



# Silver Pride Advocacy Network

Amplifying the voices of  
LGBTI older people



December 2025

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## Silver Pride Advocacy Network – 2025 highlights

The Silver Pride Advocacy Network (the Network) had an outstanding year in 2025. Members participated in over 80 activities, mostly to do with ageing and aged care. We contributed to newsletters, conferences, webinars, resource development, training sessions, advisory committee meetings, and more. The Network gave LGBTI older people opportunities to be seen and heard.

### What we're aiming to do

LHA created the Network to amplify the voices of LGBTI older people in discussions about ageing and aged care. Since we created it in 2024, the Network has become a strong platform where living experience informs change.

### The Network is comprised of three parts:

- the Silver Pride Advocacy Network Advisory Committee
- the Living Experience Advocacy Panel (LEAP)
- the newsletter for LGBTI older people (and their allies).



## LEAP: diverse, dynamic, and growing

In 2025, the LEAP expanded from five to fifteen members. The response to our call for expressions of interest was overwhelming. The expanded panel is now more diverse and dynamic than ever.

### LEAP achievements in 2025 to date:

- Participated in 12 webinars. Topics included dementia, grief and loss, trauma-informed aged care, rights-based care, social connection.
- Presented at four conferences: Better Together@, Ageing Australia National Conference, Ageing Well: LGBTIQ+ Health Symposium, AusPath.
- Took part in 27 consultations, contributing to resource development and research.
- Staffed LHA information stalls at three conferences.
- Engaged in six media activities, including radio interviews and social media.

LEAP members also went to training sessions and conferences. This helped them boost their knowledge and skills. In May 2025, we held a two-day workshop. It focused on using living experiences to drive change and strengthen community action.

## The newsletter: expanding our reach

Our newsletter is an important way to share information and advocacy opportunities. In 2025, we produced 12 editions, and subscriptions grew from 431 in January to 1,357 in December (to date).

The newsletters included more than 25 ways for readers to engage with issues that matter to LGBTI older people. If you got involved in something or found the newsletter helpful, email us: [silverpride@lgbtiqhealth.org.au](mailto:silverpride@lgbtiqhealth.org.au)

## Looking ahead

2025 was a year of growth and visibility. Next year promises more opportunities to advocate, connect and celebrate our community!

## Reflections on the recent Better Together® Conference 2025



## Reflections on the recent Better Together® Conference 2025

Dr Wenn B. Lawson (He/Him), pictured above, recently attended the [Better Together® Conference 2025](#). The conference explored the current issues facing the rainbow movement in Australia.

Wenn is an Autistic Trans man. He is a passionate researcher and advocate in mental health and all things LGBTIQ+. Wenn is an Adjunct Associate Professor with Curtin University, Western Australia. He is also a member of the Silver Pride Advocacy Network, Living Experience Advocacy Panel.

"I attended my first Better Together® conference, held in Adelaide. The Equality Project® organised the conference held on 31 October and 1 November 2025. About 500 people attended the conference.

This was my first ever LGBTQIA+ event. I'm Autistic with ADHD. I have difficulties with reading, writing and numbers. As a female I lived a very masculine life for 62 years and then I changed my gender to live as a man. You can [read more](#) about my journey to affirm my gender.

I was at the conference to be on a panel with other members of the Silver Pride Advocacy Network. We presented on "Strengthening LGBTIQ+ Community Action in Ageing and Care." We talked passionately about diversity, aged care, health, disability, community connection, and more. Garry White and Monty Khizam joined me on the panel and Michael Frommer from LHA facilitated.

The conference 'Welcome to Country' happened beside the River Torrens. Folk from 'The Long Walk' welcomed us all to their lands, the lands of the Kaurna peoples. It was a lovely sunny, blue-sky day.

We went back inside the Adelaide Convention Centre. We wore Better Together lanyards, rainbow shirts, Trans flags, and other bright items. Lucy La Forge started the conference with a beautiful rendition of "Rainbow Connection" on her ukulele. The song set the tone for the rest of the event.

Presenters covered many topics with diverse styles. On day one, I joined the 'World Café workshop.' The facilitators managed the session well. Participants moved from table to table every six minutes. They shared their viewpoints with great enthusiasm.

