



Elder  
Abuse  
Prevention  
Unit

[www.eapu.com.au](http://www.eapu.com.au)

# Queensland Focus

Edition 31—May 2013

## Editorial

The unit is delighted to welcome a new trainer and Helpline operator to the team. Natasha Love joined us at the beginning of April to replace Rosey Marwick and the team is very grateful as it has been a very full start to the year. For the first quarter we were on 80% staff capacity (indeed, at times it was down to 60%), while there was a 6% increase in calls compared to the same period last year. Even though it was busy, we managed to knock out a few achievements along the way.

The unit has had two very successful reference group meetings, the first regarding financial abuse which is an issue of great concern and frustration. The second was on the elder abuse research in Queensland and Australia. Read a review of these meetings by our fearless leader Les Jackson on page 5.

We also collaborated with Vivienne Campion of the Brisbane Seniors Legal and Support Service to provide Victims Services Interagency Support Network with a thought provoking case study. The case study and accompanying information is to be used as part of a training session for trainee detectives at the Queensland Police college. Following on from this we produced a general factsheet for Police which has been included with their internal resources.

Maya started the year busily planning a big trip up north. She's just come back from the trip, covering Weipa, Aurukun and Mapoon. Her role was to raise awareness and train workers, but she has also brought back valuable information about how our strategies need to be modified for such regional and tightly knitted communities. Before Maya left though she worked with the Ipswich Little Theatre and the Ipswich and West Moreton Senior Services Network to ensure that their new play 'Don't just sign on the dotted line', premiering on June 14, as an accurate portrayal of many of the issues around elder abuse.

The other big project has been developing a campaign to help engage communities, organisations and individuals in raising awareness of elder abuse leading up to and on World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. It has been a team effort, but in particular, Natasha has been working hard to co-ordinate key players and events to make an impact on the day.

Finally, the 2011 - 2012 A Year in Review report is now in the final stages of publication and will be available on our website shortly. This will be the first publically available report derived from the EAPU's new database which offers a much richer array of data than was previously possible.

Ceallaigh Spike

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## QUICK TIPS:

- Always check with the Department of Human Services before gifting or loaning a large amount of money, or signing over assets. Such gifts, loans or arrangements may significantly impact pension payments.
- Adults who have the capacity to make an informed decision and understand the consequences have the right to make their own decisions. This includes decisions that others may not may not agree with.

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# World Elder Abuse Day 2013 in Queensland

Natasha Love, Project Officer - Education and Training, EAPU

Hello, my name is Natasha Love and I have recently joined the EAPU team as a Project Officer in Education and Training. Prior to this role, I was working in the UnitingCare Community family, as an Education Worker for youth in temporary emergency residential care. After completing my Masters last year, and choosing to leave the comfort of secondary school teaching, I was looking for a position where I could use my qualifications and my compassion and understanding of issues facing older people.

I have a busy six months ahead with training and information sessions from Longreach to Rockhampton, Bundaberg to Charleville and everywhere else in between! Also, as a trained phone counsellor, I also work on the EAPU Helpline. Providing support, referrals and information to Helpline clients has been a challenging and rewarding task.

My first day at EAPU deserves a mention though, as it was very interesting and exciting. A challenge was given to the team, in conjunction with Older People Speak Out (OPSO) and Seniors Legal and Support Service (SLASS) – turn Queensland purple for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD)!

## What's happening for WEAAD?

June 15 is the day designated by the United Nations as the international day of action when the whole world voices its opposition to the abuse of older people. WEAAD is represented by the colour purple – which denotes wisdom, dignity, independence and creativity. During the week ending June 15 we are calling for all communities and organisations across Queensland to join the rest of the world in 'going purple' for WEAAD.

We've had a lot of fun coming up with creative ideas to raise public awareness of WEAAD. Most recently I have enjoyed spending a few Friday afternoons with the energetic and community minded residents at the Bracken Ridge IRT Retirement Village. We have been practising for a flash mob of human statues – keep an eye out on June 15 if you happen to be near Redacliff Place at the top of the Queen Street Mall in the morning! If you are there in the evening you will notice that the

Redacliff Balls sculptures have also gone 'purple' for WEAAD.

The Ipswich Little Theatre Company has produced a play called *Don't Just Sign on the Dotted Line*, and will be performing this play free at the North Ipswich RSL on June 14 - phone 07 3810 6655 for more information. It will be funny and educational.



