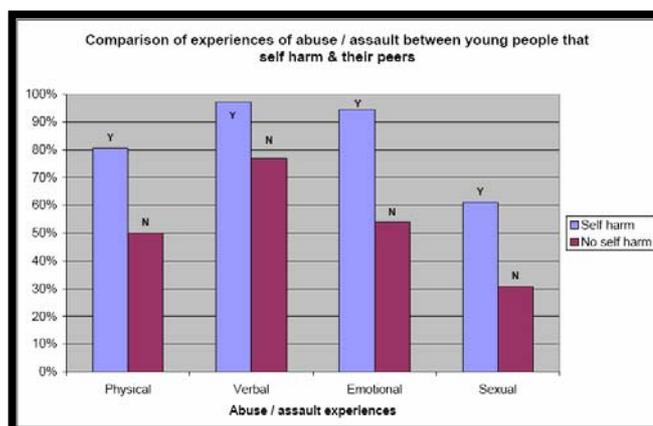
The major variance is in the regular use of alcohol, which shows that 61% of young people who have recently wanted to self harm drink alcohol on a daily or weekly basis, compared to 27% of those who have not wanted to self harm.

These results are consistent with:

- The similar motivating factors behind self harming behaviour and substance abuse; and
- Young people's ability to access substances, where 65% of young people accessing Open Doors are under the age of 18.

We asked young people *what they thought the number of young people who said they felt like hurting themselves recently* was and there was a general understanding that the number of young people that self harm was quite high. One young person stated, "I would say medium to high because they get so much shit every day that they get pushed in on all the time. They find that cutting themselves is a really easy way to release their frustration".

This chart still looks at the differences between young people accessing who self harm and those that do not, this time looking at violence against young people. The variation in experience is shown to be quite significant for all forms of violence against young people. The smallest difference recorded is 20% for verbal abuse / assault – 77% for those who have not wanted to self harm, and 97% for those who have.



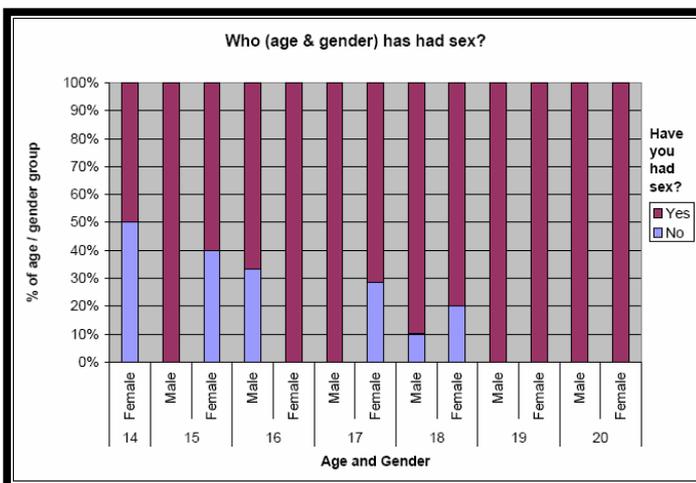
Emotional abuse / assault is the next highest form of violence experienced by those who self harm at 94%, compared to 54% for those who do not.

The comparison for physical violence is 81% against 50% for young people who do not self harm.

There is a significant difference with young people who have experienced sexual abuse/assault and have self harmed at double the number to those that have not experienced sexual abuse/assault and have self harmed.

It is clear from these findings however that a young person’s experience of violence directly relates to their self harming behaviour.

4.5 Sex and Sexuality



84% of all young people accessing report that they have had sex. Looking at the figures by age and gender, the study shows that:

- The percentage of young people who have not had sex moves downwards until the age of 19 where all young people have had sex; and
- Young men tend to have had sex earlier than young women.

