



TANGO PROJECT

Cultural safety, empowerment & the rights of LGBTI elders

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



ALICE'S GARAGE

- Empowering LGBTI elders
 - Information
 - Connection
- alicesgarage.net

How have recent legal, policy and social reforms
impacted on LGBTI elders lives?





Expunging Gay Convictions



Government apologies

**NATIONAL LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL,
TRANSGENDER AND INTERSEX (L G B T I)
AGEING AND AGED CARE STRATEGY**



Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

National Strategy 2012

- Extensive consultation
- Review process
- Funding for education & capacity building
- Bipartisan support
- Legislative reforms

But, from the perspective of LGBTI Elders, what has changed?



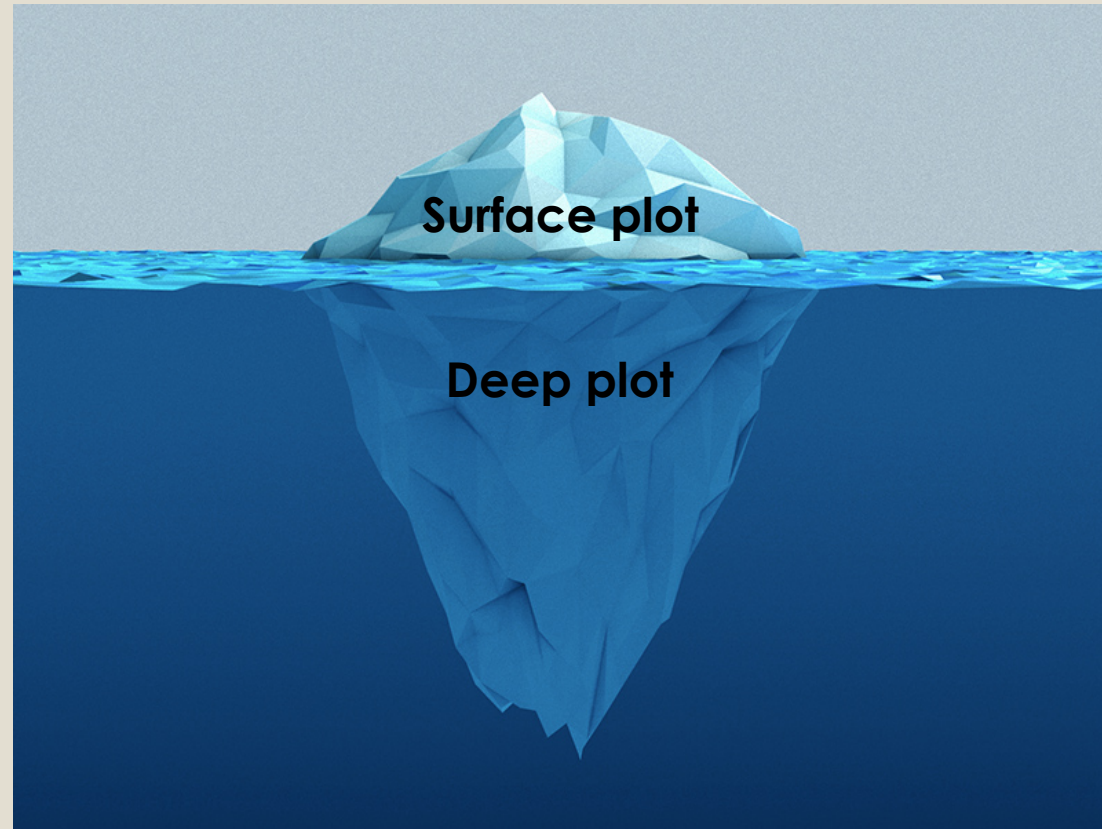
LISTENING

Understanding rights and sense of entitlement

Narrative plots

- Events and actions are drawn together into a whole by means of a plot
- The structure for understanding and describing the relationship between events and choices
- Relational significance – the plot produces meaning

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,...?

