



Queensland Focus

Edition 33—March 2014

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Quick Tips:

Provide your Enduring Power of Attorney document to all the relevant parties including your bank, doctor/s and support people not just the attorney. This will help people know what your wishes are and who is making decisions when.

Service funded by:



Farewell from Maya

Maya Zetlin

Elder Abuse Prevention Unit

Since the beginning of 2013 I have visited four regions outside the South-East corner of Qld to deliver training to service providers and information sessions to community groups.

Now that EAPU operates totally from Brisbane without any regional workers, the two trainers are sharing the South-East region and also have been allocated 'their own' regions, which they will endeavour to cover equitably throughout the year.

At the beginning of May I visited Cairns and the region for a week, delivering sessions to a variety of services. I have been visiting Cairns for quite a few years now so have developed great working relationships and collaborations.

Following that and back to back, I have joined QADA advocate on an amazing week's visit to the Western Cape. Then in late October I have visited Mackay and the region, again for week, and the year culminated with a week in Townsville.

Each visit usually starts with a single request for a session on elder abuse. Then, after sitting on the phone and sending e-mails announcing my impending visit to the region, it develops into a week full of sessions and presentations.

I started working at the EAPU thirteen years ago, first as the Multicultural Project Officer and then, through the ranks, as the Senior Project Officer with a focus on education and training. Recently I have decided that for both professional and personal reasons it is time to say goodbye and embark on the next stage of my life. Therefore I would not be back in 2014 and would like to take this opportunity to thank all who I have worked with and who have enriched my life in so many ways. I will be moving to Melbourne to live closer to my family and after settling down will look for part time work. So, who knows, maybe it is not goodbye but au revoir and our paths will cross again.

My position will be filled by another trainer and together with Natasha they will continue to cover all of Queensland to deliver training and information sessions and participate in relevant networks. Therefore, please continue to request sessions and participation in various events by calling our Statewide Helpline on 1300 651 192 in order to keep collaboration on promoting the rights of older people, including their right to live free from abuse

Editorial

Domnica Sparkes (Project Officer)

In planning this edition of Queensland Focus I was looking at our team and it occurred to me that there are a number of new faces in our team that may be new to many of you. Please let me take this opportunity to use this edition as a bit of a reintroduction to who we are in the UnitingCare Community Elder Abuse Prevention Unit (EAPU). The team is Les Jackson, Ceallaigh Spike, Natasha Love, Rita Price-Jones and Domnica Sparkes.

Les is our fearless and much respected Service Coordinator. Natasha comes to us from within the UnitingCare Community family where she worked tirelessly to raise awareness of issues facing children in care. Ceallaigh has moved seamlessly over from the UnitingCare Community Seniors Enquiry Line and Time for Grandparents Program. Rita is yet another team member who has been with the organisation many years working originally in the Lifeline Business Team. Rita also has a wealth of experience on the Lifeline Crisis Line, bringing with her valuable skills and knowledge of services and empathy for vulnerable people, I have been with the EAPU for 8 years, during which time I have had the privilege of working with some amazing and passionate people who are dedicated to making this world a better place and

promote the right of older people to live with dignity and respect.

With a new team comes new energy and fresh ideas so it goes to follow that this year we have some exciting projects in the pipeline for our training and education as well as in our planning for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

Some of the projects involve new training and information resources as well as research papers.

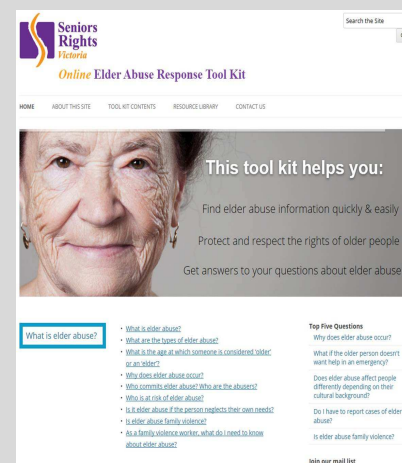
We have already started planning and preparing for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2014. We will be doing another “Go Purple for a Day” and joining the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services in their “Anyone can make the Call” Campaigns. Join us in doing something purple on or during the week of the 15th June. Please let us know and share your ideas, suggestions and photos with us.

Thank you for sharing this journey with us and I sincerely hope you enjoy this edition. If you have any suggestions for our upcoming editions or would like to make a comment on any articles don't hesitate to drop me a line (eapu@ucommunity.org.au).

Elder Abuse Response Toolkit

(Seniors Rights Victoria)

Late last year, Seniors Rights Victoria launched an online toolkit for anyone working with older people to help them prevent, identify and respond to elder abuse. Although it is a Victorian website, most of the information is relevant to other states. We are currently taking feedback and working to improve the content, including seeking additional resource to put into the online library. You can find the toolkit here: <http://www.seniorsrights.org.au/toolkit/> We hope you find it useful and would love to hear of any improvements you think we can make.



