

QLD Focus

Elder Abuse Prevention Unit Newsletter

Edition 9

June 2006



This issue is dedicated to:
World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
June 15, 2006

"My World,...Your World... Our World - Free of Elder Abuse"



The International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse

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Brisbane: Eve of WEAAD

A forum hosted by the Australian Society for Geriatric Medicine in conjunction with Geriacton Queensland Inc and the Association of Aging and Gerontology was held on 14 June with guest speakers from a number of key organisations, including: The Office of the Adult Guardian, The Public Advocate, Queensland Aged and Disability Advocacy, Department of Social Work from the University of Queensland and representatives from the legal and medical professions. Each provided an outline of the services they provide in assisting older people who experience elder abuse or neglect and a case study to outline in practical terms their services.

Palm Island: Yarning With The Elders

Cairns and the Palm Island region held an information session for Elders and community members. Les Jackson (from the Elder Abuse Prevention Unit) discussed issues and needs of senior Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the region, ranging from Elder respect to parenting and communication. The most significant point to be raised is the need for training and skill development at a family-by-family level, similar to the approach taken by "Super Nanny".

Melbourne

James Keightley (Department of Communities) and Maya Zetlin (EAPU) attended the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Seminar on "Victorian Practice, and Future Policy Directions to Support the Safety and Dignity of Older Victorians" in Melbourne hosted by INPEA, Department of Victorian Seniors: Office of Senior Victorians and University of Melbourne. They described the conference as very informative and interesting.

The Office for Senior Victorians also launched the Budget for addressing issues relating to Seniors and Elder Abuse for the next financial year. Key note speakers were Dr Mark Yaffe and Maxine Lithwick from McGill University, Canada. Dr Yaffe explained a major study focusing on the ability of GPs to identify abuse or suspected elder abuse when they see patients. Dr Yaffe also explained the impact this would have on prevention, intervention and treatment of older people.

QUOTE:

Retirement at sixty-five is ridiculous. When I was sixty-five I still had pimples. *George Burns*



**ELDER ABUSE
HELPLINE**

1300 651 192

MEDIA RELEASE: QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO REDUCING ELDER ABUSE



The Honourable Warren Pitt
Minister for Communities, Disability Services and Seniors

13 June 2006

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day will be observed across the World for the first time this Thursday (15 June 2006).

The day was established by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, and supports the United Nations International Plan of Action to recognise that elder abuse is a public health and human rights issue.

To coincide with the first annual awareness day, the Minister for Communities, Disability Services and Seniors Warren Pitt, has reaffirmed the Queensland Government's commitment to reducing the incidence of elder abuse in the State.

"I will not tolerate elder abuse in any way, shape or form - not today, not any day," Mr Pitt said.

"I do not want one older person to suffer any form of abuse, and while that might seem a very lofty goal, anything less is unacceptable.

"Throughout the world, abuse or neglect of older people has been largely under-recognised or treated as an unspoken problem.

"However, this Thursday is an opportunity to lift the lid on what is an important issue."

Mr Pitt said national research estimates that three to five per cent of older people experience some form of abuse.

He said he has made elder abuse prevention a priority issue for the Queensland Seniors Council, which provides advice to him on issues affecting older people.

The inaugural Valuing Queensland Seniors Forum to be held in Brisbane on June 27 will address the issue, and recommend prevention and awareness strategies.

"Elder abuse is violence and/or abuse committed against older people, often by members of their family, those they trust in intimate relationships, and carers," Mr Pitt said.

"We are not just talking about physical or emotional abuse, but abuse in all its insidious forms, including psychological and financial abuse."

Mr Pitt said the Department of Communities already funded a number of services which had a

focus of elder abuse prevention.

"For instance, Lifeline's *Elder Abuse Prevention Unit* operates a telephone Helpline providing information, support and referral services to older people experiencing or at risk of experiencing abuse," Mr Pitt said.

"Then there's the *Seniors Advocacy Information and Legal Service*, auspiced by Caxton Legal Centre, which supports Brisbane elders experiencing or at risk of experiencing domestic and family violence."

Mr Pitt said the department had also allocated \$50,000 to the Redcliffe Community Demonstration Project, to assist elders with asset management and the prevention of financial abuse.

