TITLE PAGE

Manuscript title:

Australian Association of Gerontology Position Paper Summary: LGBTI Ageing Research in Australia

Full name of author:

Tonye SEGBEDZI

Author's institutional affiliation:

Senior Research & Policy Officer, Australian Association of Gerontology

Author's address:

Suite 8, 322 St Kilda Road, St Kilda VIC 3182

tsegbedzi@aag.asn.au

Mobile 0422 760 693

Acknowledgements:

The full position paper was published by AAG on 25 October 2019. The authors were Tonye Segbedzi (AAG), Sandra Helen South (AAG), Rachel Purchase (AAG), Mark Hughes (Southern Cross University) and Sue Malta (University of Melbourne). The authors would like to acknowledge the contribution of the steering group for this project: Catherine Barrett (Celebrate Ageing - Alice's Garage), Sam Edmonds (Ageing with Pride), Carrie Hayter (Carrie Hayter Consulting), June Lowe (GLBTI Rights in Ageing Inc) and Helen Radoslovich (Helping Hand Aged Care). The paper was funded by the Australian Government through the Dementia and Aged Care Services Fund.

MS. TONYE SEGBEDZI (Orcid ID : 0000-0001-8147-1485)

DR. SANDRA HELEN SOUTH (Orcid ID : 0000-0002-0230-5794)

PROFESSOR MARK HUGHES (Orcid ID : 0000-0002-1158-5214)

DR. SUE MALTA (Orcid ID : 0000-0001-7010-9130)

Article type : Letters to the Editor

Australian Association of Gerontology Position Paper Summary: LGBTI Ageing Research in Australia

Background

The purpose of this position paper was to assess the size and scope of existing lesbian, gay, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) ageing research and to identify the policy implications for LGBTI ageing and aged care in Australia. To develop the position paper, the Australian Association of Gerontology (AAG):

- reviewed the LGBTI ageing policy context in Australia and found there have been significant developments over the past ten years.
- reviewed the LGBTI ageing research funding provided by key funding bodies in Australia and found that relatively little funding has been provided by the Australian Government's Department of Health (DOH), the Australian Research Council (ARC), the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) over recent years.
- conducted a scoping review of LGBTI ageing research that has been published in Australia and overseas and considered other relevant literature reviews. That identified some areas where further research is needed.

- conducted a survey of LGBTI ageing researchers in Australia and identified some priority future research areas.

Based on the information obtained, AAG formulated 20 recommendations to the Australian Government and its departments and agencies about LGBTI ageing research.

The full position paper and the companion publications (*AAG Scoping Review of LGBTI Ageing Research* and *A Survey of LGBTI Ageing Researchers in Australia*) can be downloaded at: <https://www.aag.asn.au/news-publications/policy-papers/lgbti-ageing-research-project-position-paper-project>.^{1 2}

Policy recommendations to the Australian Government

Policy framework

1. The Australian Government should monitor and report annually on its progress under the *Aged Care Diversity Framework 2017* Outcome 4 which states:

*'Action required by Government: Collect and use data and evidence on current and emerging trends in diversity to design, implement, evaluate and improve aged care systems and supports.'*³

2. The Australian Government should identify further specific opportunities for action to address its implementation of *Aged Care Diversity Framework 2017* Outcome 4 in relation to LGBTI ageing data and evidence.³
3. The Australian Government should acknowledge that LGBTI ageing research is included under priority 9 of the *Science and Research Priorities 2015*, and monitor compliance with the priority by its departments and agencies, including DOH, ARC, NHMRC and MRFF. Priority 9 states that:

*'Departments and agencies should give priority to research that will lead to better models of health care and service that improve outcomes, reduce disparities for disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, increase efficiency and provide greater value for a given expenditure.'*⁴

Funding

4. The Australian Government should undertake further analysis to investigate the amount of LGBTI ageing research funding in Australia provided by:
 - key research funding bodies such as DOH, ARC, NHMRC, MRFF; and
 - other relevant sources of research funding such as universities, charitable bodies, state governments, industry and private funders.
5. The Australian Government should develop a funding model to provide appropriate resourcing for LGBTI ageing research.
6. The Australian Government should provide quarantined funding for LGBTI ageing research.

Purpose and impact

7. While 'awareness raising' is important, there should be a greater focus on research intended to improve the experience of ageing and aged care systems for older LGBTI people.
8. The impact of LGBTI ageing research on the economy, society, environment, culture and individual wellbeing should be measured.

Collaboration

9. Strategies should be developed to foster increased engagement of older LGBTI people in ageing research.
10. Strategies should be developed to foster increased collaboration between LGBTI ageing researchers and:
 - policy makers
 - aged care, health and other relevant service providers
 - older LGBTI people and LGBTI advocacy and community organisations.

