

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Advisory Group

Aged Care Trauma Awareness: Supporting Providers to Respond Effectively to the Needs of Forgotten Australians / Care Leavers

Acknowledgement

Relationships Australia SA (RASA) acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the land and pays respect to Elders past, present, and emerging.

We hold a special acknowledgement for those who were removed from their families and experienced trauma within institutions and out-of-home care. We recognise the lifelong impact of these experiences and value their resilience and strengths.

We respect the many terms used to describe this community, including *Forgotten Australians*, *Care Leavers*, and *Former Wards of the State*, and we are grateful for the lived expertise you share to help us improve aged care. In this document, we use the terms *Forgotten Australians* and *Care Leavers* to respectfully refer to people who experienced out-of-home care as children prior to the 1990s.

About the Project

RASA is delivering a 3-year project funded by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing. The project aims to:

- Develop training resources for the aged care workforce to strengthen understanding and support of Forgotten Australians and Care Leavers
- Deliver awareness campaigns to increase knowledge and sensitivity across the sector
- Embed trauma-sensitive, person-centred approaches that honour the lived experience of those in care

People with lived experience are at the heart of this work. National consultations will conclude in May 2026, with training resources expected to launch in January 2027.

About the Advisory Group

We are seeking up to 10 members to form a Project Advisory Group that will guide the development of training resources and awareness campaigns throughout the project. The Advisory Group will play a vital role in ensuring the project remains grounded in lived experience and sector needs.

Advisory Group at a Glance

Group size	Up to 10 members
Term	July 2026 – March 2027
Meeting frequency	Approximately every six weeks
Meeting length	1 to 1.5 hours per meeting
Format	Online (Teams or equivalent); hybrid sessions may be offered where practical
Honorarium	\$100 gift voucher per meeting attended
Estimated meetings	Approximately 6–7 meetings across the project term

What We're Looking For

We are seeking a diverse group of people who bring a range of perspectives, experiences, and expertise. We welcome applications from:

- Forgotten Australians and Care Leavers
- Aged care workers — including frontline care staff, nurses, allied health professionals, admin and managers
- Aged care providers and organisations
- Sector advocates, researchers, and policy professionals
- Educators and trainers working in aged care or related fields
- Family member of a Forgotten Australian, Care Leaver or person with aged care experience

We are particularly encouraging applications from:

- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people

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- People from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds
 - People from rural or remote areas of Australia

You do not need formal qualifications to apply. Lived experience is equally valued and central to this work.

Roles and Responsibilities

As an Advisory Group member, you will be asked to:

- Attend and actively participate in Advisory Group meetings
- Provide feedback on training resources and awareness campaign materials as they are developed
- Share your experience, knowledge, and perspective to inform project decisions
- Review and respond to documents or materials between meetings where required (estimated 1–2 hours between meetings)
- Notify the project team as early as possible if you are unable to attend a scheduled meeting

Geographic & Demographic Representation

As this is a national project, we are committed to ensuring the Advisory Group reflects the diversity of the Australian community and aged care sector. We are seeking representation from across states and territories, and across metropolitan, regional, and remote areas.

We are actively seeking applications from underrepresented regions including the Northern Territory, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory, and rural communities nationwide.

Support & Accessibility

We want to make participation as accessible as possible. We can offer:

- Meetings held online to minimise travel requirements
- Meeting materials provided in advance to allow preparation time
- Support for members with accessibility needs — please let us know what would help

- Flexibility for members who may need to join meetings by phone rather than video

If you have any access requirements or need support to participate, please contact us to discuss. We are committed to removing barriers to meaningful participation.

Important Information & Disclaimer

Confidentiality

Information shared within Advisory Group meetings is confidential. Members are asked not to share draft project materials or group discussions outside of the group without permission from the project team.

Privacy

Personal information provided in this EOI will be used solely for the purposes of selecting Advisory Group members and administering the group. Information will be handled in accordance with the Privacy Act 1988 and RASA's privacy policy. Your information will not be shared with third parties without your consent.

Wellbeing

We recognise that some topics discussed in this project may be sensitive, particularly for people with lived experience. The project team is committed to creating a safe, respectful, and trauma-aware environment. If you need support at any time, please reach out to the project team or contact a relevant support service.

Participation

Participation in the Advisory Group is voluntary. Members may withdraw at any time. Submitting an EOI does not guarantee selection. The project team will review all applications and, if needed, may reach out to shortlisted applicants for a brief conversation before a final decision is made. We will aim to notify all applicants of the outcome by 15 July 2026. Selection will be based on creating a balanced group across demographics, geography, and expertise.

Expression of Interest Form

Please complete all sections and submit by 20 June 2026

Section A — About You

Full name *

Preferred name (if different)

Gender

- Female
- Male
- Non-binary
- Prefer not to say

Email address *

Phone number

State / Territory *

Location (e.g. metropolitan, regional, rural, remote)

Section B — Your Background

Which of the following best describes your connection to this project? (Select all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Person with lived experience (Forgotten Australian / Care Leaver) | <input type="checkbox"/> Family member of a Forgotten Australian/Care Leaver or person with aged care experience |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aged care provider / organisation representative | <input type="checkbox"/> Aged care worker (frontline / direct care / admin) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aged care manager / coordinator | <input type="checkbox"/> Educator / trainer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sector advocate or community organisation | <input type="checkbox"/> Researcher / academic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Policy professional | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify below) |

If 'Other', please describe your background or role

Organisation name (if applicable)

Have you had any direct or indirect experience with aged care services? (e.g., home care support, community services, ACAT/SAS assessments, or residential care)

- Yes No Maybe / Unsure

Do you identify as any of the following? (Select all that apply)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander | <input type="checkbox"/> From a CALD background |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Person with disability | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |

Section C — Your Experience & Contribution

Please describe your experience or background relevant to this project *

A brief summary is fine (e.g. your role or key experience).

Please tell us why you would like to be part of the Advisory Group *

A few words about why you'd like to join (e.g. your experience, passion for the topic, or what you hope to contribute or learn).

Have you been part of any groups like this before?

- Yes. Please give details: _____
- No
- Maybe / Unsure

Is there anything else you would like us to know about your application?

Optional — e.g. any support needs, questions about the process, or other context

Section D — Availability & Commitment

The Advisory Group will meet approximately every six weeks from July 2026 to March 2027, with meetings lasting 1–1.5 hours. Meetings will be held online, with the possibility of 1–2 hybrid sessions.

Can you commit to the meeting schedule outlined above? *

Yes

Mostly — some flexibility
may be needed

I have questions —
please contact me

Are there any dates or periods you are unavailable between July 2026 and March 2027?

Do you have any accessibility or support needs we should be aware of?

This will only be used to support your participation and will not affect your application

Section E — Declaration & Consent

Please read the following statements and indicate your agreement:

- I understand that submitting this EOI does not guarantee selection to the Advisory Group
- I agree to maintain confidentiality of group discussions and draft materials
- I consent to my personal information being used for the purposes of Advisory Group selection and administration, in accordance with RASA's privacy policy
- I confirm that the information I have provided in this EOI is accurate

Signature (or type full name as signature) *

Date *

How to Submit

Submit your completed EOI by 20 June 2026 via:

✉ **Email:** AgedCareAwareness@rasa.org.au

☎ **Phone:** (08) 8245 8100 — Submit your EOI verbally if preferred

We will acknowledge receipt of your EOI within 5 business days. Applicants will be notified of the outcome by 15 July 2026.

Questions? We're happy to help.

Contact the project team: AgedCareAwareness@rasa.org.au

We can also arrange a brief call if you'd like to speak with someone before applying.