



Elder Abuse Prevention Unit

www.eapu.com.au

Highlight Report: 2013-14 Financial Year

Service funded by:



Helpline Statistical Notes

Overall, there were 1183 abuse notifications which after cleaning the data for incomplete records, resulted in data for 1266 abuse relationships, 1092 victims, and 1351 abusers recorded for the 2013-14 financial year.

The number of notifications represents a 19.5% increase in notifications overall. Although the call rate changed substantially, the proportion of elder abuse and non trust-relationships remained at 85% and 15% respectively. The number of abuse relationships, victims, and perpetrators for elder abuse and non-trust abuse appear in the text-box to the right. Occasionally there is overlap, for example a notification an older person reporting abuse of themselves by a neighbor as well as the abuse of that neighbour's elderly parent. Because of this overlap a victim may appear in both elder abuse and non-trust abuse data sets so the figures do not necessarily add up to the overall totals. Two perpetrator records were removed from the data set (overall and non-trust) as they were related to self-neglect cases. Also note that for the non trust figures there were 8 victim records that were used to indicated multiple victims—such as in a nursing home—and 39 multiple victims used to record multiple perpetrators such as in the case systematic neglect in a facility.

Age & Gender

The age distribution of elder abuse victims and perpetrators was the same as in previous years, with the most common age for victims 80-85 years and the most common age group for perpetrators 50-54 years. Non-trust abuse victims were younger with 65-69 being the most common age for victims, Age data for non-trust abuse perpetrators was of poor quality, with close to half being reported as 'unknown'.

Gender results were similar to last year. Where a gender was reported: 68% of elder abuse victims and 65% of non-trust abuse victims were female. for perpetrators, where a gender was reported: the gender split for elder abuse was exactly 50-50 where gender was known; for non-trust abuse there were slightly more (56%) male perpetrators.

Abuse relationships disclosed to the Helpline were:

85% Elder abuse
15% Non-trust abuse

Elder Abuse:

1266
abuse
relationships

1092
victims

1150
perpetrators

Non-trust Abuse:

