



## Physical and Sexual Abuse of Older People

The signs of physical pain, injury or force may not always be visible so the general appearance, attitude and behaviour of the client should also be taken into account.

Below are some signs of sexual abuse, however it can be very difficult to identify as embarrassment and shame may prevent the subject from being raised.

- Bruising around the breasts or genital area
- Unexplained venereal disease or genital infections
- Bruising on the inner thighs
- Difficulty in walking or sitting

The EAPU provides a confidential telephone **Helpline: 1300 651 192** Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm

Service funded by:



### What is Physical Abuse?

Physical abuse is the infliction of physical pain or injury or physical coercion (ANPEA).

#### Examples:

- Hitting, slapping, pushing, punching, kicking, beating, biting, scratching, shaking, arm twisting, dragging or burning.
- Physical restraint such as tying a person in a chair, putting them in a chair they can't get out of, or locking a person in a room.

### What is Sexual Abuse?

Sexual abuse is sexually abusive or exploitative behaviour (ANPEA).

#### Examples:

- Rape - Sexual intercourse against the wishes of an individual.
- Indecent assault - Inappropriate sexual handling and touching.
- Sexual harassment - Inappropriate comments / labelling about general appearance, attitude and behaviour.
- Any behaviour that makes an older person feel uncomfortable about their body or gender.