

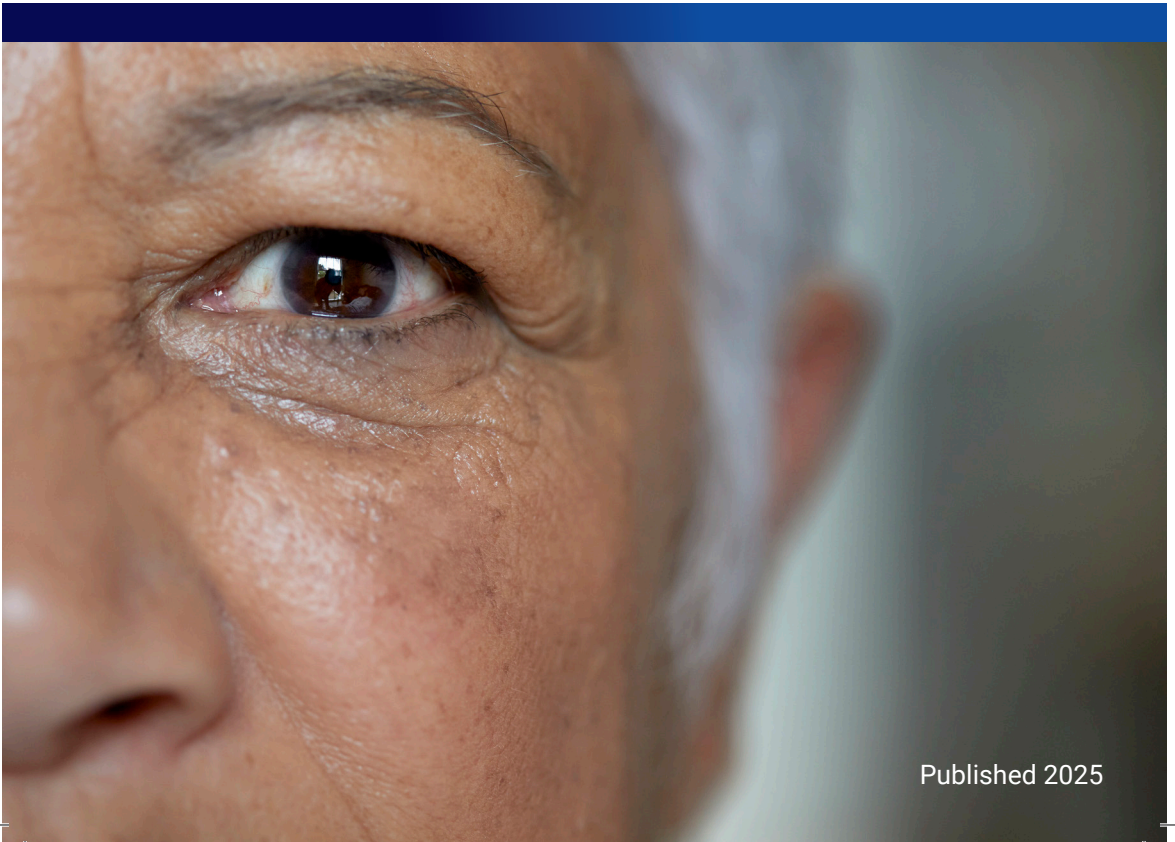


**ACT
Policing**



Elder Abuse Awareness

What you need to know



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What is Elder Abuse?

Elder Abuse is a single or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust resulting in harm or distress to an older person.

Types of Elder Abuse

Physical: unusual, reoccurring or unexplained injuries.

Sexual: any sexual activity to which the older person has not consented, including unexplained sexually transmitted infections.

Financial: unusual banking transactions, unexplained pressure to loan or withdraw funds, accompanying older person to a bank for transaction, money missing from their residence, someone showing unusual interest in an older person's finances, making big purchases for someone.

Neglect: ignoring physical, emotional and social needs such as changes/cancellation of medical needs, restricting food/water/clothing, residing in unsafe, dangerous or unsanitary conditions and/or abandonment.

Isolation: causing a reduction in social interactions often can lead to loneliness with the aim of making the older person dependent on a person.

