



From the film 'Supernova'

Are dementia services and support organizations meeting the needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender families experiencing dementia?

Claudio Di Lorito, PhD, University of Nottingham; Alessandro Bosco, University of Manchester; Elizabeth Peel, Loughborough University; Sharron Hinchliff, University of Sheffield; Tom Dening, University of Nottingham; Toni Calasanti, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University; Brian de Vries, San Francisco State University; Neil Cutler, York LGBT Forum; Karen I. Fredriksen-Goldsen, University of Washington; Rowan H. Harwood, University of Nottingham

What we know

- Dementia touches everybody, including members from the LGBT community.
- Research on the experiences of LGBT people living with dementia and their partners is limited.
- Little is known on whether dementia services and support organizations are meeting the needs of LGBT families.

What we did

- To answer this questions, we undertook a scoping review of the international evidence on support provision for LGBT families who experience dementia.
- We liaised with voluntary dementia and LGBT organisations, as well as several NHS Trusts across England to obtain further perspectives.

What we found

- LGBT families touched by dementia have distinct experiences, including a loss of LGBT identity, the impact of historical events, the importance of families of choice, and issues around disclosing LGBT identities.
- There are great barriers to support including unpreparedness and attitudes of staff, which makes LGBT users hesitant to seek support.
- There is a need to develop staff awareness training.

What we will do

- We got support from LGBT, dementia voluntary organisations and five NHS Trusts.
- We designed a research proposal to develop Rainbow-PATHS, a new training resource promoting equality in access and inclusivity in dementia services among LGBT families.
- We are currently looking for funding opportunities.

Further information available from: claudio.dilorito@nottingham.ac.uk