Bracken Ridge IRT Retirement Village residents preparing for WEAAD 2013. Photo by Heather Grant-Campbell

## What can you do for WEAAD?

Is there something purple you or your organisation can do for the week leading up to WEAAD? WEAAD is about raising awareness not funds. How about wearing purple during the week? Hosting a purple morning tea or changing your email signature to include information about WEAAD? Keep your eye out for purple themed WEAAD events in your community. You can also visit [www.weaadqld.com](http://www.weaadqld.com) to find other purple themed ideas, share your ideas and find resources and information packs to help you create and host a purple themed event.

No effort is too small to be a part of this awareness-raising campaign and we hope you will list your 'Purple' event on the Department of Communities' website: <http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/communityservices/violence-prevention/make-the-call/elder-abuse>

Elder Abuse Helpline - anyone can make the call  
call **1300 651 192**

[www.weaadqld.com](http://www.weaadqld.com)

World Elder Abuse June  
Awareness Day **15**

## UQ Eldercare Research

University of Queensland

PhD candidate from the University of Queensland wants to hear from carers of older people across Australia for a study on the impact of caregiving on carers' health and wellbeing.

Claire Greaves, a PhD candidate in the school of psychology at the University of Queensland, is conducting research into how caring for frail older people or older people with a mental disability, impacts on carers' ability to manage their job roles at work and home, and how this can affect their health and wellbeing. The research aims to better understand the impact of caregiving to facilitate better support initiatives to assist caregivers with their responsibilities.

Do you or someone you know, care for, or receive some form of support, assistance or care from a family member?

Ms Greaves is looking for family members who work in some capacity and assist a relative to

participate in two online questionnaires, taking approximately 20 minutes each, over a six month period.

If you provide care to an older person (including a spouse) who requires assistance with their daily living and you would like to find out more or register your interest in participating in the study, please follow the link:

<https://experiment.psy.uq.edu.au/eldercare/>

Or you can check out the study's Facebook page and connect directly with the team and other carers:

[www.facebook.com/nationaleldercare](http://www.facebook.com/nationaleldercare)

In accordance with University and Research Policy, all participants will be ensured confidentiality at all stages of the study.

If you have any queries or would like to request a paper-survey please email Ms Greaves at:

[c.greaves@uq.edu.au](mailto:c.greaves@uq.edu.au)

## Idle thoughts on deviant data

Ceallagh Spike, Project Officer (Research), EAPU

Having only started in November of last year, the Year in Review for the 2011-2012 financial year was my first chance to have a good look at the data EAPU collects. The non-identifying details of alleged victims, alleged abusers and the relationship are collected for each abuse situation we encounter. The result is a large number of records containing a rich array of data about demographics and risk factors.

When analysing the data for the review I came across an intriguing statistic. The number of alleged abusers who were male and in the 50-54

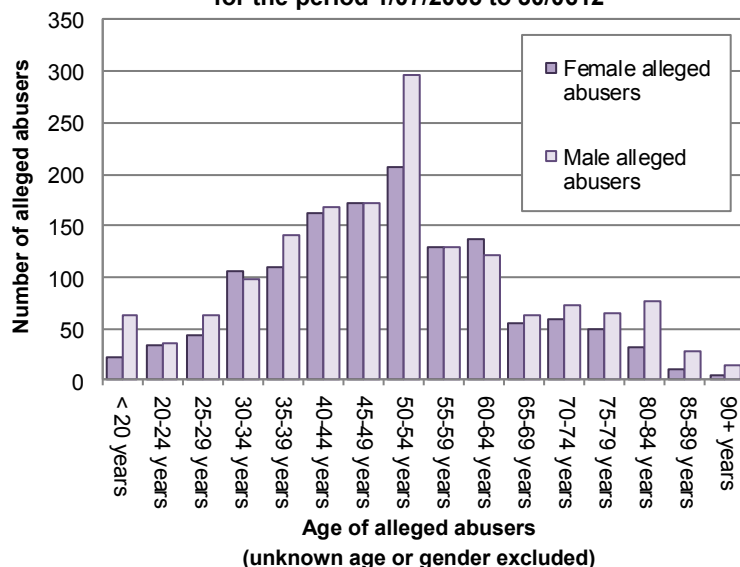
year age bracket spiked (see Figure 1). Thinking the year was most likely an outlier but still intrigued, I went over data for previous years. Much to my surprise the same pattern repeats to a greater or lesser degree for most years I had the data for (from 1/11/1999 to 31/12/2001 and 07/07/2005 to 30/06/12).

