



Elder  
Abuse  
Prevention  
Unit

[www.eapu.com.au](http://www.eapu.com.au)

# Queensland Focus

## World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Special Edition

### Edition 43—May 2016

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## What is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day?

June 15 is the day designated by the United Nations as the international day of action when the whole world voices its opposition to the abuse of older people. World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) is represented by the colour purple – which denotes wisdom, dignity, independence and creativity.

Elder abuse is often a hidden problem and includes psychological, financial, social, physical, sexual abuse and neglect.

The definition in use by the World Health Organisation is: *“Elder abuse is a single or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust which causes harm or distress to an older person.”*

**During the week of June 15 we are calling for all communities across Queensland to join the rest of the world in ‘going purple’ for WEAAD. We encourage you to visit the [www.weaadqld.com](http://www.weaadqld.com) website for information and ideas on how you can help!**

In Queensland last financial year the UnitingCare Community Elder Abuse Prevention Unit (EAPU) received calls on their elder abuse Helpline regarding 1,581 abuse situations. EAPU finds that in Queensland, like elsewhere in the world, women are more likely than men to experience abuse, the majority of abusers are adult sons or daughters of the older person, and the most common forms of abuse are psychological and financial.

To find out more about elder abuse, visit the EAPU website ([www.eapu.com.au](http://www.eapu.com.au)).

**Please note, this is an awareness raiser, not a fundraiser**

Service funded by:



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

## Seniors Info Chat

Seniors Info Chat is a service provided by Seniors Enquiry Line. It provides regular phone updates to Seniors and other interested people across Queensland. About once a month, our friendly staff will call seniors about current scams, government and community announcements, or events in their area. Each call will generally cover one or two items of interest to Seniors.

To register for Seniors Info Chat, phone 1300 135 500.



Seniors  
Enquiry Line

1300 135 500

### From the Editor

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) on 15 June is the biggest event on the EAPU calendar. It spans the whole of the month and planning for the next WEAAD starts as soon as the current campaign finishes. There isn't a spare spot in our calendar during June and we run on adrenaline. We are always humbled by the number of people who put their hand up to support us and get the message out that elder abuse has no place in Queensland.

The WEAAD Community Toolkit is a great resource for services and anyone interested in hosting something for WEAAD. You can download it from our website, <http://www.eapu.com.au>. It is jam-packed with ideas and templates for people to use, as well as information about WEAAD and elder abuse.

Don't forget to get your cameras out and join the purple photo competition for a bit of fun and your chance to win a \$100 gift card courtesy of the [Lions Club of Brisbane Inner North](#).

Looking forward to hearing from you.

## How to get involved in World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

- Organise or promote a purple themed picnic or sausage sizzle in your local park
- Organise and promote a purple themed awareness raising walk
- Invite a guest speaker to discuss the issue of elder abuse
- Wear purple to work during the week leading up to June 15
- Use purple lighting in your community to highlight the issue of elder abuse
- Create an awareness display in your workplace, school, council, library or shopping centre
- Use purple balloons at a purple themed morning tea at your workplace
- Use social networking such as Facebook and Twitter – change your profile picture to purple
- Include the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day logo and information on your email signature during the week leading up to June 15.

Once you've got your event organised you can register it on the Queensland Government's online calendar of events for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. You can also share your event by posting details and photos on their Facebook page (link coming soon) or email us if you'd like to us to publish the details.

Elder Abuse Helpline - Trust your instinct  
call **1300 651 192**

[www.weaadqld.com](http://www.weaadqld.com)

World Elder Abuse June  
Awareness Day **15**



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World Elder Abuse June  
**Awareness Day 15**



## Elder Abuse—Law Reform Enquiry

*Marie-Claire Muir—Australian Law Reform Commission*

Each year, 15 June marks World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD), raising awareness of elder abuse internationally and highlighting ways to challenge it. So how do Australian laws respond to elder abuse, and how can they better protect older Australians? This is a question currently being looked at by the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC).

