



Information Sheet 2 About Elder Abuse

Definition: What is Elder Abuse?

The definition of elder abuse in Queensland is ***“any act occurring within a relationship where there is an implication of trust, which results in harm to an older person. Abuse can include physical, sexual, financial, psychological, social and or neglect” (ANPEA, 1999)***. A person with whom an older person has a relationship implying trust may include a daughter or son, spouse, minister of religion, doctor or neighbour.

IMPORTANT NOTE – Under this definition Elder Abuse does not include criminal acts by a stranger or self-neglect.

Relevant United Nation Principles:

United Nations Principles for Older Persons, adopted under resolution 46/91 includes the principles of Independence, Participation, Care, Self-Fulfilment and Dignity.

Types of Abuse

Psychological / Emotional Abuse

Psychological abuse is the infliction of mental anguish, involving actions that cause fear of violence, isolation or deprivation, and feelings of shame, indignity and powerlessness. (See Fact Sheet on Psychological / Emotional Abuse)

Physical Abuse

Physical abuse is the infliction of physical pain or injury or physical coercion. Examples include hitting, slapping, pushing or burning. (See Fact Sheet on Physical Abuse)

Sexual

Sexual abuse is sexually abusive or exploitative behaviour. Examples include: rape, indecently touching, sexual harassment or inappropriate / unwelcomed comments. (See Fact Sheet on Sexual Abuse).

Financial Abuse

Financial abuse involves the illegal or improper use of your finances or property. Examples of financial abuse include not giving you access to your money and misusing a Power of Attorney.

Social Abuse

Social abuse is preventing a person from having social contact with friends or family.

Neglect

Neglect is the failure of a carer to provide the necessities of life to a person for whom they are caring. Neglect can be intentional or unintentional.

Where To Go For Help

The EAPU operates a state-wide CONFIDENTIAL telephone information, support and referral service for anyone experiencing or witnessing the abuse of an older person. Callers can call **HELPLINE** on **1300 651 192** between 9am-5pm Monday to Friday for the cost of a local call from anywhere in Queensland.

The **HELPLINE** is available for, workers, family members and older people who witness or experience abuse or who may want more information regarding Elder Abuse.

If you experience or witness elder abuse now or in the future please phone the **HELPLINE** on:

1300 651 192

If you are physically unsafe – please call the police.
POLICE – Phone 000 – Emergency Only



Elder Abuse Prevention Unit

PO Box 108 Fortitude Valley 4006

Phone: 1300 651 192

Fax: 3250 1929

E-mail: eapu@lccq.org.au

Website: www.eapu.com.au



Queensland Government
Department of **Communities**