

Elder Abuse Prevention Unit

Continue to rock the boat!

#NEAC2019

Missed the 2019 National Elder Abuse Conference? Checkout the conference podcasts and PowerPoints [here!](#)

Office of the Public Advocate

WEAAD Media Release

In the lead up to WEAAD this year, the Office of the Public Advocate delivered its media release entitled, “**Elderly suffering due to Government’s lack of proper action**”. View it [here](#).

Human Rights Act Explained

Legal Aid Queensland

Want the Queensland’s new Human Rights Act explained? Click image below:



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UnitingCare Older Person Programs



Elder Abuse Prevention Unit

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EA Campaign Launch

Department of Communities, Disability Services & Seniors

Each year the QLD Government oversees a statewide elder abuse awareness and prevention campaign. It usually launches in June to coincide with World Elder Abuse Awareness Day and lasts several months. Here was the Department's message about the campaign focus this year:

We know the issue is wide-spread and under-reported. We also know there are barriers that prevent older people from reaching out for help themselves, and that's why it's up to us to help them to access support when they need it.

Raising awareness of and preventing elder abuse remains our priority. This year's campaign 'Elder abuse happens. Know the signs – make it stop' highlights the most common signs of elder abuse, and encourages Queenslanders to call the helpline if they suspect an older person in their life is being abused and needs help.

The [campaign page](#) has information about how to 'start a conversation about elder abuse', which may be a helpful tool for supportive family members that you work with. It also contains loads of resources, such as videos, fact sheets, social media kits and posters.

Many people have requested new campaign brochures and more of the 'wallet sized' helpcards, which were produced in previous years. These are both being printed this year and should be ready towards late October.

Visit:

<https://www.communities.qld.gov.au/campaign/know-the-signs>

New Financial Protection Services

Free independent financial advice for seniors

If you weren't yet aware, in May the Minister for Seniors Coralee O'Rourke launched the new 'financial protection services' in 10 communities across QLD. The service offers free independent financial advice to seniors with the aim to prevent financial abuse or other financial/ legal issues.

The locations where this service are being offered are: Brisbane, Toowoomba, Hervey Bay, Townsville, Cairns, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Mackay, Rockhampton and Gladstone. These are the current locations where Seniors Legal and Elder Abuse Support Services currently operate.

You can view more information and contact details for the new services [here](#). you can also view the media release [here](#).

Communities of Practice – OPAN

OPAN – Older Persons Advocacy Network

Would you like to join a **Community of Practice**? OPAN has just begun the launch of a community of practice for **Elder Abuse Advocates** to learn, share, support, create, problem solve and make new connections, for the purpose of improving the quality, effectiveness and consistency of everyday practice.

The group has just had its first meeting and new members are welcome to join. The group meets monthly via teleconference and sets its own agenda. Meetups usually last about 1 ½ hours.

If you think this might be a good fit for you or a colleague, all someone needs to do to join is make contact with:

Jennie Burrows, Seniors Project Officer, OPAN.

e. jennie.burrows@opan.com.au

Required info includes contact details and answers to the following:

- Do you have access to video-conferencing?
- Are you a practitioner working with older people experiencing abuse?

The next meeting will take place in late October.

Elder Abuse Action Australia

EAAA – A national voice to end elder abuse

In 2018 the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department funded the EAAA to fill the need for a national approach to end elder abuse.

To read the full aims, mission and activities of the EAAA you can visit the [website](#). However, broadly the EAAA is seeking to become a national voice for action (prevention and responses) that eliminates elder abuse. Its initial goal has been to establish a 'knowledge hub' that will act as an online gateway to elder abuse resources for families, professionals etc.

During the National Elder Abuse Conference 2019 (#NEAC2019), the EAAA board actively encouraged people to join the EAAA as a member and contribute to its direction and voice.

You can sign up to EAAA newsletters and/or become a member by visiting the site [here](#)!



NEAC 2019 Wrap-up

Conference resources now available #NEAC2019

Congratulations to [ADA Australia](#) and [Caxton Legal](#) for successfully executing an exciting and innovative National Elder Abuse Conference in July 2019. If you were not yet aware, the conference presentations were recorded as podcasts and have been made available in the resources section of the main conference website ([click here](#)). So if you weren't able to make it, you can still go and check out the world class presenters from around the globe!