Inquiry into grandparents who take primary responsibility for raising their grandchildren

Seniors Enquiry Line

In families where grandparents are the primary carers of children there is often daily stress and multiple family concerns. In many cases family crisis has meant that grandparents take on the role of raising their grandchildren. At times this can be sudden and grandparents may be unprepared for the arrival of their grandchildren. Lifestyle changes, financial hardship, family conflict, legal issues and the day to day care of traumatised children are just a number of difficulties that grandparents may face. Many of these families are not connected to services and support, and may be disconnected from their family, peers and other support networks.

The Senate Community Affairs References Committee is currently inviting written submissions from those who have an interest in addressing the issues of grandparents who take primary responsibility for raising their grandchildren. Submissions must be lodged by 14 March 2014. More information can be sourced at http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Community_Affairs/Grandparent_Carers

Including how a submission can be provided online, via email or hard copy. Online submissions are the preference of the Committee.



Mark Your Diary

Advocare is proud to be at the forefront of combating elder abuse in Australia and will host the Third National Elder Abuse Conference. Entitled 'Unlocking Solutions', our organising committee will embrace a program that looks into all aspects of elder abuse.

Already regarded by industry leaders as a must attend event, this conference will bring together dynamic global experts to share information on topics that will assist in elder abuse research, intervention and policy. There will also be plenty of opportunities for networking, reacquainting with old colleagues and meeting new ones.

The two day conference will be followed by a unique movers and shakers day, which will look at the practical and theoretical applications that arise from the conference.

I encourage delegates from different professions to attend and/or submit an abstract, as unlocking solutions to elder abuse requires a collaborative effort from all counterparts.

Register your interest for the conference and workshop and help change the outcome for thousands of elder abuse victims in Australia.

See you in Perth.

Greg Mahney

*Australian Representative for the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse
Chairperson of the Alliance for the Prevention of Elder Abuse*

Register your Interest



Call for Abstracts Now Open

We invite you to submit an abstract for a contribution to the 2014 Conference Program. **The deadline for abstract proposals is Friday 2 May 2014.**

Abstracts should generally be limited to the suggested themes and underlying topics. Thought provoking, creative abstracts are highly encouraged to stimulate the interest and participation of delegates throughout the Conference.

Conference Themes

Research and Innovation

Areas such as research Projects, technological advancements and innovative new practices, and new ways that organisations are doing 'old business'.

Projects

Projects that have helped your organisation to recognise, respond or record elder abuse, including but not limited to help lines, databases, identification tools and marketing strategies.

Collaboration, Information Sharing and Engagement

Different ways in which your organisation works with others to spread messages, promote ideas and events, fund projects and activities and share valuable information and statistics. We are also looking at ways in which you think we can better record Elder Abuse ie National Linkages, managing statistics.

Education, Training and Workforce Development

Including, but not limited to new and existing training programs, tertiary courses, university courses and other workforce development.

Learning from Other Disciplines

We are looking for ways in which elder abuse agencies can learn from other disciplines that excel in areas such as fundraising, information sharing, reporting and recording, victim protection and relationship building.

Future Visions

We are looking to find out new ways to further advance the prevention of elder abuse eg changing perceptions, changing laws, changing the way we look at or think about things.

To view further information, guidelines and how to submit [click here](#)

Sponsorship Opportunities Available

"Show You're a Leader"

This is your opportunity to *"Show You're a Leader"* by partnering with Advocare as a sponsor of the Third National Elder Abuse Conference. As a sponsor, you will be investing in a conference that will strengthen our community and give back the basic human rights to which everyone is entitled. The right to be treated with dignity and respect, live without abuse and to be and feel safe.

Download Sponsorship Prospectus



View our Twitter Feed



unlocking solutions



Third National Elder Abuse Conference
3 & 4 September 2014
Hyatt Regency Perth

Advance Health Directives—the form looks simple enough....

Seniors Legal and Support Service—Hervey Bay

Advance Health Directives – the form looks simple enough; your doctor goes through the questions with you; what could be simpler?

Here at the Seniors Legal and Support Service we believe it is very important to understand what your Doctor is explaining in relation to an AHD. It has been our experience that many older people feel they are taking up too much time with the Doctor, or that their questions will be considered 'silly'. However, the Advance Health Directive could play a significant part of your advanced care planning regime so it is imperative that you understand what you are signing.

One of the most important things to note about an AHD is that your instructions in Section 3 only apply in the following four circumstances: if you are in the final stages of an incurable illness; you are in a vegetative state; you are in a coma, or you are so badly injured in an accident that you are unlikely to recover.