Mr Pitt is encouraging all Queenslanders to take time during World Elder Abuse Awareness Day to think about relatives and friends who might be at risk of abuse, and offer their support.

**Media contact: Peter McCarthy
3235 4286**



Gambia Celebrated World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

Representatives from The Association for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (TAPEA), in Gambia send their greetings and wish everyone in Queensland the best of luck in their role in preventing elder abuse. The President of this new service, Priscilla Jones, has been in contact with the EAPU over the last month to link with other elder abuse services. The EAPU wishes them well with some exciting initiatives they are undertaking in the schools in The Gambia. The EAPU is looking at ways to support the new service and encourages anyone interested or who can assist to visit their website <http://www.olderadultabuse.org> or email thegambiaapea@yahoo.com.

Media Statement on World Elder Abuse Awareness Day from the Federal Minister

Senator the Honourable Santo Santoro
Minister for Aging

15 June 2006

The safety of older Australians, both in residential aged care and in the community generally, is a top priority for the Howard Government. A range of measures is being introduced, in conjunction with the residential aged care sector, to increase security and reduce the opportunity for institutional abuse, in response to the isolated but troubling cases that came to light earlier this year.

These measures include compulsory police background checks for aged care staff, and additional spot checks at residential care facilities. I am also finalising options for strengthening complaints investigation procedures, for requiring aged care workers to report cases of suspected abuse, and for offering greater protection to whistleblowers.

These changes were backed by more than \$10 million in funding in the 2006-07 Federal Budget.

They achieve a good balance between responding to immediate community concerns and ensuring we have systems to protect our vulnerable elderly from abuse now and into the future. I will meet again shortly with the Aged Care Advisory Committee to review progress of the Government's reform program.

It is also important to recognise that physical or sexual abuse in aged care homes is just one small element of elder abuse. Vulnerable elderly Australians are more likely to suffer abuse at the hands of a family member. This can include verbal, physical or even financial abuse, where family members pressure older people into signing over homes or other assets.

Therefore, it is essential that the Australian community as a whole joins in the fight against abuse of the elderly. It is vital that community leaders of all

faiths, races and political persuasions work together to create an atmosphere in which the fundamental human rights of the elderly are regarded as absolutely sacrosanct. In this way, the injustice and indignity of abuse of the elderly can be totally and permanently eliminated.

Media Note: Senator Santoro will address the first World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Global Symposium at the United Nations Building in New York at 1.30 pm Thursday local time (5.30 am Friday, Canberra time). He will outline the policy approach taken by the Australian Government in addressing the issue of abuse of the elderly.

Media contact:
Malcolm Cole -
0408 612 603



FRASER COAST TASKFORCE FOR THE PREVENTION OF ELDER ABUSE COMMEMORATES WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY!!

(by Lyn Coveney)



Hervey Bay celebrated the International Day for Elder Abuse Awareness by making a big noise! Members of the Fraser Coast Task Force for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, Local MP Andrew McNamara, Hervey Bay City Councillors and members of the public brought along their noise makers (including a didgeridoo and bagpipes) and RAGED for 1 minute in the Botanical Gardens. We had a great time and over afternoon tea we planned to make the event bigger (and noisier), in 2007. The official part of the day saw the launch of the re-visited "Pathways" book which will assist the Task Force members decide on the necessary actions when an Elder Abuse case is suspected.

From the Editor:

Domnica Alexa (domnica.alex@lccq.org.au)

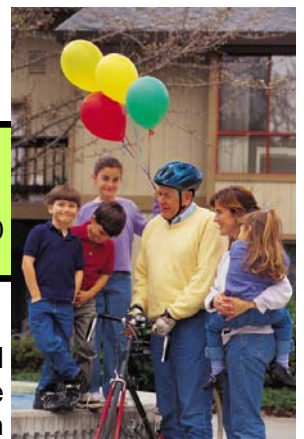


This quarter has definitely been eventful. We have all been inundated with requests due to the increase in awareness of issues relating to seniors, in the aftermath of the horrific incident in Victoria, the launch of the RAGE Day as part of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on 15th June and the debate on Mandatory Reporting of Elder Abuse.

