



**Attachment 1**

**National Elder Abuse Research Program Part 2B – the abuse and mistreatment of older LGBTIQ+ people  
Participant Information Sheet – Focus Groups**

**National Elder Abuse Research Program Part 2B – the abuse and mistreatment of older  
LGBTIQ+ people  
Participant Information Sheet  
Focus Groups with LGBTIQ+ older people.**

This Participant Information Sheet tells you about this research project focusing on older people in Australia. Knowing what is involved in the research will help you decide if you want to take part.

The Australian Government, Attorney-General's Department (AGD) has commissioned and funded the Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS) to undertake targeted research on the abuse and mistreatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer, and/or asexual (LGBTIQ+) older people. AIFS has partnered with Queerspace, a division of Drummond Street services, to undertake this project.

Please read this information carefully. Ask questions about anything that you do not understand or want to know more about. You will receive a copy of this information sheet to keep.

**What is the research about?**

This research will examine the abuse and mistreatment of older people in LGBTIQ+ groups. It will help improve understanding of the experiences of abuse and mistreatment among older people in LGBTIQ+ groups by examining the form that this abuse and mistreatment takes, its impact and what effective service responses look like from the perspectives of people in LGBTIQ+ groups.

We will be undertaking focus group discussions with older people in LGBTIQ+ groups as part of the research program. The other parts of the research include interviews with LGBTIQ+ older people who have experienced abuse or mistreatment and a survey of LGBTIQ+ people.

The research project aims to inform future policy development, research priorities and service delivery models.

**Who is involved in the project?**

This research is being conducted by the Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS) and our research partner Queerspace, a division of Drummond Street services.

**Why have I been invited to participate?**

You have been invited to participate in this focus group discussion because we would like to learn more about the understanding of people in LGBTIQ+ groups about elder abuse, their experiences of it, their help seeking and prevention behaviours, and what, improvements can be made in relation to interventions, services, training and supports.





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Participating in this research may benefit you and other people in LGBTIQ+ groups. The sharing of your knowledge, views and experiences may be empowering through contributing to potential change, improvements of services delivery and policy development. Your individual participation in this focus group is essential for gathering diverse perspectives, experiences, and insights.

**Participation is completely voluntary, and you can leave the focus group at any time.**

You can also withdraw from the research up to 7 days after the focus group. If you do decide to leave the project after the focus group, please let us know by emailing [LGBTIQ@aifs.gov.au](mailto:LGBTIQ@aifs.gov.au)

### **What will the researchers do and when?**

Researchers will be arranging a series of focus groups where we talk with a small group of LGBTIQ+ older people to obtain their views on the abuse or mistreatment of LGBTIQ+ older people and the help seeking and prevention behaviours by LGBTIQ people.

Each focus group will include between 5-10 participants. Focus groups will involve responding to a range of questions to gain a deeper understanding from different perspectives about complex victim-perpetrator dynamics and, their experiences of seeking and/or receiving support help, and what strategies could help prevent further abuse of LGBTIQ+ older people.

The focus groups will be conducted online using Microsoft Teams from September 2024. Focus group will take approximately 90 minutes, depending on the number of people participating.

As a thank you, we will offer you a \$50 Woolworths or Coles grocery gift card.

### **Your privacy and safety**

We take your privacy and personal security very seriously. Your personal information will be handled with the strictest confidence in accordance with the Privacy Act 1988, the Australian Privacy Principles and AIFS Privacy Policy [AIFS' privacy policy | Australian Institute of Family Studies](#).

Your information will be used to inform a final research report. You will be provided with a shorter summary of the research results. Please let us know if you do not wish to receive the summary.

You can choose not to answer a question, to not participate in discussion, or to stop participating at any time during the focus group. Once the focus group discussion has been transcribed, the transcript will be verified and key identifying information (such as your name, or specific suburb/city/town name) will be removed if provided in the discussion. You can withdraw from the research project during the focus group or up to 7 days after the focus group. If you withdraw from the project during the focus group or up to 7 days after, we will work with you to identify what you said in the focus group and remove that information from the transcript of recording made of the discussion. This will mean that the information you provided will not be used in the analysis.

Our project report will only include the de-identified/anonymised interview data. Any information that you provide will be treated confidentially within the limits of the law. The anonymised data collected for this project will be

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Southgate Towers, Level 4, 40 City Road, Southbank VIC 3006

  
ABN: 64 001 053 079



The Australian Institute of Family Studies acknowledges the traditional Country throughout Australia on which we gather, live, work and stand. We acknowledge all traditional custodians, their Elders past, present and emerging, and we pay our respects to their continuing connection to their culture, community, land, sea and rivers.



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retained by AIFS indefinitely in accordance with AIFS policy and record management obligations. The data may be used for future research to contribute to policy development.

It is important that you know there is a limit to confidentiality. For example, if you tell us about any unreported current illegal activity, unreported abuse, or disclose something that makes us concerned for your safety or the safety of another person, then we may be obliged to pass this information onto the relevant authorities. If this is necessary, you will be informed before the notification is made.

In addition, participants in focus groups will be asked to respect each other's privacy, and not reveal personal identifying detail on other participants outside the interview setting.

### Data storage

Data collected in this research will be held securely in accordance with the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth) and the the Australian Privacy Principles. Information you provide will not be used in any way that may identify you. You may access our privacy policy at AIFS Privacy Policy | Australian Institute of Family Studies [AIFS' privacy policy | Australian Institute of Family Studies](#).

