



The National Elder Abuse Research Program – the abuse and mistreatment of older LGBTIQ+ people

What is the research about?

The Australian Government, Attorney-General's Department (AGD) has commissioned and funded the Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS) to undertake 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 and the research will also be guided by an LGBTIQ+ lived experience advisory panel (LEAP).

The project aims to investigate abuse and mistreatment of LGBTIQ+ older people, including the nature and dynamics of this abuse and mistreatment, the characteristics of people experiencing or engaging in abuse and mistreatment in this context, the effects of abuse on the older LGBTIQ+ communities and any help seeking and actions.

You do not have to be an older adult to participate in some of the research activities.

Please see below for information on how you can get involved in this research project.

How can you get involved?

The research involves three separate components where you can get involved: **(1) an online survey** (for LGBTIQ+ adults aged 18 years+); **(2) focus groups** (for LGBTIQ+ older adults); and **(3) interviews** (for LGBTIQ+ older adults). See below for more information on each of these.

A survey of LGBTIQ+ adults aged 18 years+ (LIVE NOW and closes late November 2024)

The survey aims to capture data about abuse and mistreatment of older LGBTIQ+ people and specifically its nature and dynamics, the characteristics of people experiencing or engaging in this abuse and mistreatment, its effects, and any help-seeking or protective actions taken by older people and service responses.

All adults aged **18 years or older** who identify as an **LGBTIQ+ person** are eligible to participate.

This survey is online and anonymous. It will take approximately **30 minutes** of your time. The survey is now live and will close at the end of November 2024. We recommend you complete it on a laptop and/or desktop computer.

You will be invited to enter a random draw for one of five \$100 grocery vouchers after survey completion.

For more information please access the participant information sheet linked below. **You will find the link to the survey within the participant information sheets.**

Survey participation information sheet: [Participant-Information-Sheet-ONLINE-SURVEY-National elder abuse and mistreatment LGBTIQ+ older adults.pdf \(aifs.gov.au\)](#)



Online focus groups with older LGBTIQ+ adults (commencing mid-September 2024)

The focus groups aim to support and in depth understanding of the nature and dynamics of this abuse and mistreatment, its effects, and what effective service responses look like from the perspectives of people in LGBTIQ+ groups.

For focus groups we would like to invite LGBTIQ+ adults who:

- are 55 years+ or
- are over the age of 50 years for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Researchers will be arranging a series of focus groups to talk with a small number of LGBTIQ+ older people (5-10 people) to obtain their views on the abuse or mistreatment of LGBTIQ+ older people and any help-seeking and prevention behaviours by LGBTIQ+ people.

Focus groups will be **conducted online** using Microsoft Teams **commencing mid-September 2024**. Focus group will take **approximately 90 minutes**, depending on the number of people participating.

As a thank you for participating, the research team will offer a \$50 Woolworths or Coles grocery gift card.

For more information please access the participant information sheet linked below.

Focus group participant information sheet: [Participant-Information-Sheet-FOCUS-GROUPS-National elder abuse and mistreatment LGBTIQ+ older adults.pdf \(aifs.gov.au\)](#)

If you would like to participate in a focus group, please contact LGBTIQ@aifs.gov.au

Interviews with LGBTIQ+ older people (commencing mid-September 2024)

The aim of the interviews is to explore LGBTIQ+ people's understanding of elder abuse, their experiences of it, their help-seeking and protective actions, and what improvements can be made in relation to interventions, services, training and supports

For interviews we would like to invite LGBTIQ+ adults aged who:

- are 55 years+ or
- are over the age of 50 years for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Interviews will commence in **mid-September 2024**. They will take approximately **60 minutes** and be scheduled at a time that is convenient to the participant. Where possible interviews will take place **online**. **Face-to-face** interviews may be arranged when online interviews are not feasible.

As a thank you for participating, the research team will offer a \$50 Woolworths or Coles grocery gift card.

For more information please access the participant information sheet linked below.

Interview participation information sheet: [Participant-Information-Sheet-INTERVIEWS-National elder abuse and mistreatment LGBTIQ+ older adults.pdf \(aifs.gov.au\)](#)

If you would like to participate in an interview please contact LGBTIQ@aifs.gov.au.

Project contact details

You can also contact LGBTIQ@aifs.gov.au, or visit [Abuse and mistreatment of older LGBTIQ+ people | Australian Institute of Family Studies \(aifs.gov.au\)](#) for more information on the project.



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. These contacts may be able to provide support:

Contact **QLife** (1800 184 527) – 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 (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 a 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 | 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. Email: love@blackrainbow.org.au or FB: www.facebook.com/BlackRainbowAustralia/



Australian Capital Territory

Older Persons Abuse Prevention Referral and Information Line

Telephone: 02 6205 3535

Email: oma@act.gov.au

New South Wales

NSW Ageing and Disability Abuse Helpline

Telephone: 1800 628 221

Email: nswadc@adc.nsw.gov.au

Northern Territory

Elder Abuse Information Line

Telephone: 1800 037 072

Email: info@dcls.org.au

Queensland

Elder Abuse Prevention Unit

Telephone: 1300 651 192

Email: eapu@ucommunity.org.au

South Australia

Elder Abuse Prevention Phone Line

Telephone: 1800 372 310

Email: stopelderabuse@sa.gov.au

Tasmania

Tasmanian Elder Abuse Helpline

Telephone: 1800 441 169

Text: 0457 806 963

Email: helpline@yoursaytas.org

Victoria

Seniors Rights Victoria

Telephone: 1300 368 821

Email: 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
