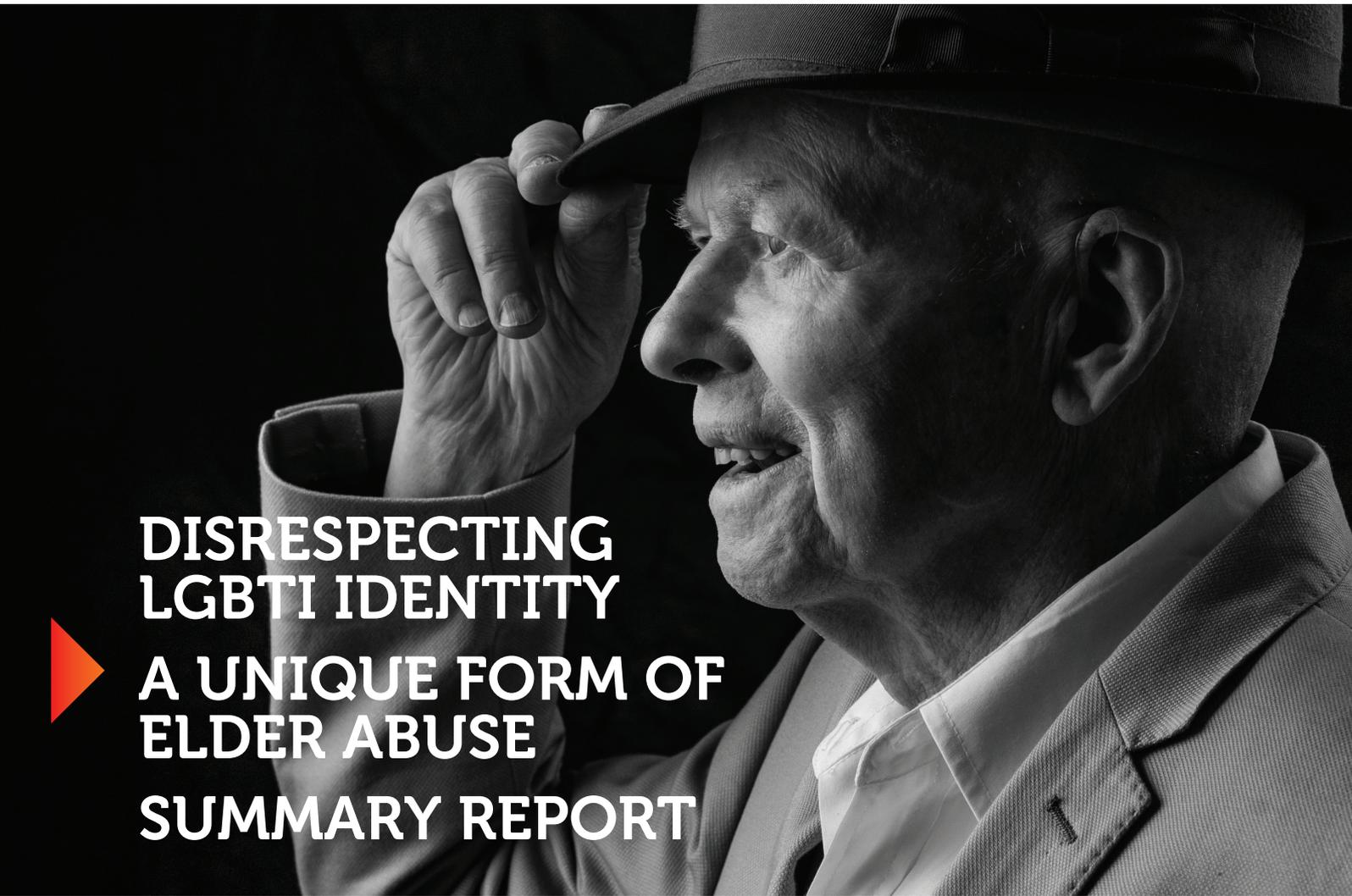




AAG

Australian
Association of
Gerontology



**DISRESPECTING
LGBTI IDENTITY
▶ A UNIQUE FORM OF
ELDER ABUSE
SUMMARY REPORT**

Report of the Australian Association of
Gerontology workshop facilitated and led by
Dr Catherine Barrett, Director Alice's Garage
held in Melbourne on 20 November 2018

Report launched on 25 October 2019

Download the complete report here:
aag.asn.au/news-publications/policy-papers

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

Australian Association of Gerontology (AAG) acknowledges Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognises the continuing connection to lands, waters and communities. We pay our respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, and to Elders past, present and emerging, and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples including members of the Stolen Generations. For further information see AAG's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ageing Advisory Group (ATSIAAG)



SPONSOR

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Australian Government
Department of Health

DEDICATION

This report is dedicated to Shivane Mansfield who passed away on 27 September 2019, aged 73. Shivane was a kind, caring person and a fierce advocate for trans rights. She mentored other trans people and frequently provided free training to medical staff on trans issues. During the late 1970's and 80's, Shivane, who at the time worked for the Melbourne Map Centre, traversed the rugged terrain in a bid to map up to 75 waterfalls in the rivers and streams system of the Otways in Victoria. Despite poor health, Shivane generously shared her life story at the AAG workshop that is the basis for this report. After the workshop and dinner, Shivane said that she was very happy to be invited to speak and had found the whole afternoon and evening inspiring and full of social connection. Shivane's legacy lives on through the many lives she touched, this report and her publications on waterfalls.