Some of the questions people have asked us are listed below. Because we are not medically trained, we refer people back to their doctor. These are questions you may like to ask your own GP.

1. If you do not fall into any of the categories listed above, and are quite healthy but for some reason do not want to be resuscitated if you have a heart attack, can you specify this in an AHD?
2. If you state in section 3 that you do not want to be resuscitated, will a doctor reading your AHD (say in a hospital setting) be sure that your instruction only applies if you fall into one of the categories in Section 3?
3. What is the difference between a vegetative state and a coma? What is the definition of the final stages of a terminal illness?
4. If you have ticked the box asking that you be provided with artificial hydration and you find yourself dying because of fluid build-up in your lungs, will artificial hydration make your death more uncomfortable?
5. Will a doctor override your instructions in the AHD, in order to make your death as comfortable as possible, if he/she is worried about legal ramifications?
6. If you are in hospital, will the treating medical practitioner interpret the AHD in the same way as the GP who completed the document with you?
7. If you have appointed someone under your Enduring Power of Attorney as your personal/health attorney, and you have told this person about your wishes in relation to end of life decisions, why do you need an AHD?

These are just some of the questions that may be useful for you to clarify with your doctor before signing your Advance Health Directive



Taking Romance out of the Closet

Anthony Brown, University of Western Sydney

Older lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and intersexed (LGBTI) people often feel they have to hide who they are, and who they love, from aged care providers. Older lesbians and gay men may never have been as publicly 'out' as members of younger generations are and may not feel safe telling service providers that they have a same-sex partner – instead they may talk of a friend or roommate and hide the 'evidence' of their relationships (such as photos and Valentine's Day cards) when services come to visit.

Older LGBTI people have diverse and unique life histories and many have experienced discrimination. Service providers need to develop

inclusive practices including educating and supporting staff to understand the diversity of needs of older LGBTI people.

The Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA) also published research about how the health and well-being of LGBT people and their families is negatively affected by the denial of their right to marry: Same Sex Marriage and Health (2008).

If you have an interest in LGBTI Ageing then please join the AAG LGBTI Special Interest Group. AAG members are welcome to join this SIG.

Sent by Australian Association of Gerontology, Suite 8, 322 St Kilda Road St Kilda Victoria 3182

Public Guardian, Adult Guardian and Child Guardian: What's in a name?

Les Jackson, Service Coordinator,
UnitingCare Community Elder Abuse Prevention Unit (EAPU)

On the first July 2014 two incredibly important government functions will fuse into one entity creating the Public Guardian of Queensland. This new position, was proposed by the Hon Tim Carmody QC in his final report "Taking Responsibility: A Road Map for Queensland Child Protection" and accepted by the Queensland Government in December 2013. The Public Guardian is an amalgam of the roles of the Adult Guardian and the Child Guardian (refocused for individual advocacy). The setting up of Advocacy Hubs and the child protection community visitor's scheme will also come under this new office, again these will be refocused on individual advocacy. This initiative is a welcome reform of Queensland's Child Protection system however the impact this will have on the existing role of the Adult Guardian is yet to be seen.

Dementia is on the rise globally and the 2011 Deloitte Access Economic Report commissioned by Alzheimer's Australia (www.fightdementia.org.au) provides Queensland dementia estimates of 55,509 in 2014, growing to 73,470 by 2020 and to 215,272 Queenslanders with dementia by 2050. Related to this is a widespread concern that there will be a similar increase in the number of financial elder abuse cases involving a person with impaired decision making capacity. The agency at the forefront of providing the protection and investigating abuse in this area is the Office of the Adult Guardian, which records increasing workloads in each successive annual report. Meanwhile the Carmody Report highlighted the need for individual advocacy and support for children coming into the child protection system and has apparently recognised the effectiveness of the Adult Guardian's systems by recommending the refocus and merge of the Child Guardian area into the Office of the Adult Guardian. Better outcomes for children in the child protection system is a major positive in this merge but the whole of life guardianship approach should also be seen a real step forward and similarly the cost savings derived from the prevention strategies adopted from the Carmody Report are also welcome. The only real concern is can the Public Guardian keep a strong focus on vulnerable children *and* vulnerable adults - or will one miss out?

