



Rainbow Inclusive Aged Care Project

Call for Expressions of Interest to Join a Lived Experience Advisory Group

The [Rainbow Inclusive Aged Care project](#), funded by the Australian government's Medical Research Future Fund from 2024-2028, seeks expressions of interest from LGBTQ+ people to join a Lived Experience Advisory Group. The group will play a vital role in guiding the research project, which aims to:

- Understand what enables and constrains inclusive care for gender and sexually diverse people in residential aged care
- Develop a model, guidelines and resources for rainbow-inclusive residential aged care
- Implement and evaluate the model in 12 care homes in Queensland and Western Australia, and
- Share what we learn across aged care sector.

Project Leadership and Partners

This national project is led by a coalition of Australian universities, aged care providers, LGBTQ+ organisations, and community representatives, including:

- **Universities:** Southern Cross University, La Trobe University, University of New South Wales, University of Queensland and Edith Cowan University
- **Residential care providers:** Wesley Mission Qld and Amana Living (WA)
- **LGBTQ+ organisations:** LGBTIQ+ Health Australia, GLBTI Rights in Ageing Inc (GRAI), Rainbow Health Australia and Val's Cafe, and
- Additional support from the Older Persons Advocacy Network, GSE Tapestry Consulting, the Australian Association of Gerontology, and Aged and Community Care Providers Association.

Role of the Lived Experience Advisory Group

The LEAG will draw on lived and living experience expertise to inform each stage of the project, shaping a rainbow-inclusive model of care. The group's objectives are:

- Providing insights based on lived and living experience.
- Discussing and interpreting research findings.
- Reviewing safety protocols, research tools, the proposed model and resources.
- Engaging in dialogue with the National Reference Group.

Who Are We Looking For?

We are seeking six LGBTQ+ people with lived or living experience of ageing and:

- residential aged care
- caregiving
- living with dementia
- living with HIV or other blood-borne viruses, and/or
- frailty.

We particularly encourage expressions of interest from transgender, nonbinary and bisexual people as well as people who are lesbian, gay, culturally diverse, disabled, living in urban, regional and rural areas, and across different states of Australia.

Members will have a passion for promoting change in residential aged care, and the ability and willingness to share their lived and living experience in a respectful, inclusive online environment. We hope that you participate over the life of the project (2024-2028), but members can also withdraw at any time. Current staff members of Amana Living and WMQ will be invited to participate in research surveys, interviews, focus groups and an organisational summit, so will not be eligible to join the LEAG.

How LEAG Meetings Will Work

The LEAG will meet online three times per year from January 2025, with each meeting lasting about two hours. Members will be provided with a \$100 gift card per two-hour meeting. These sessions will be conducted via Zoom, and you will need to have internet access. Meetings will be recorded to capture people's contributions but recordings will not be shared or stored for any other purposes.

Meetings will be facilitated by Dr Meaghan Vosz, an LGBTQ+ researcher. Meetings will involve:

- Creating a respectful and culturally safe environment
- Hearing about research developments
- Discussing lived and living experience/expertise relevant to the project
- Assisting with interpreting research findings and shaping the care model.

The LEAG will adapt as the project progresses, engaging members in survey reviews, co-design plans, and other research activities. A representative will also join quarterly National Reference Group meetings. While participating can be rewarding, it may involve discussing sensitive topics. Support will be available for members who find these discussions challenging.

How to Express Interest

Expressing interest is simple—no formal application is needed. If interested, please email Dr. Meaghan Vosz at meaghan.vosz@scu.edu.au to arrange an informal meeting online. This will cover your interests, the project, your access to technology and availability. You can also request accommodations, such as a support person, interpreter, or support with using Zoom.

Interested people will be notified of the outcome within three weeks. Due to limited spots, not everyone who expresses interest may be invited to join. However, there are other ways to engage with the research, and we can keep you informed with your consent.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to contribute to a more inclusive aged care environment.

Dr Meaghan Vosz
Research Fellow, Rainbow Inclusive Residential Aged Care project
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This research has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee at Southern Cross University (Approval number 2024/161). If you have concerns about the ethical conduct of this research, you may contact Ethics Complaints Office, Southern Cross University, PO Box 157, Lismore NSW 2480; Email: ethics.lismore@scu.edu.au. Complaints are treated in confidence, investigated in a timely way, and you will be informed of the outcome.