We asked young people *whether or not they had had sex*, and left it up to them

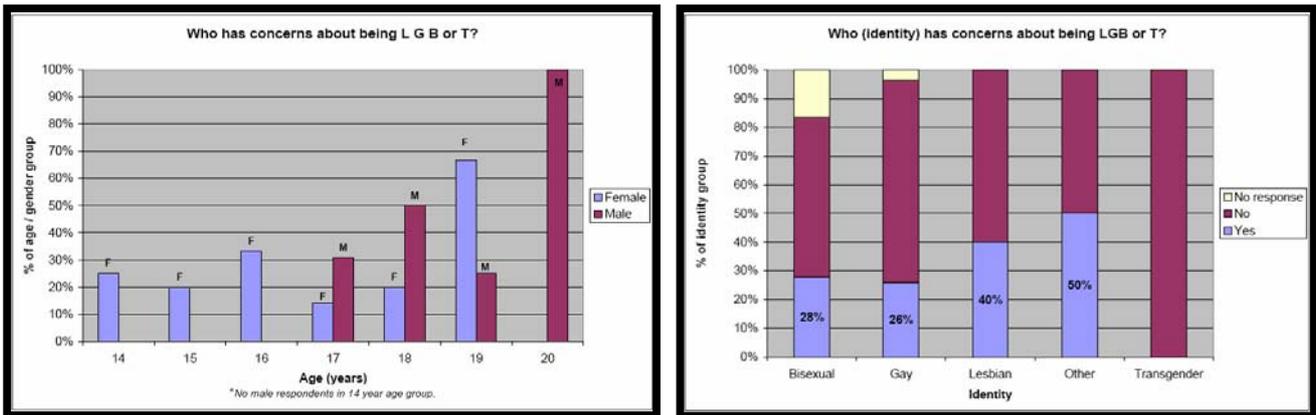
to identify that according to their definition of what sex was rather than go into detail of specific sexual practices or the gender identity of their sexual partner.

The findings from our survey in regards to sex indicate a higher number of young people identifying as having had sex than the national sample as found in the ‘Writing Themselves In Again’ (Hillier *et al* 2005) report. They found that 77% of young people reported having had sex. They also found that with these figures, same sex attracted young people were sexually active earlier than their heterosexual peers

We also asked young people *whether they have safe sex* and only 53% indicated that they always have safe sex, with 9% indicating the question was not applicable. When asked about their knowledge of safe sex, 69% of young people indicated they had a lot of knowledge and 25% indicated they had a little, with the remaining indicating no response or not much knowledge.

This leaves us with concerns around young people’s safe sex behaviours and questioning why they are not having safe sex when the majority indicate they have enough information. One theory is that young women are not having safe sex as much as young men and they are

over represented in the numbers of young people not having safe sex. There are still risks for young women in contracting sexually transmissible infections through lesbian sex, and it's important that information regarding safe sex practices for lesbians is available for young women. Another reason for the findings may be related to the lack of opportunities for young people to access appropriate safe sex information in spaces they frequent. For example, it would be more than appropriate for schools to include the range of sexual practices that young people engage in within sexuality education to ensure lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender young people have greater access to the information they need.



When asked, 31% of young people indicated that they had concerns about being lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender. The two age groups most highly represented within the study (17 and 18 years) show that a higher percentage of young men than women had concerns about being LGB or T:

- 17 years – young men 31% and young women 15%; and
- 18 years – young men 50% and young women 20%.

Other age groups show a higher percentage of young women with concerns, including 16 years (33%) and 19 years (67%), which are the next two most highly represented groups.

Young men and women with concerns about their sexuality or gender identity wrote that they had concerns about:

- acceptance;
- spirituality;
- relationships;
- safety;
- sexual health;
- employment; and
- displaying public affection.

The study also indicates that it is young people who identify as other who have the most issue with being lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender. This may be part of the process of identity formation, where many young people grapple with the myths and beliefs they have been brought up with regarding same sex attraction. Internalised homophobia is a

significant issue with young people who are still exploring and developing their sexual identity.

