



Queensland Focus

Edition 40—November 2015

NEW EAPU REPORTS:

1. EAPU Helpline: Results of an investigation of five years of call data (Summary)

Ceallaigh Spike—Elder Abuse Prevention Unit

Ceallaigh Spike presented the findings of a five year review of Elder Abuse Helpline (referred to as “the Helpline”) data collected by the UnitingCare Community Elder Abuse Prevention Unit (EAPU) from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2015 at the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics Asia and Oceania Regional Congress in Thailand. The Helpline is a state government funded initiative that provides information, support and referral to anyone suspecting, witnessing or experiencing abuse or mistreatment. Callers to the Helpline may remain anonymous and data collected is descriptive in nature.

There are some significant limitations of analysis of data collected from a helpline including the most important being that callers opt-in for support and data is therefore skewed. The data may be inaccurate due to the callers limited knowledge of the situation and availability to the information.

Despite these limitations, the data collected by the EAPU is the longest running, largest and most comprehensive data set relating to elder abuse in Australia.

2. EAPU Reference Group Research Subgroup: A ‘wish list’ for a prevalence study (Summary)

Ceallaigh Spike—Elder Abuse Prevention Unit

The need for a comprehensive prevalence study has been identified in numerous elder abuse literature reviews. The EAPU Research subgroup has put together some priorities and guidelines for a prevalence study that would enable future governments, policy makers and service providers to gauge the impact their services and resources have on combatting elder abuse. This “wishlist” outlines the items that would enable service providers with best practice intervention and prevention strategies based on research.

The full reports are available on the EAPU website: www.eapu.com.au.

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EAPU Office Closure
24 December 2015 to
3 January 2016

Service funded by:



EAPU Aging Diversely Project Update

Peter Dorsett, Elder Abuse Prevention Unit

Four months ago the Elder Abuse Prevention Unit took on a student (Peter Dorsett) and begun work on a new project. While we all know Australia's population is ageing, it's also important to recognise that it is becoming increasingly diverse. The aim of this project has been to establish a service partnership that will be committed to supporting culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities to 'plan for the future' and 'age safely'.

What is future planning?

A number of things can be important for future planning, such as updating Wills, creating Enduring Power of Attorney documents or arranging for the ongoing care of family members.

What is safety?

A number of safety issues affect older Australians such as scams, elder abuse and social isolation etc.

The project so far!

So what has that student been up to? Well to begin, we decided to do our homework and look at all the various elements that factor into the prevalence of elder abuse. We conducted a rapid review of the literature exploring the experiences older CALD Australians and the types of issues they face. This gave us a sense of what is needed and is potentially available upon request (in draft form) if it is of interest to anyone. We have also been busy looking at how to best engage CALD communities, as well as networking with services that may be potentially interested in joining such a service collaboration. So far, we've had strong interest from a range of stakeholders and an initial stakeholder meeting is only a stone's throw away.

Editorial

Domnica Sparkes

I don't know about you but this year has flown by for me. Our small team has been involved in work that has yet again promoted the rights of older people who are at risk of elder abuse and mistreatment.

The World Elder Abuse Awareness Day campaign was an outstanding success and people were calling the Helpline for months after the campaign finished to seek help and information. This increase in people calling our Helpline just reiterates the need in the community for education and prevention resources and services.

Les Jackson and Ceallaigh Spike have been speakers at several conferences including the IAGG Conference in Chang Mai, Thailand and the AAG Conference in Alice Spring. This has been a huge encouragement to our team.

We would like to introduce Deanne Lawrie who joined our team in May as a Trainer and Helpline operator. Deanne came to us from the Seniors Enquiry Line and Time for Grandparents Program where she was the Community Resource Facilitator.

Natasha (our Senior Trainer) has a new addition to her family and we wish them the very best for a bright and happy future. Both Mum and bub are doing well.

We have our audit this month on top of all that and well I think we are pretty fantastic (if I say so myself). Our program has been of the philosophy that everything we do should use a best practice framework and that has really paid dividends. Thank you for all your support and feedback over the years. It's helped immeasurably.

Til next time
Domnica Sparkes

Time for Grandparents Program

The Time for Grandparents program was set up by the Department of Communities to provide help to eligible grandparents who are the primary carers of their grandchildren by offering fun and interesting activities for grandchildren and giving grandparents the opportunity for well earned time-out.

The program can fund the following options in many areas: school camps, scripture union camps, PCYC, Scouts, Guides, Girls and Boys *Brigade*, *fitness and dance*, *sport and recreation*, *little athletics*, *gymnastics*, *swimming*, *softball*, *netball*, rowing, cricket, touch football, soccer, rugby league and more.

To check eligibility and for information please phone **Seniors Enquiry Line on 1300 135 500**.