Elder abuse can be physical, sexual, psychological, or financial. A 2016 report by the Australian Institute of Family Studies suggests that the most common form of abuse is financial and is perpetrated by family members, for example where adult children take advantage of their elderly parents to access their house or savings for their own use and benefit. Older women are the most common victims of financial abuse and are also the most susceptible to family violence. Older people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD), Indigenous and LGBTIQ communities, older people with disability, and those living in regional and remote areas, may be particularly vulnerable to abuse.

In looking at how Commonwealth laws can better protect older people, the ALRC will be looking at laws in the areas of financial institutions, superannuation, social security, aged care and health. We are consulting around Australia with organisations and individuals who work in these areas.

The ALRC will release an Issues Paper in June to coincide with World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. This will explain the issues we are looking at and will call for submissions to gather more information from the public. We urge people and organisations with experience in this area to make submissions. This is an important step in our work towards proposing how laws could be changed to better protect older Australians.

You can find out more about the ALRC Elder Abuse Inquiry, subscribe to e-news, and access the Issues Paper at [www.alrc.gov.au/inquiries/elder-abuse](http://www.alrc.gov.au/inquiries/elder-abuse).

## WEAAD 2016 PHOTO COMPETITION

Are you the snap happy kind? Are you up for a challenge? The theme is “purple” to coincide with World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. Hint: are there any landmarks lit in purple in your region? Creative poses with the Department of Communities elder abuse campaign poster? Purple themed community events?

**Competition period:** Saturday 11 June — Sunday 19 June 2016

**What to include:**

- Your photo with a date stamp
- A one sentence description of your photo
- Email address or phone number for us to contact you

**PRIZE: \$100 GIFT CARD**

**How to enter:**

Email your photo with the date stamp and description to [eapu@uccommunity.org.au](mailto:eapu@uccommunity.org.au)

**SPONSOR:** Lions Club of Brisbane Inner North—<http://www.brisbaneinlions.org.au>



## A “new look” Seniors Legal and Support Service in Brisbane

*Cybele Koning—Seniors Legal and Support Service*

The Seniors Legal and Support Service at Caxton Legal Centre Inc has undergone a 12-month transformation! It is now integrated into the Family and Elder Law Team, providing clients of the service greater access to lawyers who work across the areas of family law, domestic violence, child protection, guardianship and financial exploitation and who work as duty lawyers in the Federal Circuit Court of Australia and Magistrates Court in Brisbane. A client who has been financially abused, for example, may be assisted by a lawyer to intervene in property settlement proceedings between an adult child and their former partner in order to recover money invested into a granny flat set-up. At the same time, a social worker can assist to find alternative accommodation and supports suitable to the older person's needs pending resolution of the court proceedings.

The Family and Elder Law Team employs seven lawyers, one law clerk and three social workers, including three Indigenous team members. Legal and social work support is provided mainly through telephone contact or home visits. A lawyer will assist the older person to understand their legal rights and responsibilities and the options to remedy the situation. A lawyer can enter into negotiations on behalf of the client to attempt to resolve the issues. Failing that, assistance to draft court documents and limited court representation is provided. Referrals to pro-bono legal service providers can be made to enable the client to proceed further with any necessary litigation.

The types of cases that are most commonly referred to the service are:

- An older person housing an adult child who has substance abuse or criminal record, who is physically or psychologically abusive towards their parent, who financially exploits the older person and refuses to leave the home
- Granny flat or other “assets for care” financial arrangements entered into with adult children without any documentation or planning for changed circumstances
- Unpaid loans to family members or friends (sometimes this represents the older person's entire life savings)
- Misuse of the older person's pension, income or assets by a person in the position of carer, informal decision maker, nominated person, or formal decision maker (e.g.: attorney appointed pursuant to an Enduring Power of Attorney).

A referral may be made to the Seniors Legal and Support Service by either calling the Elder Abuse Helpline on 1300 651 192 or contacting Caxton Legal Centre on (07) 3214 6333.