4.6 Experiences of Violence and Abuse

Section Seven – Have you ever experienced.....?

Q1 Physical abuse or assault?	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
No, never.	16	29.09%
From a family member	16	29.09%
In a relationship	10	18.18%
From a person you know	16	29.09%
From a stranger.	14	25.45%

Q2 Verbal abuse or assault?	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
No, never.	4	7.27%
From a family member	29	52.73%
In a relationship	20	36.36%
From a person you know	40	72.73%
From a stranger.	33	60.00%

Q3 Emotional abuse or assault?	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
No, never.	11	20.00%
From a family member	25	45.45%
In a relationship	22	40.00%
From a person you know	25	45.45%
From a stranger.	15	27.27%

Q4 Sexual abuse or assault?	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
No, never.	29	52.73%
From a family member	8	14.55%
In a relationship	8	14.55%
From a person you know	12	21.82%
From a stranger.	12	21.82%

This study has shown that a significant proportion of young people that access Drop In at Open Doors have experienced violence in a range of ways. 71% have experienced physical abuse or assault, 93% have experienced verbal abuse or assault, 80% have experienced emotional abuse or assault and 47% have experienced sexual abuse or assault. Overall, the family unit is the place where young people have experienced the most violence, closely followed by a person they know, then a stranger. Of the four options, relationships are the spaces where the least amount of violence occurs for these lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender young people.

When we asked young people *what they thought the numbers of young people who had experienced physical abuse* were, there was a general feeling that the number was high. One young person stated, "It's high, everyone here has been bullied or punched at least once".

We also asked them *what they thought the number of young people who had experienced sexual abuse would be* and there were comments that suggested they thought it was medium to high and that people would be more likely to disclose it on a confidential survey than to talk about it with their friends. One young person stated, "I think most people keep pretty quiet because they are ashamed of what's happened to them". People were not really surprised to find out that there was a high number of young people that had experienced this form of abuse however. When asked what they felt about that, people were sad and amazed by it, but not shocked.

5.0 WHAT DID WE FIND OUT FROM OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS?

Service Providers of Youth Drop In Services

We interviewed three Drop In services who work with specific young people to learn about how drop in services work in other communities. We also wanted to compare Drop In experiences to our LGBT young people.

The services we interviewed were, Visible Ink, Jabiru Youth Community Service and Brisbane Youth Service. We recorded the interviews on film so that we could capture 'the feel' of the environment, the film would also assist us in developing a resource about creating a Drop In service by providing information about the broader drop in practice. We asked service providers to take us through their spaces as they would for a young person during an induction. The youth workers explained to us the key opportunities that accessing their Drop In's would provide a young person.

We observed that each of the Drop In spaces had considered the set up design with their young people's needs and wellbeing in mind. We observed that each of the spaces although corresponding to the cultural groups they worked with, did not have particular strategies to communicate LGBT friendliness.

We would have liked to film young people in each of the Drop In spaces to accompany the footage but understand the services' obligation to keep confidentiality of young people accessing. We ran out of time reflecting our observations of the Drop In services back to each of the services; this would have been a good opportunity to engage service providers on their practice of being LGBT responsive.

Responses:

The drop in services we interviewed included Visible Ink – Fortitude Valley, Jabiru Youth Space – Bracken Ridge and, Brisbane Youth Service – Fortitude Valley.

There were unique challenges faced by each of the services in providing a drop in service to young people. These challenges included but were not limited to:

- Limited resources (staff / money);
- Lack of choices for young people within their respective communities;

- Limited access to a range of options;
- Discrimination because of marginalisation;
- Conflict within Drop In setting; and
- Creating and sustaining a peaceable environment.

Despite their uniqueness in their Drop In environments and the young people who access, none of the drop in services could articulate specific practices that assist with LGBT young people's access to their drop in services. They did however cite that approaches to meet these challenges in a broader context related to their "best practice strategies."

