

QLD Focus

Elder Abuse Prevention Unit Newsletter

Edition 18

April 2009

PSN TELECONFERENCE REPORT

Rose Marwick (EAPU)

The first of our three teleconferences for 2009 took place on Wednesday March 25th. We were very lucky to have Margaret Arthur as our guest speaker, a lawyer who specialises in older peoples' issues, and she tackled duty of care, a huge issue which of course lurks behind everything service providers do.

We had a great turnout, with sites all over Queensland from Mossman down to Goondiwindi and everywhere in between. There were a couple of minor problems though, and one or two groups weren't able to sign on, unfortunately.

During her presentation Margaret tried to define duty of care, which, like so many legal issues, is an extremely complex concept, and she used real life cases to illustrate the points she was making. She was thorough and interesting and those of you who sent in evaluations made some positive comments about her presentation. Margaret has, as promised, supplied a wonderful transcript of her presentation.

It is surprising how much time our teleconferences take up. First we have to scout around for speakers to present on subjects which are useful and valid for our members, a varied group of workers, ranging from social workers and nurses to community workers, carers, a smattering of 'legal beagles', and even a couple of doctors. Meeting the needs of such a broad group is quite a challenge.

Once the speaker has been 'booked,' and they do it out of the goodness of their hearts for our funding doesn't allow for any financial incentive, we have to create a flyer, find a room, put together an article for Focus, remind everyone, put together the paperwork, remind everyone again, the week before the teleconference, remind everyone one more time. Then, once the teleconference is over, we have to chase up participants for their evaluation forms and attendance lists. We particularly love those of you who fax them in on the same day-THANKYOU-you know who you are!

Once the final evaluations are in we send out statements of attendance and then it is time to start the whole process again.

We have two more teleconferences for 2009 so pencil the dates in your diaries now. We will aim for the 1-2pm time slot which seems to work better than the afternoon one.

On Wednesday 17th June we are thrilled that Tim Feely, Deputy Director of Client Services for the Public Trust, has agreed to speak, and a Gerontologist from Princess Alexandra Hospital will hopefully take the stand on Wednesday 16th September to address dementia and capacity, another of those huge issues that dog those of you who work with older people.

We will keep you posted, but please do start sending in any questions that you may have for Tim Feely. It helps him tailor his talk so that what he says is relevant and useful for you, and I am sure that he will be more than happy to address any concerns you may have.

If you would like a particular speaker or a particular topic just let us know and we may be able to wrangle it. We aim to please.

This Issue

<i>Editorial</i>	2
<i>World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Plans for South Australia</i>	2
<i>Drawing the Line—Duty of Care</i>	3-8
<i>SLASS Brisbane—New Outreach Program</i>	9
<i>Tales from the Travel Bag</i>	10
<i>SCASP Program</i>	11
<i>Media Overview</i>	12-13
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	14



**ELDER ABUSE
HELPLINE**

1300 651 192

Funded by





From the Editor:

Domnica Sparkes (EAPU)

Welcome to our second instalment of Queensland Focus for the year. It's exciting when projects are completed and launched and this quarter has been one of lots of completions. On the horizon is a new database to assist us in collecting information about our calls which can aid in submissions for resources for older people who may be at risk of being abused, and in raising awareness of the issue in the aim of supporting people to take preventative measures while they have the means.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is quickly approaching and much needs to be organised. There are many events being organised around Australia to draw people's attention to a topic that sadly affects so many older people, their families and communities. The EAPU will be launching some very practical tools for service providers and the community. We will be launching our new brochure and Referral Pathway as well as Elder Abuse Protocols for Community Services.

Other states are also busy planning for WEAAD so keep an eye out for updates.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day in South Australia

*Marilyn Crabtree
Aged Rights Advocacy Service*

ARAS has been funded through the State Government's 'Improving with Age – Our Ageing Plan for South Australia' to undertake a range of activities to implement the 'Our Actions for the prevention of abuse of older South Australians' plan including:

- Development of a slogan "There's no excuse for abuse" to be used in promotional activity;
- Rolling out an Abuse Prevention Train the Trainer Kit to HACC funded service providers to enable them to train their front line staff in identifying abuse;
- Regional Collaboration Workshops to improve the response to abuse of older people;
- A Radio Announcement for community radio;
- A Pocket Guide to provide frail older people with information about what abuse can look like and who can assist them to prevent it;
- Working with the Council of Aboriginal Elders SA to develop a poster and brochure about abuse prevention;
- Development of a Financial Safeguards 5 Brochure Kit but the Alliance for the Prevention of Elder Abuse in response to the more common financial abuse issues;
- Articles in the community press.