These events have served as a catalyst in raising awareness in our community about Elder Abuse and has impacted not only on the older person themselves but also on their family and wider networks. Australian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (ANPEA) has also reconvened and held it's first Tele-conference on 20 June with participation from key stakeholders, in the Elder Abuse Prevention field, from across Australia.

There are several notable dates including World Alzheimer's Day on 21 September, Senior's Week (18 August—28 August) and Dementia Month (9 September—9 October), during the next few months. As always there is lots to be done for these events to be successful. I have all confidence and know that these will be a huge success and raise the much needed awareness and profile.

Domnica Alexa
Project Officer



TIME FOR GRANDPARENTS PROGRAM

Provided by Senior's Enquiry Line 1300 135 500

Seniors Enquiry Line is currently trialling the Department of Communities funded 'Time for Grandparents' Program in Queensland. In recognition of the important role that grandparents who are the primary carers of grandchildren play, the program links the children of these families with activities and provides grandparents with some well earned time out. The program currently has a significant number of children across the state that are accessing activities through Sport and Recreation QLD, Scouts, Guides and Police Citizen Youth Clubs. In addition, several Grandfamily camps including an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Grandfamily camp have been trialled at Kindilan Outdoor Education and Conference Centre at Redland Bay near Brisbane.

Grandfamily camps provide grandparents and the grandchildren that they are raising with the opportunity to spend a weekend together, designed to provide information, support and respite to grandparents, while their grandchildren participate in a range of activities. Information sessions may include topics relating to family law and financial assistance. Group and personal sessions with a social worker and psychologist are also available to grandparents who can discuss issues of concern. Grandchildren and grandparents can participate in activities such as archery, canoeing, craft, games and abseiling. Accommodation and meals are provided and transport to and from Kindilan can be organised in many circumstances.

The first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Grandfamily camp was successfully held at the beginning of June. Features of the camp included the opportunity for children and their grandparents to participate in traditional games, dance and art and camp fire activities. Senior Counsellors were available from Gallang Place to provide support to grandparents. Information sessions were provided by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal and Advocacy Service and Centrelink.

To access the 'Time for Grandparents' program, grandparents must be the primary carers of their grandchildren and not receiving the fostering allowance. **For further information please contact Seniors Enquiry Line 1330 135 500** 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday.

New Adult Guardian for Queensland

*Contributed by the Office of the Adult Guardian
JAG Newsletter*

Dianne Pendergast was appointed as the Adult Guardian on 28 April 2006.

The role of the Adult Guardian is to protect the rights and interests of adults with impaired capacity. Some of the functions of the Adult Guardian are:

- Investigating allegations of exploitations, abuse or neglect of an adult with impaired capacity.
- Making decisions on health matters on behalf of an adult with impaired capacity.

Acting as guardian for an adult with impaired incapacity as a consequence of an appointment by the Guardianship and Administration Tribunal.

Essentially the office of the Adult Guardian consists of two teams of guardians and a team of investigators, supported by legal, administration and community engagement groups.

"I have been very impressed by the professional approach and dedication of staff members to adults with impaired capacity. The office is very well managed by Kay McInnes and Louise Logan who have been very generous to me with their time and support", Dianne said.

There are a number of challenges ahead for the guardianship regime, which includes the Guardianship and Administration Tribunal, the Public Trustee and the Public Advocate. The Queensland Law Reform Commission is undertaking a review of the legislative framework, with the first discussion paper concerning the confidentiality provisions scheduled for release in July.

"It is important that the people of Queensland have confidence in the guardianship regime and understand how it works and how to access it if it is to be effective. We need to reach a point where adults within our community are as familiar with an Enduring Power of Attorney and Advanced Health Directive as they are with a will. And clients who live in country and regional Queensland should be able to access our services as readily as those who live in Brisbane".

Besides creating a more recognizable public profile for the Office of the Adult Guardian and taking an active role both during the consultation and implementation of the Law Reform process, Dianne hopes to make the decision making process within the office more transparent and accessible.