CONTRIBUTORS

Workshop presented by

Dr Catherine Barrett, Director of Alice's Garage

Workshop presenters

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- ▶ Cover photo of David by Julian Meehan
- ▶ Michael Blyde Photography

CONTENT WARNING

This paper discusses abuse of older LGBTI people, which may be emotionally challenging to engage with. If you are impacted by the content and need some support, you can call:

1800 184 527 Q Life

LGBTI peer support and referral.

1300 22 4636 Beyond Blue

Support for anxiety, depression and suicide prevention

13 11 14 Lifeline

Crisis support and suicide prevention

ABOUT US

Australian Association of Gerontology (AAG)

Since 1964, the Australian Association of Gerontology (AAG) has been Australia's peak national body linking researchers, educators, policymakers, practitioners and other experts engaged in ageing issues. With over 1400 members across every State and Territory in Australia, our members include researchers, geriatricians, nurses, allied health professionals, aged care practitioners, policy makers, consumer representatives and other experts in ageing. AAG has 18 Collaborating Research Centres that represent all major research in ageing in Australia.

AAG's purpose is to improve the experience of ageing through CONNECTING RESEARCH, POLICY and PRACTICE

Alice's Garage

Alice's Garage is part of the Celebrate Ageing Program, a social enterprise challenging ageism and building respect for older people. Alice's Garage focuses on empowering older LGBTI people. It strengthens the voices of older LGBTI people, draws on their knowledge and skills to address the challenges they face and builds communities where LGBTIphobia and ageism are addressed. The purpose of the Garage is to address the inequalities older LGBTI people face related to ageism and the legacies of our LGBTIphobic histories. The vision is to build a sense of Place, belonging and community connection for older LGBTI people – and to inspire others to do the same. Further information is available at <https://alicesgarage.net/> Alice's Garage was established by Dr Catherine Barrett in 2016. Catherine has over 30 years' experience working with older people as a clinician, educator, researcher and capacity builder. She has been working with LGBTI Elders since 2007. Catherine was a Human Rights Medal finalist in the 2018 Human Rights Awards. She is the AAG 2019 Glenda Powell Travelling Fellow.

SUMMARY

This paper aims to help improve understanding about the unique forms of elder abuse experienced by LGBTI people and to kickstart discussions about developing integrated policy and practice improvements by:

- ▶ Providing background information about definitions and the demographics of LGBTI communities.
- ▶ Briefly reviewing the policy context in Australia, including:
 - LGBTI ageing and aged care policy
 - aged care quality policy
 - elder abuse policy.
- ▶ Briefly reviewing the research context, including:
 - The Tango Project
 - AAG scoping review on LGBTI ageing research.
- ▶ Reporting on the AAG pre-conference workshop held in November 2018, including:
 - overview of the evidence
 - twelve presentations by (or on behalf of) LGBTI elders
 - evaluation of the workshop.
- ▶ Providing five key policy recommendations to kickstart discussions in relevant forums.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

We need to better understand the unique forms of elder abuse experienced by LGBTI people, to inform the development of integrated policy and practice improvements. The following policy recommendations have been developed to kickstart discussions in relevant forums, including:

- the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety
- implementation of the National Plan to Respond to the Abuse of Older Australians
- implementation of the LGBTI Diversity Action Plans.

CHARTER OF RIGHTS FOR OLDER PEOPLE

1. Australia should have a National Charter of Rights for Older People that specifically includes the right to protection from elder abuse, including abuse and discrimination based on LGBTI identities.

ROYAL COMMISSION INTO AGED CARE

2. The Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety should include a specific focus on the unique forms of elder abuse experienced by LGBTI people in both residential aged care and at home.

NATIONAL PLAN TO RESPOND TO THE ABUSE OF OLDER AUSTRALIANS

3. Future iterations of the National Plan to Respond to the Abuse of Older Australians (and its implementation plans) should include specific initiatives to prevent and respond to the unique forms of elder abuse experienced by LGBTI people in both residential aged care and at home. They should also include LGBTI people as a priority group.

DIVERSITY ACTION PLANS

4. Future iterations of the:
 - Australian Government diversity action plan
 - Actions to support LGBTI elders: a guide for aged care providers
 - Actions to support LGBTI elders: a guide for consumers
 - Shared actions to support all diverse older people: a guide for aged care providers(and their implementation plans) should include specific initiatives to prevent and respond to the unique forms of elder abuse experienced by LGBTI people in both residential aged care and at home.

LGBTI AGEING RESEARCH

5. The Australian Government should commission appropriate literature reviews on LGBTI elder abuse in both institutional and community settings to assist in identifying research gaps. For example, a systematic review that builds upon the findings of AAG's Scoping Review on **LGBTI Ageing Research 2019**.⁽¹⁾

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