

Malloy, The Rainbow Makers Fellow of the Elder Leadership Academy

Title: The Rainbow Makers

Fellow: Malloy

Date: 2017 - 2021

Context

Malloy made contact with Celebrate Ageing in 2017, to volunteer her services to build more LGBTI inclusive aged care services. Shortly after, Malloy experienced discrimination in an aged care service and our team immediately provided advocacy and support. This contemporary experience of discrimination was retraumatising for Malloy, raising earlier experiences of rejection by family and the so called 'conversion' treatments of her youth.

Following a lengthy battle for equality, Malloy worked with us to share her experiences through the development of resources, conference presentations and media appearances to help service providers understand the importance of supporting older LGBTI people.

Malloy's Fellowship took place during debates about 'Religious Freedom' in Australia. As a proud Lesbian and devout Catholic, Malloy wanted people to know that 'the gays are not godless.' A significant part of Malloy's journey has been reaching an understanding that she was and is loved by God.

The term The Rainbow Makers is a tribute to the service providers and community members who stepped up to support and advocate for Malloy when the experience of discrimination knocked her off her feet. The Rainbow Makers reaffirmed Malloy's sexuality and helped her to re-discover or find her strong.

Aims and objectives

The aim of the Fellowship is to raise awareness of the experiences of older LGBTI people, particularly those accessing aged care, and create safer services and communities, including communities of faith.

Activities

Malloy's Fellowship included so many memorable moments. One of the most powerful was during a trip to Sydney to present on her experiences of discrimination and support at the LGBTI Health in Difference Conference.

After her presentation, Malloy was emotional and exhausted. We asked Conference organisers if they would ask delegates to pose for a photograph with Malloy – to give her a photo that would help her remember this moment, her community and her strong. Within seconds of an announcement over a loudspeaker, Malloy was surrounded by hundreds of delegates wanting to show their support.

The image was captured by the conference photographer and became the focus of a series of posters for residential aged care sending a message of welcome to LGBTI people.

Other Activities

1. Documented a story of support with an aged care service providers for the [Hold Hands on a Tram Project](#)
2. Documented a story of the right to safety and need for visibility for [Buzz Feed](#)
3. Develop a resource called the [Rainbow Makers resource](#) outlining her historical and contemporary experiences and guidelines for safer services. Resource documented in partnership with those who advocated for and supported her. Resource graphic designed and printed by the National LGBTI Health Alliance
4. Co delivered a workshop on LGBTI safe aged care services
5. Supported the developed of a [poster](#) by the National LGBTI Health Alliance for residential aged care services. The poster features Malloy's conference photograph and the message 'You Are Welcome Here'
6. Presented evidence to the Royal Commission on Quality and Safety in Aged Care
7. Delivered plenary Conference presentations/workshops:
 - LGBTI Health Alliance's Health in Difference Conference (Sydney 2017)
 - Embolden2018 Festival (Melbourne 2018)
 - LGBTI Cultural Safety workshop (Melbourne 2018)
 - Rainbow Makers workshop and launch (Adelaide 2018)
 - Rock the Boat Elder Abuse Awareness Conference (Brisbane 2019)
 - Embolden2019 Festival (Melbourne 2019)
 - Val's LGBTI Ageing and Aged Care Conference (Melbourne 2019).
8. Interviewed by SBS for feature on older LGBTI people's experiences, [click here](#)
9. Participated in a film on older LGT people and faith, [click here](#)

10. Interviewed by Sydney Morning Herald following presentation to National Elder Abuse Conference plenary presentation [click here](#)
11. Contributed a narrative and reflections to the #ReadyToListen resource on Trauma Informed Residential Aged Care, [click here](#)

Outputs

1. Resources developed in full or part: 8
2. Conference presentations: 7 (including 5 plenaries at national conferences)
3. Interviews: 3 media and 1 Royal Commission

Outcomes

1. Malloy was the first older LGBTI person in Australia to publicly share her experience of discrimination by an aged care service – and to work in partnership with service providers to develop educational resources to prevent this experience happening to other older LGBTI people
2. The Rainbow Makers resource has been taken up as part of the LGBTI Health Alliance’s Silver Rainbow training of aged care service providers. The resource is being used to educate service providers about cultural safety and is being rolled out across Australia.

Links: <https://alicesgarage.net/finding-strong>