Elder abuse in the media



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|--|--------------------------|-----------|
| Bathurst service providers working with elderly trained for helpline Jun 15 http://www.westernadvocate.com.au/story/3169000/helping-elderly-deal-with-abuse/ | Western Advocate | 25 |
| Strategy aims to stamp out elder abuse http://www.psnews.com.au/sa/461/news/strategy-aims-to-stamp-out-elder-abuse | PSnews online | 25 Jun 15 |
| Aged care services urge people to look out for elderly amid spike in abuse http://www.heraldsun.com.au/leader/south-east/aged-care-services-urge-people-to-look-out-for-elderly-amid-spike-in-abuse/story-fngnvmhm-1227413081378 | Herald Sun | 25 Jun 15 |
| Minister squares up to elder abuse http://www.psnews.com.au/nsw/461/news/minister-squares-up-to-elder-abuse | PSnews online | 24 Jun 15 |
| Spotlight placed on elder abuse http://www.communitynews.com.au/news/Spotlight-placed-on-elder-abuse/7671787 | Southern Gazette | 23 Jun 15 |
| Elder abuse a growing issue 'blurred' through family power dynamics http://www.heraldsun.com.au/leader/east/elder-abuse-a-growing-issue-blurred-through-family-power-dynamics/story-fngnvlxu-1227409810869 | Herald Sun | 23 Jun 15 |
| Domestic violence against elderly: calls for more awareness and assistance http://www.abc.net.au/worldtoday/content/2015/s4255818.htm | ABC | 16 Jun 15 |
| Elder abuse in Queensland http://blogs.abc.net.au/queensland/2015/06/steve-austin-elder-abuse-in-queensland.html | ABC Mornings | 15 Jun 15 |
| Seniors expo puts elder abuse in the spotlight http://mysunshinecoast.com.au/news/news-display/seniors-expo-puts-elder-abuse-in-the-spotlight,38804 | My Sunshine Coast | 15 Jun 15 |
| Speak up to protect elderly suffering abuse in silence http://www.sunshinecoastdaily.com.au/news/seniors-savings-syphoned/2671546/ | Sunshine Coast Daily | 15 Jun 15 |
| On World Day, UN chief shines spotlight on once-taboo topic of elder abuse http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=51151 | UN News Centre | 15 Jun 15 |
| Most elder abuse by family of victim, says report http://www.smh.com.au/national/most-elder-abuse-by-family-of-victim-says-report-20150613-ghmvi9.html | Sydney Morning Herald | 14 Jun 15 |
| Trust your instincts when it comes to elder abuse http://www.gladstoneobserver.com.au/news/trust-your-instincts-when-it-comes-elder-abuse/2668641/ | The Gladstone Observer | 11 Jun 15 |
| Australian groups mobilise ahead of global day of action on elder abuse http://www.australianageingagenda.com.au/2015/06/05/australian-groups-mobilise-ahead-of-global-day-of-action-on-elder-abuse/ | Australian Ageing Agenda | 5 Jun 15 |
| ACT elder abuse figures "underestimated" - more studies needed says Council of the Aged http://www.canberratimes.com.au/act-news/act-elder-abuse-figures-underestimated--more-studies-needed-says-council-of-the-aged-20150524-gh6wru.html | The Canberra Times | 24 May 15 |
| Heeding the warning bells on aggressive relatives http://www.australianageingagenda.com.au/2015/04/22/heeding-the-warning-bells-on-aggressive-relatives/ | Australian Ageing Agenda | 22 Apr 15 |
| Helpline aims to prevent elder abuse rise http://www.abc.net.au/local/stories/2015/04/16/4217482.htm | ABC Sunshine Coast | 16 Apr 15 |

Elder abuse in the media



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|---|---------------------------|-----------|
| Royal Commission into Family Violence: Abuse of elderly under-reported by victims due to 'embarrassment, shame' | ABC News | 16 Jul 15 |
| http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-07-16/royal-commission-abuse-of-elderly-is-under-reported-by-victims/6625230 | | |
| New laws to protect elderly from financially abusive family members in Victoria | ABC News | 1 Sep 15 |
| http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-09-01/new-laws-to-protect-elderly-from-financial-abuse-in-victoria/6740744 | | |
| Elderly abuse to be examined by NSW parliamentary inquiry | ABC News | 2 Sep 15 |
| http://www.abc.net.au/pm/content/2015/s4304976.htm | | |
| Avoid Financial Elder Abuse Through Islamic Principles | Muslim Matters | 14 Sep 15 |
| http://muslimmatters.org/2015/09/14/avoid-financial-elder-abuse-through-islamic-principles/ | | |
| Opinion: Elderly abuse is a terrible silent tragedy on the rise | Australian Women's Weekly | 9 Oct 15 |
| http://www.aww.com.au/latest-news/news-stories/elder-abuse-is-domestic-violence-and-a-national-problem-22495 | | |
| Woman, 55, sells 80-year-old's home to pay own debts | The Gladstone Observer | 9 Oct 15 |
| http://www.gladstoneobserver.com.au/news/woman-55-sells-80-year-olds-home-pay-own-debts/2801665/ | | |
| Elder abuse: calls for zero tolerance on adult children attacking parents | Herald Sun | 13 Oct 15 |
| http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/victoria/elder-abuse-calls-for-zero-tolerance-on-adultchildren-attacking-parents/news-story/b18bc8d5b584e35d3d69c70229e55e92 | | |
| From GPs to hairdressers: community workers need elder abuse training | Australian Aging Agenda | 13 Oct 15 |
| http://www.australianagingagenda.com.au/2015/10/13/from-gps-to-hairdressers-community-workers-need-elder-abuse-training/ | | |
| Canberra Times Editorial: Prevention strategies needed to counter elder abuse | Brisbane Times | 13 Oct 15 |
| http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/comment/ct-editorial/canberra-times-editorial-prevention-strategies-needed-to-counter-elder-abuse-20151012-gk7jie.html | | |
| Abuse of our elderly must end now | DPS News | 16 Oct 15 |
| https://news.agedcareguide.com.au/2015/10/16/abuse-of-our-elderly-must-end-now/ | | |

