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MEDIA RELEASE: JOY 94.9 TO INVESTIGATE NEEDS OF OLDER GLTBI PEOPLE IN YARRA

JOY 94.9 was successful in securing a \$10,000 grant from the City of Yarra annual community strengthening program to investigate the needs of older GLTBI (gay, lesbian, transgender, bisexual and intersex) people living in the City of Yarra.

JOY 94.9 President, David McCarthy said, "The study is a first for JOY and will seek to quantify the older GLBTI population within the City of Yarra and provide the Council with valuable information to assist them with the future for planning aged care services which are sensitive and appropriate for our community".

"The project will target members of the GLTBI community aged 50 years and over, recognising the impending "baby boomer population bulge" that will begin demanding health and community services in the short to medium term", said Mr McCarthy.

"The study will be led by JOY volunteer Andrew Thorp and will be conducted over 40 weeks during 2012 commencing in February. It will be conducted in partnership with the City of Yarra, key GLBTI organisations, health and community service providers, GLBTI venues and of course our community".

"I am very excited about this project because it builds on our recently established JOY Community Partnership Program and taps into our extensive networks, our 2,800 members and our listeners".

"Engagement with existing older GLBTI groups, in particular Matrix Guild, Vintage Men and Boilers Society will be critical to the success of the project. I know our project team is looking forward to working with them", said Mr McCarthy.

The project team has estimated that on a population basis, the City of Yarra has more than 400 older GLTBI residents.

The project will also review current literature, survey older GLTBI Yarra residents via online survey tools, and target on-air and print marketing to promote the project and encourage participation by older Yarra GLTBI residents.

Regular updates on the study will be made available to JOY members and the community on-air and via the JOY website joy.org.au

JOY is Australia's only gay and lesbian radio station and the country's single largest gay and lesbian membership based organisation.

JOY94.9 is committed to providing a voice for the diverse lesbian and gay communities, enabling freedom of expression, the breaking down of isolation, and the celebration of gay and lesbian culture, achievements and pride.

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