

Aged care for LGBTI people in QLD

Andrew Blythe

Care Connect has announced an Australian first – aged care packages specifically designed for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex (LGBTI) older adults from south east Queensland. Care Connect, a community care provider, worked in partnership with Healthy Communities to successfully gain Commonwealth funding to support LGBTI-specific packages.

The Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) is offering the following aged care packages: Community Aged Care (CACP); Extended Aged Care at Home (EACH); and Extended Aged Care at Home Dementia (EACHD).

“DoHA has supported our proposal to tailor CACP, EACH and EACHD packages to suit the LGBTI community in South East Queensland,” says Paul Ostrowski, Care Connect CEO.

“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.”

For more information please call 1800 116 166 or visit Care Connect’s website at careconnect.org.au