



MEDIA RELEASE

Australia's aged care sector will need to brace itself for change from 2011 when baby boomers from the gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans and intersex (GLBTI) community commence retirement.

GRAI ,the GLBT Retirement Association Inc, is behind a new research project underway in Perth attempting to identify the current attitudes and practices of supported care facilities from retirement villages to nursing homes, towards GLBTI clients from almost 1000 aged care providers in Western Australia.

It is expected the results from the research, due for completion in April next year, will provide invaluable best practice guidelines for aged care providers across Australia.

“At present, few aged care facilities specifically cater for the needs of GLBTI residents but this will need to change very soon as a result of the first wave of retiring baby boomers,” said Jude Comfort from Curtin University.

“GLBTI baby boomers are more outspoken and well aware of their rights, they are going to expect a level of care and service and aged care providers will need to be prepared,” she said.

Jude Comfort said she was aware of older gay people who keep their sexual identity closeted and can feel socially isolated because of their sexuality. Dr Comfort also said GLBTI people living with dementia or HIV may present some specific unique challenges to providers in coming years.

This issue is one of the central themes for the 42nd National Conference of the Australian Association of Gerontology (AAG) that will see some of the nation's leading experts on ageing gather in Canberra next month. The 42nd National Conference of the AAG will be held at the National Convention Centre in Canberra over a three-day period commencing Wednesday, November 25. The Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing is the platinum sponsor of the conference.

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For media enquiries, or to arrange an interview with Jude Comfort, please contact Matt Mitchell on 0431 980 365 or matt@mitchellpr.com.au. For more information on the 42nd National Conference of the AAG please go to www.aagnationalconference.com