For more information visit the ARAS website: <http://www.sa.agedrights.asn.au/> or phone 08 8232 5277.



DRAWING THE LINE- DUTY OF CARE

By Margaret Arthur
Carne, Reidy Herd Lawyers

What do dead snails, itchy underpants and flying cricket balls all have in common?

Only that they were all, respectively, at the heart of some of the leading cases in the law of negligence.

The concept of 'duty of care' developed many years ago when Courts recognized that we all owe a duty of care to our fellow beings to act in a way that will not cause injury or loss to them.

For over a hundred years Judges have grappled with the question of where to draw the line: was the manufacturer liable to the wearer of a pair of sulphite-laden underpants, was a circus operator liable for injuries inflicted by one of their giraffes and was a driver liable when they had an epileptic fit at the wheel leading to an accident.

Many of you reading this article probably work with patients or clients who have very complex problems. These problems can make it more difficult for you to carry out your core or primary duties to that person.

In addition to making it difficult to carry out your core duties, other issues may come to your attention, for example, that a client is the victim of abuse. These collateral issues may lead you to ask whether you have a duty of care to the client in relation to these collateral issues and if so, where do you draw the line in deciding what you have to do to meet your duty of care.

The question of what you have to do to meet your duty of care may mean you have to consider other legal issues such as whether you can reveal information to another agency or whether your client has capacity and if not, what if anything, does that mean for you.

These days 'duty of care' is often enmeshed with other legal issues such as questions of privacy and guardianship. The fact that the Privacy Commissioner is kept busy with cases concerning health service providers and other types of agencies reinforces the need for privacy to be a major consideration in the question of how you go about meeting your duty of care.

The Civil Liability Act of QLD

In Queensland, the politicians, urged on by insurance companies, decided they needed to rein in the ever-broadening parameters of the duty of care. Rather than going down the path of some of the United States decisions which have seen litigators succeed in the most unlikely of situations, the Queensland parliament enacted legislation to fence in duty of care.

In Queensland we have the *Civil Liability Act of 2003* (the 'Act'). But in working out how to apply parts of the Act, the Judges still have to look at the previous decisions of the Court.

The Act says that a "person does not breach a duty to take precautions against a risk of harm unless:

- a) the risk was foreseeable;
- b) the risk was not insignificant;
- c) In the circumstances, a reasonable person in the position of the person would have taken the precautions."

(continues page 4)

DRAWING THE LINE- DUTY OF CARE

By Margaret Arthur
Carne, Reidy Herd Lawyers

(Continues from page 3)

The Act goes on to outline what should be considered in deciding whether a reasonable person would have taken precautions and this includes:

- the probability of harm arising if care was not taken;
- the likely seriousness of the harm;
- what burdens would be involved in avoiding the risk.

Did the breach of duty cause the injury?

The Act also contains a section which is somewhat complicated but which basically says that the breach of duty in itself is not enough. It must be shown that the breach of duty led to the harm suffered. In other words, there must be reasons why the party who allegedly breached the duty of care should be made responsible for the injury suffered.

Assumption of Risk

The Act, in effect, provides that a person, who suffers loss or injury arising from an obvious risk, will not be able to succeed in a claim for damages unless they can show that they were not aware of the obvious risk.

The Act goes on to say that a person or organization is not liable where another person engages in 'a dangerous recreational activities' and suffers injury or loss as a result.

Duty of 'Professionals'

Many of you reading this article probably fall within the section that applies to 'professionals'. Although the Act doesn't say who is a 'professional', there is case law that suggests that anyone with training, qualifications, or expertise in an area is a professional.

The Act sets out that the test that is to be applied in deciding whether a 'professional' has breached their standard of care. A professional does not breach the duty of care if:

"It is established that the professional acted in a way that (at the time the service was provided) was widely accepted by peer professional opinion by a significant number of respected practitioners in the field as competent professional practice."