"More information needs to be made available about the type of decisions we make, the factors we take into account in reaching those decisions, and how we balance competing interests. Not everyone is going to be happy with the decisions we make, but everyone should be able to understand how we reach our decisions".

Dianne grew up in western Queensland and saw law as a way of changing the ground rules and making a fairer society. However she found the experience of attending University of Queensland to be more daunting than she had expected.

After her admission to practice in 1986, Dianne went to a mixed legal practice on the Gold Coast with two aims in mind: to gain some broad experience in different areas of the law and never to practice family law.

New Adult Guardian for Queensland (cont...)

Contributed by The Office of the Adult Guardian

“There were more students in one class than there were in the whole of the secondary school I attended. The subjects did not hold a lot of interest and I kept my focus by volunteering at the Migrants Legal Centre at Westend”.

After her admission to practice in 1986, Dianne went to a mixed legal practice on the Gold Coast with two aims in mind: to gain some broad experience in different areas of the law and never to practice family law.

However as fate would have it, there was a significant need for good Family Lawyers on the Gold Coast and Dianne’s personality seemed to suit the work.

“My philosophy has always been that it is in the clients best interests not to litigate unless strictly necessary. Unfortunately negotiation is a skill not taught at law school, and many lawyers still find it difficult to advise their clients about the aspects of a dispute which they should bear in mind when deciding when to settle”, Dianne said.

During this time Dianne spent six years as one of the Saturday morning duty lawyers on the Gold Coast and established her own firm. She also acted for many clients with Acquired Brain Injury (particularly frontal lobe injury), and psychiatric illnesses such as manic depression, and found the services available and understanding of the issues faced by those clients at that time to be very poor.

In 1992 Dianne decided it was time to return to Brisbane and was appointed as a Deputy Registrar with the Family Court. In her fourteen years with the court, Dianne regularly sat in court, conducted conciliation conferences and ultimately came to manage a group of 12 lawyers located from Coffs Harbour to Cairns and be part of the management team for Queensland.

“The court was a wonderful training ground in the importance of transparency of process, good communication skills and mediation. I learned to work in multi-disciplinary teams and to value the contributions made by psychologists and social workers to understanding, managing and resolving issues for clients”.

It was also during this time that Dianne further developed her interest in working for clients with incapacity. She spent a year as a Childrens Representative at Legal Aid Queensland and managed many unresolvable disputes concerning children to trial.

Dianne believes that she has acquired many skills which, with the assistance of the team at the Office of the Adult Guardian, she will be able to use to strengthen the guardianship and investigative work so important to the guardianship regime.

For more information the Office of the Adult Guardian is based in Brisbane and can be contacted via phone, 3234 0870 or 1300 653 187 or via email adult.guardian@justice.qld.gov.au or at www.justice.qld.gov.au



ANPEA—Re-establishing a National Network

(Contributed by Les Jackson—Senior Project Officer—EAPU)

Australian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (ANPEA)

In the last newsletter (Qld Focus March 2006) I bemoaned the fact that Australia no longer had a national network to distribute information and raise and discuss issues relating to elder abuse, such as ANPEA. Obviously a lot of people felt the same way because a national teleconference was held on the 20th June to re-start this network. The teleconference was kindly paid for and assisted by the Victorian Government (Dept for Victorian Communities) and organised by Associate Professor Susan Kurrle from the University of Sydney and Gerry Naughtin a Ph D student from the University of Melbourne. Participants were from all over Australia representing government, non-government and consumer groups, who have an interest in elder abuse prevention.

A smaller steering group is now being established to set-up the framework for the network which is intended to also link with the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA). The EAPU was accepted as a Queensland link for the steering committee and will keep readers posted on the network's development wherever possible.

Although there is still a long way to go, the first steps have now been taken in establishing (or re-establishing) ANPEA.