The scientist in me began rattling off an unending list of reasons why this statistical artefact is insignificant or irrelevant, but the rest of me found it persistently interesting. Then, I came across an article in the Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect. The article is titled "When a Son Steals Money From His Mother: Courtroom Perceptions of Elder Financial Exploitation" (J. Golding et al, 2012). The study presented mock-jurors with a court transcript in which a son stole from his elderly mother, they looked at (among other things) which mock-juror characteristics had a significant impact on the verdict. What they found was that":

*"pro-victim judgments were higher for women than men; and younger and older community members' rendered more guilty verdicts than middle-aged mock jurors"*

To loosely paraphrase, women, older people and younger people perceived the mother as more wronged. Where does that leave middle-aged men? I couldn't help but draw the line. Off in the background the scientist has rattled up to 'sample size', 'selection bias', and 'subject identification with research materials' in the background, but the rest of me is thinking 'now, isn't that interesting'.

Number of alleged abusers by gender and age for the period 1/07/2005 to 30/06/12





## Norma's Project: Preventing the sexual assault of older women

Dr Catherine Barrett, LaTrobe University

The sexual assault of older women has long been a hidden crime. Not anymore. Researchers from The Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, the University of Melbourne and the National Ageing Research Institute are lifting the lid on an issue that demands greater understanding within our community. They want to talk to older women about their experiences of sexual assault.

'We hear a lot about the sexual assault of young women, which is important, however, we rarely hear of the trauma experienced by older women' said Dr Catherine Barrett, the chief researcher for the project, based at La Trobe University. 'We know older women experience sexual assaults from family members and service providers, as well as from strangers, yet there is little community awareness of this issue and a lack of knowledge about prevention strategies,' said Dr Barrett.

Government statistics indicate that, across Australia, 344 reports of 'alleged or suspected unlawful sexual contact' were made in residential aged care alone during 2011-2012. However, the lack of information about the context of these assaults means that prevention is a challenge. The lack of information and awareness can also mean that some older women are not believed when they report sexual assault. 'We have been told stories about older women who have reported sexual assault but not been believed, their statement attributed to dementia or an experience from their youth', says Dr Barrett. 'We also know that some older women don't report sexual assault because they are frightened or feel ashamed'.

Two years ago Norma, then an 84 year old woman living with early dementia, was sexually assaulted by a staff member while in respite care. 'We were shocked and horrified when she told us', said

Philomena, a relative. 'It was extremely distressing for her, and the impact on her life was profound'. Norma's experience was the catalyst for the development of Norma's Project, the first of its kind in Australia. Researchers are gathering women's stories and collecting other evidence about the factors that make older women vulnerable to sexual assault.

The researchers would like to hear from older women (women over 65 years old) who have been sexually assaulted. Dr Barrett adds, 'We would also like to talk with trusted family members because some women, like Norma, are no longer able to, or prefer not to, talk about their experience directly. We would also value input from health and community workers as well as service providers who care for older women living at home or in residential care'.

A website has been established to share information about the project: [normasproject.org.au](http://normasproject.org.au). 'Anyone who would like more information about the project or would like to participate in a confidential interview or anonymous online survey can go to the project website or contact me directly', said Dr Barrett. 'We hope that by raising the awareness of this issue older women will feel more confident to report sexual assault'. Importantly the research will lead to the development of prevention strategies and improve the response of community and aged care services.

Norma's Project is being conducted by the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society at La Trobe University in collaboration with the National Ageing Research Institute, the University of Melbourne, Alzheimer's Australia and the Council on the Ageing Victoria. It is funded by the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

**Continued over page...**



**Norma  
Is a**

**Painter  
Gardener  
Wife  
Mother**

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**When Norma was 84  
she was sexual assaulted.**

# Norma's Project: Early data – interviews and survey

Dr Catherine Barrett, LaTrobe University

(Continued from page 5)

## Support for the project

*"This project is very important to raise public awareness and ensure our older citizens can be made aware of their fundamental human right for sexual safety, where to go for help and support and know they don't have to suffer in silence. Sexual assault is something for which the whole community must take responsibility to ensure people are safe in their homes, residences, health care facilities and in their community."*

(survey respondent: sexual assault service)

