

Media Release

An Australian first: LGBTI-specific aged care packages in South East Queensland

Care Connect is pleased to announce an Australian first: aged care packages specifically designed for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex (LGBTI) older adults from South East Queensland.

The Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) offers the following aged packages:

- Community Aged Care (CACP)
- Extended Aged Care at Home (EACH)
- Extended Aged Care at Home Dementia (EACHD).

“DoHA has supported our proposal to tailor existing CACP, EACH and EACHD packages to suit the LGBTI community in South East Queensland. We worked in partnership with Healthy Communities (the LGBTI peak body for Queensland, formerly Queensland Association for Healthy Communities) to successfully gain Commonwealth funding to support these LGBTI-specific packages.

“Traditionally, the LGBTI aged community has been invisible in terms of aged care tailored to their needs and sensitivities. Care Connect recognises that many gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex people come from a marginalised community group. Care Connect’s LGBTI-trained staff and Case Managers understand LGBTI-specific issues, such as fear of discrimination, and for those in relationships, not having their partner recognised and acknowledged as their chosen decision maker.

“Our hope is that those who are at risk of living with unmet care needs can now feel comfortable accessing appropriate support services with the assurance of receiving care they need in a sensitive and appropriate manner.

“Care Connect has developed an LGBTI charter that outlines our commitment to fair and equitable treatment for all. The charter states that sexuality and gender issues are recognised and are included in our equity, diversity and anti-discrimination policies and procedures,” says **Paul Ostrowski, Chief Executive Officer, Care Connect.**

CACP, EACH and EACHD packages offer a plan of support and care for older people who have care needs and who are living at home. All packages are individually planned and coordinated and help older adults remain active in their communities.

CACP, EACH and EACHD packages are funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA).

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