5.1 Brisbane Youth Service:

Information from interview with Lisa – Drop In Coordinator

BYS is open every day between 9 and 12 and 1 and 4 except for Thursdays when it is only 1 - 4. On Monday & Friday afternoons they provide general drop in as well as assistance like food, money, service referrals and a medical clinic staffed by a doctor. Services are for young people between 12 and 25. There are a few more young men than young women and indigenous young people make up anywhere between 35 & 50% of the target group. There are also young people from NESB backgrounds. There are also a high number of young families accessing. They identified that there is generally not a good attendance of lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender young people, and when they are around, it's not something that they're very open about.

They run a variety of activities and programs and have a three monthly calendar happening most of the time which includes activities such as: leather work, glass painting, trips to the beach, movies, self defence classes, music workshops, drama, art mediums, painting, pottery, screen printing and various sporting activities.

Drop In is a pathway to the many other services they provide. On their first visit, there is an induction to the service - who we are, what we do, and how we can help them. Their immediate need is usually addressed on arrival. They can access the phones and help themselves to the kitchen as much as they like. They get to meet other young people through different activities and they form friendships and sometimes relationships. Young people come in for "that thing" and they end up getting a lot of stuff without necessarily planning it that way.

There is anywhere up to 40 young people in the Drop In space at any one time, there are tensions and it is a challenge to keep the space peaceful and harmonious. They believe in social justice and that discrimination is not OK and challenge it in a gentle and respectful way without adding fuel to the fire and wherever possible try to have a discussion about the issue.

There are 3 workers rostered on in the space and there can be anywhere from 20 – 40 young people who are accessing that space at the same time. Trying to be everything for all those kids in one 3 hour afternoon is really challenging as is getting that one on one time with a

worker. There is usually areas where young people and workers can go for a bit of privacy, and the space is big enough for people to be able to spread out.

Open Doors Reflections:

There didn't seem to be a oneness or central aspect to the Drop In space. It contained many elements eg. separate areas for different young people, mums and babies, laundry/ showers, lounges, computers and workshop spaces and medical unit. There were bars on the windows and door, and it felt like the space does not respect you or that you need to respect the space. Felt a little like this is your last option. After the service was explained the space felt more comforting.

Similarities between Open Doors and BYS: The recognition of needing to work with a space and that the space has different uses. Making young people feel independent in the space. Drop In is a gateway to other parts of the service. The workers had a presence, they weren't guiding a particular process. The pockets of young people gave you a sense that you may be able to find your space within it. Orientation gave feeling of comfort and rules and people. They do a lot of different programs / activities; sense there is a lot more to get of the service than drop in.

Differences: There is a high visibility of workers in the space. Drop In is about getting a service rather than just going to socialise initially. More of crisis interventions focus.

5.2 Jabiru

Information from Interview with Robyn and David – Youth Workers

Jabiru has Drop In for high school aged young people, usually 12 – 18, four afternoons a week after school, 3 – 5:30 in Summer and 3 – 5:00 in the winter months. The different programs they offer are decided by what the young people themselves want to do within budget. Drop In alternates between being slightly structured and very unstructured, but generally there are not planned activities as part of the drop in space.

Generally it is quite balanced but at some stages there may be more males than females that attend. The groups that use the space are always changing. Generally it is mainstream young people from local high schools, then at other times, young people from Samoan, Maori communities. A number of indigenous young people also attend the space. They find out about Drop In at Jabiru through their own networks, word of mouth and promotions in the high schools.

Drop In is one of our platform programs, it is a gateway to other projects. We have a policy of having two workers in the space, we have food and shopping happens once a week. The place is emphasised as a safe place for everybody. There are guidelines that are established, re-established and re-established with young people at any given time to ensure the space stays safe. They use the strength of their relationships with young people to work through any challenges. Different groups have different issues, sometimes it's very challenging and there is a range of issues that need to be dealt with while trying to make the place safe for everybody.