This section of the Act also contains a specific reference to doctors and the requirement for them to warn of the risk of medical treatment.

Case concerning the former patient who fell out of a tree

This test in relation to professionals may sound nice and neat but the reality can still be that a messy question arises as to whether a professional has breached their duty of care or not.

For those of you who are interested, you could read the case of *Walker v Sydney West Area Health Service* at http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/cases/nsw/supreme_ct/2007/526.html

This case concerned a mental health patient who some time after being discharged from an Area Health Service climbed a tree, fell out of the tree and suffered serious injuries.

DRAWING THE LINE- DUTY OF CARE

*By Margaret Arthur
Carne, Reidy Herd Lawyers*

(Continues from page 4)

Several questions arose about his discharge including whether he should have been made an involuntary health patient and whether his mother should have been consulted in formulating the discharge plan.

As with many cases, one expert said the staff had been negligent while another expert said they had not.

The Court weighed up the evidence including what had been said by the experts in cross-examination and the staff was found to have met their duty of care.

Volunteers under the Act

Volunteers receive special mention under the Act. Volunteers are given some protection and immunity from negligence under the Act but there is not a 'blanket protection'. The Act, in effect, provides that volunteers will not be personally liable where:

- they are doing community work in good faith, that is, they are doing charitable work, and not for financial gain and the organization for which they are doing the work is a '**community organization**'. A community organization includes a corporation, a church or other religious group;
- they were not affected by drugs or alcohol when the injury or loss arose;
- they were acting within the scope of the activities authorized by the community organization and in accordance with the instructions given to them by the community organization;
- the liability is not one that they are required to hold insurance against, for example, compulsory third part motor vehicle personal injury insurance.

Does the client have capacity?

Many of you reading this may be working with people who have mental health issues, intellectual disabilities or cognitive impairments. These types of clients may mean you have to respond to more complex situations.

In considering the way in which you carry your core duties, you may need to consider whether the client can consent to what you are doing, or alternatively, if they are rejecting what you propose, whether they have capacity to do so.

There are three main agencies concerned with adults with impaired capacity in Queensland being the **Adult Guardian of Queensland, the Public Trustee of Queensland** and the **Guardianship and Administration Tribunal**. They are separate bodies.

Concerns regarding an adult with impaired capacity can be discussed with the Adult Guardian of Queensland. An adult with impaired capacity is one who, through cognitive impairment such as dementia, or acquired brain injury cannot make appropriate decisions for themselves, for example, to accept medical treatment. Discussions could be held on an anonymous basis with the Adult Guardian's office.

The Adult Guardian has very wide powers. These powers include:

- investigating whether an adult does have capacity or not, for example, by writing to the person's doctor;
- investing allegations that an adult with impaired capacity is being abused or neglected;
- suspending an Enduring Power of Attorney for up to three months.

DRAWING THE LINE- DUTY OF CARE

By Margaret Arthur
Carne, Reidy Herd Lawyers

(Continues from page 5)

The Guardianship and Administration Tribunal is the tribunal responsible for deciding issues relating to adults with impaired capacity. It also has wide powers which include:

- appointing guardians and administrators;
- stopping the misuse of an Enduring Power of Attorney in various ways.

The sorts of dilemmas that can confront service providers in trying to assist a person with impaired capacity arose in the guardianship case of CJ [2006] QGAAT 11 at <http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/cases/qld/QGAAT/2006/11.html>

In this case, one of the issues was whether the adult's guardian, the Adult Guardian of Qld, could provide a service provider with access to the adult's home to enable them to monitor her diabetes.

The case illustrates that, sometimes, in meeting a client's needs where there are capacity issues, there may need to be a collective response from a number of agencies.

Whistle-blowing- Concerns for breach of privacy and defamation

A major difficulty for service providers is the issue of whether they will be exposed to accusations of breach of privacy and or defamation if they disclose concerns regarding a client or patient. Section 247 of the Guardianship and Administration Act provides that:

A person is not liable, civilly, criminally or under an administrative process, for disclosing to an official information about a person's conduct that breaches this Act or the [Powers of Attorney Act 1998](#).