Victorian Government's new investments in Elder Abuse Prevention

Les Jackson—EAPU—Senior Project Officer

New elder abuse initiatives in Victoria saw the commitment of \$6 million to set up elder abuse services in that state. In a media release (15th June 2006) from the Victorian Minister for Aged Care the following elder abuse initiatives were listed:

- · *Providing **\$1.25 million** to establish a legal advocacy service in the Department of Justice. As well as offering a service to older people and their families, staff will train lawyers in the 31 generalist community legal centres, 24 specialist and 14 legal aid offices on the issues facing older Victorians;*
- · *The State Government will provide **\$200,000** to public sector aged-care providers to pay for police checks on all 5400 direct-care staff ahead of Commonwealth Government moves to make police checks compulsory in private sector aged care centres;*
- · ***\$4.65 million** to fund an education and awareness raising program for healthcare professionals, older members of the community and their families on the abuse of older people and to strengthen the service response to instances of abuse;*
- · *Updating the Department of Human Services guidelines for local health and community service providers to support best-practice policies and procedures to deal effectively with elder abuse including neglect;*
- · *Supporting tougher reporting procedures for serious offences against older people such as sexual or physical assault. State and Commonwealth Aged Care Ministers have agreed to make it compulsory for residential aged-care providers to pass on complaints for investigation.*

The EAPU congratulates the Victorian Government for putting this amount of funding into reducing elder abuse in their state. As far as the EAPU can tell, this is the most elder abuse funding currently committed by state, territory or federal governments in Australia. It is hoped that other governments will follow the example of the Victorians in committing much needed money to address this growing social issue.

QADA has a new Advocate for Indigenous Consumers!

Shannean Mawn
(Queensland Aged & Disability Advocacy)

Hi my name is Shannean Mawn, I have recently joined the team at Queensland Aged & Disability Advocacy (QADA), as a full time Advocate for Indigenous Consumers.

QADA is a not-for-profit community-based Statewide advocacy service funded to provide information, education, support and representation to enable people to understand and exercise their rights and their responsibilities.

My role is to increase the access of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to both HACC and Aged Care services via providing information, education, support and representation to enable people to understand and exercise their rights and their responsibilities. My role is heavily focused on building and maintaining relationships with communities to increase awareness.

The area that I will cover is Statewide with the focus of Aboriginal and Torres Strait communities including rural and remote areas.

I look forward to working together to establish a networking link with service providers and achieving improved outcomes for Indigenous people.

If you have any questions I am contactable at QADA on:
Freecall: 1800 818 338 (Outside Brisbane)
PH: (07) 3637 6000



Research Roundup

by *Domnica Alexa (EAPU - Project Officer)*

Malks, B., Buckmaster, J. & Cunningham, L. (2003). *Combating Elder Financial Abuse — A Multidisciplinary Approach to a Growing Problem.* Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect, 15(3/4), 55-70

This study was conducted in the US and outlined the need for a multidisciplinary team to combat financial abuse, particularly in “wealthier” regions. The case study was focused in Santa Clara, California.

The Financial Abuse Specialist Team (FAST) comprises of members from organisations such as: Adult Protective Services (APS), Public Guardian (PG), Financial institutions (such as Credit Unions) and Law enforcement agencies. Notifications are received by the APS, who also conduct the initial investigations, into suspected abuse situations. FAST Teams are consulted when abuse is suspected to be high in Urgency ratings are high. FAST also coordinates with Legal institutions (District Attorney or the County Counsel) to ensure that the older person’s legal needs are met.

Nerenberg, L. (2002). *A Feminist Perspective on Gender and Elder Abuse: A Review of the Literature.* National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse.

Elder abuse has traditionally been viewed and explained in literature as being “gender neutral”. The Feminist perspective suggests that “women were vulnerable to violence because of unequal social, economic and political status” (cited by Neysmith, 1995). There has also been resistance from Feminist movements to incorporate Elder Abuse in debates as it is seen to “contradict” with the notion of women being victims and also perpetrators of abuse.

Issues such as ageism have also been identified as blocks to including elder abuse in gender difference debates, especially within the Women’s movement (Neysmith, 1995 & Whittaker, 1995).

There has been little research on elder abuse from a feminist perspective, or that focuses on the gender differences relating to both victims of abuse and abusers.

Redcliffe Project on Ageing & Asset Management

(Contributed by Leona Berrie—UQ Aging and Assets Management Project)

The University of Queensland Assets & Ageing Research Program has been undertaking an applied research initiative in Redcliffe community since the beginning of the year aimed at promoting good practice in the management of older people's assets and the prevention of financial abuse.

