

# Diverse Needs: LGBTI+ Community

LGBTI+ stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and other identities. It describes people whose sexual or gender identity differs from perceived norms. Around 1.4% of Australians aged 65 and above are LGBTI+.

## Experience of disadvantage

Homosexuality was a crime up until the 1970s in Australia, and same-sex marriage only became legal recently. Many older LGBTI+ people hid their identity and relationships due to the fear of discrimination, legal action, violence and harassment. This can cause long-term impacts on mental health, distrust of others and substance use.

## Complex overlaps

LGBTI+ people come from diverse backgrounds and may also belong to other groups, such as migrants, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, veterans and war widows(ers), care leavers, people living with HIV, dementia, disability and those living in rural or remote areas.

## The impact on end-of-life care

Older LGBTI+ people may distrust aged care services. They prefer close friends, same sex partners or advocates rather than family to assist with advance care planning and care choices. Past experiences mean they may need extra safety and privacy for comfort and dignity.



Explore more about LGBTI+ on [CareSearch](#).

Here are [10 questions LGBTI+ people ask about aged care](#).

