Highlight Report: 2014-15 Financial Year

Service funded by:

Queensland Government

Helpline Statistical Notes

Overall, there were 1282 abuse notifications which after cleaning the data for incomplete records, resulted in data for 1581 abuse relationships, 1184 victims, and 1442 abusers recorded for the 2014-15 financial year.

The number of notifications represents a 8.37% increase in notifications overall. An average of 106 notifications per month were received by the EAPU Helpline for the 2014/15 financial year, which is an increase of approximately seven notifications per month from last year. Although the call rate changed substantially, the proportion of elder abuse and non trust-relationships remained at similar proportions at 86% and 14% 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 by an older person reporting abuse of themselves by a neighbour, 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.

Age and 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.

Gender results were similar to last year. Where a gender was reported: 68% of elder abuse victims and 58% of non-trust abuse victims were female. For perpetrators, where a gender was reported: the gender split for elder abuse was 45:52 per cent female:male where gender was known; for non-trust abuse there were slightly more (38%) male perpetrators.

Abuse relationships disclosed to the Helpline were:

86% Elder abuse

14% Non-trust abuse

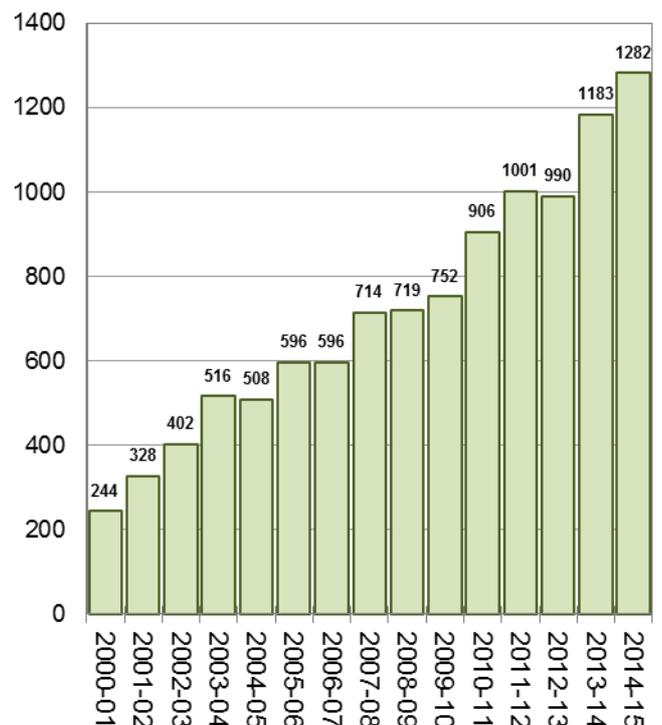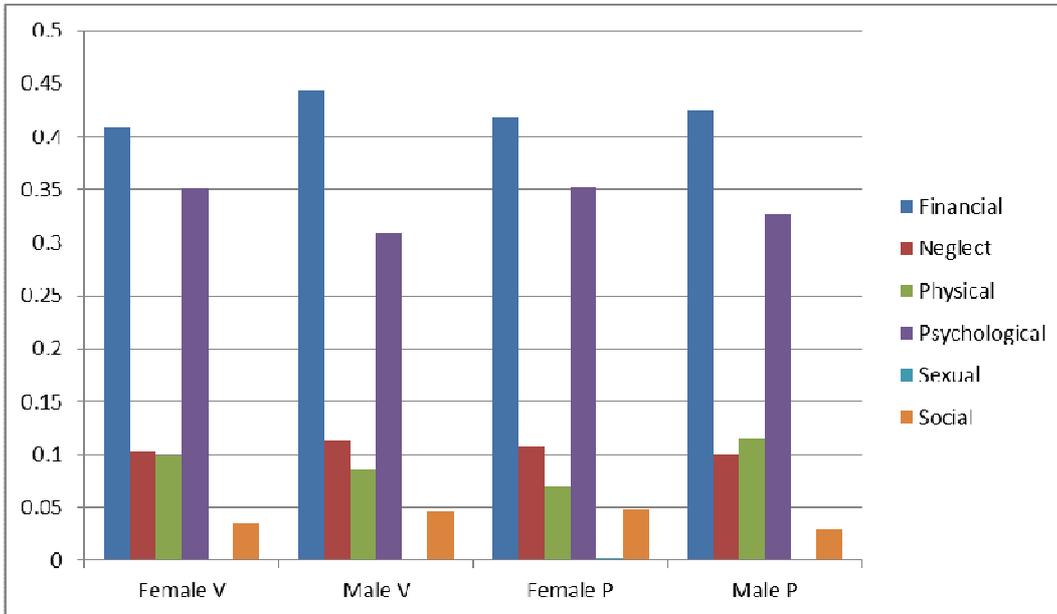| Elder Abuse:	Non-trust Abuse:
1356 abuse relationships	225 abuse relationships
1184 victims	211* victims
1231 perpetrators	211* perpetrators