One of the ways the project has worked toward achieving those aims is through the running of community education workshops for older people and carers who provide this kind of assistance to an older person. The workshops have focused on guiding principles for good decision making about an older person's money, the kind of arrangements that can exist between an older person and someone who is helping them with their money (e.g. formal legal arrangements to very informal arrangements), general safe money management practices and the importance of record keeping.

Three carers groups have been run to date and the feedback from these has so far been very positive. The carers attending our workshops are a very diverse group with complex situations and arrangements and are describing the difficulty of this aspect of their caring role, as well as a need for reliable information. Nearly all participants have indicated that they found the information useful. Participants indicated they would make some changes as a result of the workshops. These have mostly centred around reviewing record keeping and reviewing the type of arrangement they have in place.

Running workshops for older people has revealed

an overall reluctance on their part to attend such a workshop. Participants have commented that being assisted with their money is not seen as relevant to their own situations. Those who have attended our workshops have done so due to the efforts of workers who have personally recognised the importance of the information and who have gone to lengths to physically bring people to the venue. Of those older people who have attended our workshops many have expressed initially that they don't think the information is relevant to them because they are 'managing their own money still' or because they feel everything has been taken care of because they have a will. However, as the workshops progress, those attending are reporting that the information is useful and some have indicated that they will make some changes or seek further information (e.g. regarding EPAs or other arrangements) as a result of the workshop.

In the next half of the year we are looking forward to participating in Seniors Week, progressing with our service response and staff training strategies as well as continuing to conduct more workshops with carers and older people.

The project, being developed in conjunction with Carers Queensland, is funded by the Department of Communities and the J.O. & J.R. Wicking Trust. For further information, contact the University of Queensland Assets & Ageing Program at ageing@social.uq.edu.au or telephone Project Manager Jennie Peut on 3889 4356.

Prevention of Elder Abuse in CALD Communities (PEACC) Taskforce Makes a Noise on WEAAD

Maya Zetlin (EAPU—Project Officer)

The Prevention of Elder Abuse in CALD Communities (PEACC) Taskforce have marked the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day with a special meeting. Issues and specific risk factors relating to elder abuse in CALD communities were discussed and brought to the attention of the guest speaker, Mr Choe-Lam Tan, the Greater Brisbane representative on the Qld Seniors Council.

Mr Choe-Lam Tan explained the role of the Qld Seniors Council and his personal interest and involvement in addressing ageing issues, including social isolation and elder abuse. He was very interested in gaining further insight into issues affecting older CALD community members in order to bring them to the attention of the council. To find more information

Media Overview



Aged Care Industry backs Govt plan to stop elderly abuse. **Lateline.** 14 March 2006
<http://www.abc.net.au/lateline/content/2006/s1591705.htm>

Paper Reveals Sexual Abuse in NT Indigenous Communities. **Lateline.** 15 May 2006
<http://www.abc.net.au/lateline/content/2006/s1639133.htm>

Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month: Elder Abuse. **ABC Western Queensland.** 15 May 2006
<http://www.abc.net.au/westqld/stories/s1634209.htm>

Law Protecting Elderly called too confining. **The Honolulu Advertiser.** 31 May 2006.
<http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2006/May/31/ln/FP605310335.html>

Elder Abuse becoming common. **BBC News.** 5 June 2006
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/5043896.stm>

Elderly belong at home. **News 24.** 7 June 2006
http://www.news24.com/News24/South_Africa/News/0,6119,2-7-1442_1946998,00.html

Justice Urges leadership in Elder Abuse Fight. **ABC Online.** 9 June 2006.
<http://abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200606/s1659829.htm>

Pensioners bear brunt of home abuse. **Times Online.** 11 June 2006
<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2091-2220573,00.html>

Call for action on Elder Abuse. **The Mercury.** 11 June 2006
http://www.themercury.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,5936,19422805%255E3462,00.html

Edcomm Group marks first World Elder Abuse Awareness Day by launching campaign to protect against Financial Abuse. **Edcomm Press Release.** 12 June 2006
<http://biz.yahoo.com/bw/060612/20060612005803.html?.v=1>