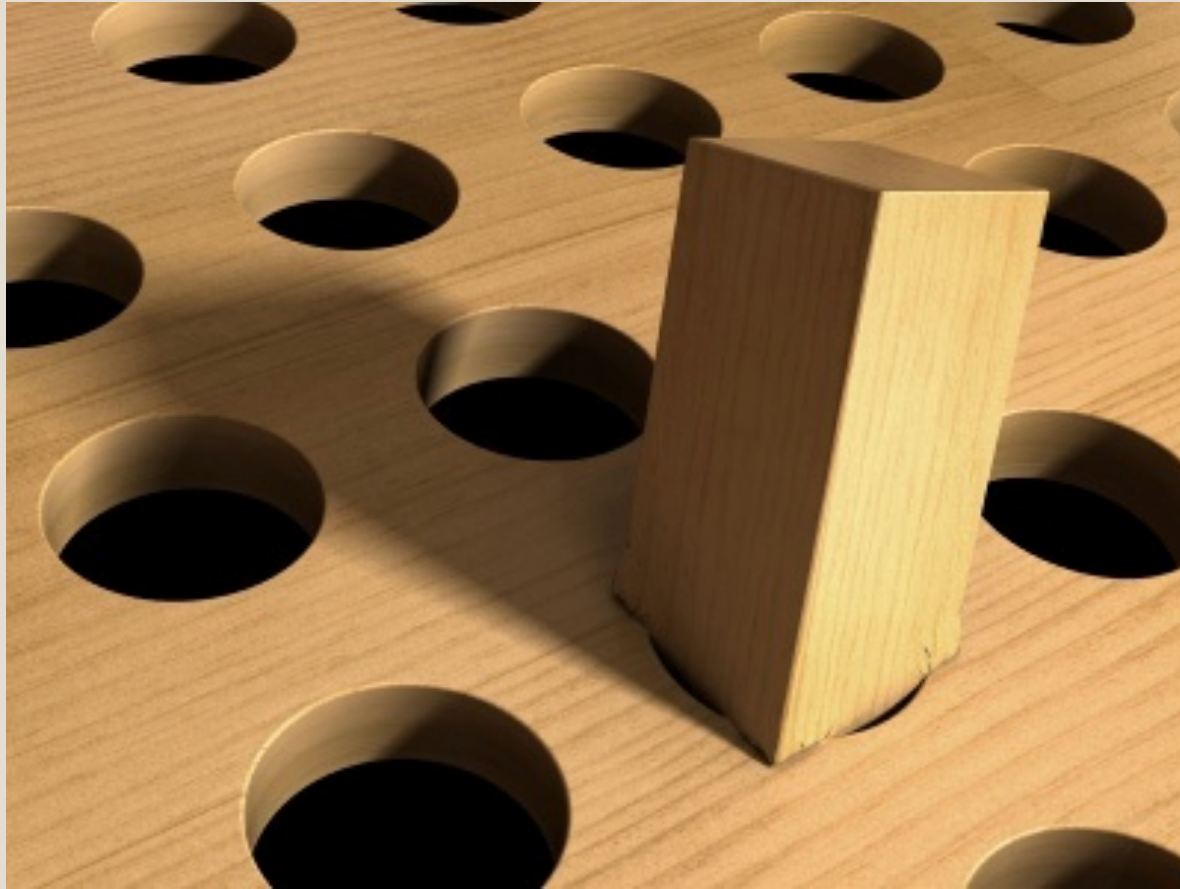
Amanda: Oh, quite possibly you could have lost your job.

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)*
- *[We] make it easier for people, you know, not to consider it too much of an issue...a person who doesn't draw too much attention to themselves is not going to be as upsetting as a lesbian who...has an obvious male look about them (Still gay ...: Anne, 60, lesbian).*

We need to provide a culturally safe world for LGBTI elders – we need to understand history and power imbalances as a context for listening

And we need to ask ourselves:

How do we promote rights for generations of LGBTI elders who don't have a sense of entitlement?

Can we tell LGBTI elders that it is safe?



PLOINKING

“to place down heavily or abruptly ...”

Bridge

First we need to build a bridge of trust
and a sense of entitlement to basic human rights.
Then we need to step out onto this bridge together
– to learn from each other and to make
change happen.



The Tango Project – cultural safety



From plonking to empowerment



Tango team



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

We've got your back



Dorothy McDonald added a new photo.

59 mins · OS X · ⚙

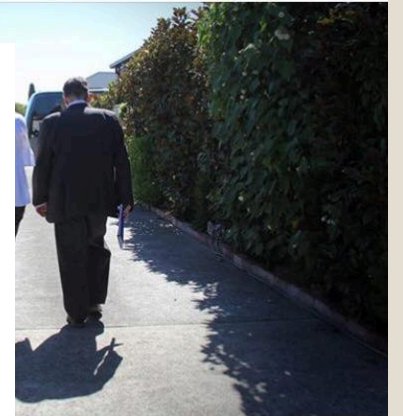
Thank you for coming to morning tea at ours. Best wished for the meetings and training ahead. The government could not have chosen a better Commissioner for Equality.



Anne T Tudor with Dorothy McDonald.

9 hrs · 👤

Before flying to Sydney we attended a magnificent high tea organised by none other than Bayside Barrett, with Ro Allen, Victorian Commissioner for Gender & Sexuality and our dear friends and near neighbours, Dorothy & Marg. Catherine, Dorothy & Marg presented the most amazing morning tea you could wish for. Ro Allen, you're all class. Thanks for the care & respect you show to LGBTI elders.



Comment

Share

And so ...

- Rights violations are not just historical
 - Reduced autonomy
 - Coming out/transitioning late
 - It is still not safe for many
- How are you listening?
- What are you doing to address the power imbalance/build a bridge?

Nothing about us without us



More information

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Seniors Festival video: <https://youtu.be/Vl18m6yMIQo>