



Silver Pride Advocacy Network

Amplifying the voices of
LGBTI older people



February 2026

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 **LGBTIQ+**
HEALTH AUSTRALIA

in HEALTH & AGEING DIFFERENCE 26

Abstract
submissions
now open



10-12 June
Canberra

Health & Ageing in Difference 26 Conferences

LGBTIQ+ Health Australia is **inviting abstract submissions** for the 13th Health in Difference conference and the 7th National LGBTI Ageing and Aged Care Conference — held for the first time under its new name, Ageing in Difference. **Abstract submissions close on 6 March 2026.**

The two conferences are being held back-to-back in Canberra. The Health in Difference Conference is on 10-11 June 2026 and Ageing in Difference is on 11-12 June 2026.

These conferences bring together research, policy and practice to advance the health and wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ people. We welcome submissions including community-led and lived-experience work.

[Find out more and register](#)

Reflections on the recent AusPATH Conference 2025, by Kathy Mansfield

Kathy Mansfield attended the AusPATH Conference 2025 in Hobart late last year. The Australian Professional Association for Trans Health Conference is held every two years.



About Kathy

Kathy is a 78-year-old transgender woman and is a member of reference groups for OPAN (Older Persons Advocacy Network) and Elder Abuse Action Australia.

She is also a member of the Silver Pride Advocacy Network, Living Experience Advocacy Panel.

Here are Kathy's comments

"Wow. Just... wow!

The AusPATH Conference 2025 in the beautiful city of Hobart was a huge event! It was even better than my first AusPATH Conference in Adelaide in 2014.

A powerful start

Alison Overeem, a proud Palawa woman, gave a powerful Welcome to Country. This was followed by official welcomes from Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker, AC, Governor of Tasmania and the Honourable Bridget Archer, MP.

Eloise Brook then gave the AusPATH Welcome and introduced a compelling conference program.

The first major session was “Trans care under attack.” Dr Asa Radix, Dr Eloise Brook, Dr Cal Horton, and Jennifer Shields provided meaningful insights. The part that stayed with me most was Dr Cal Horton’s talk. Dr Horton spoke about the dire conditions facing trans people in Britain. They explained how harmful regulations are affecting trans children. The regulations were sparked by the discredited Cass Review. I found the discussion moving and sobering.



Left to right: Kathy Mansfield, Fran Mulcahy and Dr Wenn B. Lawson at AusPATH.

Ongoing highlights

I thought the plenary session chaired by Joe Ball was dynamic and insightful. Rodney Croome spoke about how Australia can lead the world on trans and gender diverse equity and health. Several panellists provided updates about the fight to provide trans and gender diverse care for children and young people in Queensland.

The president of AusPATH gave a special award to Associate Professor Michelle Telfer. She received a standing ovation from the audience. Professor Telfer is Chief of Medicine at the Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne (RCH). She was previously the Director of the RCH Gender Service and is a tireless advocate for the human rights of trans and gender diverse young people.

