**Ripplegrams and Later Life Transition, Kathy Mansfield**

**Title**: Ripplegrams and later life Transition

**Fellow**: Kathy Mansfield

**Date**: 2019 – present

**Context**

With increasing numbers of people transitioning in their later years, Kathy is interested in how her experiences and insights could assist other Trans and Gender Diverse (TGD) people and their families navigate this significant shift.

Kathy’s Fellowship has involved developing a Ripplegram and other resources for the Kinfolk Project, a project improving older TGD people’s choice and control over gender expression. The focus was largely on building a more TGD inclusive world. Over the course of the project, Kathy recognised the opportunities to build a sense of self that was a buffer for transphobic times – or to challenge internalised transphobia. This work extended even further to an exploration of internalised ageism – and how ageing and changes to gender expression could be celebrated (and how this celebration could be protective of mental health).

The Fellowship continues to emerge in 2022 and we look forward to seeing what Kathy can discover and create.

**Aims and objectives**

The Fellowship aim is to promote the health and wellbeing of older people who transition gender by:

* Identifying the impacts of later life transition to enable preparation for these
* Educating their families and communities about later life transition
* Developed resources for aged care service providers on the importance of choice and control for TGD people’s gender expression
* Highlighting the ways in which older TGD people experience Elder Abuse
* Developing resources for counsellors supporting older people who transition and their families
* Exploring internalised transphobia as a legacy of an enforced gender binary and contemporary transphobia in the community and services
* Identifying strategies to counteract internalised transphobia and celebrate gender diversity
* Identify strategies to celebrate ageing as an older TGD person.

**Activities**

1. Co-reseaarcher for the Kinfolk Project ([link here](https://alicesgarage.net/kinfolk/)) funded by the Department of Health to improve older TGD people’s choice and control over their gender expression. Responsibilities included
   1. Developing project proposal
   2. Facilitating workshops for service providers
   3. Assist in producing a film for service provider education, [link here](https://youtu.be/i0r3M7tsQW8)
   4. Documenting a RippleGram for service providers and counsellors, [link here](https://alicesgarage.net/wp-content/uploads/RippleGramResourceHere.pdf) to assisting in understanding the intended and unintended consequences of transition
   5. Documenting a project report, [link here](https://alicesgarage.net/wp-content/uploads/The-Kinfolk-Report.pdf)
2. Ambassador for TGD people with Elder Rights Advocacy
3. Representative for the Older Person’s Advocacy Network (OPAN) on their National Older Person’s Advisory Council
4. Working with the National LGBTI Health Alliance on their Round Table on Older LGBTI people’s issues
5. Wrote and performed writing on transition for TheatreWorks emerging writers festival
6. Other, tbc

**Outputs**

* tbc

**Outcomes**

* tbc

**Links**: https://alicesgarage.net/kinfolk/