

## Feedback to the New Aged Care Exposure Draft



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Please find comments/feedback below in relation to the **New Aged Care Exposure Draft** and specifically regarding the stakeholder group that Val’s LGBTI Ageing and Aged Care represents: older LGBTI+ people and the services that support them as they age. These suggestions are intended to strengthen, clarify and define over-arching elements to support the rights-based focus, and specifically provide clarity regarding culture and identity for the benefit of all sector parties particularly providers and consumers:

Current wording/inclusion	Suggestions/feedback
<p><b>Part 1 – Preliminary</b> 5 Objects of this Act</p> <p>The objects of this Act are to:</p> <p>B (iii) ensure equitable access to, and flexible delivery of, funded aged care services that put older people first and take into account the needs of individuals, regardless of their location, background and life experience; and</p>	<p>B (iii) ensure equitable access to, and flexible delivery of, funded aged care services that put older people first and take into account the needs of individuals, regardless of their location, background, <b>culture, identity</b> and life experience; and</p> <p>This would further support aspects in Rights &amp; Principles.</p>
<p><b>Part 2—Definitions and key concepts</b> 2 Division 1—Definitions</p> <p>Statement of Rights Equitable Access (2) An individual has a right to equitable access to: culturally safe, culturally appropriate, trauma-aware and healing-informed;</p> <p><b>Statement of Principles</b> A person-centred aged care system:</p>	<p>Please consider definitions for the following: <b>culturally safe, culturally appropriate,</b> trauma-aware and healing-informed;</p> <p>In our experience providing education and support to the aged care sector and including interactions with older people and consumer, both providers and consumers routinely consider “culture” as <i>culturally and linguistically diverse</i> and rarely other aspects of culture e.g. identity, community of identity etc. This also includes understanding of cultural safety.</p> <p>We suggest including within the definitions and key concepts a brief definition of culture, cultural safety, and culturally appropriate to help ensure these are not misinterpreted or ignored (e.g. not applicable) and also clear with regard to compliance: Section 142 Safeguarding Functions (a), and complaints: Section 144 Complaint functions (a). Also see same reference/terminology in: High Quality Care and Equitable Access.</p> <p>While we recognise the <i>Statement of Principles</i> does note Culturally, ethnically</p>

<p>(4) The Commonwealth aged care system offers accessible, culturally safe, culturally appropriate, trauma-aware and healing-informed funded aged care services, if required by an individual and based on the needs of the individual, regardless of the individual’s location, background and life experiences.</p> <p>Note:</p> <p>This may include individuals who:</p> <p>(a) are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander persons, including those from stolen generations; or</p> <p>(b) are veterans or war widows; or</p> <p>(c) are from culturally, ethnically and linguistically diverse backgrounds; or</p> <p>(d) are financially or socially disadvantaged; or</p> <p>(e) are experiencing homelessness or at risk of experiencing homelessness; or</p> <p>(f) are parents and children who are separated by forced adoption or removal; or</p> <p>(g) are adult survivors of institutional child sexual abuse; or</p> <p>(h) are care-leavers, including Forgotten Australians and former child migrants placed in out of home care; or</p> <p>(i) are lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans/transgender or intersex or other sexual orientations or are gender diverse or bodily diverse;</p>	<p>and linguistically diverse, again culture is often conflated in this context.</p>
<p><b>Statement of Principles</b></p> <p>This may include individuals who:</p> <p>are lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans/transgender or intersex or other sexual orientations or are gender diverse or bodily diverse;</p>	<p><b>Feedback</b></p> <p>Val’s LGBTI Ageing and Aged Care welcomes and supports the ongoing explicit inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans/transgender or intersex (LGBTI) in the Act and now the addition of “<i>other sexual orientations or are gender diverse or bodily diverse</i>”.</p> <p>Opportunities to grow and improve specific inclusion actions and outcomes that support confident access and participation in the service landscape by older LGBTI and other sexual orientations or are gender diverse or bodily diverse people through initiatives and compliance are particularly encouraged.</p>