



# Silver Pride Advocacy Network

Amplifying the voices of LGBTI older people



*Issue 9, July 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](#). You can print back-issues from [here](#).



## Digital health tools for LGBTI older people: new resources

LHA has worked with the Australian Digital Health Agency to create resources on using digital health tools, including a fact sheet for older LGBTI people.

There are several digital tools to help manage your healthcare, such as:

**My Health Record** – an online summary of your health information. You can think of it like a digital filing cabinet that you can access anywhere you have an internet

connection.

**Electronic prescriptions** – an option to use instead of paper prescriptions. They get sent directly to your mobile phone or email, or they can be sent straight to your pharmacy.

**Telehealth** – lets you have healthcare appointments by phone or video instead of in person. Telehealth can help you to talk with your GP, specialists, and other healthcare providers from home.

As our world gets more and more digital, it is understandable that older LGBTI people might have concerns about these tools. Our new resources can help you. You can find the [resources](#) on our website now!



## Older Persons' Blueprint: LGBTIQ+ Inclusion Strategy

GRAI (GLBTI Rights in Ageing Inc) has developed the [Older Persons' Blueprint](#) (Blueprint). It is GRAI's submission to the development of the Western Australian LGBTIA+ Inclusion Strategy. GRAI is a community-led organisation dedicated to improving the quality of life for LGBTI older people.

GRAI consulted widely to develop the Blueprint. This included community consultations, surveys and interviews in Western Australia.

The message from the consultations was clear. LGBTI older people are ageing with resilience, insight and memory. However, they are often invisible. Many feel isolated or ignored. Some fear they'll have to go "back into the closet" when using services. Government strategies and community programs often focus on young people, leaving older people out.



*"I fought hard to live openly; I don't want to have to go back in the closet just because I'm old or in care."*

— Survey respondent

People shared deeply personal stories as part of the consultations. They spoke openly about housing problems, money stress and the need for connection and recognition. They also spoke about fear of aged care, grief from being invisible, trauma and the importance of chosen family and safe spaces.

People shared bold ideas, like:

- community-led hubs
- programs that connect younger people and older people
- inclusive housing models
- truth-telling projects that honour their legacy.

GRAI has identified five pillars from the consultation themes. The pillars are more than policy areas. They are what LGBTI older people told GRAI they need to feel safe, visible and valued.

Pillars	Goals
<b>Pillar 1: Inclusion</b>	LGBTI older people are valued, visible, and meaningfully connected
<b>Pillar 2: Equity</b>	LGBTI older people are safe to live openly and free from prejudice
<b>Pillar 3: Dignity</b>	LGBTI older people receive culturally safe, respectful, and responsive services and support.
<b>Pillar 4: Wellbeing</b>	LGBTI older people have stable housing, economic security, and dignity in later life.
<b>Pillar 5: Healing</b>	LGBTI older people are respected, acknowledged, and supported to heal from past trauma.

GRAI has developed initiatives under each pillar and a 10-year implementation roadmap. This includes calling for a whole of government approach that builds LGBTI older people into mainstream and specialist policy.

## Good practice showcase: Silver Rainbow fact sheet about palliative care

LHA's Silver Rainbow program aims to improve the experiences of LGBTI people as they age and enter the Australian aged care system.

LHA has created ten fact sheets for aged care workers to support LGBTI older people in aged care. One of the factsheets is about [palliative care](#).

Chris Hunt has reviewed the fact sheet. Chris is 65-year-old lesbian who worked as a registered nurse in residential aged care. She is a member of the Silver Pride Advocacy Network, Living Experience Advocacy Panel.



*The fact sheet explains that palliative care can be given in many settings. It provides skilled treatment, care and support for people with life limiting illness who are expected to die. Palliative care also supports peoples' families, including chosen families and carers.*

*Palliative care can begin months before death is near. Good palliative care can greatly improve a person's final stage of life.*



*The fact sheet discusses how LGBTI older people may feel about palliative care. Some people may be reluctant to use palliative care. It's a time when they are very vulnerable.*

*LGBTI older people may have experienced discrimination within the health system before. They may be worried that their chosen family will be excluded from care decisions.*

*The fact sheet gives practical advice on how to address these concerns. It advises on how people can record their health care wishes. It explains how people can choose someone to represent them in advance, if they can't make decisions themselves later on.*

*The fact sheet also includes information about the relevant [Aged Care Quality Standards](#). All aged care providers in Australia must follow the Aged Care Quality Standards. These standards require inclusive, non-discriminatory care. If an aged care provider fails to meet these standards, you can act. The case study in the fact sheet, "Gary's Story" is an example.*

*All LGBTI older people deserve respectful, inclusive palliative care. This fact sheet helps us to get the care we need—free from fear and discrimination.*



Thanks for reading! To find out more please email: [silverpride@lgbtiqhealth.org.au](mailto:silverpride@lgbtiqhealth.org.au)



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