

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 February 2024 7:20 AM
To: Aged Care Legislative Reform
Subject: Feedback new act
Attachments: RE: Feedback new act [SEC=OFFICIAL]; reforms and how to help us you need to address this issue in the Act

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Categories: ACTION REQUIRED

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As a 57 year old Gay White Cis Man I am speaking from a certain position of white male privilege so please make some allowance for that , but im no stranger to disadvantage and discrimination or violence or bullying and harrasment either .

So as a HIV survivor and Elder (yes we age differently than non HIV poz people) , I've been actively involved in the recent and more distant past in HIV and LGBTQ advocacy and representation despite encountering massive homophobic attitudes and discriminatory experiences in my working life that resulted in poor mental health outcomes for me that I struggle with to this day , lack of trust ,PTSD anxiety and depression and loads of grief that is unrelenting , so I would say that educating people about diversity and inclusion and breaking down stereotypes and misconceptions is key to amore healthy and inclusive community for everyone to enjoy especially older elder LGBTQ people .

Feeling safe in your home environment is so important.

Being able to relax and be yourself with no censoring ,no judgement or to have your essential self respected and treated in a dignified way and with acceptance is worthy of achievement ,sadly we iften fall way behind in this .

I get a bit sick of having to constantly either not disclose my homosexuality or HIV status or choose to be open about it and either experience, some form of rejection , ridicule or condemnation or discrimination overtly or covertly (mostly) that I often isolatemyelf from the world and others I don't know .

I don't mix with my community wheri live really much at all .

That wasn't thecase a decade ago but the worlds changed and so have I .

I've become less trusting and suss about strangers and their motivations .

I prefer the world of plants and gardens and wildlife and my dog to human company .

Though housing worries me .

I recently achieved occupancy certification with my housebuild of 5 years duration , a fractured arm , several falls , a necrotic gall bladder and near death experience in hospital , a hip replacement and finally COVID and respiratory issues raising it's head didn't stop my determination to house myself after being made homeless over 8 years ago . The house took 5 years to build on a Disability Pension with a legal settlement from the Redress that came out of a report to the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Abuse .

My abuser [REDACTED] . Sadly [REDACTED] who abused me went on to join the police force , became a [REDACTED] .

Silence is all I've ever got in the way of an apology from [REDACTED] about their coverup of [REDACTED] activities of shame in the force .

Now that whistleblowers have more protection it doesn't stop the walls of protection that organisations like [REDACTED] put around them or way endless ways they can destroy you ...

There needs to be more disclosure and ways to represent survivors seeking justice from the very organisations that are mentally to protect us from harm , when they are the perpetrators or cover up for them it's hard being the voice in the wilderness alone without support .

As an elder these past traumas become more of a burden as it becomes harder to heal yourself and the pain and damage accumulates and affects you emotionally mentally and physically and all areas of your life .
You become harder bitter angry depressed .
I still try to hang on to the remnants of myself that still care about the world around me , LGBTQ rights and LGBTQ elder housing and homelessness issues .
But dealing with bullying issues even recently whilst trying to do advocacy work in this area is really hard to handle .
On some levels I've just given up and moved onto caring for myself ,my land , my space .
But it's isolating and closes your world off just that bit more .
I'd really like to see this aged care Act address the inherent disadvantage minority groups like LGBTQ elders face in accessing accommodation and housing services ,grants etc
I found it near impossible to get any government funding except First Home Owners Grant of 20,000 .
This paid for my solar Battery system but I had to show hardship and practically beg the SROVic for early release for myself as Owner Builder be ause they basically make it harder for Owner Builders .
Theres no other assistance available , for electricity connection mains ,no . Water connection no .
The quotes I had from the water and electricity company were both over \$40,000+ each for mains connection rural .
I can't afford that on a pension .
So I was forced to live off grid and independent .
There needs to be better help for people living with a disability and aging with building and constructing houses and to connect to mains power and water or to have a bore water access to water things .
I have great bore water available on my land or 30 m underneath it but as a pensioner I can't afford to access it as it's too expensive to drill the bore \$6-10 thousand . Yet if I could afford that it would enable me to fight fires , water stock and my gardens and orchard and vegetable beds more effectively especially in summer .
There really needs to be funding made available to help off gridders access these life saving water systems .
Big farms have access to business grants for these things , but pensioners like me get nothing . No help .
I want to be able to age in place for as long as possible but having self sufficiency is key to that working long term .
Having enough water onsite is key to my success.
Please find grants for land improvement like bores for off grid elders like me on pensions