8 Signs of Elder Abuse. **Yahoo Finance.** 12 June 2006
<http://biz.yahoo.com/brn/060612/19023.html?.v=1>

Lawyer airs Elder Abuse Fears. **ABC Online.** 15 June 2006.
<http://abc.net.au/news/australia/qld/goldc/200606/s1663622.htm>

Lib Dems pledge support for First World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. **Scottish Democrats Press Release.** 15 June 2006
<http://www.scotlibdems.org.uk/news/0606152.shtml>

Elder Abuse Denies Human Rights. **Scoop Independent News.** 15 June 2006
<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PO0606/S00153.htm>

Plan to tackle Elder Abuse. **The Australian.** 15 June 2006
<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,20867,19477965-29277,00.html>

South Africa: SA Raises Awareness to Prevent Abuse of the Elderly. **BuaNews.** 15 June 2006
<http://allafrica.com/stories/200606150848.html>

Protect Elderly from family greed: Expert. **The Advertiser.** 16 June 2006
http://www.theadvertiser.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,5936,19481942%255E2682,00.html

Upcoming Events

Breakfast Colloquium 2006 Program

12 July, 9 August, 6 September
Customs House, 399 Queen Street, Brisbane
Phone: 3346 9084
Email: acaevents@uq.edu.au
Website: <http://www.uq.edu.au/aca/index.html?page=27255&pid=9185>

Nurses in Management Aged Care Conference and Trade Exhibition 2006

10 - 11 August 2006
Conrad Jupiters, Gold Coast
Website: <http://www.acqui.org.au/conferences>

Seniors Week Celebrations

18-28 August 2006
Calendar and details on Department of Communities Website:
<http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/seniors/events/seniorsweek/calendar/index.cfm?do=calendar.listweek&sortBy=startdate&sortDirection=asc&offset=1>

11th International Conference on Violence, Abuse and Trauma

14-19 September 2006
Town & Country Resort & Conference Center
500 Hotel Circle North
California, USA
Website: www.fvsai.org

Australian Society for Geriatric Medicine 2006 Annual Scientific Meeting

4 -6 September 2006
Christchurch Convention Centre, New Zealand
Phone: (02) 9437 9333
Email: emma@conferenceaction.com.au
Website: www.asgm.org.au

Aged and Community Services Australia's (ACSA) 19th National Conference

17- 20 September 2006
Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre, Gold Coast
Phone: 07 3725 5588
Email: events@acqi.org.au
Website: www.acqconferences.com.au

3rd International Conference on Healthy Ageing and Longevity

13 - 15 October 2006
Melbourne Exhibition & Convention Centre, Vic, Australia
Conference Secretariat, PO Box A2261 Sydney South NSW
1235 Australia
Phone: (02) 6685 4422
Email: info@longevity-international.com,
registrations@longevity-international.com
Website: www.longevity-international.com

The 59th Annual Scientific Meeting: Education and the Gerontological Imagination

16-20 November 2006
Adam's Mark Hotel, Dallas, Texas; USA

Australian Association of Gerontology National Conference

22-24 November 2006
Wesley Conference Centre
Pitt St, Sydney, NSW
Website: <http://www.aagconference2006.com/>

DATE CLAIMERS:

Continenence Awareness Week	6 August—12 August
Senior's Week	18 Aug—28 Aug
Dementia Awareness Month	8 Sept— 8 Oct
National Stroke Week	18 Sept—24 Sept
World Alzheimer's Day	21 Sept
International Day of Older Persons	1 Oct
International Arthritis Day	12 Oct
World Osteoporosis Day	20 Oct
International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women	25 Nov
International Human Rights Day	10 Dec
International Migrants Day	18 Dec

EAPU hopes you have enjoyed the second edition of "Queensland Focus" for 2006. If you wish to become an online recipient please email the EAPU to join the mailing list.

The Elder Abuse Prevention Unit is funded by the Queensland Government Department of Communities and operates under the auspice of Lifeline Brisbane.

Editors Note: Opinions expressed in this edition "Queensland Focus", do not necessarily reflect those of The Elder Abuse Prevention Unit (EAPU). Articles in this newsletter may be used with the permission of the contributing author.



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