



## The Rainbow Hub Advisory Group has a new member!

New Advisory Group member Syd Farrell brings a wealth of experience to COTA SA's Rainbow Hub advocacy and program work.



Above left: Syd Farrell pictured with husband John.

Syd lived the majority of his life in Port Pirie and is a Registered Nurse with over 30 years experience including setting up a provider of the Commonwealth Community Aged Care Packages Program in the Mid North of SA.

Syd is married to John. They met in 2016, whilst attending an Adelaide Happy Wanderers event (an LGBTI recreational walking and social group) and later developed a relationship. This prompted Syd to "come out" at age 53 finding a supportive workplace and family.

*"In 2017 John and I participated in marriage equality demonstrations and, following same-sex marriage*

*legislation (in December 2017), married in September 2018. Today we are two happily married retired gay guys looking forward to the future."*

For the last 10 years of his working career Syd worked as a General Manager for a large not for profit aged care organisation and oversaw both metro and country based residential and community services. He also holds a Masters Degree in Applied Gerontology making him a Gerontologist.

Syd has known of the Rainbow Hub Advisory Group [RHAG] for some years, attending several of their events and activities, and welcomes their work in raising recognition of

the needs, priorities, and preferences of South Australian LGBTI elders.

Syd likes the model of the RHAG collectively providing lived experience, with other qualities and qualifications, to advise COTA SA's decision-making, policy, and advocacy so it reflects LGBTI elders' opinions and needs.

Syd feels he can add to the skills of the existing group and his recent retirement gives him more time to be involved in such important areas of the RHAG's work such as the COTA Visitors Program, Silver Rainbow Training, and the Aged Care Navigator Program.