Drop In at Jabiru is about providing an opportunity for young people to belong and to connect somewhere. It's a place they can come to see workers that are advocating and standing up for that right to belong. Drop in is the ultimate format for that. Sometimes what is needed for someone, whose life is not going well, is to walk into somewhere where it doesn't really matter what's going on, rather than a set structure where they find it hard to fit in. That chaos is OK because people can find their own little space in chaos. There is comfort in the chaos.

Open Doors Reflections:

The space felt a little bit small. There was chaotic energy that needs supervision. The space felt both friendly and a little threatening due to the high energy of young people. It appeared they all knew each other quite well. The space had an adolescent male energy and young people needed to be reminded of boundaries. There were many things to do and food was provided with young people being included in the process from budgeting to food preparation.

Similarities between Drop In at Open Doors and Jabiru: The workers passion for their work. Creating long term relationships with young people. The space is vibrant and they have young people accessing regularly with whom they have good relationships with. The workers float ideas for further projects with young people.

Differences: It's a community centre and has a strong local connection. It allows them to have good relationships with schools in the area. The space is small so if you were going there for the first time you'd be able to connect in with others easily. The young people all know each other as they go to the same school.

5.3 Visible Ink

Information provided by Ryan – Coordinator

Drop In at Visible Ink occurs Monday - Friday 11am – 5pm. There are a number of computers and software programs available to assist young people who may not have access to computers to explore a range of mediums. Mediums include producing online and magazine style editorials and commentaries that connect young people's cultural issues and provide them with an avenue of expression. The space also provides an opportunity for young people to meet in a safe, respectful environment and develop peer groups with other young people who are also interested in internet communities and publications. Drop In is staffed by two workers who provide assistance through support for young people in developing their skills with the internet medium.

Young people who access drop In at Visible Ink hear about the service from a variety of means including referrals from other services, friends and from young people who live in geographical proximity to Visible Ink. Most of the young people who access Drop In are male between 20 and 25. Visible Ink operates from a framework of equity and access for all young people. This is articulated through the provision of guidelines that Visible Ink make noticeable in the youth space and by staff articulating the guidelines to young people during their initial

access. The staff monitor the space from an adjoining office and respond to both discord and collaboration that young people may have while using the space.

Issues that staff have addressed at Visible Ink include trying to engage young people between the ages of 15 and 17 who traditionally do not access the drop in service. They are also aware that the number of young women who access Drop In is disproportionately smaller in comparison to young men and that the culture of the Drop In as it currently is did not create a sociable environment for young women. Challenges for Drop In at Visible Ink include maintaining a safe environment for all young people. There is a diversity of urban culture amongst young people who access the service. Maintaining an environment of safety among diverse young people is both a challenge and an aim for staff at Drop In. There have been young people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender using the space and there haven't been any issues of harassment or discord in the Drop In environment. A range of youth material including LGBT youth resources were available in the space to promote cultural inclusivity.

Open Doors Reflections

It's dark inside, building materials give a modern feel, and the resources on display reflect an urban youth culture – edgy. There is a high male population in the Drop In, it has a very masculine energy, nothing soft about the space. Young people are doing their thing and workers are doing their thing. One of the female workers talked about her personal safety in the space when there are fights or arguments among the mainly male group.

Similarities between Drop In at Open Doors and Visible Ink: Workers at Visible Ink are asking the same questions about Drop In as we are due to high levels of access from their target group. The space is there for young people and they take ownership of the space, they can do things for themselves. They have resources / literature relevant to their target group.

Differences: The young people who access Visible Ink Drop In are mainly young men in their early twenties, who have an interest in computers. Drop in was not a gateway to anything else that the space provides. There is a physical separateness between the workers space and the young people's space.

6.0 Conclusions

The preceding research paper has provided a wealth of information on the issues that impact on young people who identify as same sex attracted and who access Open Doors Youth Service Inc. Open Doors Youth Service is leading the way in Queensland in providing baseline information on same sex attracted young people and the key issues that both workers and the community need to be aware of, in order to provide maximum support for young people.