Elder Abuse Helpline - Trust your instinct  
call **1300 651 192**

[www.weaadqld.com](http://www.weaadqld.com)

World Elder Abuse June  
**Awareness Day 15**





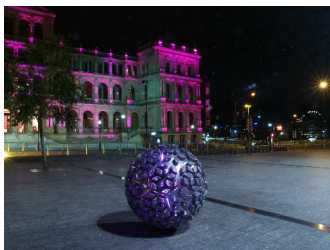
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World Elder Abuse June  
**Awareness Day 15**



Reddacliffe Place facing  
Treasury Casino by Day



Reddacliffe Place facing  
Treasury Casino for WEAAD

## What's with all the purple lights?

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEADD) is an opportunity for individuals, families, groups and organisations to speak out against elder abuse. Doing something purple around June 15 and telling people why as part of the worldwide commemoration of elder abuse raises awareness of a major issue in our community. You may have noticed that there are lots of purple lights around Brisbane and Cairns. What is the significance of all this purple? Purple is the designated colour for WEAAD at an international level. Purple represents wisdom, dignity, independence and creativity.

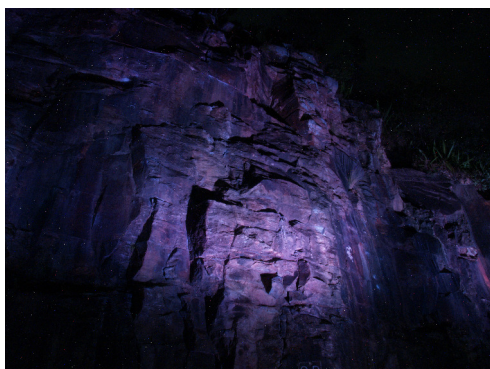
The EAPU has been fortunate to receive support from the Brisbane City Council to raise awareness of elder abuse around the city. This is the third year that Brisbane will change the lights to purple to commemorate WEAAD and the second for the Cairns region. It's becoming a fantastic way to get people talking and asking questions about what elder abuse means and the effect it has on people.

Here is a challenge for you photography enthusiasts out there—how many photos can we get of the purple lights? We will post your photos on our website to showcase the talent in Queensland. Simply take your snaps and email them to us at [eapu@ucommunity.org.au](mailto:eapu@ucommunity.org.au)

Brisbane City Hall	June 15 only
King George Square	June 15 only
Story Bridge	June 13 - 17
Reddacliffe Square sculpture balls	June 13 - 17
Reef Casino Cairns	June 12 - 17

We would love to spread this to other regions too, so if you can help us out please email us at the above email address. All support is welcome and nothing is too small.

**Please note: this is an awareness raiser, not a fundraiser**



Kangaroo Point Cliffs



King George Square

### Time for Grandparents Program

The Time for Grandparents program was set up by the Department of Communities to provide help to eligible grandparents who are the primary carers of their grandchildren by offering fun and interesting activities for grandchildren and giving grandparents the opportunity for well earned time-out.

The program can fund the following options in many areas: school camps, scripture union camps, PCYC, Scouts, Guides, Girls and Boys Brigade, fitness and dance, sport and recreation, little athletics, gymnastics, swimming, softball, netball, rowing, cricket, touch football, soccer, rugby league and more.

To check eligibility and for information please phone **Seniors Enquiry Line on 1300 135 500**.



## Rural and Remote Peer Support Network Webinar Series

### World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Webinar Series

The Elder Abuse Prevention Unit will be hosting free webinars throughout the month of June. These webinars are specifically for regional and remote aged care workers but are also open to anyone who works or volunteers with older people. Students are also welcome. Please see our website for login details closer to the date of the session you are interested in.

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**Queensland Age and Disability Advocacy Service - 7th June**

**Elder Abuse and the Law - 8th June**

**Supporting older people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds - 14th June**

**Supporting older people from Indigenous backgrounds - 15th June**

**Queensland Aids Council – LGBTI Elders - 21st June**

**Victims Assist Queensland - 28th June**

**Lifeline – suicide and older people - 29th June**

**Aged Care Assessment Team - 5th July**

Please visit: <http://www.weaadqld.com> for login instructions, times and presenter notes.