## Stories about sexual assault

### Sexual assault in a retirement village:

*"... an older woman who - was in a retirement village. She'd recently moved there, and one of the guys who was in ... his own unit kept inviting her in for cups of tea, and she didn't really like him but she felt sorry for him. You know, the old story women are supposed to look after people. So, she felt sorry that he was lonely and went in there to have a coffee with him. The next thing she remembered was waking up in his bed the next day and she'd been sexually assaulted. Now, she didn't tell anyone; she was too ashamed. ... Too ashamed to tell anyone. But less than a week later he suddenly died and she was so sort of shocked and traumatised by the whole thing that she came and sought counselling about that."*

(interviewee: sexual assault service)

### Sexual assault in public places:

*"There was a particular case of an elderly woman who was bashed and raped as she went for a walk in broad daylight. This was highlighted in the media because the offender was a stranger to her. However, we know anecdotally that most adult women, including those over 65, are sexually assaulted by someone who is known to them, most likely by a current or former intimate partner."*

(survey respondent: sexual assault service)

### Sexual assault at home:

*"... we've seen women in the community who've also met, you know, guys on the Internet and things like that and then ended up being drink spiked and assaulted."*

(interviewee: sexual assault service)

### Sexual assault in health care settings:

*"In my profession I have noticed that some older women are vulnerable to sexual assault when they experience some form of cognitive impairment or when their ability to communicate effectively is diminished,*

*whether permanently or temporarily and they are placed in nursing homes, hospitals or rehabilitation centres where they are vulnerable to sexual assault by staff members at those places who target victims with the inability to communicate and be heard. In many instances the offenders work on a casual basis at different facilities and identifying patterns of abuse is made difficult because of this."*

(survey respondent: police)

### Sexual assault in residential aged care:

*"I received a referral for a woman in a nursing home who was being sexually assaulted by her husband when he came up to visit her. The woman suffered from dementia and the staff were concerned that she was not able to consent to her husband's advances and seemed to be distressed by them. This was particularly difficult as the woman was not able to give a clear account of her experience, but her distress was obvious to the staff who cared for her."*

(survey respondent: sexual assault service)

## Factors contributing to the vulnerability of older women to sexual assault

*"The 'belief' that sexual assault would not happen to older women – that only young, good looking women are sexually assaulted."*

(survey respondent: sexual assault service)

*"Older women very often were brought up in an era that 'excused' a man's demands for sex as normal, acceptable and it was a woman's 'duty' to meet his sexual needs."*

(survey respondent: sexual assault service)

*"They seem to be more ashamed of speaking about sexual matters. They are more inhibited about what sexual assault is. Often they are vulnerable persons anyway and they tend to 'accept' the lot that life has dished out to them."*

(survey respondent: police)

*"Their naivety about who may be a potential offender - Their frailty – Their [loneliness/isolation from others - Lack of a partner (due to death or illness)."*

(survey respondent: police)

*"That sexual assault does not happen to older women. That older women are easily confused and less likely to report an assault due to embarrassment."*

(survey respondent: family member)

For more information about Norma's Project visit:

[www.normasproject.org.au](http://www.normasproject.org.au)

# Background Report

Les Jackson, Coordinator EAPU

There have been two reference group meetings since the beginning of the year. The first was dedicated to the issue of financial abuse. The Australian Bankers Association (ABA) is developing elder abuse resources for bank workers which could provide a key piece of the puzzle in developing better financial elder abuse responses across Australia. An ABA rep met with EAPU Reference Group members in February to discuss this initiative and to field comments from the broad range of services represented at these meetings. The reference group has representatives from guardianship areas, police, seniors groups, as well as advocacy and dementia services and a UQ asset management researcher just to round things off. If better protection against financial elder abuse is to occur then these are the key groups that will need to work together to sort out the laws and interventions that financial institutions can use to provide that protection. My understanding is that ABA reps are still in contact with some of these key players so hopefully there will be more action in the future.

Research was the topic set for EAPU Reference Group in May and the prevalence of elder abuse was considered a worthy goal. Without knowing the extent elder abuse occurs in the community we won't really know if we are winning or losing with prevention strategies. In this day and age it means we won't know if we are wasting time and money on initiatives that don't make a difference; and that's just not an option. The problem I find is that the big expensive overseas studies (no doubt bristling with scientific rigour) are not particularly useful to service providers. They either don't reflect the clients

contacting our services or they only measure certain forms of abuse and who can afford to do another study to see if the prevalence rate has gone down. A research sub group was formed from the main reference group to basically provide some input to designing criteria for a prevalence study that will meet the needs of the stakeholders.

