

# Abundance. An Invitation

You're invited to take part in the Abundance project. The project aims to create a pantry of stories that affirm Transgender and Gender Diverse people's identities as they age.

Join us: Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October; 1-4pm at Kathleen Syme Library and Community Centre, Carlton

RSVP: essential to Catherine Barrett by  
phone: 0429 582 237 or email:  
director@celebrateageing.com

Please read the attached information for further details – or check out the story pantry at:

[alicesgarage.net/abundance](http://alicesgarage.net/abundance)



## Background

Research documenting Trans and Gender Diverse (TGD) people's experiences of ageing and aged care, identified a broad range of rights violations and abuse that need to be addressed. Alongside strategies to address rights violations, TGD elders also identified the importance of affirming TGD identities and documenting strategies for healthy ageing. There is an opportunity to draw on the wisdom and experience of TGD elders to build a 'pantry of stories' that provide hope for others.

## Project outline – the Abundance project

As part of Victorian Senior's Festival 2017 an intergenerational project for TGD adults is being conducted. The Abundance project involves two workshop events that include High Tea and making a preserve using Fowlers jar (generally used for making preserves) to make a representation of each story. The two workshops explore different aspects of TGD people's lives:

Workshop 1: positive aspects of ageing (completed in September)

Workshop 2: things you love most about life right now

The workshops focus on having fun, beautiful food and wonderful company. The workshops are filmed (participation optional) and photographs (optional) of participants and their preserves and a short narrative are produced. The photos and stories make up the story pantry – check out the Alice's Garage Abundance webpage to see how this works.

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

If you decide to participate, this is what you will be invited to do:

1. Contact the Project Coordinator Catherine Barrett – let Catherine know if you have any food allergies
2. Read this information sheet and sign the consent form – indicating which aspects of the project you consent to (eg: film, photos)
3. Attend the Kathleen Syme Library and Community Centre on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October at 11am
4. Participate in afternoon tea
5. Work in intergeneration pairs
6. In pairs, finish this statement: "The thing I love most about my life right now ..."
  - Discuss your response to the statement
  - Pick a 'mystery pack' – a kit of ingredients for making a preserve (you don't need any expertise – the kit comes with simple instructions and the team can help you)
  - Preserve your fruit
  - Use the fruit to decorate your jar – as a representation of the thing you love most about your life right now
  - 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.
  - Join us for a celebratory High Tea and to talk about the best things in life right now.



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.

### 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 agree your story can be uploaded to the Project webpage [www.alicesgarage.net/abundance](http://www.alicesgarage.net/abundance) - we invite you to visit the webpage to see how stories from the first event are presented.

The project aims to benefit TGD people broadly by establishing a Pantry of stories affirming TGD people as they age. We hope this webpage may offer hope to TGD people who are ageing and build respect in the broader community.

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

### Potential Benefits

Participants who attended the first workshop said that event was positive and enjoyable. Sally, one of the participants said:

*It was such a good afternoon with good vibes and wonderful people – I didn't want it to end. Every trans and gender diverse person should come to one of these.*

We work hard to help make sure that everyone who participates has a positive experience. We also hope that you will benefit from the knowledge that your story (preserve, photos and words) will be included in a Story Pantry that will help to affirm TGD people's identities.

### 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 pantry 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

