

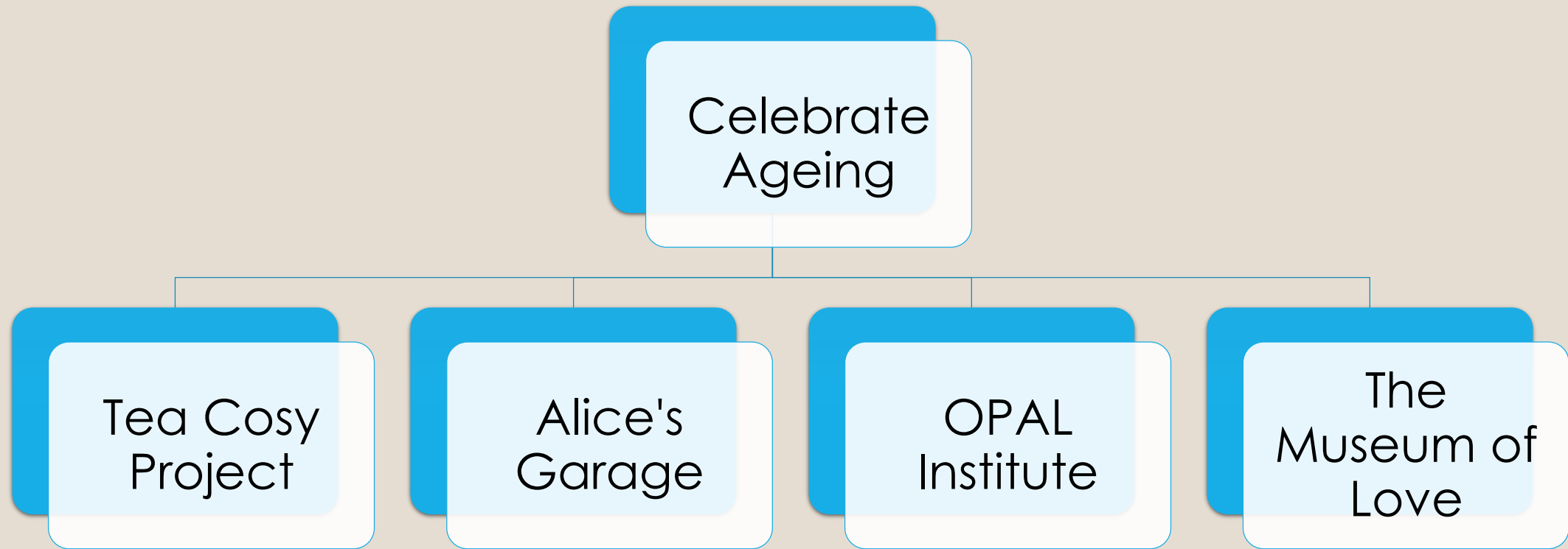


LGBTI ELDERS

History, “difficulties” and solutions

© 2107 Dr Catherine Barrett, Director Celebrate Ageing & Alice's Garage

The Celebrate Ageing Program



Website: celebrateageing.org



Its time to listen -
to older women
who report
sexual abuse

opalinstitute.org/powerproject

The OPAL Institute

Recognising the Sexual
Rights of older people –
including the right to be
free from sexual abuse

