



Same-sex attracted older women and their later life care provisions

Same-sex attracted women are less likely to be partnered or have children and more likely to be estranged from their families of origin than their heterosexual counterparts. They are therefore more likely to be dependent on 'families of choice' (friends, and networks of friends) to provide care provisions in later life. They also actively resist accessing formalised care arrangements and going into residential aged care due to historical issues related to discrimination and abuse.

Although there is some evidence that same-sex attracted women are reluctant to plan for ageing or to articulate their expectations regarding care, some survey research suggests the opposite. To what extent same-sex attracted older women in Australia plan for their late life care provisions has therefore not been elucidated. This project aims to provide a preliminary analysis of the literature in Australia.

Why is this project important?

Older same-sex attracted women are marginalised and disadvantaged. They are known to have lower levels of health and wellbeing than older heterosexual women. It is therefore vital they are able to access and receive the health and community care they need in later life.

Key questions that the research is trying to answer

- What are older same-sex attracted women's expectations regarding care and social support in later life?
- To what extent do they plan for care in later life?

Collaborating Partners

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