

MEDIA RELEASE

Date: 21 November 2018

Women, Ageing and Disadvantage – symposium facilitated by Ellen Fanning

Wednesday 28 November 9:45-12:15pm

Auditorium, NSW Teachers Federation, 37 Reservoir Street, Surry Hills NSW

Seniors Rights Service, Sydney Australia

The compounding effects of ageism and sexism are severely impacting the lives of older women in Australia. Older women are the fastest growing demographic experiencing homelessness; women retire with just 47% of the superannuation of their male counterparts and earn \$700,000 less over their working lives; according to helplines women are 70% of those reporting elder abuse.

The upcoming symposium Women, Ageing and Disadvantage is an opportunity to explore these complex issues, learn what is happening, and discuss effective solutions and responses to change the dynamic. Respected journalist Ellen Fanning will facilitate discussions throughout the two forums of the symposium.

Susan Ryan AO, former Age Discrimination Commissioner of the Australian Human Rights Commission said, “Older women suffer from an accumulation of lifelong discrimination in jobs and pay. They pre date maternity leave and funded childcare and have often spent years without income caring for older relatives or children. Without strong government intervention to provide affordable housing and income security they will spend their old age in poverty.”

CEO of Seniors Rights Service Russell Westacott said, “Our organisation hosted the 5th National Elder Abuse Conference in Sydney in February 2018. It was disheartening and alarming to hear speaker after speaker present increasingly negative data and case studies on older women. We want to continue that conversation through this event and ensure that the rights of older women receives the focus it deserves.”

The event will also be webcast live from 9:45am AEDT. Visit the [website](#) for more information on the symposium including a full list of speakers and information on how to register to attend, or register for the live webcast.

Panellists include:

Forum 1

Dr Catherine Barrett, Director of the OPAL Institute, Coordinator of The Power Project

Sarah Lambert, Director, Community Health & Regional Services, ACON

Terrie Leoleos, Project Manager, Ethnic Communities’ Council of NSW

Prof Deborah Loxton, Co-Director, Research Centre for Generational Health and Ageing, Deputy Director, Australian Longitudinal Study on Women’s Health

Kimberley Olsen, Founder and CEO, Trans Employment Program Australia

Barbara O’Neill, Aboriginal support worker, The Junction Neighbourhood Centre

Lesley Robson, Housing specialist, Baptistcare

Forum 2

Jody Broun, Director, Red Cross NSW, former co-chairperson National Congress of Australia’s First People

Prof Julie Byles, Director of Research Centre for Generational Health and Ageing, University of Newcastle

Angela Budai, National Women’s Officer and National Industrial Officer, Finance Sector Union of Australia

Sam Edmonds, National Project Manager, Silver Rainbow, National LGBTI Health Alliance

Katherine McKernan, Executive Officer, Homelessness NSW

Mary Patetos, Director, Federation of Ethnic Communities’ Council Australia, Chairperson South Australian Housing Trust

Susan Ryan AO, former Age Discrimination Commissioner, Human Rights Commission

Seniors Rights Service is a leading community organisation that supports older people through free and confidential legal advice, aged-care advocacy and rights based education forums throughout NSW.

For more details regarding the symposium **Women, Ageing & Disadvantage** visit the [website](#)

For media information contact:

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