

"HE WAS BEING PHYSICALLY ASSAULTED ON A REGULAR BASIS."¹



In schools where adults are often silent on topics related to gender and sexuality diversity, students who identify as being gender and/or sexuality diverse are more likely to be targets of discrimination and abuse.

"ANYTHING THAT THEY COULD DO, THEY DID TO HIM, TO DEMONSTRATE THAT HE JUST DIDN'T FIT."¹



School-based harassment negatively impacts gender and sexuality diverse students' education and opportunities and is linked to:



Decreased ability to focus at school



Mental health issues and self harm



School avoidance and truancy



Decreased feelings of school belonging and educational aspiration²

Despite increasing normalisation of gender and sexuality diversity in Australian society, schools persist as environments where gender and sexuality diversity is invisible and silenced.



Findings highlight the critical demand for teacher education and school support for gender and sexuality diverse students. A partnership between parents and schools is vital to facilitate inclusion.

References:

1 Tania Ferfolja & Jacqueline Ullman (2021). Inclusive pedagogies for transgender and gender diverse children: parents' perspectives on the limits of discourses of bullying and risk in schools, *Pedagogy, Culture & Society*. DOI: [10.1080/14681366.2021.1912158](https://doi.org/10.1080/14681366.2021.1912158)

2 Jacqueline Ullman, Tania Ferfolja & Lucy Hobby (2022). Parents' perspectives on the inclusion of gender and sexuality diversity in K-12 schooling: results from an Australian national study, *Sex Education*. DOI: [10.1080/14681811.2021.1949975](https://doi.org/10.1080/14681811.2021.1949975)



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