I also helped with the LHA stall. We had a range of resources on LGBTI older people, ageing and health. We also distributed a tip sheet which counters disinformation about trans, gender diverse and non-binary people.

There was good representation of LGBTI older people at the conference. Many older attendees were present, along with sessions focused on LGBTI older people."

## How will the new rights-based Aged Care Act affect older people using aged care services?

From 1 November 2025, the new Aged Care Act began, and it includes the Statement of Rights. The Statement of Rights will help make sure you are at the centre of your aged care. It gives you the right to:

- make your own decisions about your own life
- have your decisions not just accepted, but respected
- get information and support to help you make decisions
- communicate your wishes, needs and preferences
- feel safe and respected
- have your culture and identity respected
- stay connected with your community.



For LGBTI older people, this reform is important. We have experienced discrimination for years and it continues today. The new Act explicitly recognises the importance of identity, culture and community connections.

Aged care providers are required to deliver care that is inclusive and respectful of every person's background and life experience. They are required to meet the Strengthened Aged Care Quality Standards. Standard 1 underpins all the standards. The expectation statement for older people in Standard 1 is:

"I have the right to be treated with dignity and respect and to live free from any form of discrimination. I make decisions about my funded aged care services, with support when I want or need it. My identity, culture and diversity are valued and supported, and I have the right to live the life I choose. My provider understands who I am and what is important to me, and this determines the way my funded aged care services are delivered."

If you're worried about the care you're getting from an aged care provider, you can make a complaint to the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission.

Some resources include information about the Statement of Rights, the new Aged Care Act and/or strengthened aged care quality standards. These include:

- a fact sheet about the statement of rights and video about the new Aged Care Act
- more detailed information about the new Aged Care Act including a summary video

- a [webinar](#) produced by LGBTIQ+ Health Australia. It's about the implications of New Aged Care Act and aged care reform for LGBTI older people
- [e-learning](#) for aged care workers and volunteers
- [resources](#) for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The My Aged Care website provides [information on the changes](#). The website also includes information on the new [Support at Home Program](#). You can call My Aged Care on [1800 200 422](#).



## OPAN's National Older Persons Reference Group is seeking new members

Would you like to influence aged care advocacy in Australia? [The Older Persons Advocacy Network \(OPAN\)](#) is calling for expressions of interest for people to join their National Older Persons Reference Group.

OPAN advocates help older people resolve their issues with government-funded aged care services. OPAN also raises the concerns of older people with governments, aged care providers and sector stakeholders to advance aged care reforms.

OPAN is seeking new members for its National Older Persons Reference Group. The group provides their experiences and insights to guide OPAN's policy and advocacy.

## How do I apply?

Submit [Expressions of interest](#) via OPAN's website

## Closing date?

22 December 2025

## Who can apply?

Older Australians (50+), including those in metropolitan, regional, rural, and remote areas.

## Applicants must either be:

- seeking or receiving aged care services or receiving the NDIS
- be current or recent carers or supporters, or
- community members that have an interest in aged care.

## OPAN encourages individuals from diverse backgrounds to apply.

This includes, for example: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, LGBTIQ+ people, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, veterans, people living with disability, people experiencing socio-economic disadvantage.

**What's involved?** Members meet online every two months and join occasional consultations. They will attend a face-to-face meeting in Sydney in August 2026.

# Social connectedness for the LGBTIQ+ community during the holidays: webinar

This webinar includes discussions about the importance of social connectedness for LGBTI older people. It offers practical insights on staying connected over the holiday period.

We are focusing on this topic as we know that some LGBTI older people experience high levels of loneliness. We think this topic is particularly important in the lead-up to the holidays.

Our presenters are Kedy Kristal, Executive Officer of GLBTI Rights in Ageing (GRAI). She is joined by Garry White and Julia Geljon from the Silver Pride Advocacy Network who provide their reflections and insights.

We hope you will find the discussion useful.

[Watch on demand now](#)



## Thanks for reading!

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.

If you'd like more information, please email [silverpride@lgbtiqhealth.org.au](mailto:silverpride@lgbtiqhealth.org.au)

**If you enjoyed this newsletter, please share it with anyone else who might like to subscribe.**

[Subscribe now](#)



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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