Includes sexuality policies
for aged care service
providers

Opalinstitute.org



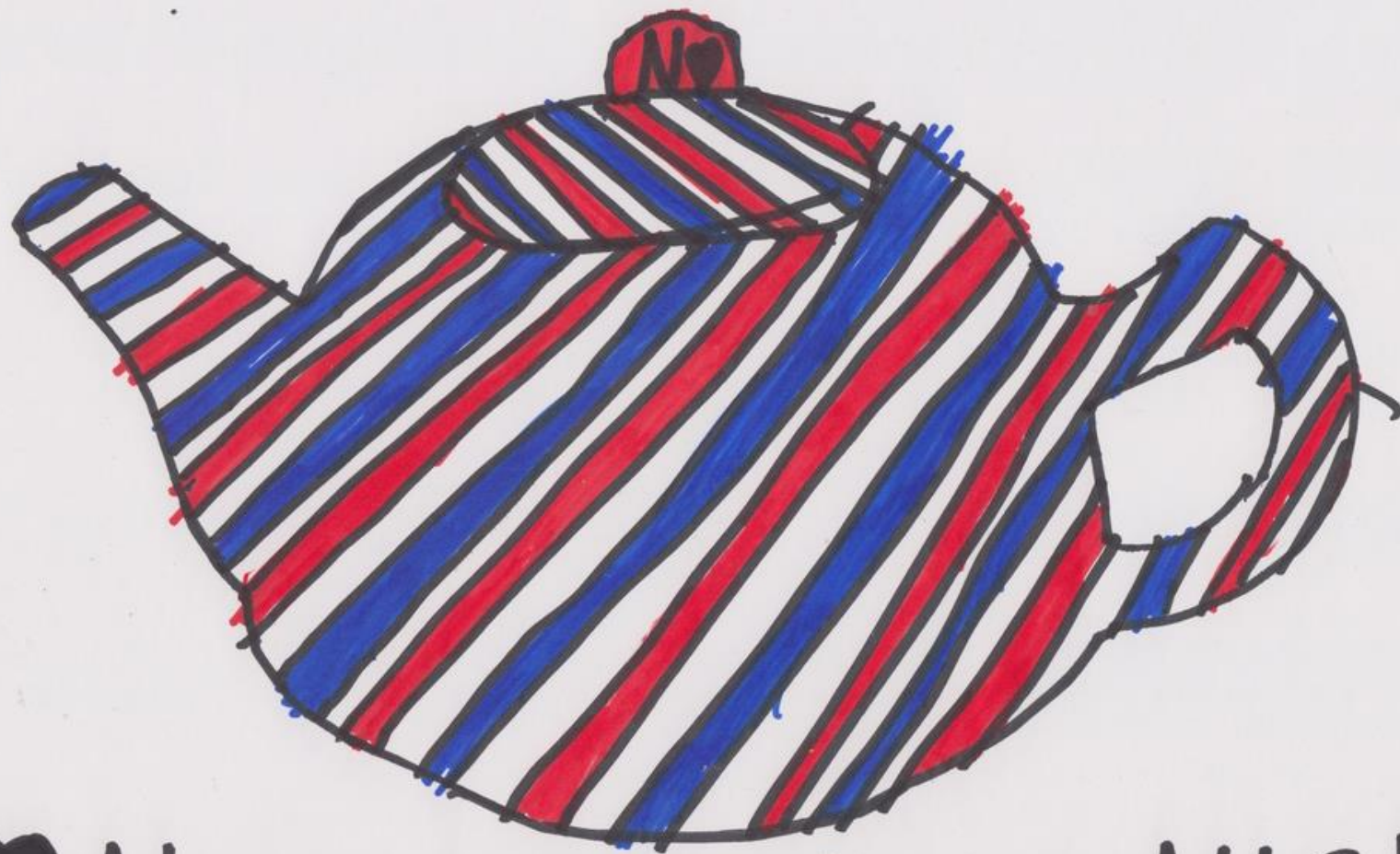
The Museum of Love

Recognizing the
importance of love in the
lives of people with
dementia.

Photograph by Lisa White

© 2017 The Social
Photographer

Francesca, 11



I ♥ Nanny because she's NICE!

Tea Cosy Project

Art and narrative based projects that challenge ageism and build respect for older people (and prevent elder abuse)

celebrateageing.com/teacosy



ALICE'S GARAGE

- Empowering LGBTI elders
- Promoting healthy LGBTI ageing

Web: alicesgarage.net

Facebook.com/alicesgarage



STILL GAY ...

[The experiences and needs of lesbian, gay and trans elders living with dementia](#)

Lesbians: Dale and Lilian

Lilian's children turned their backs on her. Before she was diagnosed [with dementia] it was always Lilian who went to see them and they visited her once a year as a rule. ... As Lilian's condition worsened they just wanted to be in control and they didn't want me to be in control. That's how I read it. It was all about me, not about looking after their mother.

The fact is they didn't give a fig, but they're all standing in line now waiting for the Will to be read. The next thing I know I am summoned to the Guardianship Tribunal.

So I lost control of access and accommodation for a year, and I lost control of Lilian's finances forever.

Transwoman: Edna

The children were only early teens at the time [of Edna's transition], and they're having problems adjusting – still 40 years later.

The reason why this gentleman, Harvey, is living as a male here is because the son said, “If you don't – if you embarrass us and you don't dress like a man, you won't see any grandchildren.”

So that's why he's living as a male here. Not that the son brings his children in much, but that threat was made.



GENDER IS JUST A PART OF WHO I AM

[Trans and Gender Diverse ageing](#)

Posthumous abuse

Another experience that many in the trans community have witnessed relates to attending the funeral of a trans person. I had only ever known this person as trans and they lived full time as trans and had transitioned some years earlier. The person's family did not accept their transition and the person was only referred to as their sex assigned at birth and their christened name and not their preferred gender or name. They had not been dressed in the clothes of their preferred gender. And for that person – a trans woman – then to be dressed as a male, referenced as a male, and for trans people to be ignored or disdained in terms of the funeral and at the reception afterwards, is about the most distressing thing that I've done in my life, and it's happened on multiple occasions.