National Elder Abuse Agenda Gaining Momentum

Les Jackson, Elder Abuse Prevention Unit

The Australian elder abuse agenda picked up speed in November with calls for a national approach coming from different quarters around Australia, including:

The NSW Elder Abuse Helpline and Resource Unit EAHRU has recommended a national prevalence study on elder abuse within their submission to the [NSW Parliamentary inquiry on elder abuse](#).

The Australian Age Discrimination Commissioner Susan Ryan also [raised the need for a National prevalence study](#) with the Commonwealth Government as well as the provision of an Australia wide financial abuse hotline and federal leadership in coordinating a national approach to elder abuse.

Greg Mahney, the CEO of Advocare Inc (WA) argued for the development of a National elder abuse agenda in his presentation at the Australian Association of Gerontology national conference in Alice Springs at the start of the month. A national summit in June 2016 was the suggestion put forward.

The EAPU certainly supports these national initiatives and for more Commonwealth Government engagement particularly since the rise in financial elder abuse is leaving many victims without the means to fund their retirement or their aged care needs.

Preliminary Program Launch

The Preliminary Program for the **4th National Elder Abuse Conference** is now available! Click [here](#) to view session details and presentation topics.

The Conference will be taking place from **23-25 February 2016** in **Pullman Melbourne on the Park, Victoria**.

'Elder Abuse' is defined as any act which causes harm to an older person and is carried out by someone they know and trust, such as a family member or friend. The abuse may be physical, social, financial, psychological or sexual and can include mistreatment and neglect. While it is vastly under-reported, it is estimated that up to 10 per cent of older people worldwide suffer from elder abuse.

Join the Conference and be part of the discussions relating to prevention, collaborative and innovative responses, as well as decision making for, by and with the older person.

Don't Forget to Register!

Registration is open for the 4th National Elder Abuse Conference. The early bird deadline is fast approaching, so take advantage of the reduced prices and register now!

For more information, please [click here](#).



Keynote Speakers

A number of impressive national and international speakers have confirmed their attendance for the **4th National Elder Abuse Conference 2016**. Please click on the profiles below or visit our [website](#).



Prof Marie Beaulieu



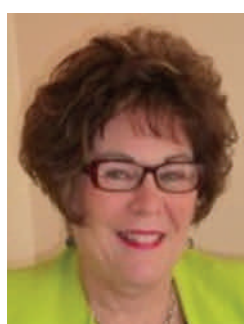
Dr Jacquelin Berman



Libbi Gorr



Senator, The Honourable
George Brandis QC



Robyn Scott



Dr Faizal Ibrahim



Prof Mick Dodson AM

Events

- **4th Elder Abuse National Conference**
24-25 February 2016
Melbourne, VIC
E: info@seniorsrights.org.au
- **International Federation on Aging Copenhagen Summit**
17-19 April 2016
<http://www.ifa-copenhagen-summit.com/about-the-copenhagen-summit/>
- **2016 International Dementia Conference**
16-17 June 2016
Hilton Sydney, NSW
W: <http://www.dementiaconference.com/>
- **International Federation on Ageing—13th Global Conference**
21-23 June 2016
Brisbane Convention Centre, QLD
W: <http://ifa2016.org.au/>
- **4th World Congress on Adult Guardianship**
14-17 September 2016
Berlin, Germany
- **AGAC National Conference 2016**
17-19 October 2016
Menzies Hotel, Sydney

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LINKING SENIORS AND THEIR FAMILIES TO INFORMATION

Seniors Enquiry Line is a Queensland-wide telephone information and referral service which links seniors, their families, friends and carers with information on a wide variety of services throughout Queensland.



The services covered include those relating to retirement, concessions, leisure, accommodation, health, finance, the law, computers, home help, transport and many other areas relevant to Queensland Seniors.

Call Seniors Enquiry Line on **1300 135 500** for the cost of a local call, weekdays from 9.00am to 5.00pm or you can visit the website www.seniorsenquiryline.com.au

The service is operated by UnitingCare Community and funded by the Queensland Government's Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services.

Disclaimer:

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