



Elder Abuse Prevention Unit

www.eapu.com.au

Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities

Elder Abuse does not discriminate – any older person is at risk of abuse. Mistreatment of an older person can happen to any older person, across all ethnic groups, all levels of education and all socioeconomic backgrounds.

Any act occurring within a relationship where there is an implication of trust, which results in harm to an older person, is elder abuse. Mistreatment can include physical, psychological, financial, sexual, social abuse and neglect.

The Helpline is available for all members of the community who suspect, witness or experience abuse of an older person.

Risks for older people from a CALD community.

Not all older people will experience elder abuse. However, when abuse does occur it can be difficult to address. Additional risks for older people from a CALD background can include:

- Increased dependence on the immediate family.
- Social isolation.
- Lack of personal networks for support.
- Limited knowledge of existing services.
- Language barriers in accessing mainstream services e.g. public transport.
- Regarding the use of community services as charity.
- Acceptance of some types of mistreatment as normal in one's culture.
- Culturally based expectations of parental respect and the duty of children to be the ones who provide care to ageing parents.
- Reliving of pre-migration traumatic experiences.

What might stop people from seeking help?

- Shame associated with the 'loss of face' in one's community when admitting to being mistreated by a family member.
- Fear of being placed in alternative accommodation.
- Deep sense of guilt and feeling they deserve the mistreatment.
- Not being aware of one's human rights or available services.

Service funded by:



Call the Helpline on **1300 651 192** between 9am-5pm Monday to Friday.



UnitingCare Community Values Compassion | Respect | Justice | Working Together | Leading through Learning

UnitingCare Community Services Lifeline | Child and Family Care | Counselling | Crisis Support | Disability Support | Social Inclusion