

National Human Rights Consultation Submission

AGWW-7R6JSR

Organisation: Uni of SA

Submission Text:

An area of human rights that is seriously neglected in Australia, in contrast with overseas countries, is the matter of the rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex elderly people to be free from abuse, discrimination and marginalisation.

Elderly GLBTI people are the most invisible and frightened minority in this country and suffer what is clearly the 'last acceptable prejudice' in our country.

The aged care industry is homophobic and untrained and baby boomers are not going back into the closet.

The government has done nothing and needs to act as a matter of urgency to develop policies, funding programs, guidelines and services on the ground, NOW, particularly aged specific advocacy services to redress this appalling lack of attention and care.

This is particularly the case as Centrelink moves to force elderly people out of the closet despite the fact they have lived lives in hiding, if they are suspected of being in a same sex relationship. This is shameful abuse.

I have published and completed my Doctoral research in this area in the USA, and Australia is 20 years behind, this is shameful and embarrassing.

I am happy to comment further, I would attend the Adelaide consultations but will be overseas.

Please contact me for further information and academic references on the matter.

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I am in favour of any measures that will afford GLBTI elders greater protection in an industry that leaves them in the closet and subject to abuse.

<http://www.matrixguildvic.org.au>

see the report My People and one to be released in the next week, Permission to Speak for evidence.

<http://www.rainbowvisions.org.au/resources.ageing.html>

for resources and published documents.