



Silver Pride Advocacy Network

Amplifying the voices of LGBTI older people



Issue 7, May 2025

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The Silver Pride Advocacy Network e-newsletter is brought to you by LGBTIQ+ Health Australia (LHA).

Each edition of this newsletter will include an invitation to contribute your ideas about LGBTI ageing and aged care. It will also feature initiatives that enhance the lives of LGBTI older people. We hope these good practice projects will inspire you.

Please pass this newsletter on to others who might be interested. They can subscribe [here](#).



Workshop for the SPAN Living Experience Advocacy Panel

Fifteen members of the Silver Pride Advocacy Network, Living Experience Advocacy Panel (LEAP) took part in a two-day training workshop at the end of April. The workshop was held both in person at the Victorian Pride Centre and online.

The goal of the workshop was to help LEAP members build the skills and confidence that they need for their role. Their role includes taking part in external consultations about ageing and aged care, to help shape policies and programs. LEAP members also give feedback to LHA on our initiatives that support LGBTI older people.

During the workshop, LEAP members took part in training sessions on topics like ethical storytelling, self-care, messaging and representation.

LEAP members also joined a photo shoot and video interviews. LHA will use these to help raise the visibility of LGBTI older people.

The workshop was also a great chance for members to connect with each other in a safe and welcoming space.



LGBTI Aged Care Volunteer Visitors Scheme

Written by Sarah Collins, Coordinator, Aged Care Volunteer Visitors Scheme, GRAI – GLTBI Rights in Ageing

The Aged Care Volunteer Visitors Scheme (ACVVS) helps reduce loneliness by connecting older people with friendly volunteers. The program has been running for over 30 years. It is available for people receiving government-funded residential aged care or Home Care Packages.

Eight organisations run this program for the LGBTI community in different parts of Australia. For example, GRAI (GLBTI Rights in Ageing) runs a program that is available in Perth and Peel, Western Australia.

LGBTI ACVVS programs match LGBTI volunteers to visit LGBTI older people. You can contact the programs directly to express interest in joining the program to receive visits.



Aged care staff can also let LGBTI clients know about the ACVVS volunteer visitor program by:

- not assuming that all clients are straight or identify with the gender they were assigned at birth.
- letting clients know they can ask for a visitor from the LGBTI community. Explain clearly, as they might not feel comfortable asking about the program.
- putting up posters or flyers about the LGBTI visitor program in shared spaces. This gives people a chance to self-refer to the program without having to out themselves.

All ACVVS volunteers undergo screening checks and training.

They are trained to preserve confidentiality and avoid outing people. ACVVS coordinators support both volunteers and service recipients throughout their involvement with the program.

Some success stories from the ACVVS run by GRAI include:

- An ex-musician/teacher receives visits from a professional musician. They play duets together, including compositions written by the service recipient.
- An older LGBTI woman receives visits from a younger woman where they talk about LGBTI community events now and in the past. They both get enjoyment from sharing stories of Fair Day and Pride Parades.

You can find out about requesting a volunteer visitor or becoming a ACVVS volunteer from these organisations:

- [GRAI](#) (WA)
- [Umbrella](#) (WA)
- [Meridian](#) (ACT)
- [ACON Health](#) (NSW)
- [Queensland Council for LGBTI Health](#) (Qld)
- [Switchboard](#) (Vic)
- [Thorne Harbour Health](#) (Vic & SA)
- [Working It Out](#) (Tas)

The Aged Care Volunteer Visitors Scheme is funded by the Australian Government.



Have you been treated differently because of your age in a healthcare setting?

Do you feel that healthcare providers make assumptions about your health or lifestyle based on your age?

Have you ever felt dismissed or not taken seriously by a healthcare professional because of your age?

Have you received different kinds of treatment or care because of your age?

Ageism in healthcare can take many forms. This may include the way health professionals talk to older people, how they treat them, or the kind of care they give.

The Australian Human Rights Commission wants to consult with LGBTI older people (65 years and older) who have **experienced ageism in a health care setting**.



Health care settings can include general practices, hospitals, and allied health services.

Consultation participants will take part in a 90-minute online group discussion and will receive an e-gift voucher in recognition of their contribution.

The consultation will be held on **Monday, 9 June 2025 from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm AEST.**

To express your interest, please email Maria.Ko@humanrights.gov.au by **Friday, 30 May 2025**. Please include 'Ageism in Healthcare – LGBTIQ+ Health Australia' in the subject line.

Webinar: Support at Home - costs and fees

Join the Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN) webinar **1 pm (AEST) Tuesday 27 May 2025**. The new Support at Home program will replace the Home Care Packages program and Short-Term Restorative Care program from 1 July 2025. A panel of experts will explore how these changes will affect what you pay for Support at Home.

Guest speakers include:

- Nick Hartland, First Assistant Secretary, Systems Engagement and Contributions Division, Department of Health and Aged Care
- Stuart Barber, Financial Advocacy Officer, Seniors Rights Service.

You can get more information and register [here](#).



Thanks for reading! To find out more please
email: silverpride@lgbtiqhealth.org.au

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who may be interested in subscribing.**

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LGBTIQ+ Health Australia acknowledges the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia, their diversity, histories and knowledge and their continuing connections to land and community. We pay our respects to all Australian Indigenous Peoples and their cultures, and to Elders past and present.

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