Groups being researched

11. The Australian Government should respect the distinctiveness of people with intersex variations and their rights and experiences, particularly where they are included in data and evidence about the LGBTI community.
12. There should be greater focus on research that explores and reports on findings for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and people with intersex variations separately, rather than grouping all LGBTI people together.
13. Further analysis should be done to assess whether some groups within the LGBTI community are under-represented in ageing research (for example, by conducting a rapid or systematic review of the studies identified in the *AAG Scoping Review*). This should include relevant groups that are not specifically listed within the LGBTI acronym such as non-binary, gender queer, agendered, and asexual people.¹
14. There should be greater focus on LGBTI ageing research about under-represented groups, including:
 - older transgender people
 - older people with intersex variations.

Types of research

15. There should be a greater focus on the following types of LGBTI ageing research:
 - research translation
 - evaluation
 - longitudinal studies.

Topics of research

16. Further analysis should be done to assess priority areas for future LGBTI ageing research. For example, by:

- seeking the views of older LGBTI people, service providers and policy makers on LGBTI ageing research issues
- conducting a rapid or systematic review of the studies identified in the AAG Scoping Review
- considering the results of the updated literature review by Karen Fredriksen-Goldsen (when available) and other relevant literature reviews.⁵

17. While research on LGBTI inclusive aged care is important, there should be a greater focus on research about broader LGBTI 'ageing' issues.

18. There should be a greater focus on LGBTI ageing research about priority topics where there have been fewer published studies, including:

Physical and mental health:

- dementia/Alzheimer's
- HIV/AIDS

Social inclusion / exclusion:

- family – biological and/or of choice
- housing
- regional, rural and remote
- policy and legislation
- social exclusion

Discrimination:

- elder abuse
- media portrayal of older LGBTI people

Finances:

- poverty
- finance
- homelessness
- estates
- employment/unemployment

Special needs groups:

- care leavers
- culturally and linguistically diverse people
- Indigenous peoples
- veterans.

Accessibility

19. An LGBTI ageing research clearing house should be established.

20. The Australian Government should fund relevant organisations to facilitate knowledge sharing and collaboration between LGBTI ageing researchers, policy makers and service providers. For example, via conferences, workshops, webinars, special interest groups, newsletters and social media.

Acknowledgements

The full position paper was published by AAG on 25 October 2019. The authors were Tonye Segbedzi (AAG), Sandra Helen South (AAG), Rachel Purchase (AAG), Mark Hughes (Southern Cross University) and Sue Malta (University of Melbourne). The authors would like to acknowledge the contribution of the steering group for this project: Catherine Barrett (Celebrate Ageing - Alice's Garage), Sam Edmonds (Ageing with Pride), Carrie Hayter (Carrie Hayter Consulting), June Lowe (GLBTI Rights in Ageing Inc) and Helen Radoslovich (Helping Hand Aged Care). The paper was funded by the Australian Government through the Dementia and Aged Care Services Fund.

References

1. Purchase R, South S. *AAG Scoping Review LGBTI Ageing Research*. Australian Association of Gerontology; 2019. www.aag.asn.au.
2. Purchase R, South SH, Segbedzi T, Malta S, Hughes M. *A Survey of LGBTI Ageing Researchers in Australia*. Australian Association of Gerontology; 2019. www.aag.asn.au.

3. Department of Health. Aged Care Diversity Framework. 2017.
<https://agedcare.health.gov.au/support-services/people-from-diverse-backgrounds/aged-care-diversity-framework>.
4. Department of Innovation, Industry and Science. Science and Research Priorities. 2015.
<https://www.industry.gov.au/data-and-publications/science-and-research-priorities>.
5. Fredriksen-Goldsen K, Muraco A. Aging and Sexual Orientation: a 25-Year Review of the Literature. *Res Ageing*. 2010;32(3):372-413. doi:10.1177/0164027509360355

Minerva Access is the Institutional Repository of The University of Melbourne

Author/s:

Segbedzi, T;South, SH;Hughes, M;Malta, S

Title:

Australian Association of Gerontology Position Paper Summary: LGBTI Ageing Research in Australia

Date:

2020-06-01

Citation:

Segbedzi, T., South, S. H., Hughes, M. & Malta, S. (2020). Australian Association of Gerontology Position Paper Summary: LGBTI Ageing Research in Australia. AUSTRALASIAN JOURNAL ON AGEING, 39 (2), pp.158-160. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajag.12814>.

Persistent Link:

<http://hdl.handle.net/11343/275824>