



LGBTI+ Aged Care Volunteer Visitors Schemes (ACVVS)

Why & How?

Reimagine an Australian Aged Care system and community where:



Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Gender Diverse, and Intersex (LGBTI+*) older people feel connected to their community so their physical, emotional & psychological health & wellbeing are supported.³



Social connection based on recognising and valuing the 'whole person' (including their identity as someone who is an LGBTI+ older person) is recognised as a vital element of care planning and social prescribing.



The Aged Care Volunteer Visitors Scheme (ACVVS), formerly Community Visitor Scheme, is thriving nationally with requests for peer volunteers to visit LGBTI+ older people who receive aged care services.



Training and advocacy continues to build the capacity of Aged Care Providers in linking their Home Care clients and Aged Care residents with LGBTI+ peer visitors, to uphold their human rights to culturally safe opportunities for social connection.

Bibliography

1: Consumer Health Forum of Australia & Royal Australian College of General Practitioners 'Social Prescribing Roundtable Report 2019:



2: 'When primary healthcare meets queerstory: community-based system dynamics influencing regional/rural LGBTQ + people's access to quality primary healthcare in Australia'



3: Australian Government 'Actions to Support LGBTI Elders: A guide for aged care providers'



4: Australian Government 'Actions to Support LGBTI Elders: A guide for consumers:



5: Volunteering among Older Lesbian and Gay Adults: Associations with Mental, Physical and Social Well-Being



6: Australian Association of Gerontology Scoping Review: LGBTI Ageing Research



*In Australia, the acronym 'LGBTI' refers collectively to people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and gender diverse, and/or intersex. LGBTI is often viewed as and referred to as single category that is used to speak about people using broad generalisations. However, LGBTI communities are not homogenous. Within the LGBTI acronym are several distinct, but sometimes overlapping, demographics each with their own histories, experiences and health needs. Furthermore, LGBTI people are part of all population groups including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people living in rural and remote areas, and culturally and linguistically diverse populations. Fundamentally, older Australians display the same diversity in genders, bodies, relationships, and sexualities as the broader Australian population.



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RIGHT NOW

A lack of referrals from Aged Care Providers is a major barrier to the rollout of ACVVS among LGBTI+ older people.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Do you work in aged care?
Do you know who your LGBTI+ care recipients are? If not, why not?

Are you part of the LGBTI+ community?
Consider volunteering today –
and tell older friends or
aged care workers about the program.

Anyone can
refer
someone
to ACVVS

Anyone can
enquire
about
ACVVS



Contact us now



Working it Out (Tasmania)

workingitout.org.au
03 6231 1200



Thorne Harbour Health

thorneharbour.org
03 9865 6700 (Victoria)
08 7078 4128 (SA)



COTA South Australia

cotasa.org.au
08 8232 0422



Switchboard Victoria

switchboard.org.au
0466 218 921



ACON (NSW)

acon.org.au
02 9206 2000



Umbrella Community Services (WA)

umbrellacommunitycare.
com.au
08 9275 4411



Queensland Council for LGBTI Health

qc.org.au
07 3017 1777



Meridian (ACT)

meridianact.org.au
02 6257 2855



GRAI - GLBTI Rights in Ageing Inc

grai.org.au
08 9383 7753



Aged Care Volunteer Visitors Scheme (ACVVS)

Funded by the Australian Government