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World Elder Abuse <sup>June</sup>  
Awareness Day **15**



Ipswich City Council in partnership with the  
Ipswich and West Moreton Seniors' Services Network  
invite you to

# World Elder Abuse Awareness Day



**Friday, 10 June**  
**North Ipswich Reserve Corporate Centre**  
**The Terrace, North Ipswich**  
**10.00 am – 1.30 pm**

Cultural entertainment | Stories of respect | Multicultural food

**FREE EVENT**

Proudly supported by Mayor Paul Pisasale  
and the Councillors of the City of Ipswich

RSVP is essential  
To RSVP or for more information  
Phone (07) 3810 6646 or  
email [kbrowne@ipswich.qld.gov.au](mailto:kbrowne@ipswich.qld.gov.au)  
[ipswich.qld.gov.au](http://ipswich.qld.gov.au)





World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

My World... Your World... Our World... Free of Elder Abuse

# **JUNE 15**

# **WORLD ELDER ABUSE**

# **AWARENESS DAY**

## **INVITATION**

**PLACE:** JAGERA COMMUNITY HALL

**DATE:** JUNE 15

**TIME:** 10AM—2PM

PLEASE ENJOY WITH US MORNING TEA, BBQ LUNCH AND  
ENTERTAINMENT FROM THE "CAGE" (SENIORS UKELE GROUP) AS  
WE RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT ELDER ABUSE

For help contact our free Seniors Legal and Support Service  
**(07) 3214 6333**

Caxton Legal Centre Inc



# What is happening in Queensland for WEAAD 2016?

## Queensland Aged and Disability Advocacy Webinar

7 June from 12—2pm

P: 07 3867 2525

E: [eapu.psn@uccommunity.org.au](mailto:eapu.psn@uccommunity.org.au)

## Elder Law and Elder Abuse Webinar

Charlie Young (Bennett & Philip Lawyers)

8 June from 12—2pm

P: 07 3867 2525

E: [eapu.psn@uccommunity.org.au](mailto:eapu.psn@uccommunity.org.au)

## Ipswich WEAAD Expo

10 June from 9.30am—12noon

P: 07 3810 6646

E: [kbrowne@ipswich.qld.gov.au](mailto:kbrowne@ipswich.qld.gov.au)

## Supporting Older People from CALD Communities Webinar

14 June from 12—2pm

P: 07 3867 2525

E: [eapu.psn@uccommunity.org.au](mailto:eapu.psn@uccommunity.org.au)

## Seniors Legal and Support Service Morning Tea

15 June 2016 from 10am—2pm

Jagera Community Hall

P: 07 3214 6333

## Supporting Older People from First Australian Communities Webinar

Dulcie Bronsch

15 June from 12—2pm

P: 07 3867 2525

E: [eapu.psn@uccommunity.org.au](mailto:eapu.psn@uccommunity.org.au)

## LGBTI Elders Webinar

Ricki Menzies (QuAC)

21 June from 12—2pm

P: 07 3867 2525

E: [eapu.psn@uccommunity.org.au](mailto:eapu.psn@uccommunity.org.au)

## International Federation on Ageing—13th Global Conference

21-23 June 2016

Brisbane Convention Centre, QLD

<http://ifa2016.org.au/>

## Suicide Prevention Webinar

UnitingCare Community

28 June from 12—2pm

P: 07 3867 2525

E: [eapu.psn@uccommunity.org.au](mailto:eapu.psn@uccommunity.org.au)

## Victims Assist Webinar

UnitingCare Community

29 June from 12—2pm

P: 07 3867 2525

E: [eapu.psn@uccommunity.org.au](mailto:eapu.psn@uccommunity.org.au)

## Aged Care Assessment Team Webinar

5 July 2016 from 12—2pm

P: 07 3867 2525

E: [eapu.psn@uccommunity.org.au](mailto:eapu.psn@uccommunity.org.au)

## Central Queensland Community Education

Rockhampton and Central Queensland region

15-18 August 2016

P: 1300 651 192

E: [eapu@uccommunity.org.au](mailto:eapu@uccommunity.org.au)

For a full list of WEAAD events, please visit the Department of Communities webpage

<http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/communityservices/violence-prevention/make-the-call/elder-abuse/campaign-involvement/elder-abuse-awareness-event-calendar>

### Disclaimer:

Editor's note: opinions expressed in this edition of "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. This publication is a guide only and should not substitute independent legal advice.

### For more information please contact:

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