



Silver Pride Advocacy Network

Amplifying the voices of LGBTI older people



Issue 8, June 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 let you know about opportunities 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](#).



Aged care reform - what it means for LGBTI older people: webinar

Major changes are coming with the introduction of the new Aged Care Act. The Act is now due to start on 1 November 2025. What do these changes mean for older LGBTI people, and how can you navigate them?

Our webinar will explain these reforms and discuss new supports available. It will consider how the changes may contribute to LGBTI Australians ageing with dignity, care, and respect.

In this session, you'll learn:

- about the main aged care reforms and how they affect LGBTI older people.
- what support services like Care Finders and the Aged Care Volunteer Visitors Scheme (ACVVS) can provide
- how LGBTI specific services are adapting to better support our older community members
- what GRAI (GLBT Rights in Ageing Inc.) thinks about the changes
- how some older LGBTI people see the changes.

You can register for free [here](#).



Back in the closet: is aged care failing LGBTI+ people?

A new [study](#) shows that many LGBTI+ older Australians feel pressure to hide their gender, sexual orientation or intersex status in aged care. LGBTI+ older peoples' experiences of aged care are often shaped by prejudice, exclusion, and a lack of respect.

The University of South Australia conducted the research. The researchers reviewed 55 studies. The studies drew on the voices of more than 3000 LGBTI+ people aged 50-94 from 11 countries. The researchers also spoke with a group of LGBTI+ older adults in South Australia to compare their experiences.

The researchers found four common issues:

1. **Assumed heterosexuality:** Heterosexism is deeply embedded in aged care. It shapes the environment, dress codes, activities and assumptions about relationships.
2. **No one to protect us:** LGBTI+ adults feel unsafe and vulnerable in aged care settings. This is because of historical discrimination and because care is provided out of public view.

3. **Hiding who you are:** While being open is ideal, many older LGBTI+ people feel forced back 'into the closet' to stay safe in aged care.
4. **Good care, not different care:** LGBTI+ people want inclusive, respectful care that is affirming. They don't want special treatment that keeps them separate.



Lead researcher Sarah McMullen-Roach, has called for aged care providers to think differently about how they show that they are inclusive. This could include:

- displaying a rainbow sign at reception
- using inclusive language on intake forms
- adopting advertising materials that show the diversity of their residents.

Sarah points out that aged care services would benefit from staff training.

Sarah says that staff training would help aged care services to reduce the risk of systemic homophobia. It would also increase the dignity and respect for LGBTI+ older people. She says that some of this education is happening in Australia. However, we don't know the impact it has on LGBTI+ individuals' experiences and willingness to access care services.

You can find more discussion of the study in the [Australian Ageing Agenda](#) and in a short video segment on [SBS](#).

The University of South Australia is continuing their research. They are studying LGBTI+ older Australians' views and experiences of aged care. The university is expecting initial study results early next year.



Residential aged care costs and fees: webinar

The Older Persons Advocacy Network is holding a free webinar that looks at how the new Aged Care Act will affect what older people pay for residential aged care.

Find out how 'no worse off' arrangements impact older people currently in the aged care system, including those currently receiving in-home care.

Join the panel of experts to unpack the changes, which now come into effect on 1 November 2025.

Panel speakers include:

- Susan Trainor, Contributions and Accommodation Reform, Department of Health, Disability and Ageing
- Stuart Barber, Financial Advocacy Officer, Seniors Rights Service
- Rosemary Seam, Member, OPAN's National Older Persons Reference Group.

The webinar is being held on Wednesday 25 June 1-2pm AEST. Register [here](#).



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

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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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