(2) Without limiting subsection (1)--

(a) in a proceeding for defamation the discloser has a defence of absolute privilege for publishing the disclosed information; and

(b) if the discloser would otherwise be required to maintain confidentiality about the disclosed information under an Act, oath, rule of law or practice, the discloser--

(i) does not contravene the Act, oath, rule of law or practice for disclosing the information; and

(ii) is not liable to disciplinary action for disclosing the information.

The Section goes on to provide that the immunity applies to disclosures made to the Adult Guardian, the Guardianship and Administration Tribunal and some related entities.

At first blush, the Section could be thought to guarantee protection where a person makes a disclosure regarding an adult with impaired capacity. However, the wording of the Section specifies protection to apply where the disclosure relates to 'a breach of this Act or the Power of Attorney Act'.

Is this a real problem?

The first consideration would be whether the agency for which you work has any policies about the disclosure of information. It would be very important to only make the disclosure once you had the approval of the employer.

DRAWING THE LINE- DUTY OF CARE

By Margaret Arthur
Carne, Reidy Herd Lawyers

(Continues from page 6)

If you remained unsure of your situation, you could consider getting advice regarding the specific situation in which you are involved. The Office of the Privacy Commissioner may be able to assist in relation to privacy issues. In relation to the issue of defamation, you may consider getting legal advice.

The connection between Duty of Care and Privacy

Situations may arise in which you need to consider disclosing a client's personal information in order to meet your duty of care. For example, you may have a client or patient whom you believe is being abused or neglected by a relative.

The first question is whether you do have a duty of care to do anything at all and that would depend upon the particular situation and your role. It may be that the issue is collateral to carrying out your primary duties but that, given the situation has come to your attention, and given your role in the adult's life, for example, social worker, there is a positive requirement for you to assist as much as possible.

It may be that your duty of care would be met by referring the adult, with their consent to other agencies, such as a domestic violence advocacy agency.

A second issue may arise in relation to whether, if the adult does not consent, you can release information in any event.

Privacy is a very 'live' issue.

For example, a recent case dealt with by the Privacy Commissioner, a federal body, concerned a health service provider who had disclosed the name and job description of a complainant to the adult about whom they complained resulting in the complainant being harassed.

This was found to be a breach of the National Privacy Principles.

The main legislation covering privacy issues is the federal *Privacy Act 1988*. It covers most Commonwealth government agencies, and most health services that hold health information. It does not apply to State government departments, agencies or authorities. It will apply to 'small business operators' if they have a turnover of more than \$3 million per year.

Queensland government agencies are covered by the Information Standard IS42- Information Privacy.

However, the Queensland Department of Health and its related entities are covered by Information Standard 42 A. Both Standards are due for review in July 2009.

The National Privacy Principles sets out when it is that different types of information- personal, sensitive and health can be disclosed.

They deal with situations in which a person has capacity and also where a person is incapacitated either temporarily or permanently.

DRAWING THE LINE- DUTY OF CARE

By Margaret Arthur
Carne, Reidy Herd Lawyers

(Continues from page 7)

In situations where a person does not have capacity to consent to the disclosure of personal information, the Principles provide that 'personal information and health information can be disclosed where it is, in effect, necessary to 'lessen or prevent:

- (i) a serious and imminent threat to an individual's life, health or safety; or
- (ii) a serious threat to public health or public safety; '

Unless the situation is a crisis, it would be very wise to consult the Federal Privacy Commissioner or the appropriate State agency (currently the department of Justice and Attorney General) before making any disclosures where you are unsure as to the impact of the privacy legislation. This would include situations in which you hold concerns that a client may be being abused by another person.

Vicarious Liability

The legal principle that an employer will be vicariously liable for the actions or inactions of its employee performed by the employee within the scope of their employment is alive and well.

This provides employees with the reassurance that although they may bear the brunt of an allegation of negligence, providing they were acting within the scope of their employment, their employer or their employer's insurer will pay any damages.

As an employee it is important to follow internal policies and procedures and document difficult decisions. This assists in showing that you were acting within the scope of your employment.

Duty of care/ Guardianship / Privacy

Deciding where to draw the line in deciding how far to go in meeting your duty of care can be difficult and time-consuming, particularly when other issues such as capacity or privacy need to be considered.

It is probably not practical to see every client or patient as a ticking litigation time-bomb. All you can do is the best you can in the situation.

Take care.