This foundation report has addressed the key indicators for not only homelessness and housing status but for health and well-being. The statistics presented within this report demonstrates the common elements that young people in general face as well as the unique experiences of young people who identify as same sex attracted. Common themes emerge throughout the report related to sexual identity, relationships with key support people and young people's sense of self, safety and connection. Interestingly the data indicates that the majority of young people involved in the study still reside in the family home with one or both of their parents. This finding can be seen as challenging common beliefs related to same sex attracted young people and early homelessness. However, if this data is viewed in context and with anecdotal evidence it indicates that the majority of the young people still residing at home have not disclosed their sexual orientation to their key care givers and have concerns regarding the consequences of doing so.

These findings support the findings of other relevant research, as can be seen within the literature review and throughout the report as correlations between the data presented and the data provided in the 'Writing Themselves In Again' (Hillier *et al*, 2005) are drawn. The findings stimulate further questions to be answered by the people who are experts within this area - the young people who are currently identifying as same sex attracted within the greater Brisbane area and in the state of Queensland. With further enquiry and research, knowledge of the issues young people face have the opportunity to be utilized to inform practice and ensure service systems are developing and implementing practices that are responsive and reflective of the needs of young people who identify as same sex attracted.

7.0 Recommendations

Implications for Open Doors internally:

- ★ Make a point of clearly stating to young people who attend Drop In for the first time that we provide individual counselling and support to help them work through any issues that they might have going on for them.
- ★ We advertised around the space the possibility of running a group for young people who had experienced sexual abuse or assault. The response rate was quite low and the group did not go ahead, so we need to look at a range of other ways to engage young people around this issue.
- ★ Consider the ways in which we can increase the number of transgender young people that access the service.

- ★ Further explore the gender balance and experiences of young women at Drop In.
- ★ Further explore the ways in which peer support is enacted in the drop in environment and find ways that may enhance it.
- ★ Continue to lobby the Commonwealth Department of Communities to ensure future funding for Open Doors Youth Service Inc.
- ★ Open Doors remains committed to implementing the Drop In program, ensuring it is adequately resourced and continue to obtain anecdotal and statistical data on young people accessing the program.

Implications for local level responses:

- ★ Open Doors shall seek to form stronger connections with the youth spaces network and utilise that as an opportunity to assist other service providers to improve their access to lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender young people within their Drop In environments.
- ★ Open Doors will continue to work with other service provider agencies, in both Government and non-government service systems, to implement further training in practice strategies when working with same sex attracted young people. This practice will also enhance opportunities to develop strong networks and foster collaboration in/with services.
- ★ Open Doors will share the outcomes of the report with other service providers to increase their understanding of the issues and experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender young people in Brisbane.
- ★ Open Doors shall seek to develop and foster strong connections with community and government based mental health services, to work collaboratively on issues of mental health diagnosis, support and treatment for same sex attracted young people and related sexuality issues.
- ★ Open Doors shall seek to work collaboratively with local service systems, both government and non-government, to develop non-threatening data tools to assist in identifying the number of same sex attracted young people not identifying upon access.
- ★ Open Doors shall source further funding to expand the initial research to a broader context, inclusive of outer suburbs and all service systems.

Implications for state level Responses:

- ★ Open Doors will work collaboratively with State funded programs to ensure same sex attracted young people are on the agenda.

- ★ Open Doors shall seek funding to enhance current programs and implement other research.

Implications for Federal Level Responses:

- ★ Open Doors shall lobby for the future support of the Reconnect program and of Open Doors specifically.
- ★ Open Doors shall seek funding to expand programs to ensure that services to same sex attracted young people remain responsive.

Further Research:

- ★ Further research needs to occur into the outer regions of Brisbane and the State of Queensland to extend the baseline information already obtained and to identify key service practice issues.