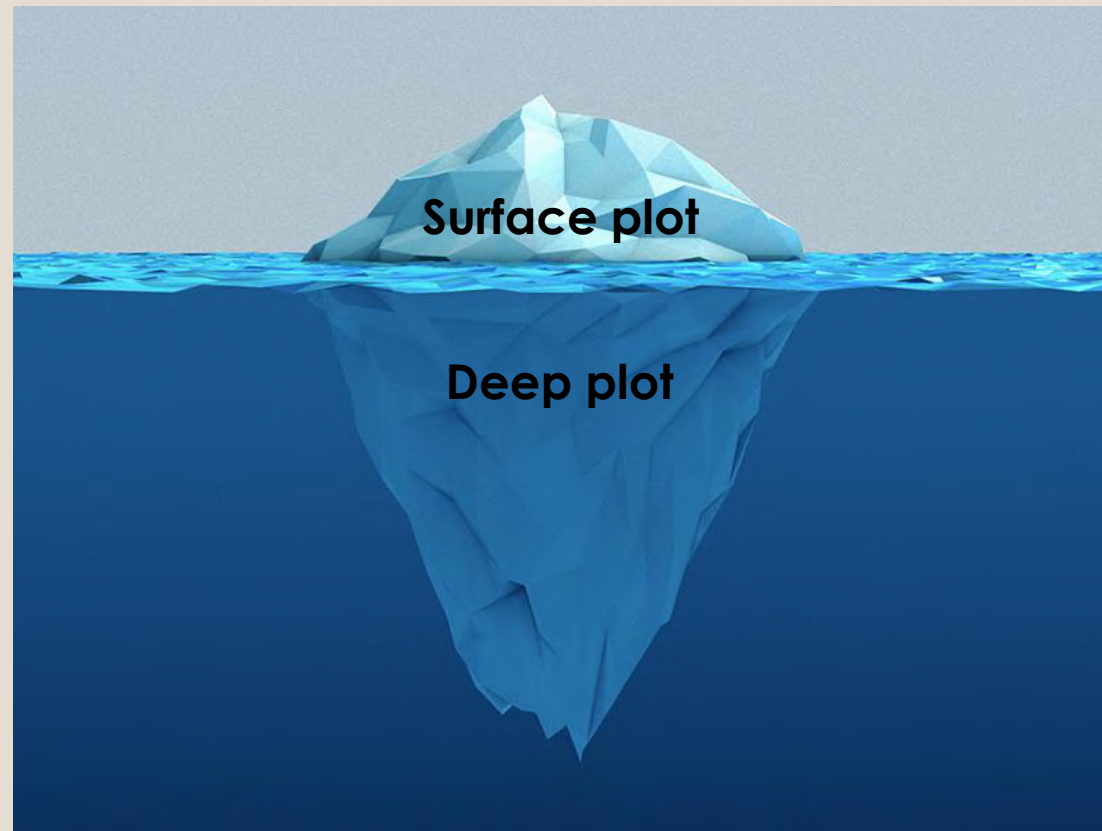
This was totally ignoring, hiding, denying the real life of this person and absolutely abhorrent for their true friends. The family did not want us there and we were shunned throughout. Unfortunately, this is not an isolated situation. I have been to other funerals with a similar story. Alison



THE PAST IS NOT DEAD

It is not even past

Deep listening



Surface plot

Well, if I've been discriminated against I'm not sure when. I mean in the workplace I don't think I have been, but then it was never an issue because I was never out at work, because I was in the Catholic system as a teacher. ...

It just was never an issue and I just never, ever talked about it. So, in that sense I don't think I faced discrimination at work.

(No Need to Straighten Up: Amanda, lesbian).

Deep story - meanings

Interviewer: what were the consequences ...if you'd have come out,...?

