



Elder Abuse Prevention Unit

www.eapu.com.au

Prevention

Elder Abuse does not discriminate – any older person is at risk of abuse. However, through careful planning and communication many of the problems we hear about can be avoided. Don't leave it until it's too late.

The EAPU operates a state wide **CONFIDENTIAL** telephone information, support and referral service for anyone experiencing or witnessing the abuse of an older person.

The Helpline is available for all members of the community who witness or experience abuse.

Strategies

These strategies have been adapted from “No Innocent Bystanders” and are suggested steps that older people and their families can take to prevent abuse.

- Avoid making important decisions following a significant event in your life.
- Plan for the future while you are well, healthy and independent.
- Do not give up control of your assets while you can still manage them.
- Seek a wide social network beyond your immediate family and remain active within the community.
- Have your pensions and cheques credited directly to your bank account.
- Do not allow adult children to live with you without first seeking advice from a trusted person (particularly if the person uses drugs, alcohol or has a psychiatric disability).
- Ask for help to fully understand all legal documents before signing.
- Know your rights and don't be afraid to assert them.
- Be aware of your right to confidentiality, privacy and the right to refuse anyone intervening on your behalf.

Service funded by:



Queensland Government

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