

Online Safety

OF DIVERSE JOURNALISTS

85%

of sample of **Aboriginal, CALD, LGBTQIA+ and media workers with a disability** had experienced either personal or professional abuse online

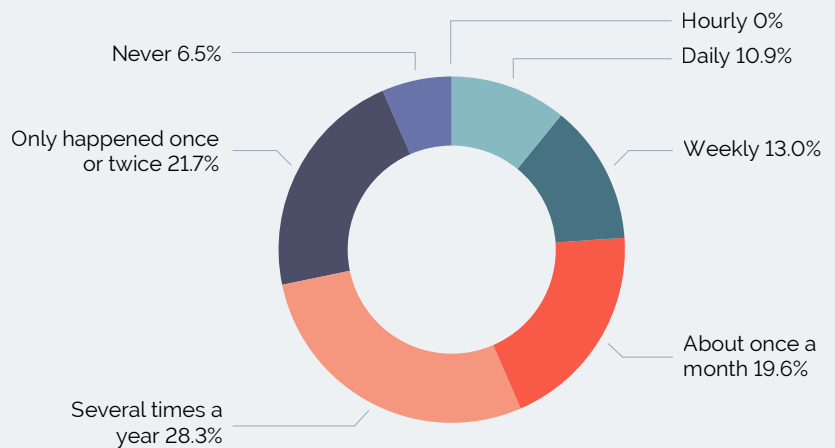
50%

of respondents said the abuse and harassment stayed **online only**, exactly half said the abuse and harassment either sometimes (**11%**), or occasionally (**39%**), **moved offline**

42%

of the sample said that the abusive messages, comments and other forms of communication were occurring on at least a **monthly basis**, while **11%** experienced it **daily**

Q. HOW OFTEN DO YOU RECEIVE ABUSIVE/VIOLENT MESSAGES, COMMENTS, OR OTHER COMMUNICATIONS [WORK-RELATED]?*



* To give an idea of the 'n' values involved here -- for example, 13 respondents said, 'Several times a year' and that represented 28.26 percent of the sample; 10 respondents said it had only happened once or twice, and that was almost 22 percent of the sample.



SUPPORT

The most common source of support came from **'friends'** – but **'family'**, and **'colleagues'**, also figured strongly in the **support network** that surrounded media workers from **diverse backgrounds** who experienced online abuse or harassment.

24% received support from their **employer**

30% received support from a **mental health professional** which sometimes occurred as a referral from their employer

6.5% said they'd received support from a **peak body or their union**



REPORTING

A lack of awareness of availability and diversity in reporting and support mechanisms.

“ *There was no mechanism to flag... that you had received a racist email, to send it somewhere where that person could be put on a watch list or whatever it is, you know, where they're going to become a serial offender.* (Aboriginal journalist)

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mediadiversity

AUSTRALIA

OF DIVERSE JOURNALISTS

IMPLICATIONS OF ONLINE ABUSE



Normalisation of online abuse



Impact on mental health and well-being



a 'silencing' effect



desire to leave journalism or public-facing media roles

“ They shoot off these comments they don't think about and then 5 minutes later they have moved on. They don't think about how that might have been affecting someone. (CALD journalist)



COMPOUNDING DISCRIMINATION AND ABUSE

A number of journalists and media workers belonged to more than one of these groups – Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, and/or queer or transgender, and/or CALD, and/or living with a disability. Discrimination and abuse can worsen, layer and/or become more likely when there is social and **political disdain** and/or **institutional bias** and **discrimination against** more than one aspect of your identity.

“ While I identify as queer on the internet, I don't embody it. And I feel like it's because it's not safe for me to do so because if I were to do so, I would either be hyper-sexualized and fetishized or I would be [seen] through the lens of like "hypermasculine brown kind of man is a predator"... So, like, that's an unpleasant space to be in... I just want to be myself, but I can't.

(CALD journalist who identified as queer).



MENTAL HEALTH

Online abuse puts an emotional burden on the work and well-being of a journalist.

“ The threats and comments impact my mental health significantly. I really struggled to see the good in myself.

(journalist with a disability)

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KEY RECOMMENDATIONS TO ADDRESS ONLINE ABUSE OF JOURNALISTS AND MEDIA WORKERS

Employers and regulators, and policy makers should work with diverse journalists and media workers to **improve conditions for workers in the industry overall**. This includes recognising the 'double-edged sword' nature of professional social media profiles for media workers.



Download the full report and find out more at:

mediadiversityaustralia.org