*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

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

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
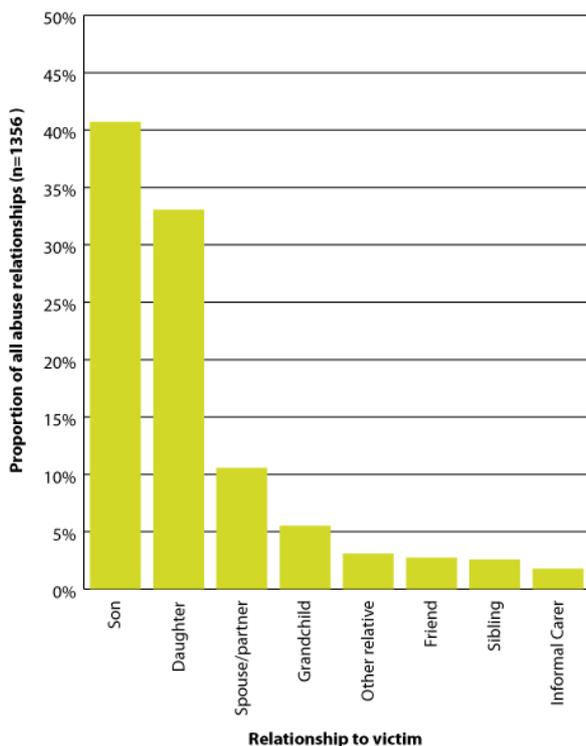
Abuse Type

Primary abuse type data for the 2014/15 financial year is almost identical to that of 2013/14. Financial abuse was the most reported primary abuse type, fo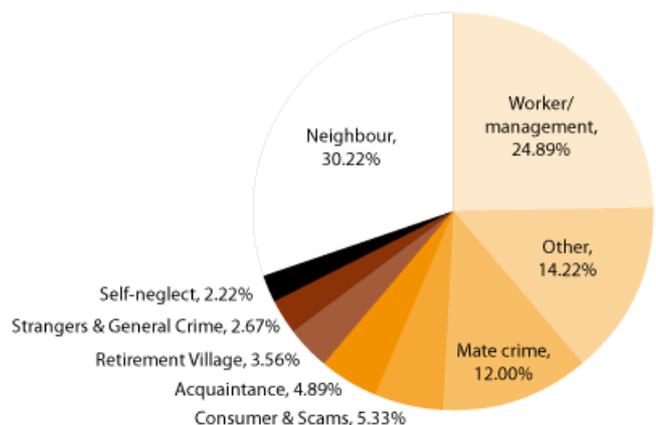llowed closely by psychological abuse. Neglect and physical abuse account for a similar proportion of primary abuse and social and sexual abuse are not often recorded as a primary abuse type. Notably, the increase in primary abuse types of financial and physical abuse seen in 2013/14 has been maintained. It is important to note that abuse cases usually involve more than one kind of abuse and that the designation of a particular form of abuse as the primary abuse type is quite subjective, depending on what the caller presents as the primary issue. The combined data provides a more accurate picture of the incidence of different abuse types among Helpline notifications.

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 and specific non-trust situations are not mandatory fields; as well as a final step in data entry process, 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=225) (Above)

LOCATION

The following map shows the distribution by Australian Bureau of Statistics region of the number and proportion of the 1288 victims (elder abuse & non-trust abuse) for the 2014-15 financial year. For the 2014-15 reporting year the EAPU has been able to provide a breakdown of south-east Queensland as a result of more stringent data entry rules. The greatest number of victims normally reside in Brisbane. The Gold Coast area is the normal residence of the second largest number of victims, and the Wide Bay Burnett region and the Sunshine Coast region are the normal residence of the two third largest groups of victims

Location unknown & interstate
185 victims (13.26%)
> Queensland (unspecified)
45, 3.23%
> Interstate
60, 4.30%
> Other Unknown
80, 5.73%

Far North
74 victims
(5.30%)

North West
2 victims (0.14%)

North
46 victims
(3.30%)

Mackay
24 cases (1.72%)

Wide Bay Burnett
97 victims (6.95%)

Central West
1 victim (0.07%)

Fitzroy
50 victims (3.88%)

Brisbane &
West Moreton
858 victims
(61.51%)
> Brisbane
541, 38.78%
> West Moreton
25, 1.79%
> Gold Coast
196, 14.05%
> Sunshine Coast
96, 6.88%

Darling
Downs
59 victims
(4.23%)

South West
7 victims (0.50%)