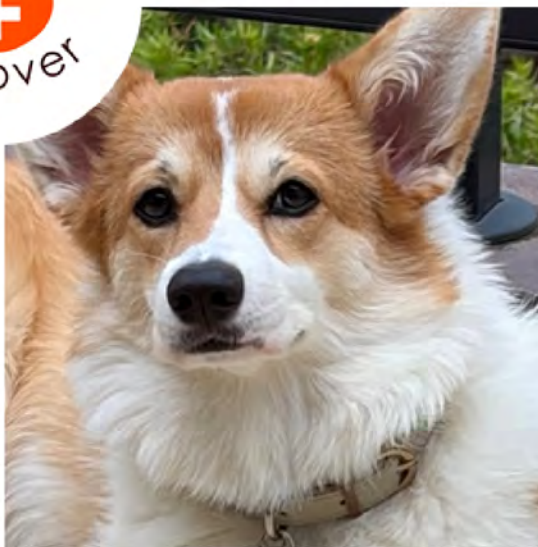
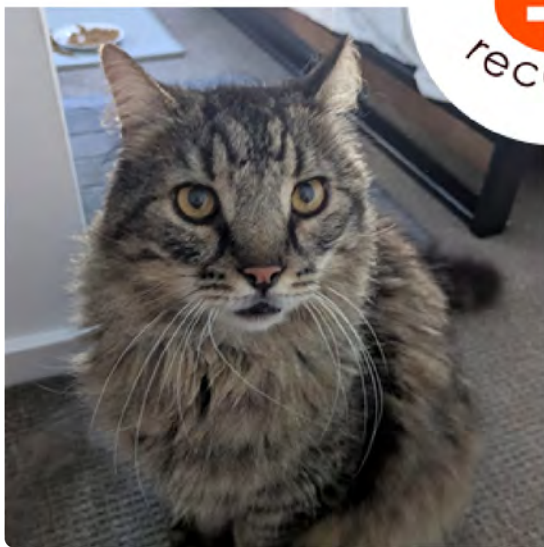
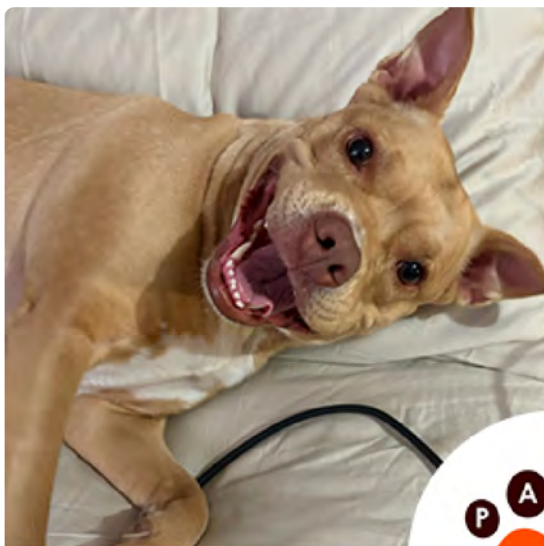
Fran Mulcahy gave a fabulous presentation "Ageing-challenges, hopes and fears presented by a mature-age transgender person." Fran is a member of the Silver Pride Advocacy Network, Living Experience Advocacy Panel.

Many other speakers with great professional knowledge provided memorable conference contributions. There was much audience applause and there were some standing ovations during the conference.

My impressions

I found the conference was substantially more accessible for rainbow peers than the one I attended in 2014. The main reason was that it was the rich gathering of my brothers, sisters and others. I had wonderful conversations with a wide mix of medical and specialist professionals. We came together in an intersectional and respectful way. There was so much care and understanding on display. Would I go again? In an instant!"

Looking after our pets – Paws & Recover



Having a pet can bring joy, companionship, and comfort, especially as we grow older. For many LGBTI older people, pets are more than animals... they are family.

Paws & Recover is a not-for-profit organisation that organises respite for pet owners who are in crisis, who have no alternatives for care and are facing surrendering their pets. They connect volunteer foster carers with pet owners in need. This ensures that pets don't end up in shelters if their owners face a hospital stay, a move, or other life changes.

The service helps maintain the special bond between people and their pets. They offer practical help when life throws challenges our way.



Silver Pride Advocacy Network member Marcia (she/they) with their dog Gaia.

The service also creates opportunities for LGBTIQ+ Australians who love animals. Volunteers who foster animals help ensure pets remain cared for and safe. They can also feel the joy that comes with looking after animals and helping others.

Paws & Recover's team is trained to provide compassionate, inclusive care that respects both people and pets. They offer guidance, education, and practical resources to support pet owners and foster carers.

Pets are proven to reduce stress, lift spirits, and encourage social connection. These benefits that are especially useful as we age.

For more information visit the [Paws & Recover website](#) or [Facebook page](#).

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

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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