Apart from the reference group meetings, I have been discussing the seeming increase in neighbourhood issues that are coming through on the Helpline. Val French, President of OPSO may have coined a new term "Neighbour Abuse"; the victimisation of a vulnerable person by a neighbour. It is a term she uses to differentiate between the various forms of abuse experienced by older people. In this case it is not a neighbourhood dispute like a disagreement over the cost of a replacement fence, and it is not abuse within a relationship of trust which is the international criteria for elder abuse. What Val is talking about is the ongoing and targeted abuse of a person by their neighbour, something that older people are particularly vulnerable to. Often verbal abuse but sometimes physical abuse and certainly intimidation comes into it. This type of abuse is a serious problem in our community and needs all the key players around the same table; Local Government, police, public housing, legal services and older persons reps. Several services including OPSO and the Caxton Legal Service are starting to make some moves in this direction; one thing we all agree on is that any solution will need to be at the neighbourhood level but backed up from various jurisdictions.



## New OPSO Media Awards category

Val French, OPSO

Carne Reidy Herd Lawyers are adding a new dimension to Elder Abuse Week in June by sponsoring an award of \$1000 to the Queensland journalist who submits the winning entry in either print or electronic media that, by its very nature, illustrates and condemns physical, mental, emotional, or financial abuse towards seniors.

The winner of this special Queensland award will be announced at the Older People Speak Out National Positive Ageing Media Awards function in November. We are grateful to Carne Reidy Herd

Lawyers for this special Elder Abuse sponsorship. Entries should be sent to:

Older People Speak Out  
PO Box 1037  
Mt Gravatt Q4122





## Elder Abuse, Mistreatment, Exploitation or Neglect?

Maya Zetlin, Project Officer - Education and Training, EAPU

What's in a name? Should we call these abhorrent social and criminal behaviours elder abuse or not? Some people have a preference of one of the terms or an objection to another. Some say that abuse is a very strong word and relates mainly to physical abuse. Some prefer the term mistreatment as it seems to relate to broader types of behaviour. Others think that neglect reflects the issue better for people who require care and others feel that exploitation captures the intention of the abuser to benefit from their actions.

Occasionally the term elder may generate an objection when people take it to relate to male and female Aboriginal Elders who are esteemed for their wisdom and knowledge of their culture, particularly of the Law, and thus command respect. We recognise the importance of Aboriginal Elders in their communities and would like to emphasise that the term elder abuse does not refer to them but generally to any older, senior person. The term elder abuse is a universally recognised concept and therefore used and recognised in Australia as well. It is a term that is used in research, data collection and in organisational and Government policy development. Therefore, the Elder Abuse Prevention Unit has it as its name and uses it in its service delivery so we are in line with the world wide understanding of what the term implies to.

Elder abuse is part of broader controlling behaviours that occur in child abuse and domestic violence as well, and is defined as actions or lack of appropriate actions, between people who have a relationship of trust with each other, resulting in

harm or distress to an older person. The emphasis in the definition is on relationships of trust as they are the more complicated to address. It encompasses all the other suggested terms and includes psychological/emotional/verbal, financial, physical, social, sexual abuse and neglect. By now most people are aware of the term and use it accordingly when seeking information and support for themselves or for someone else.

When elder abuse occurs, people may not be aware that they are abused or abusing, they may fear retaliation, feel shame or guilt, not wish to accuse a family member or are not aware of options. Elder abuse can happen to people with or without physical or cognitive impairment, to both women and men, to people from all socio-economic and educational backgrounds and to people from all cultures and religions.

Research, as well as anecdotal evidence, demonstrates that awareness raising and community education are paramount in preventing or reducing situations of elder abuse. Prevention is the key to the problem because, just like in health, prevention is better than cure – when something is broken it is difficult to make it whole again. Knowledge is power and it contributes to self-confidence and self-esteem. It is just as important to increase the knowledge and the capacity of service providers and other professionals to identify and respond to elder abuse. Not one organisation can address all situations of elder abuse and therefore a multidisciplinary response is the most effective.



