Elder Abuse Prevention Unit

Highlight Report: 2015-16 Financial Year

Service funded by:

Queensland Government

There were 1529 abuse notifications to the Helpline for the 2015/16 financial year which represents an increase of almost 20% on notifications for 2014/15 (see figure 1). The 1529 notifications resulted in data for 2068 abuse relationships, 1699 victims and 1844 perpetrators. Within the data-set the proportion of elder abuse and non-trust relationships remained at 86% and 14% respectively, in line with 2014/15 figures. The number of victims and perpetrators for each abuse group can be found in Info-box 1.

Age and gender statistics were also largely unchanged from previous years. The most common age for elder abuse victims was 80-85 years and the most common age group for perpetrators was 50-54 years. Non-trust abuse victims were again younger than elder abuse victims, but they were slightly older than last year (65-69) with 75-79 being the most common age for non-trust victims in 2015/16.

Where a gender was reported: 68% of elder abuse victims and 59% of non-trust abuse victims were female. Where a gender was reported for perpetrators the gender split for elder abuse was 50:50 female to male and for non-trust abuse there the ratio was 43:57, female to male.

Carers

In 2013/14 the Highlight Report contained statistics relating to perpetrator receipt of a carer payment, at the time 14.39% provided no care at all. This figure has doubled in 2015/16 (see info-box 2).

Abuse relationships disclosed to the Helpline were:

86% Elder abuse

14% Non-trust abuse

Elder Abuse:	Non-trust Abuse:
1808 abuse relationships	260 abuse relationships
1487 victims	237* victims
1620 perpetrators	232* perpetrators

Note: this figure includes a number of cases where a single record has been used to record the presence of multiple abusers
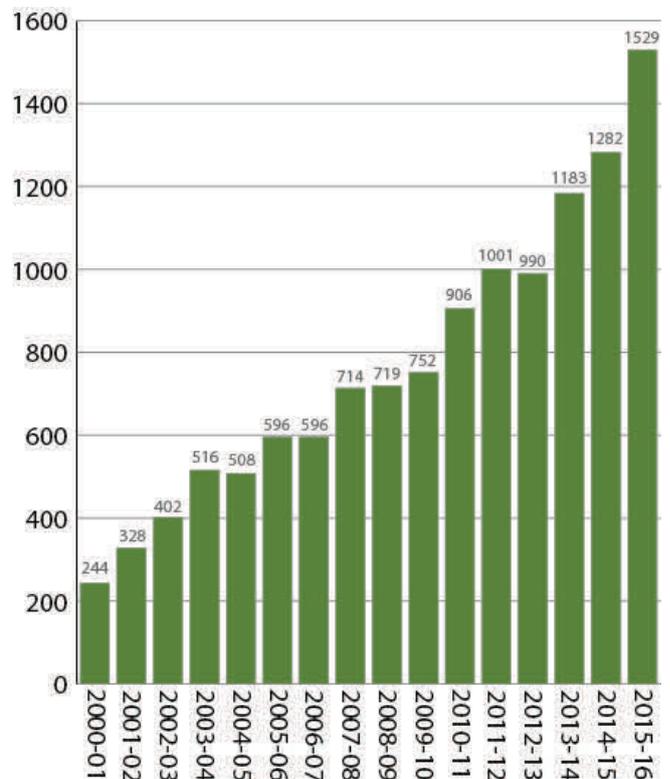
Info-box 1

49% Of cases where the perpetrator was in receipt of a carer's payment (n=203) were recorded with *neglect* as an abuse type.

30% Of cases where the perpetrator was in receipt of a carer's payment (n=203) of some kind the perpetrator provided *no care at all* to the victim.

Info-box 2

Number of abuse notifications by financial year

Year	Notifications
2000-01	244
2001-02	328
2002-03	402
2003-04	516
2004-05	508
2005-06	596
2006-07	596
2007-08	714
2008-09	719
2009-10	752
2010-11	906
2011-12	1001
2012-13	990
2013-14	1183
2014-15	1282
2015-16	1529

Figure 1

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

Relationship between callers and victims for elder abuse cases for the period 1/7/15—30/6/2016.
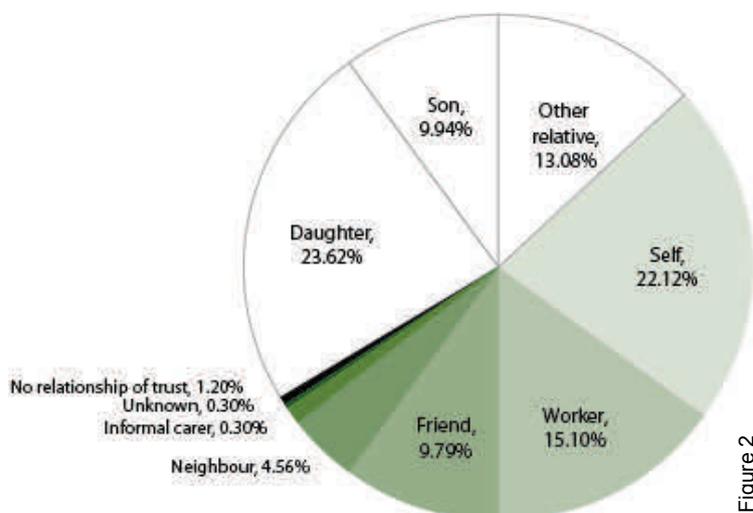