Margaret Arthur

Margaret was admitted as a solicitor in 1986. Margaret was a solicitor with the Caxton Legal Centre for nearly five years and was formerly a solicitor with the Centre's Seniors' Advocacy Information Legal Service. Margaret is now working with Brian Herd at **Carne Reidy Herd Lawyers** in the Elder law Section and her work encompasses a broad range of issues affecting older people including guardianship, estates, Centrelink, and family disputes.

Seniors Legal and Support Service (Brisbane): Outreach Projects

By Mary-Jo Simpson
SLASS—Brisbane

The Seniors Legal and Support Service of Caxton Legal Centre will soon be providing legal advice at both the Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast. The service is currently recruiting a solicitor who will run an advice clinic for people over the age of 60 at both the Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast one day per fortnight.

The service recognizes the demographic need in these two areas for seniors, as there are no existing services that specialize in elder law. The Seniors Legal and Support Service hopes to fill this gap by providing legal advice to seniors on a variety of issues such as:

- Financial exploitation of older people
- Consumer fraud
- Commercial exploitation
- Unfair or abusive practices in aged rental accommodation and retirement villages
- Predatory lending practices (reverse mortgages)
- Domestic Violence occurring in spousal relationship
- Violence occurring in family relationships, intimate personal relationships, informal care relationships
- Granny flat agreements
- Guardianship and administration – e.g. misuse of enduring powers of attorney
- People wanting to get out of nursing homes
- ‘granny napping’

The venues from where the clinics will operate and the date the clinics will commence are yet to be advised.

For more information please contact us on 3257 1337 between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday.

Article Request

Queensland Focus welcomes articles on elder abuse issues. If you have a service or an upcoming event that you would like to promote please contact the EAPU with details and we will attempt to include it in the following newsletter.

PH: 1300 651 192 (within Queensland) or 07 3250 1836 (interstate)

Email: eapu@lccq.org.au

Website: www.eapu.com.au



There is a comprehensive manual on Diogenes Syndrome available in New South Wales; We understand that a Queensland version may be published at a future date. For information e-mail us at www.eapu.com.au.



Tales from the Travel Bag: Miles from home for Rose

*By Rose Marwick
Elder Abuse Prevention Unit*

My first trip of the year was to visit Miles, Chinchilla and Tara in order to conduct training sessions and raise awareness of elder abuse. I was fortunate to be co-presenting with Gillian Mason Johnson, a much loved

social worker for the Darling Downs region who knows the South West well, and whose insights from her years of experience were (and are) extremely valuable. It was unfortunate that the time of our session in Miles was changed at the last minute for reasons beyond our control, as they say, and I am so sorry that those of you who made the effort to come to hear us missed out.

I enjoyed my time enormously, and met so many great people, and endeavoured to put faces to names while meeting as many Peer Support Network members as I could. I also gave out piles of our brochures and help-line cards so that everyone in the communities should be able to access information about the Elder Abuse Prevention Unit.

One of the highlights of the trip was being taken on a guided tour of Tara Hospital by the Director of Nursing. As an old registered nurse myself I was fascinated to see how well equipped the hospital is, with a wonderful mix of traditional and modern fittings. The building is lovely, set in a tranquil garden with easy parking and the Doctor's and Matron's houses set in the grounds— miles apart from the chaotic, ugly city hospitals I worked in, which spilled all over their sites and where you were lucky to get any parking, let alone easy parking! When I worked at Sydney Hospital in the nineteen eighties we would often have to park as faraway as Mrs Macquarie's chair, and then there was the long trek to retrieve our cars before darkness set in during our dinner breaks. Oh them (sic) were the days!

On the way back from Miles I stopped in Dalby to visit the lovely nursing staff at Blue Care Day Respite and then on to visit Lucy and her rural support staff at Lifeline, who shared lunch with me. As the rain clouds gathered and darkened, I hit the Warrego Highway and headed for Toowoomba to touch base with Marg Davidson, a social worker with terrific local knowledge, to whom we sometimes refer clients experiencing elder abuse. Marg and her cohort, solicitor, Vic Hopkins, are the Toowoomba Seniors Legal and Support Service, and offer a potent combination of skills when dealing with cases of elder abuse. It was tipping with rain as I left so I scurried across the car park to say hello to the TOMNET folk who have a successful volunteer outreach program for older men both in Toowoomba and Oakey, and then headed for home in the driving rain. Once upon a time I would have complained bitterly, but now every drop is precious, although those living North of Rocky might disagree!