With your consent, discussions will be audio-recorded, and all the information collected will be kept in a safe and secure place. All identifying information will be removed from the transcript. The original recordings and transcript will be destroyed once the de-identified transcript has been verified. Only approved members of the research team will have access to the information. At the conclusion of the project, the de-identified/anonymised information will be retained at the Australian Institute of Family Studies indefinitely. The Australian Government, Attorney-General's Department will retain the Intellectual Property in the data.

### What are the potential risks?

It can be upsetting to talk about the experiences of abuse and mistreatment. Should you become upset during or after the focus group, please let the AIFS team know, and we will put you in touch with relevant support services. We have also listed our contact details, and the contact details for some support services at the end of this sheet.

### Culturally restricted information

The AIFS research team does not intend to collect Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander culturally restricted information. If we do discuss any culturally sensitive information during this focus group, please let the AIFS research team know if you would like this to be deleted from the recording and excluded from the transcript.

### Contacts

***Please contact the research team to arrange to participate in a focus group if you are interested in helping with this important study on [LGBTIQA@aifs.gov.au](mailto:LGBTIQA@aifs.gov.au)***

If you would like any more information, please call the Australian Institute of Family Studies on 1800 720 142.

The AIFS Ethics Committee has reviewed this research. **Concerns or complaints relating to the project may be directed to the AIFS Ethics Committee Secretariat at the following email address: [ethics-secretariat@aifs.gov.au](mailto:ethics-secretariat@aifs.gov.au)**

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If you are not satisfied with our handling of your problem or complaint, you can make a complaint to the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner [OAIC](#).

### **About the Australian Institute of Family Studies**

The Australian Institute of Family Studies is based in Melbourne. It is an independent statutory agency, established by the Commonwealth Government in 1980 and aims to help in the development of better policies for the future of Australian families.

More detailed information can be obtained from our website: [www.aifs.gov.au](http://www.aifs.gov.au)

### **Getting help**

**Call 000 if you are worried about your safety, or the safety of another person.**

We are unable to provide advice or to assist with specific concerns in relation to individual matters. However, these contacts may be able to provide support:

Contact **QLife** an anonymous and free LGBTIQ+ peer support and referral service on from 3pm to midnight every day on 1800 184 527 or via webchat at [www.qlife.org.au](http://www qlife.org.au)

#### **1800 ELDERHelp**

Telephone: 1800 353 374 (national free call phone number that automatically redirects callers seeking information and advice on elder abuse with existing phone line service in their jurisdiction)

**1800 RESPECT** (1800 737 732) provides support to people impacted by sexual assault, domestic violence, family violence, or abuse. You may call any time - 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. There is also a chat online available at any time too.

**Beyond Blue** (1300 22 4636) provides support, information and referrals to anyone experiencing symptoms of depression or anxiety, or who is experiencing a difficult time. You may call any time 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. There is online chat between 3pm and 12midnight (AEST), 7 days a week.

**Rainbow Door** (is free specialist LGBTIQ+ helpline providing information, support, and referral to all LGBTIQ+ Victorians, their friends and family.

**Call:** 1800 729 367

**Email:** [support@rainbowdoor.org.au](mailto:support@rainbowdoor.org.au)

**SMS:** 0480 017 246

**Lifeline** – (13 11 14) provides crisis support and suicide prevention services to anyone experiencing a personal crisis. You can call Lifeline on 13 11 14 at any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. There is also an online Crisis Support Chat between 7pm and 12 midnight (AEDT), 7 days a week

**Call 13YARN (13 92 76)** to speak with an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Crisis Supporter, available 24 hours, 7 days a week.





**Black Rainbow** is a national volunteer Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTQIA+ SB social service focusing on health and wellbeing of LGBTQIA+ SB community [Contact - Black Rainbow](#)

#### **Australian Capital Territory**

[Older Persons Abuse Prevention Referral and Information Line](#)

Telephone: 02 6205 3535

Email: [oma@act.gov.au](mailto:oma@act.gov.au)

#### **New South Wales NSW**

Ageing and Disability Abuse Helpline

Telephone: 1800 628 221

Email: [nswadc@adc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:nswadc@adc.nsw.gov.au)

#### **Northern Territory**

[Elder Abuse Information Line](#)

Telephone: 1800 037 072

Email: [info@dcls.org.au](mailto:info@dcls.org.au)

#### **Queensland**

[Elder Abuse Prevention Unit](#)

Telephone: 1300 651 192

Email: [epu@uccommunity.org.au](mailto:epu@uccommunity.org.au)

#### **South Australia**

Elder Abuse Prevention Phone Line

Telephone: 1800 372 310

Email: [stopelderabuse@sa.gov.au](mailto:stopelderabuse@sa.gov.au)

#### **Tasmania**

[Tasmanian Elder Abuse Helpline](#)

Telephone: 1800 441 169

Text: 0457 806 963

Email: [helpline@yoursaytas.org](mailto:helpline@yoursaytas.org)

#### **Victoria**

[Seniors Rights Victoria](#)

Telephone: 1300 368 821

Email: [info@seniorsrights.org.au](mailto:info@seniorsrights.org.au)

#### **Western Australia**

[WA Elder Abuse Helpline](#)

Telephone: 1300 724 679

Free call: 1800 655 566 (Country Callers)

Email: [rights@advocare.org.au](mailto:rights@advocare.org.au)

