



Suspected Older Persons' Abuse

Useful Questions

When elder abuse is suspected, here are some useful open-ended questions you could ask the older person to help explore the situation further. Remember to listen actively and give the older person time to respond.

Who's Helping and Making Decisions?

- Who is looking after you at the moment?
- How do you make decisions about your money, health, or home?
- Have you given anyone permission to make decisions or spend money for you?
- What kind of permission or paperwork did you give them?
- Do they have something in writing to show they're allowed to do that?



Money and Belongings

- How are your bills, shopping, and banking going lately?
- Where is your money going each week?
- Has anything changed with your bank accounts, Centrelink, or property recently?
- Is someone else handling your money — how is that going for you?

Living and Care

- What's a normal day like for you at home?
- How are you going with meals, medication, and getting around?
- Do you feel clean, comfortable, and well cared for?
- When did you last see a doctor or nurse?



Feelings and Safety

- How have you been feeling lately – worried, happy, safe?
- Is anything or anyone making you feel stressed or unsafe?
- Can you come and go as you like?
- Do you get to see or speak to your friends and family when you want?
- How do you get in contact with them?
- Who could we call to help you now?