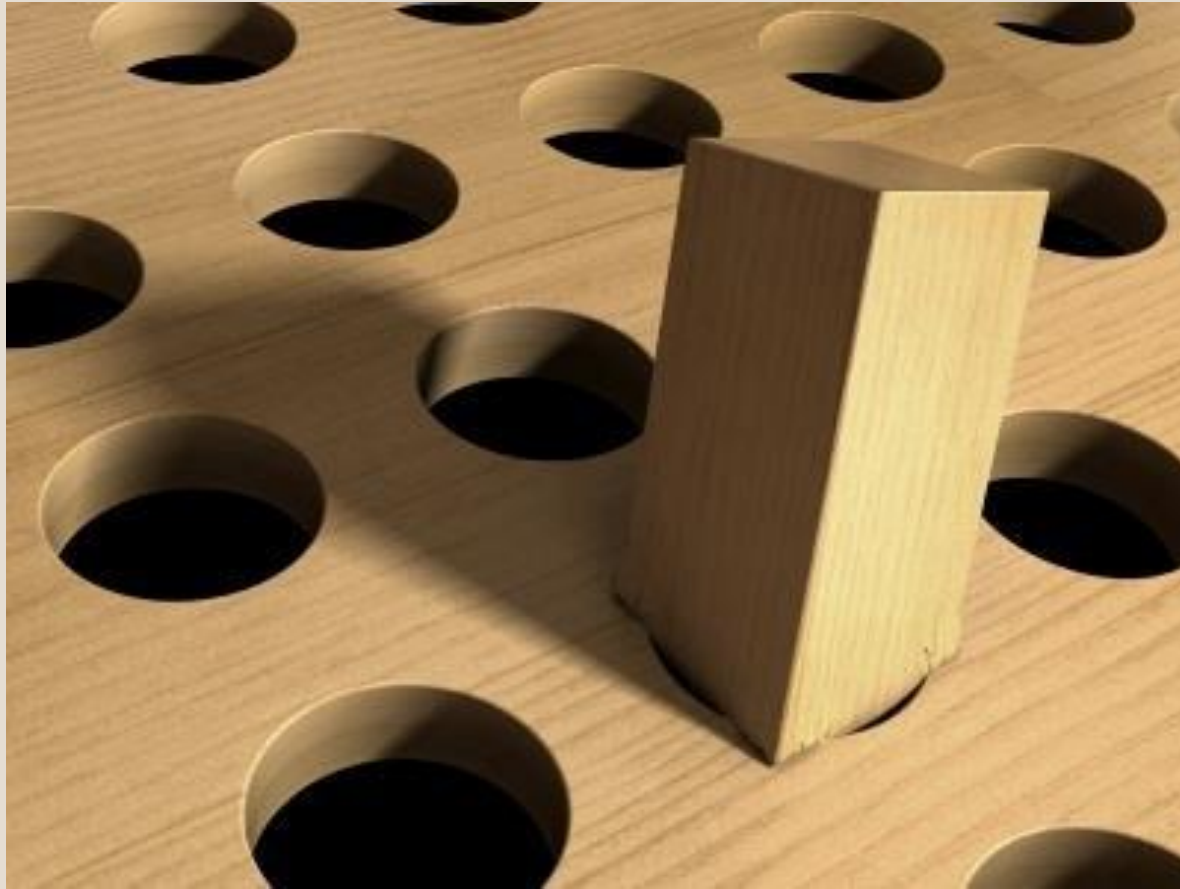
Amanda: Oh, quite possibly you could have lost your job.

Interviewer: Lost your job?

Amanda: [yes, but] that's not really discrimination, is it, that's just compartmentalising your life to make it easy.

(No Need to Straighten Up: Amanda, lesbian).

Onus of responsibility



Onus of responsibility

I think George and I have been lucky because we are not outrageously gay...we're ...not very camp in our actions... There is a lot of people that are and they are the ones that are going to find a lot of discrimination ... we fit into a lot of the norm. (Still gay ... Nick, 54, gay man)



TANGO PROJECT

Addressing LGBTI elder's experiences of abuse and discrimination

Tango team



- Independent third party
- Document rights violations
- Link to services
- Identify patterns
- Brief services
- Undertake primary prevention
- Share with others states.

The Tango Project – cultural safety



Thanks for the dance



First year of data

19 stories of 'difficulties'

- Lesbophobic abuse (5) – in context of postal vote
- **Reduced/restricted service (4) – lesbophobic/rough handling trans woman**
- **Misgendering (3) – health services & retail (caustic)**
- Transphobic comments (3) – within LGBTI communities
- **Restriction of gender expression (3) – families**
- **Restriction to sexual expression (1) - family**

Elders Strategies for change

1. Families
2. Education of families
3. Strategies to mediate with families
4. Modelling – promoting stories of families with respect
5. Empowering ways of feeding back to services

More information

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Web: celebrateageing.com

Facebook: [facebook.com/alicesgarage](https://www.facebook.com/alicesgarage)

Seniors Festival video: <https://youtu.be/VI18m6yMIQo>