Noting the wide-ranging discussions of issues affecting older LGBTI people, including human rights, Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, palliative care, community resilience, ageism and elder abuse, and planning for growing old and older;

**DIVERSE NEEDS OF OLDER PEOPLE**

- LGBTI communities have demonstrated resilience, innovation and creativity in the face of many challenges, and this continues to shape their story and experiences later in life.

- Older LGBTI people are likely to have experienced a history of exclusion, stigma, isolation, trauma, criminalisation or pathologisation of their sexuality, gender identity and/or sex characteristics during much of their lifetime.

- Older LGBTI people have a diversity of characteristics, life experience and will have specific social, cultural, linguistic, religious, spiritual, psychological, medical and care needs.

- Older LGBTI people face significant issues not just in accessing safe and inclusive aged care services, but also for many broader issues later in life that require support and services.

- Older LGBTI people in many countries globally are experiencing great human rights challenges.

**A WATERSHED OPPORTUNITY**

- Older LGBTI people are already creatively planning for ageing with the support and reliance on friendship networks and within the LGBTI community.

- There is passionate commitment by many to deliver support and services that are person centred, culturally safe and respond to the needs of diverse and marginalised older people.

- The Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety and the COVID-19 pandemic have acutely exposed the fragility and frequent violation of human rights for older LGBTI people.

- The Royal Commission is a watershed moment for aged care in Australia that needs to transform policy, funding, strategy and practice for coming generations of older LGBTI people.

- Current work for a United Nations Convention on the Human Rights of Older People is a unique opportunity to enable older LGBTI people globally to claim their rights.
5TH LGBTI AGEING AND AGED CARE CONFERENCE COMMUNIQUE - APRIL 2021

THIS CONFERENCE THEREFORE CALLS FOR:

**EFFECTIVE DATA, RESEARCH AND POLICY**
- Explicit recognition of older LGBTI people in research, policy and service delivery to overcome invisibility and enable the development of appropriate, safe and inclusive services.
- Dramatic escalation of research funding to understand health and wellbeing issues faced by older LGBTI people and develop evidence-based, best-practice responses.
- Urgent, widespread implementation of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) standard variables for sex, gender, variations of sex characteristics and sexual orientation to deliver base-line data and to develop credible targets.

**ROYAL COMMISSION IMPLEMENTATION**
- Full implementation of Royal Commission recommendations in a way that integrates LGBTIQ+ communities, representatives and needs, including through governance structures, advisory groups, Council of Elders, complaints mechanisms and the review of the diversity framework.
- The Federal Government to dramatically accelerate the Royal Commission’s 2022 to 2024 timetable for improving aged care design for diversity, difference, complexity and individuality.
- Effective collaboration between government, peak bodies and LGBTIQ+ organisations to ensure that the new Aged Care Act is truly human rights based and delivers tangible outcomes.

**PRACTICAL, EFFECTIVE, INNOVATIVE RESPONSES**
- Action beyond equitable access to deliver equitable outcomes for older LGBTI people, including ageing support, aged care services and end of life care that is respectful, trauma-informed, sensitive and culturally appropriate.
- Increased and continued funding for LGBTI community-controlled organisations to deliver culturally sensitive support and services and to provide training for mainstream service providers.
- Increased adoption of innovative models of ageing being developed by LGBTI people to ensure mainstream services and policies relating to aged care interface with community-driven models.
- The removal of legislative exemptions that allow discrimination against individuals based on their sexual orientation and/or gender identity in the provision of aged care.

**INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS**
- The Australian Government and peak bodies to actively participate in the Open Ended Working Group on Ageing process and support and participate in processes considering the need for a new international instrument, such as a United Nations Convention on the Rights of Older People, including collaboration with LGBTI people and their national peak organisations globally.