Abuse of Enduring Power of Attorney and financial abuse

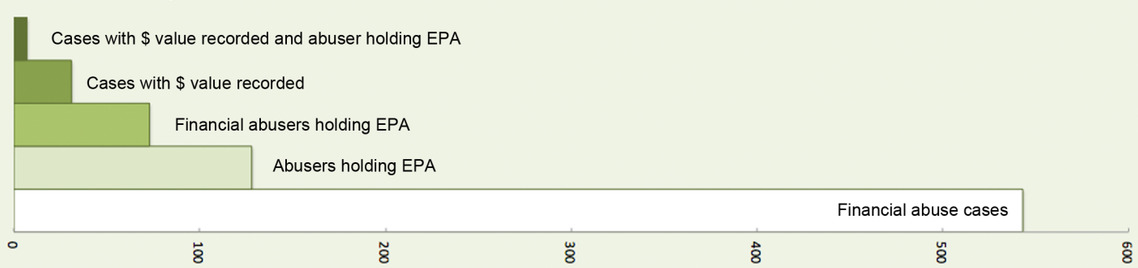
Dollar figures associated with financial abuse should be interpreted with caution as in many cases notifiers do not know the extent of financial abuse, or the abuse involves the misappropriation of assets such as houses and cars without an easily identifiable value. The EAPU Helpline recorded that:

$3,864,122 was misappropriated by 31 alleged abusers during the 2011-2012 financial year.

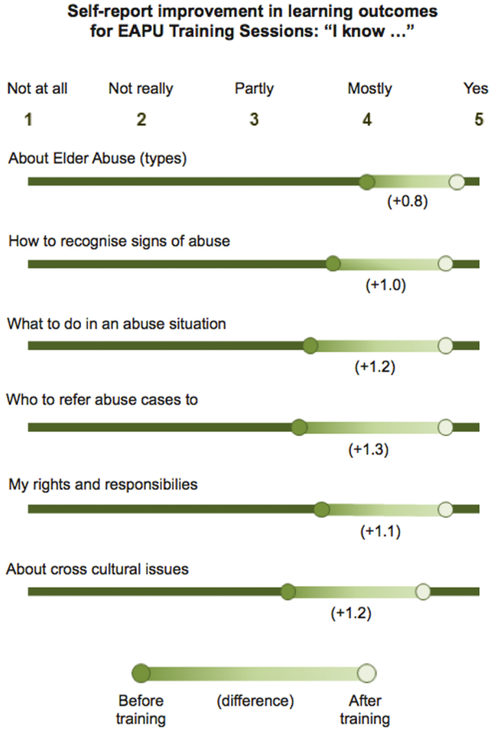
However, financial abuse was recorded in 66% (n= 543) of cases reported to the Helpline, leaving the contributions of over 500 instances of financial abuse missing from this statistic. Abuse of the powers provided by an Enduring Power of Attorney (EPA) is one way to misappropriate funds and assets. Only around a quarter of the recorded funds were misappropriated by a holder of an EPA:

$974,800 of the misappropriated funds were by 7 attorneys

Further, despite the over 500 cases of financial abuse, only 11.26% (n= 128) alleged abusers were holders of an EPA for the alleged victim.



EAPU training and awareness sessions



The EAPU conducted 112 training and 67 awareness sessions in the 2011-12 financial year, reaching a combined total of 3,369 people. The evaluation participation rate for training sessions was 67.7% and the averaged results from the 1,333 returned surveys are detailed to the left.

Note also that there were very high scores on organisation, presentation of information and participation in these face to face training sessions as reported below.

Session feedback
(1 = Not at all, 5 = Yes)

"The session was well organised"

4.8

"Information was presented in a clear and understandable way"

4.7

"The presenter encouraged participation"

4.6

Elder Abuse Prevention Unit

UnitingCare Community Elder Abuse Prevention Unit (EAPU)

Highlight Report

Released 6 February 2013

The UnitingCare Community Elder Abuse Prevention Unit (EAPU) is releasing this highlight report to provide stakeholders with a snapshot of EAPU activities within Queensland for the 2011-12 financial year. A much more comprehensive report will be released in the near future with in-depth statistics on elder abuse data from Helpline calls as well as regional education activities. This current report covers the major descriptive statistics recorded by the EAPU such as alleged victim and abuser demographics, abuse types, relationship types, Enduring Power of Attorney and financial abuse as well as some key statistics around EAPU educational initiatives.

At a glance

Helpline

- 1,001 elder abuse notifications involving
- 1,061 older victims experiencing
- 1,137 types of primary abuse from
- 1,084 alleged abusers

Educational activities

- 112 education sessions to 1,968 aged care workers.
- 72 awareness sessions attended by 1,401 older people.
- 2 elder abuse teleconferences to remote and isolated workers across Queensland.
- 66 other awareness activities with EAPU staff disseminating info at expos, forums etc.

UnitingCare Community Elder Abuse National Conference

Undertaken by the EAPU and the first of its kind in Australia. A two day conference with international and national presenters and hailed as a success at every measure.

Research

- The EAPU supported UnitingCare Community Research investigating the prevalence of elder abuse.
- EAPU research presented at the 2011 UnitingCare Queensland Research Conference "Elder Abuse: Effectiveness and outcomes of an awareness campaign".

Service funded by
Queensland Government

UnitingCare Community

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