### COTA Qld invites you to share your experience by taking a seat at their state-wide table.

COTA Queensland

COTA Queensland aims to create a more caring community where people can easily interact with people of their own and other generations, where older people are actively involved and empowered and have access to appropriate support and care.

Hearing the stories and experiences of people from throughout Queensland will inform this work so that we can better understand what makes an age-friendly Queensland.

Why join *Your Story, Our Table*? You will have regular opportunities to contribute your knowledge and experience to ongoing discussions about things

such as community care as well as other issues that impact on people as they age.

You will receive regular updates about the stories we are hearing and about how those stories are influencing COTA Queensland's policy and advocacy work. Participants at the table will go in a quarterly draw to win a voucher to the value of \$50.

To find out more or to join *Your Story, Our Table*:

[cotagld.org.au/get-involved/your-story-our-table/](http://cotagld.org.au/get-involved/your-story-our-table/)

# Elder abuse in the media



## Australian Media

- Elderly woman suffered immeasurably after neglect by daughter*, The Australian ..... 29 May 13  
<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/state-politics/elderly-woman-suffered-immeasurably-after-neglect-by-daughter/story-e6frgczx-1226652559359>
- Stand up to stop domestic violence*, Warwick Daily News..... 08 May 13  
<http://www.warwickdailynews.com.au/news/stand-up-sto-domestic-violence-elder-abuse/1859052/>
- Helpline uncovers elder abuse cases*, abc.net.au ..... 07 May 13  
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-05-07/helpline-uncovers-elder-abuse-cases/4674544>
- Elderly father bashed to death over money*, brisbanetimes.com.au ..... 07 May 13  
<http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/queensland/elderly-father-bashed-to-death-over-money-20130507-2j594.html>
- Jury fails to reach verdict in manslaughter trial*, abc.net.au ..... 10 Apr 13  
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-04-10/jury-fails-to-reach-verdict-in-manslaughter-trial/4620934>
- No time to waste in tackling abuse*, The Senior News..... 22 Mar 13  
<http://www.thesenior.com.au/News/The-Senior-News/Tackling-abuse>
- NSW hotline to help abused seniors*, Herald Sun..... 21 Mar 13  
<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/breaking-news/nsw-hotline-to-help-abused-seniors/story-e6frf7kf-1226602106675>
- Wills don't always reflect wishes*, abc.net.au ..... 20 Mar 13  
<http://www.smh.com.au/national/wills-dont-always-reflect-wishes-20130319-2gdgo.html>
- Man charged over father's decapitation*, abc.net.au ..... 15 Feb 13  
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-02-14/man-charged-over-decapitation-death/4519636>
- 'Mrs X' siphoned off \$3 million from her vulnerable husband*, The Sunday Mail (Qld) ..... 3 Feb 13  
<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/mrs-x-siphoned-off-3-million-from-her-vulnerable-husband/story-e6freoof-1226567385056>

## International Media

- Elderly woman 'abandoned' on couch*, Taranaki Daily News ..... 23 May 13  
<http://www.stuff.co.nz/taranaki-daily-news/news/8709351/Elderly-woman-abandoned-on-couch>
- Charity to help elderly victims of domestic abuse*, BBC Northern Ireland..... 3 Apr 13  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-22010265>
- Nursing Homes Begin to Offer Shelter for Elder Abuse Victims*, U.S.News & World Report..... 18 Mar 13  
<http://health.usnews.com/health-news/best-nursing-homes/articles/2013/03/18/nursing-homes-begin-to-offer-shelter-for-elder-abuse-victims>
- New Zealand's hidden shame*, Fairfax NZ News..... 17 Mar 13  
<http://www.stuff.co.nz/business/money/8430571/New-Zealands-hidden-shame>
- Prostitutes prey on old men for financial gain*, Fairfax NZ News ..... 16 Mar 13  
<http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/crime/8433210/Prostitutes-prey-on-old-men-for-financial-gain>
- The Doctor's New Prescription: A Lawyer*, The New York Times ..... 21 Mar 13  
<http://southtaohenow.com/story/12/17/2012/new-investigator-position-focus-elder-abuse>
- Fifth of hospitals failing to treat older patients with dignity, says review*, The Guardian (UK) ..... 19 Mar 13  
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2013/mar/19/hospitals-older-patients-dignity>



# Upcoming Events

## National World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Conference

### *'Building a National Approach to Prevent Abuse of Older Australians'*

Adelaide Convention Centre, Monday June 17 & Tuesday June 18, 2013

The Aged Rights Advocacy Service (ARAS) is proud to host the second national conference to observe World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) in 2013. The conference theme explores how we take up the challenge of creating a coordinated national approach in Australia for preventing and responding to elder abuse. At a national level there is need for a meaningful shared vision so that the various states and territory initiatives can be shared and progressed.

