

ALZHEIMER'S AUSTRALIA

LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER AND INTERSEX AND DEMENTIA FRAMEWORK

Alzheimer's Australia is committed to providing inclusive and appropriate services, education and information that reflects the unique needs of LGBTI people living with dementia, and their families and carers.

We understand that the LGBTI community is diverse, heterogeneous and constantly changing. We will consider the needs of LGBTI people as distinct individuals and aim to ensure that practice and policy development is informed by the diversity of the population.

This document provides a framework that seeks to build on the six goals of the Australian Government (then) Department of Health and Ageing's LGBTI Ageing and Aged Care Strategy (2012) to provide equity, acknowledgement, responsiveness and person centred support to LGBTI people with dementia and their carers, partners, friends and relatives.

While the National Strategy specifically relates to older LGBTI Australians, the Alzheimer's Australia LGBTI framework also encompasses people with younger onset dementia, their carers, partners, friends and relatives.

GOAL 1

LGBTI people living with dementia, their carers, friends and relatives will experience equitable access to appropriate ageing and aged care services

Alzheimer's Australia seeks to provide equitable access to LGBTI people living with dementia, their carers, friends and relatives that are reflected by services of the highest attainable standard of care.

Action areas:

- Develop policies and procedures that ensure that clients are not discriminated against based on gender identity, sexual orientation and intersex status
- Provide person-centred services that reflect the context of LGBTI experiences
- Promote LGBTI responsiveness on the Alzheimer's Australia website and in publications

GOAL 2

The aged care and LGBTI sectors will be supported and resourced to proactively address the needs of older LGBTI people living with dementia, their carers, friends and relatives

Alzheimer's Australia seeks to support LGBTI people living with dementia, their carers, friends and relatives to minimise social isolation and receive timely and responsive services.

Action areas:

- Expand the range of resources on the LGBTI communities section on the Alzheimer's Australia website to include:
 - o Access and Equity Policy (Alzheimer's Australia 2013)
 - o Dementia, Lesbians and Gay Men (Alzheimer's Australia. Birch, H. Paper 15, 2009)
 - o Dementia, Transgender and Intersex People: do service providers really know what their needs are? (Alzheimer's Australia. Paper 2014)
 - o LGBTI People and Dementia DVD (Alzheimer's Australia 2014)
 - o Caring for LGBTI People with Dementia: a guide for health and aged care professionals (Alzheimer's Australia. Paper 2014)
 - o LGBTI People and Dementia: The Important Issues (Alzheimer's Australia. Paper 2014)
- Support programs, projects and services that promote consumer directed care.
- People with younger onset dementia need to be included
- LGBTI younger carers caring for older heterosexual parents with dementia

GOAL 3

Ageing and aged care services will be supported to deliver LGBTI-inclusive services

Alzheimer's Australia seeks to influence the capacity of the health and aged care sector to deliver LGBTI inclusive service to people living with dementia, their carers, friends and relatives.

Action Areas:

- Promote inclusive LGBTI and dementia service provision during Dementia Awareness Month
- Support community and residential service providers with person-centred information and practice development, inclusive of LGBTI people living with dementia, their carers, friends and relatives

GOAL 4

LGBTI inclusive ageing and aged care services will be delivered by a skilled and competent paid and volunteer workforce

Alzheimer's Australia seeks to support the capacity building of the care workforce to be inclusive of and responsive to LGBTI people living with dementia, their carers, friends and relatives

Action areas:

- Promote the principle of person-centred care
- Build the capacity of its staff in LGBTI awareness and responsiveness
- Make LGBTI resources available to staff and volunteers

GOAL 5

LGBTI communities, including older LGBTI people living with dementia, their carers, friends and relatives will be actively engaged in the planning, delivery and evaluation of ageing and aged care policies, programs and services

Alzheimer's Australia seeks to partner with stakeholders and consumers living with dementia, their carers, friends and relatives to support initiatives that enable LGBTI inclusive services. Alzheimer's Australia will promote the principles of consumer directed care in its service delivery.

Action areas:

- Consult with LGBTI consumers living with dementia, their carers, friends and relatives and the sector about dementia issues and resource development and programs.
- Promote dementia specific services and programs to the LGBTI communities
- Seek opportunities to partner with stakeholders, ageing and aged care peak organisations to support LGBTI people living with dementia, their carers, friends and relatives

GOAL 6

LGBTI people living with dementia, their carers, friends and relatives will be a priority for ageing and aged care research

Alzheimer's Australia seeks to identify opportunities for qualitative and quantitative research to be used in the development and evaluation of service provision to LGBTI people living with dementia, their carers, friends and relatives.

Action areas:

- Participate in research studies about LGBTI, dementia, and ageing
- Document anecdotal stories from LGBTI consumers, their carers, friends and relatives about their experiences in accessing services.