

q equality: RAINBOW RIGHTS TOOLKIT

COTA SA RELEASES RAINBOW RIGHTS TOOLKIT FOR LGBTI+ COMMUNITY



COTA (Council of the Ageing) SA has released its new Rainbow Rights toolkit to help older LGBTI+ community members to understand and action their rights, including in the later stages of their lives, and build awareness amongst the people who will be part of their choices, supports and care. COTA SA has created this resource in partnership with the South Australian Government's Office for Ageing Well, to share information about services and programs that safeguard the rights of older LGBTI+ people. The toolkit focuses on topics including overcoming discrimination, housing, health, and planning ahead.

COTA SA Chief Executive, Miranda Starke, is proud to offer this toolkit to the rainbow community to assert and safeguard their rights over a lifetime. "The Rainbow Rights toolkit focuses on supporting older LGBTI+ people with information and the confidence to seek and accept help when it is needed, as well as to offer support to other community members," Miranda said. Through COTA SA's engagement with older LGBTI+ people, they have told us they have often faced discrimination through their lifetime and experienced challenges accessing services tailored to their needs. They are also less likely than the general population to access intergenerational and family support, due to being more likely to be single, childless and no longer in contact with their biological family.

"COTA SA will continue to advocate at a systems level to address the challenges facing older LGBTI+ South Australians, and our new Rainbow Rights toolkit is a great resource to help individuals really understand what services are out there to assist them in ageing well."

Rainbow Rights follows the success of COTA SA's Rainbow Horizons project, an important initiative designed to create greater cross-generational support in relation to end of life planning, care and dying for LGBTI+ people.

The toolkit was recently launched at COTA SA's Rainbow Rights in Action Forum by Minister for Seniors and Ageing Well Nat Cook MP, and featured broadcaster and journalist, Julie McCrossin AM leading a panel of experts who shared their views and lived experiences.

The Rainbow Rights toolkit is available online and is available to download at www.cotasa.org.au/rainbow-rights