For my next trip this year I would love to get out to Cunnamulla later this year and visit Charleville, Thargomindah and Quilpie. Please give us a ring or send us an e-mail (epu.psn@lccq.org.au) if you work in those towns and would like free training on elder abuse for your staff. We can also offer informal awareness- raising sessions to community groups.

Both Maya and Andrea are out and about before June—have a look at our web site to see if they are visiting your area.

Raising awareness of elder abuse throughout Queensland is an important part of what we do; if you would like us to visit please let us know and we'll do our best to come your way.

Cheers for now
Rose Marwick

Supporting Children after Separation (SCASP)

Michael Elwood
SCASP

When couples separate, children and young people involved can often feel isolated, guilty and ashamed. It is important their needs are met, and ways to maintain stability and security are explored. The Supporting Children after Separation Program (SCASP) focuses on the needs of children and young people and helps them deal with issues arising from a family's separation.

The program assists children and young people understand and manage the change in their new family structure and realise that families come in all shapes and sizes.

Support to children and young people is offered through a range of counselling and group activities, allowing them to have a say in the process.

Group Programs can help young children develop the words to communicate their experience; older children to focus on sharing stories and relating to peers; and for adolescents, the focus may be on exploring identity and isolation issues with the aid of peer support models such as that of Peer Skills Programs.

Individual Counselling can occur before or after the group programs. For younger children, counsellors will use approaches that are child-focused, developmentally appropriate and fun. For older children and adolescents, counsellors will also work on the development of individual coping strategies and exploration of grief and loss issues.

School-based Support will be offered through either group educative/information sessions and/or individual counselling in both local primary and high schools.

SCASP workers are committed to utilising skills and resources from a variety of interactive therapies such as Art and Play Therapy and are also committed to working in close partnerships with other programs in order to maximise sustainability of outcomes for both the individual child and families as a whole.

To find out more about the Supporting Children After Separation Program, please contact the organisation in your nearest area:

Greater Brisbane – Lifeline Brisbane – Ph. 3442 1550

Ipswich & West Moreton – Lifeline Ipswich – Ph. 3816 9600

Gold Coast – Centacare Brisbane – 5527 7211 / 5556 9900 (Ashmore)

Caboolture – Lifeline Caboolture – Ph. 5428 4200

Bundaberg – Lifeline Bundaberg – Ph. 4153 8400

Cairns – Relationships Australia – Ph. 4041 6063

The Supporting Children After Separation Program is funded by the Australian Government.

Media Overview



Elder Abuse support group holds initial meeting http://www.albertleatribune.com/news/2009/jan/13/elder-abuse-support-group-holds-initial-meeting/	Albert Lea Tribune	13 Jan 09
State Journal series on the elderly wins award http://www.madison.com/wsj/home/local/433399	Wisconsin State Journal	19 Jan 09
Protect the elderly http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/letters/article5541917.ece	Times Online	19 Jan 09
Fight to keep the elderly safe http://www.stuff.co.nz/auckland/local-news/manukau-courier/804027	Auckland Stuff.co.nz	21 Jan 09
Elderly abuse hotline launched http://news.scotsman.com/uk/Elderly-abuse-hotline-launched.4895772.jp	Scotsman	21 Jan 09
Elder Abuse Training http://www.thewhig.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=1396827	The Kingston Whig-Standard	22 Jan 09
Family abuse of people with dementia common: study http://www.reuters.com/article/lifestyleMolt/idUSTRE50M0GH20090123	Reuters	22 Jan 09
More than half of carers admit abusing relatives with Alzheimers http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2009-01/ucl-bt012109.php	Daily Mail	22 Jan 09
Abuse of elderly highlighted http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/northern_ireland/7850139.stm	BBC News	26 Jan 09
Reported cases of elderly abuse on the rise http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/811690	Stuff.co.nz	27 Jan 09
When Financial Advisors commit Elder Abuse http://www.lawyersandsettlements.com/articles/11842/financial-elder-abuse-14.html	Lawyers and Settlements	30 Jan 09
Call for new laws to protect elderly from abuse http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/healthnews/4412053/Call-for-new-laws-to-protect-elderly-from-abuse.html	Telegraph.co.uk	31 Jan 09
Congress of California Seniors and Self-Help for the Elderly Receive \$300,000 from Verizon to Fund a Program to Combat Elder Abuse http://news.prnewswire.com/DisplayReleaseContent.aspx?ACCT=104&STORY=/www/story/02-04-2009/0004966504&EDATE=	PR Newswire	4 Feb 09

Media Overview (cont.)