For those just wanting to get a sense of the themes that emerged from the event, the conference surveys completed by delegates told all. Delegates responded to the surveys with a resolute commitment to do all they could in their own communities to address elder abuse. CALLS FOR ACTION were focused on the following themes:

- **Human rights** – identifying ways to apply a rights-based lens to all services which support older Australians
- **Criminalisation of elder abuse** – you want to engage in ongoing discussion about the need for discrete laws which criminalise the abuse of older Australians
- **Awareness raising** – there is a need for further education of older people, their families and friends, industry and the community about elder abuse, how to identify it and where to get supports
- **Prevention** – research should be focussed on increasing our understanding about what prevention activities will work and then we need to adopt a collaborative approach towards implementing those activities
- **Ageism** – joining together to combat ageism in all the ways it exists in Australian society
- **Older person led initiatives** – older Australians should be empowered to take the lead on addressing elder abuse



Elder Abuse in the Media: June-Sept.



June:

- June 4: [Elder abuse: Carer charged over alleged neglect of 77-year-old Queensland woman](#)
7 News
- June 4: [Can a killer inherit the estate of their victim?](#)
ABC
- June 4: [Federal funding to reduce elder abuse in Peel](#)
Mandurah Coast Time
- June 6: [Elderly LGBTQI+ aged care residents say they're being forced 'back into the closet'](#)
SBS
- June 6: [NOT OKAY: Cops intervene to stop elder abuse](#)
Queensland Times
- June 6: [Hairdressers to help spot signs of elder abuse](#)
Mirage News
- June 9: [Gold Coast has highest rate of elder abuse in Qld](#)
News.com.au
- June 11: [Gold Coast elderly abuse some of worst in Qld, according to Elder Abuse Prevention Unit](#)
Gold Coast Bulletin
- June 11: [Shocking figures reveal elder abuse crisis](#)
Fraser Coast Chronicle
- June 14: [Elder abuse is the perfect crime: if we don't address it, you could be a victim too](#)
ABC
- June 15: [WA Government, banks join forces in crackdown on financial abuse of elderly people](#)
ABC
- June 16: [Voluntary euthanasia to begin in Victoria as assisted dying laws take effect this week](#)
ABC
- June 20: [US expert calls out Australia on elder abuse](#)
Australian Ageing Agenda
- June 23: [Number of Queensland elder abuse cases continues to soar](#)
Courier Mail
- June 24: [Elder abuse by carer caught on camera](#)
The West Australian
- June 26: [Risks flagged amid lending policy changes](#)
The Adviser
- June 27: [Ombudsman finds State Trustees failed Victoria's most vulnerable](#)
Sydney Morning Herald

Elder Abuse in the Media: June-Sept.

July:

- July 5: [Health professionals voice disappointment over lack of bush commission hearings](#)
ABC
- July 6: [‘He could check everything I bought’: This is what financial abuse looks like](#)
ABC
- July 12: [Aged care royal commission told of need to install surveillance to stop elder abuse](#)
ABC
- July 15: [More complaints to AFCA than expected](#)
Finance
- July 22: [Older Australians abused over sexuality and money, conference hears](#)
Sydney Morning Herald
- July 23: [Banks urged to protect senior Australians from digital scams](#)
ABC
- July 25: [Webcams in nursing home rooms may deter elder abuse – but are they ethical?](#)
The Conversation

August:

- Aug 7: [Anna Bligh calls for a shake-up to elderly financial abuse laws](#)
Now to Love
- Aug 7: [Banks in fresh push to block inheritance greed](#)
Sydney Morning Herald
- Aug 31: [ACT looks to make elder abuse a crime](#)
The Canberra Times

September:

- Sept 2: [Elder abuse help on offer at Dementia Café](#)
Bundaberg Now
- Sept 4: [Physical abuse, use of chemical restraints among complaints to aged care watchdog in Tasmania](#)
ABC
- Sept 11: [Gold Coast aged care home that abruptly shut down also subject of abuse claims](#)
The Guardian
- Sept 16: [Australian bank tackles vulnerable client issue](#)
International Adviser

Media Statements:

- June 11: [State Budget focus on improved protections for Queensland seniors](#)
Queensland Government
- June 13: [Elderly suffering due to Government’s lack of proper action](#)
Office of the Public Advocate (Qld)

Research:

- June: [Elder Abuse: Key issues and emerging evidence](#)
Australian Institute of Family Studies