

# Abundance: An Invitation

You're invited to take part in the Abundance project.

The project aims to create a collection of stories that affirm Transgender and Gender Diverse people's identities as they age.

We hope to do this by documenting and celebrating positive aspects of ageing and by sharing this information with others.

[Please read the attached information for further details](#)



## Background

In recent interviews documenting Trans and Gender Diverse (TGD) people's experiences of ageing and aged care, participants identified a broad range of rights violations and abuse that need to be addressed. Alongside these, research participants also identified the need to document strategies for healthy ageing - so they could learn more about 'what works' as they age.

There are many options for documenting strategies for healthy ageing – one of them is to draw on the wisdom of TGD people to document their experience of 'what works.' Documenting these positive aspects could assist in affirming TGD people's identities and build hope in the context of rights violations.

## Project outline

In 2017 an intergenerational project for TGD adults to document and celebrate positive aspects of ageing will take place as part of the Victorian Seniors Festival. The project will involve two afternoon tea events that include a focus on sharing stories about ageing – through the spoken word in groups and pairs and an arts based approach. The arts based approach involves filling a Fowlers jar (generally used for making preserves) with something that represents a positive aspect of ageing (this could include fruit, veggies, paper, cloth ... anything). In addition to the spoken word and Fowlers jars – participants will be invited to participate in photographs and a film produced from the event.

## Project Partners

The project is being conducted by Alice's Garage (part of the Celebrate Ageing Program) and The Social Photographer, in partnership with Transgender Victoria, Switchboard Victoria and the City of Melbourne. The project is funded by the Victorian Seniors Festival.

## What you will be invited to do

Prior to attending the afternoon tea in September please make contact with the Project Coordinator Catherine Barrett to discuss your thoughts on ageing and what you might put into your Fowlers jar. This will help us ensure we have the materials you need on the day.

At the afternoon tea on Sunday 17th September you will be invited to:

- talk to other participants about positive aspects of your ageing
- practice using a Fowlers jar to make a representation of positive aspects of your ageing
- if you wish to have your photograph taken by Lisa White (The Social Photographer) with your Fowlers jar. You will be sent an electronic copy of the photo
- work with The Project Coordinator to write about the positive aspects of your ageing, in a few sentences, paragraphs or pages.

At the High Tea on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October you will be invited to:

- complete your Fowlers jar representation of ageing
- work in intergenerational pairs – to share stories on film, if you wish about what you made and what it represents
- join us for a celebratory High Tea.

We ask that you treat other participants with respect which includes listening to others without judgement. We want this to be a safe environment for everyone where they can share their stories.



Before the first afternoon tea commences we will work with group participants to outline guidelines for respectful communication and confidentiality.

We aim to create events where participants feel valued and respected and we hope that by participating you will benefit from feeling that your expertise as a TGD person is valued

### What will happen with your story

This is up to you. We can record your story, take your photo and film you. Or you can just come along on the day and enjoy yourself.

If you wish your story can be uploaded to the Project webpage  
[www.alicesgarage.net/abundance](http://www.alicesgarage.net/abundance).

This could include a photograph or film of you with your Fowlers jar and the words you wrote.

The project aims to benefit TGD people broadly by establishing a collaborative Story Bank of positive stories about ageing on the project webpage. We hope this webpage may offer hope to TGD people who are ageing and build respect in the broader community.

**To participate in the activity, you do not have to agree to being photographed, filmed or interviewed.**

### Potential Benefits

If you come along we ask that you treat other participants with respect which includes listening to others without judgement. We want this to be a safe environment for everyone where they can share their stories.

### Potential Risks

There is a possibility that reflecting on life may raise difficult or distressing experiences for some people. We encourage you to participate only if you feel comfortable and confident in doing so. It is important that you only share aspects of your story that you feel confident in talking about.

If you experience any difficulties, please talk to one of the project team members about how we can help or contact any of the below services:

- Switchboard Victoria Call or log on to the Switchboard/QLife phone service open between 3pm – Midnight everyday on 1800 184 527 or webchat at [www qlife.org.au](http://www qlife.org.au) or [www.switchboard.org.au/](http://www.switchboard.org.au/)
- QLife is Australia's first nationally-oriented counselling and referral service for LGBTIQ people. QLife phone and chat are available from 3pm to midnight and can be contacted on 1800 184 527.
- Lifeline is available 24 hours a day on 13 11 14
- *beyondblue* on 1300 22 4636

### More information

If you want more information about this project or services please contact Dr Catherine Barrett, Project Coordinator: 0429 582 237 or [director@celebrateageing.com](mailto:director@celebrateageing.com)



## Consent form

If you decide to participate in the Project please sign the consent form below. There are three aspects to providing consent - photography, filming and story sharing. You have the right to consent to all three or only provide partial consent. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact Catherine Barrett, Project Coordinator on 0429 582 237.

I agree to participate in the Abundance: Trans and Gender Diverse Ageing Project photography, filming and/or interview and story capture conducted by or on behalf of Celebrate Ageing and the City of Melbourne for the purpose of creating a story bank that affirms transgender and gender diverse people's identities as they age.

### Photography, filming and interview/story sharing consent

I understand that my image will be photographed and/or filmed during this activity and I consent to being photographed and/or filmed and/or interviewed.

I agree that any photographs/video footage taken will remain the sole property of The Social Photographer (photographs) and Logan Much (filming).

I grant a license to these organisations and any person authorised by them including Catherine Barrett, Celebrate Ageing and the City of Melbourne at their discretion, to copy or reproduce the photographs/video footage/interview and other shared information for supply, distribution or publicity, without acknowledgement and without being entitled to remuneration or compensation.

Some examples only of where a photo or film of you or the story you wrote may be published are Alice's Garage website and Social Media including Facebook and Twitter, the Social Photographer website and Social Media, Switchboard Victoria's website and social media and the City of Melbourne's website and social media.

If you only wish to provide partial consent, i.e. willing to provide consent for being photographed but not to being filmed or sharing your interview/story, please specify here what you do not consent to:

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If you agree to provide your consent on the basis of the above conditions, please sign the consent.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND CONSENT

I have read and understood this Consent Form and give my consent for photographs; footage; information about me to be taken as indicated above and used by the entities described above.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this signed consent form to Dr Catherine Barrett by email:**  
[director@celebrateageing.com](mailto:director@celebrateageing.com) or post: PO Box 1377 St Kilda VIC 3182 or in person