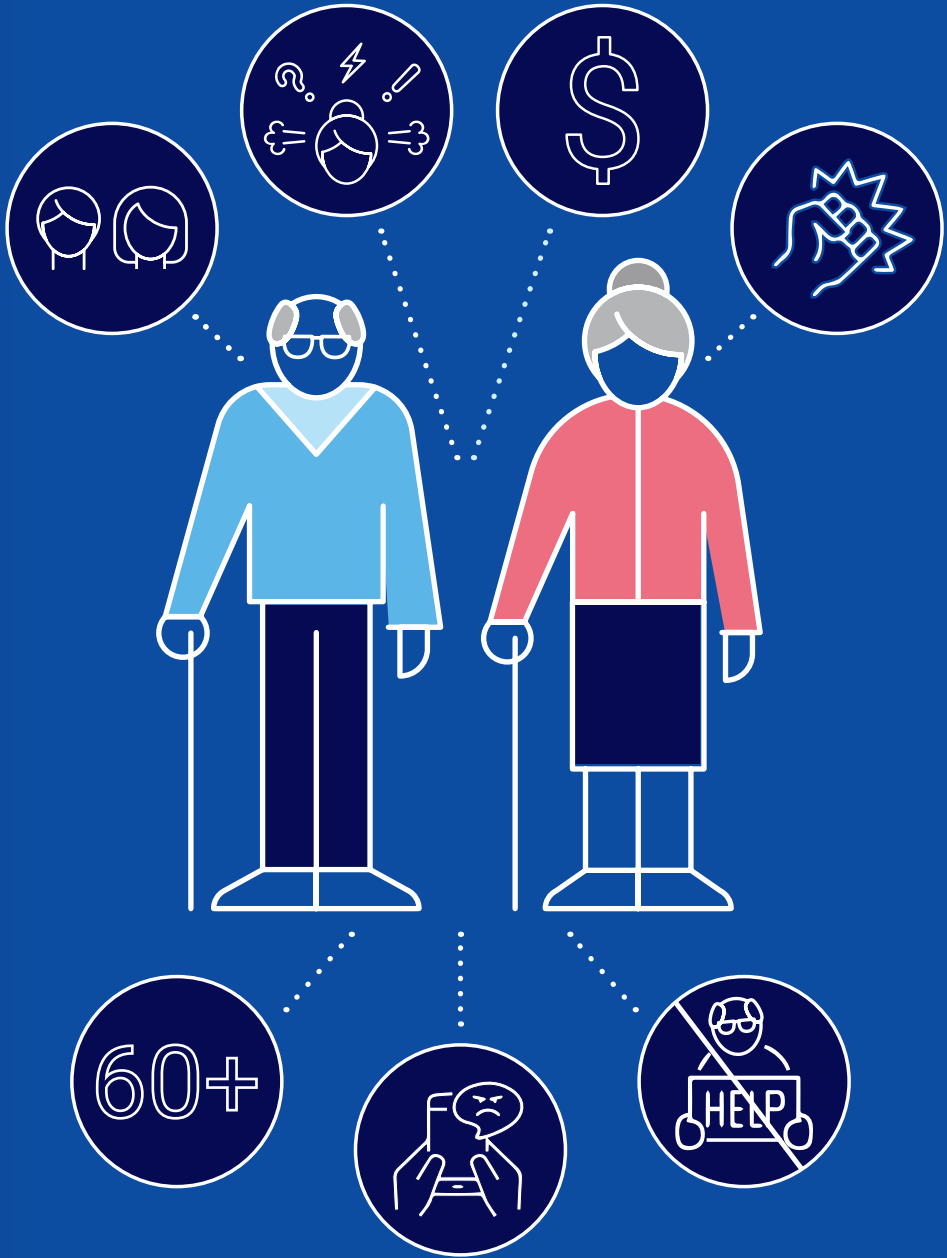
Emotional/Psychological: verbal aggression, humiliating language, false accusations, interfering with decision making, intentionally restricting access to basic needs such as, food, medications or access to assistive devices like walkers, hearing aids, glasses, telephone etc.



Statistics on Elder Abuse

- 15% (598,000) of people in Australia have experienced Elder Abuse in the past year.
- Psychological abuse is the most common form of elder abuse in Australia.
- 1 in 2 people who perpetrate elder abuse are a family member.
- 1 in 3 people who experienced elder abuse sought help from a third party.
- In 2022-23, about 210 women and 145 men aged 65 years and over were hospitalised for injuries related to family and domestic violence.
- One in four older people aged 65-74 have experienced technology-based abuse.
- 1 in 3 (36%) older people in Australia who experienced abuse sought help or advice from a third party.

*Statistics sourced from www.aihw.gov.au



Elder Abuse Red Flags

You should consider the possibility of Elder Abuse occurring if any of the following are noticed:

- ▶ Unexplained injuries, bruises, cuts, bleeding, continual falls.
- ▶ Change in behaviour, becoming moody, depressed, over excited.
- ▶ Cohesive control, a pattern of abusive/restrictive behaviour, not being able to freely use funds, go out or make decisions.
- ▶ Isolation, restricting contact with visitors or family, friends, change in social habits.



- ▶ Feeling overwhelmed, having no say or withdrawing from speaking about certain topics.
- ▶ Dirty clothing, lacking hygiene, missing medications, lack of food.
- ▶ Change in financial status, change in Enduring Power of Attorney, Wills, large deposits or withdrawals of money, allowing someone to take over finances, large or continual purchases made on behalf of a person.



How do I keep safe from Elder Abuse

- Do not provide bank account details to anyone. This includes pin numbers and safe codes.
- Do not sign documents without consulting a solicitor first.
- Always discuss Enduring Power of Attorneys or Wills with a Lawyer or trusted family members.
- Do not allow yourself to be talked into doing something that feels uncomfortable.
- Do not provide money to anyone who threatens you, because they feel they are entitled, or you feel sorry for them.
- Always make sure you have an antivirus on your computer and don't click on links you don't know.
- Hang up on callers you don't know, make you feel uncomfortable, say they are trying to help you or threaten you.
- Do not do anything that makes you feel uncomfortable.
- Talk to someone about any concern you have, especially if you think you are being manipulated or forced.

I am a victim of or know someone who is experiencing Elder Abuse, what can I do?

FACT: Most victims of Elder Abuse will not report or seek assistance.

If the danger is not immediate, but you suspect that abuse has occurred or is occurring you must tell a trusted person. To report elder abuse to Police call ACT Policing's Police Assistance Line on 131 444.

Should the older person be in immediate danger contact Emergency Services on 000.



Who to contact if you or someone you know is experiencing Elder Abuse

- Police Assistance - 131 444
- Emergency - 000
- Crime Stoppers - 1800 333 000
(Information can be anonymous)
- Your financial Institution
- Your family GP or a health practitioner
- Your legal Representative
- A trusted friend/relative
- The Human Rights Commission - 02 6205 2222
- National Elder Abuse - 1800 ELDERHelp
(1800 353 374)
- Older Persons Abuse Prevention Referral and Information Line - 02 6205 3535





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