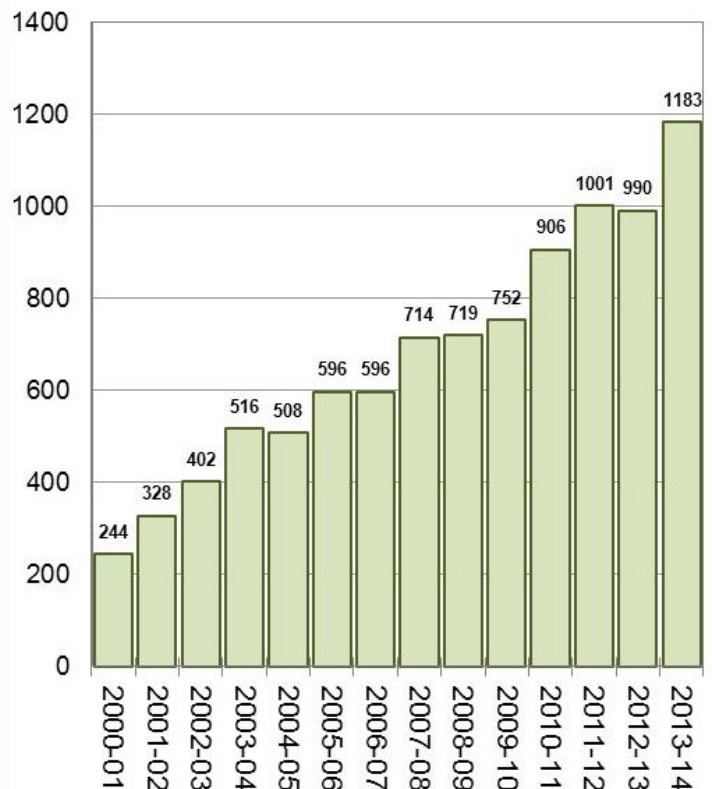
215
abuse
relationships

201*
victims

201*
perpetrators

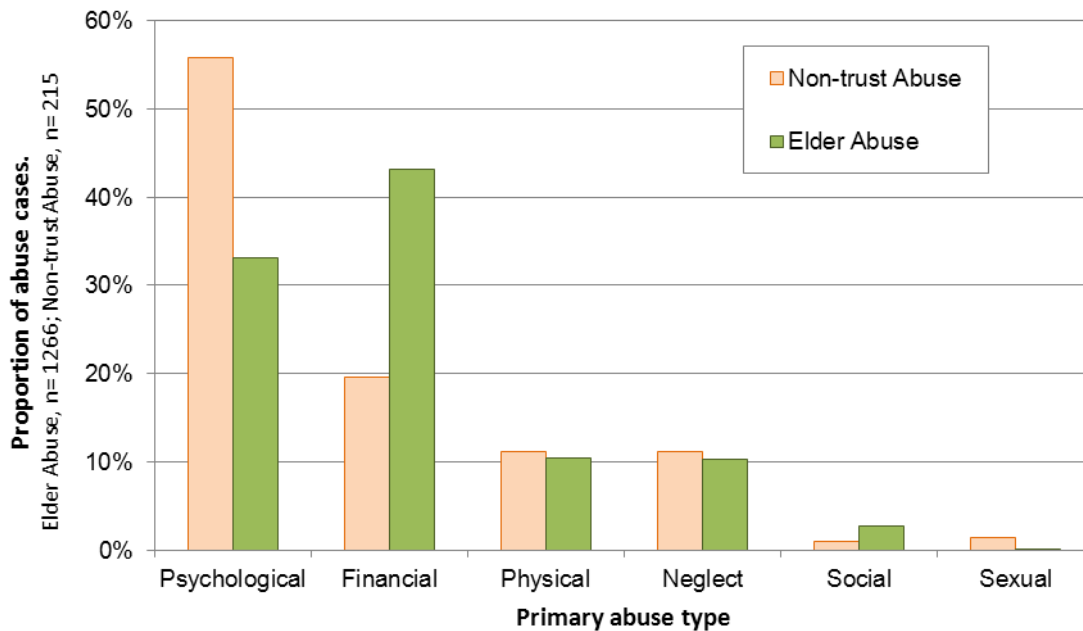
**Note: this figure includes a number of cases where a single record has been used to record the presence of multiple abusers*

Elder abuse notifications by financial year



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



Primary and secondary abuse types recorded on the helpline for the period 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014

Abuse Type

14.39%

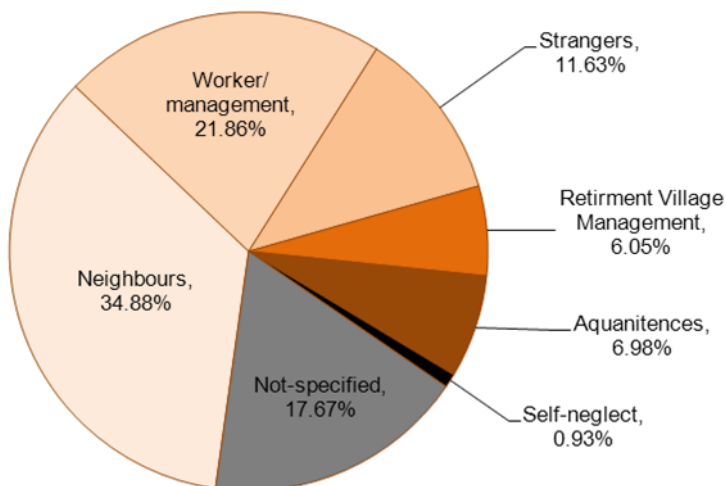
of elder abuse perpetrators who were recorded as being a recipient of a carer's benefit were also recorded as providing no care at all to the victim. As of 1 July 2013 Helpline workers were able to record whether a victim or perpetrator is receiving a government carers benefit.

The pattern of primary abuse types across elder abuse and non-trust abuse cases was generally similar to the 2012-13 financial year. However there does appear to have been a substantial shift in the primary abuse type for elder abuse cases. In 2012-13 the primary abuse type was psychological abuse (39.82%) followed by financial abuse (36.81%). This financial year the most reported primary abuse type for elder abuse relationships was financial abuse (43.21%) followed by psychological abuse (33.18%). The distinction between primary and secondary abuse types is often quite subjective, so it will not be possible to determine if there has been an actual increase of financial abuse disclosed on the helpline until the secondary abuse types have been analysed.

Relationship Types

For elder abuse relationships, sons and daughters were about equal as perpetrators, accounting for 74% of all elder abuse relationships combined. For non-trust relationships, 35% were neighbour relationships, with worker misconduct or systemic abuse accounting for 22%. This year there were a large number of non-specified non-trust relationships. This may be related to an increase in call volume coupled, specific non-trust situations are not mandatory and a final step in data entry consequently they easily missed if a data entry is interrupted by a new incoming call.

Non-trust abuse: relationship category between victims and perpetrators (n=215)



Elder abuse: relationships category between perpetrators to victims (n= 1266)