Master of Ceremonies is Dr Sally Cockburn, (aka Dr Feelgood), high profile media presenter ranked in the top 10 speakers in Australia, who champions those who feel disempowered. The conference brings together a range of experts from across the disciplines, including a return visit from Paul Greenwood, Deputy District Attorney, Head of Elder Abuse Prosecution Unit, San

Diego DA's Office, to inspire us with his prosecutorial panache.

Mark Crofton, the Official Solicitor, Qld Public Trustee; Simon Biggs, Professor of Gerontology and Social Policy, Uni. Of Melbourne; Susan Emerson, Director, Care Environments and Service Strategy, Helping Hand Aged Care, and Dr John Brayley, Public Advocate SA, are among the speakers who will impress with their work to prevent and address elder abuse.

There will be opportunities to explore the key themes in elder abuse in the concurrent sessions, with case reflections. Response agencies across Australia will showcase their research, innovations and programs that assist older people to prevent abuse.

The program will interest the community and residential aged care sector; legal workers, medical and hospital staff, academia and the financial industry – in fact everyone who has an interest in raising the profile and furthering their knowledge in this challenging field.

**Don't miss out on this opportunity to hear about the national picture and how we can determine a direction for the future.**

## INPEA 8th World Conference and WEAAD Commemoration

June 23, 2013: Seoul, Korea

[www.inpea.net](http://www.inpea.net)

## 20th IAGG World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics

June 23-27, 2013: Seoul, Korea

[www.iagg2013.org](http://www.iagg2013.org)

## 2013 AAG Conference, Grey Expectations: Ageing in the 21st Century

27-29 November: Sydney, Australia

[www.aag.asn.au/national-conference/2013-conference](http://www.aag.asn.au/national-conference/2013-conference)

### Disclaimer:

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[www.eapu.com.au](http://www.eapu.com.au)



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## On turning purple...

Join Older People Speak Out (OPSO), Elder Abuse Prevention Unit (EAPU) and the Seniors Legal and Support Service (SLASS) in turning Queensland purple for

### World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) June 15, 2013

JUNE 15 each year is the day designated by the United Nations as the international day of action when the whole world voices its opposition to the abuse of older people. WEAAD is represented by the colour purple – which denotes wisdom, dignity, independence and creativity.

During the week ending June 15, we are calling for all communities across Queensland, to join the rest of the world in 'going purple' for WEAAD.

The week leading up to June 15, is a time when individuals and organisations can come together to raise awareness of elder abuse and to celebrate human rights.

What is happening in your community? What can you do? How about having a purple-themed picnic with your family on Saturday June 15. Or wear something purple on the day or during that week and tell people why. Put up a poster or have a purple themed morning tea at your workplace or with your friends. Tell the media about your event.

### *Remember*

### *This is not a Fund Raiser....it's an Awareness Raiser*

Out of purple ideas? Check out [www.weaadqld.com](http://www.weaadqld.com) for some suggestions, web links and toolkits to help you get started. Send us your suggestions and we will put them up on the website – if you have a purple idea please email us at [eapu@ucommunity.org.au](mailto:eapu@ucommunity.org.au). We are currently looking for a purple menu items and recipes.

No effort is too small to be a part of this awareness-raising campaign and we hope you will list your 'Purple' event via the links on the website.

**[www.weaadqld.com](http://www.weaadqld.com)**

**OPSO** – Older People Speak Out

[www.opso.com.au](http://www.opso.com.au) | [opso@zipworld.com.au](mailto:opso@zipworld.com.au) | (07) 3219 2572

**EAPU** – UnitingCare Community Elder Abuse Prevention Unit

[www.eapu.com.au](http://www.eapu.com.au) | [eapu@ucommunity.org.au](mailto:eapu@ucommunity.org.au) | 1300 651 192

**SLASS** – Seniors Legal and Support Service Caxton Legal Centre Inc.

[www.caxton.org.au](http://www.caxton.org.au) | [caxton@caxton.org.au](mailto:caxton@caxton.org.au) | (07) 3214 6333