Elder abuse in the media



Australian Media

1000 sickening complaints of abuse against the elderly logged in NSW News.com.au 16 Feb 14
<http://www.news.com.au/national/nsw-act/sickening-complaints-of-abuse-against-the-elderly-logged-in-nsw/story-fnii5s3x-1226828149823>

Abuse is abuse in any language The Senior News 29 Jan 14
<http://www.thesenior.com.au/News/The-Senior-News/Abuse>

Protect our seniors from abuse health365 8 Jan 14
<http://health365.com.au/articles/aged-health/protect-our-seniors-from-abuse>

International Media

When love hurts: The heartbreak of elder abuse Huffington Post 11 Feb 14
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/robert-b-blancato/when-love-hurts-the-heart_b_4762405.html

Elder abuse increasingly over money Stuff.co.nz 10 Feb 14
<http://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/news/9702379/Elder-abuse-increasingly-over-money>

Reports of elderly abuse increase MSN News UK 7 Feb 14
<http://news.uk.msn.com/reports-of-elderly-abuse-increase>

Tips for Seniors, Families to Help Prevent Financial Elder Abuse Noozhawk 4 Feb 14
http://www.noozhawk.com/article/preventing_financial_elder_abuse_20140203

Elder abuse and LGBT Older Adults: Recent News and Research NYC Elder Abuse Center 23 Jan 14
http://nyceac.com/elder-justice-dispatch-elder-abuse-lgbt-older-adults-recent-news-research/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+NyceacElderJusticeDispatch+%28NYCEAC+%C2%BB+Elder+Justice+Dispatch%29

New NYC doorman duty: Spotting elder abuse The Washington Post 21 Jan 14
http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/new-nyc-doorman-duty-spotting-elder-abuse/2014/01/21/80e0008a-8270-11e3-a273-6ffd9cf9f4ba_story.html

A risk in caring for abusive parents The New York Times 20 Jan 14
http://newoldage.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/01/20/a-risk-in-caring-for-abusive-parents/?_php=true&_type=blogs&_r=0

Elderly in villages suffer more abuse Times of India 20 Jan 14
http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2014-01-20/pune/46374257_1_abuse-tiss-study

Neglected elderly Australian endures brutal end Kitsap Sun 23 Dec 13
<http://www.kitsapsun.com/news/2013/dec/23/neglected-elderly-australian-endures-brutal-end/#axzz2qt3lpdky>

Cynthia Thoresen, Australian Woman Neglected By Daughter, Left With Untreated Broken Leg For Weeks, Huffington Post 20 Oct 13
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/10/21/cynthia-thoresen-australia-elderly-neglect-marguerite_n_4137130.html

Related Issues

Putting the spotlight on homeless seniors Australian Aging Agenda 17 Jan 14
<http://www.australianagingagenda.com.au/2014/01/17/homeless-seniors-focus/>

DATE CLAIMER

Multidisciplinary Peer Support Network – Teleconference

Wednesday 26th March 2014 1.00pm – 2.00pm

FINANCIAL ABUSE

a presentation by the Elder Abuse Prevention Unit

Priority given to Rural and Remote workers

A case study of Financial Abuse – the presentation will be based around a case study and will address the often distressing and complex issues that arise when an older person is abused by a loved one.

Currently, financial abuse is now the second-highest reason for calls to the Elder Abuse Prevention Unit. The risk of financial abuse steadily increases with age. It is therefore clearly important to continue raising awareness of the financial abuse of older people in our communities and to develop strategies which help to inform and protect them.

RSVP to Rita Price-Jones on (07) 3867 2526 or eapu.psn@uccommunity.org.au



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

unlocking
solutions



Third National Elder
Abuse Conference
3 & 4 September 2014
Hyatt Regency Perth

Events

- Peer Support Network Teleconference
Elder Abuse Prevention Unit
26 March 2014—1pm—2pm
Email: psn.eapu@ucommunity.org.au
- The 2014 AAG/ACS Regional Conference – Sharing
Care for Older Australians
5 – 6 March 2014
Glasshouse, Cnr Clarence & Hay Street, Port
Macquarie, NSW
Website: <https://www.aag.asn.au/events/event/2014-aag-acs-regional-conference-sharing-care-for-older-australians-working-together>
- Best Care for Older People – What is the Latest
Evidence?
21 March 2014
Carmichael room, City Memorial Bowls Club, 50-58
Cramer St, Warrnambool VIC 3280
Website: <https://www.aag.asn.au/events/event/best-care-for-older-people-what-is-the-latest-evidence>
- 3rd World Congress on Adult Guardianship
28—30 May 20174
Crystal Gateway Marriott
Arlington, Virginia, USA
Email: info@nationalguardianshipnetwork.org
Website: <http://worldcongressguardianship.org/>
- 9th World Conference of Gerontechnology -
"Cultural and social diversity in Gerontechnology"
International Society of Gerontechnology
18—21 June 2014
Taipei, Taiwan
Website: www.isg2014.org
- 3rd National Elder Abuse Conference
3-4 September 2014
Perth Western Australia.
Email: info@eecw.com.au

Disclaimer:

Editor's Note: Opinions expressed in this edition "Queensland Focus", do not necessarily reflect those of The Elder Abuse Prevention Unit (EAPU). Articles in this newsletter may be used with the permission of the contributing author. This publication is a guide only and should not substitute independent legal advice.

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