Reference List

Crane, P. & Richardson, L. 2000, *Reconnect Action Research Kit*, School of Human Services, Queensland University of Technology, Commonwealth Department Of Families and Community Services, Youth and Students Branch, Australia.

Hillier, L., Turner, A. & Mitchel, A. 2005, '*Writing themselves in again : 2nd Report on Sexuality, Health & Well-being of Same Sex Attracted Young Australians*', Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health & Society, Faculty of Health Sciences, La Trobe University, Melbourne, Australia.



Appendix A: Personal Information Questionnaire Tick and Flick Questionnaire

The staff at Open Doors would like to know more about the health and wellbeing of young people who come to Drop In. To help us understand if we are meeting your needs we would appreciate it if you answered the following questions. The answers are **CONFIDENTIAL** and **ANONYMOUS**. Do **not** put your name on the questionnaire.

When you have completed it, please fold it in half and place it in the box provided. If you have any questions or concerns about this Questionnaire please come and talk to Meagan, Nerida or Chris.

Thank you for your help.

How to complete the Questionnaire

All sections of the questionnaire are optional – you do not have to answer any if it makes you feel uncomfortable. Please ✓ your responses

Section One – Personal Details

1. Age.....

2. Gender (please ✓)

- Female Male Transgender F to M Transgender M to F

3. How do you identify yourself?

- Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Other (please specify)

4. What age were you when you first identified as this?

5. Who are you living with?.....

6. Are you at work or studying?

- Still at school Looking for work Working University or Higher Education
 Other (please specify)

If at school what grade are you currently in?

7. How many times have you visited Drop In at Open Doors?

- First time ever 2 -5 times three months or more six months or more
 twelve months or more

8. Have you accessed Open Doors for any other service?
Section Two – General Health

	Most of the time	Some of the time	Hardly ever
1 Do you feel healthy?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 How often do you exercise?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Do you feel happy with your body?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 Do you talk to other young people or staff about your general health and wellbeing?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 Do other young people influence your ideas about your general health and wellbeing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

What sort of ideas?

.....

Section Three – Relationships and Feelings

	Most of the time	Some of the time	Hardly ever
1 Do you feel your parents support you?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 In general, do you find your parents difficult to get along with?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Generally, do you feel good about yourself?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 Do you have a best friend or group of friends who you hang around with?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 When something is going wrong, do you have people you can turn to for support?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 Do you have support from other family members?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Section Four – Drugs

	Daily	Weekly	Hardly ever	Never
1 Do you smoke cigarettes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Do you drink alcohol?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Do you drink to get drunk?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 Do you smoke marijuana?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 Do you use non-prescription drugs? (<i>Eg amphetamines, ecstasy, IV drugs</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

After using alcohol or drugs, have you ever....

	Yes	No	Unsure
7 Lost Control?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8 Couldn't remember what happened afterwards?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9 Got into trouble?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10 Regretted something that happened?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Section Five - Mental Health

	Yes	No
1 Have you ever been diagnosed with a mental health disorder?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Are you currently taking medication?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Have you ever been prescribed medication as a way to help you with your sexuality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 Recently, have you wanted to hurt yourself?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If yes what did you do in the situation?

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Section Six – Sex and Sexuality

	Yes	No	
1 Have you had sex?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2 If you have had sex, do you <i>always</i> have safe sex?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3 How would you rate your knowledge on safe sex?	<input type="checkbox"/> A lot	<input type="checkbox"/> A little	<input type="checkbox"/> Not much
4 Do you have any concerns about being lgb or t?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

If yes, can you give a brief outline of your concerns?

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Section Seven – Have you ever experienced.....?

	From Family	In a r'ship	Person u know	Strang er
1 Physical abuse or assault	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Verbal abuse or assault	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Emotional abuse or assault	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 Sexual abuse or assault	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Thank you very much for participating in this survey. We think you are very special and we hope you enjoy the rest of your day. One very important last question

1. Who do you think would win in a show down battle between Buffy and the three sisters from Charmed?

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Please tell us why?.....

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