The horror of Financial Elder Abuse http://www.lawyersandsettlements.com/features/financial-elder-abuse-law-seniors-california.html	Lawyers and Settlements	5 Feb 09
Service sees increase in elder abuse http://www.stuff.co.nz/timaru-herald/news/1392299	The Timaru Herald	6 Feb 09
Elder Abuse rises as economy tanks http://www.upi.com/Top_News/2009/02/09/Elder-abuse-rises-as-economy-tanks/UPI-27311234190625/	United Press International	9 Feb 09
Elder Abuse on the rise in Massachusetts http://www.seniorworldchronicle.com/2009/02/usa-elder-abuse-on-rise-in.html	Seniors World Chronicle	9 Feb 09
House passes elder abuse legislation http://www.mcknights.com/House-passes-elder-abuse-legislation/article/127308/	McKnight's Long Term Care News	13 Feb 09
Government of Canada supports 16 elder abuse awareness projects across Canada http://www.marketwire.com/press-release/Human-Resources-And-Skills-Development-Canada-952988.html	Marketwire	23 Feb 09
Opening eyes to elder abuse http://www.stjoenews.net/news/2009/feb/24/opening-eyes-elder-abuse/	St Joseph News-Press	24 Feb 09
Elderly targeted in credit crunch fraud http://www.thisiswesternmorningnews.co.uk/news/Elderly-targets-credit-crunch-fraud/article-736531-detail/article.html	Western Morning News	2 Mar 09
Grandma's broken glasses and other subtle signs of trouble http://www.businesswest.com/details.asp?id=1933	Business West	2 Mar 09

Upcoming Events

6th Annual Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Forum: The Big Picture—Putting the Pieces Together

13-15 May 2009
Mackay, Queensland
Website: <http://www.yanq.org.au/content/view/1648/85/>

Fourth Annual New York City Elder Abuse Conference—Safety in a Storm; Identification and Prevention of Elder Abuse

2 June 2009
New York City, NY, USA
Website:
http://www.ncea.aoa.gov/NCEARoot/Main_Site/Library/Events_Webcast/Calendar_of_Conferences.aspx

World Elder Abuse Awareness Conference

5 June 2009
Paris, France
Email: weaad-info@inpea.net

19th IAGG World Congress Gerontology and Geriatrics

5-9 July 2009
Paris, France
Website:
<http://www.gerontologyparis2009.com/site/view8.php>

Australian Social Policy Conference

8-10 July 2009
Sydney, New South Wales
PH: 02 9385 7802
Website: <http://www.sprc.unsw.edu.au/ASPC2009/index.htm>

The 4th International Conference on Community Health Nursing Research: Health in Transition: Researching for the Future

16-20 August 2009
Adelaide, South Australia
Website: www.healthintransition2009.org.au
Or www.alloccasionsgroup.com/index.jsp

PSN Teleconference

16 September 2009
PH: 07 3250 1836
Email: eapu.psn@lccq.org.au
Website: www.eapu.com.au

14th International Conference on Violence, Abuse and Trauma

21-26 September 2009
San Diego, USA
Website:
https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcoming_new&groupID=151764

42nd AAG National Conference

25-27 November 2009
Canberra, ACT
PH: 02 6257 4905
Website: <http://www.aagconference.com/>

Additional Date Claimers:

1-31 May	Domestic Violence Prevention Month
10-16 May	Queensland Law Week
15 June	World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
5—12 July	NAIDOC Week
15—23 Aug	Senior's Week QLD

EAPU hopes you have enjoyed the 1st edition of "Queensland Focus" for 2009. 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.

Editor's 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.



For more information please contact:

Elder Abuse Prevention Unit
PO Box 108 Fortitude Valley Q 4006
Phone: (07) 3250 1836
HELPLINE: 1300 651 192
Fax: (07) 3250 1929
Email: eapu@lccq.org.au