Figure 2

Relationship between callers and victims for non-trust abuse for the period 1/7/15—30/6/2016.
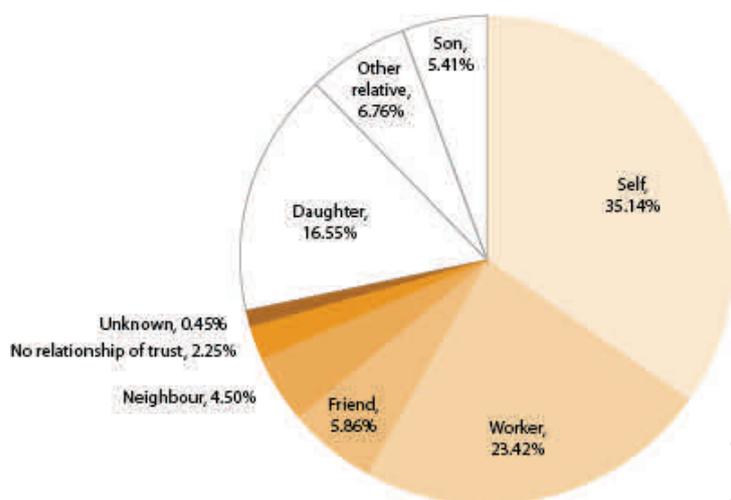

Figure 3

Perpetrator relationship

The relationship of the perpetrators to the victims did not vary from previous years. In 2015/16 adult children accounted for the greatest proportion of abusers in elder abuse cases. Daughters accounted for 36.56%, sons for 36.34%, spouse/partners for 10.79%, grandchildren for 5.92%, other relatives for 3.32%, friends for 3.10% and siblings and informal carers for 1.99% each.
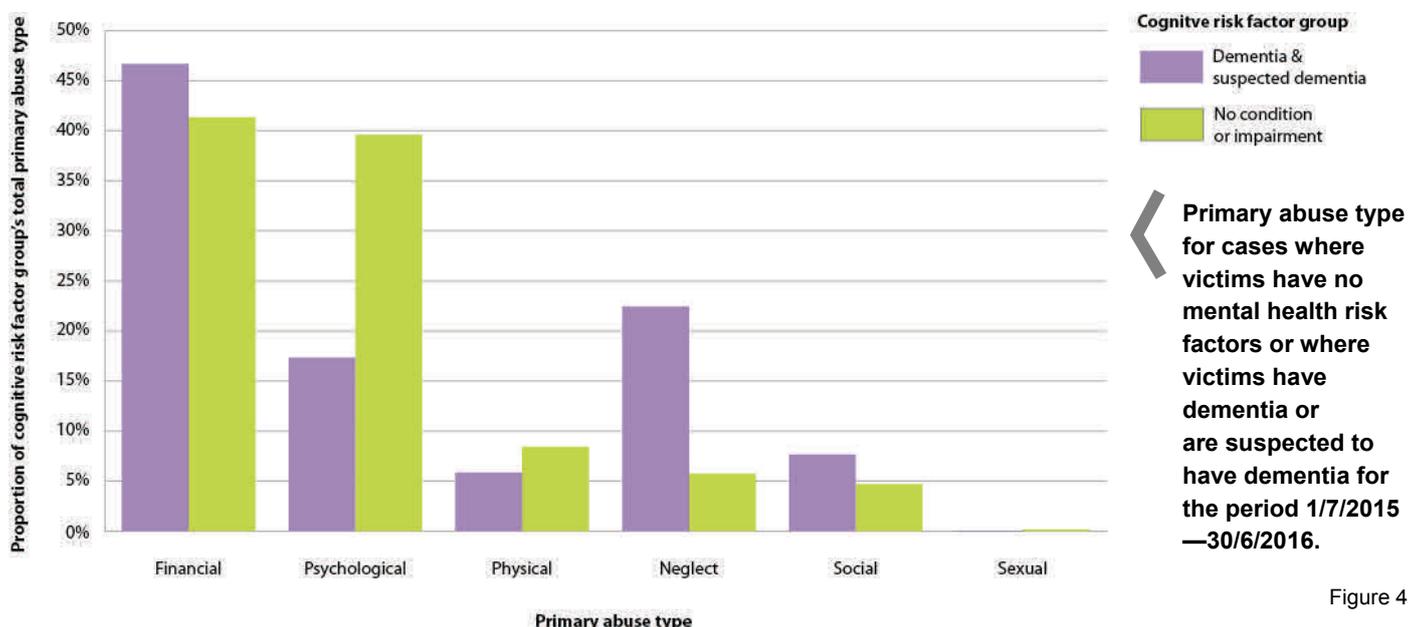
For non-trust cases the relationship for perpetrator to victim were broadly similar to previous years with the largest perpetrator groups being workers (25.38%), neighbours (23.46%) and 'others' (23.46%).

Notifier relationship

As has been found in previous years, the relationship between the person who calls the Helpline and the victim is different for elder abuse and non-trust abuse. Non-trust abuse is more likely to be reported to the Helpline by the victims themselves than elder abuse victims. Adult children are more likely to report elder abuse, whereas workers make up a greater proportion of notifiers for non-trust abuse than elder abuse. See figures 2 and 3 for details of notifier types.

Abuse Type

Primary abuse type data for the 2015/16 financial year is almost identical to that of 2014/15. Financial abuse was the most reported primary abuse type (42.37%), followed closely by psychological abuse (34.68%). Neglect and physical abuse account for a similar proportion of primary abuse (9.68% and 7.96% respectively) and social and sexual abuse are not often recorded as a primary abuse type (5.20% and 0.11% respectively). As has been found in previous years, primary abuse type varies with victim psychological risk factor. For victims with dementia or who are suspected to have dementia, a primary abuse type of neglect is more commonly recorded (see figure 4).

Cognitve risk factor group
- Dementia & suspected dementia
- No condition or impairment

Primary abuse type for cases where victims have no mental health risk factors or where victims have dementia or are suspected to have dementia for the period 1/7/2015 —30/6/2016.

Figure 4