

The EA Brief

elder abuse in focus



‘Walk the Talk’ at the National Elder Abuse Conference 2022

February 14-15th, Hobart or online

As time closes in on the National Elder Abuse (Feb 2022) the program of speakers and guests is starting to get very exciting. Considering attending? See more [here](#).

Australian Press Standards change to acknowledge elder abuse

New sources of assistance for reporting on elder abuse

1800 ELDER HELP and www.compass.info are now listed as suggested sources of assistance for all relevant publications reporting on family and domestic violence. Read more on p. 5.

New paper – The Public Advocate on restrictive practices

Reform options for restrictive practices

The Public Advocate has, “prepared a reform options paper that proposes a new model of authorisation of restrictive practices across our state”. You can view the paper [here](#).

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Speakers & Guests – NEAC Feb 2022

National Elder Abuse Conference 2022

As time closes in on the [National Elder Abuse Conference](#), 2 keynote speakers have been announced on the program!



Natasha Short will give a keynote address touching on the [No More Humbug!!! Reducing financial elder abuse in the Kimberley](#) report. It explores Aboriginal Financial Elder Abuse in the Kimberley region of WA.



As an expert economist, **Nicki Hutley** has a passion for positive Social Outcomes and will speak to the economic cost of elder abuse.

Many guests from around the country (and globe!) have been confirmed as joining the discussion too! Here's just a few:

- Aged Discrimination Commissioner: **The Hon Dr Kay Patterson**
- CEO, Australian Banking Association: **Anna Bligh**
- International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse: **Dr Mala Kapur Shakardass**

Check out the [full program here!](#)

National Register of Enduring Power of Attorney

Update on issue progress

The creation of a National Register for Enduring Powers of Attorney (EPoA) has been recommended in the past as one way of preventing elder abuse.

The separate issue of making Power of Attorney laws the same across Australia (or 'harmonising' them) has become synonymous with this recommendation. So where are we now on these issues? Let's recap.

Timeline:

2017 [Australian Law Reform Commission](#) recommends creating of National EPoA register and harmonisation of EPoA laws

Nov 2019 COAG (Council of Attorneys General) agree to work toward EPoA reforms and mandatory National Register

April 2021 Public consultation is conducted solely in regards to the creation of a national register. Consideration of broader law reform (e.g. harmonisation of EPoA laws) to follow development of National EPoA Register

June 2021 49 submissions received from individuals, organisations and institutions across Australia. You can view them [here](#).

Escaping Violence Payment

Up to \$5000 for women escaping violent intimate partner relationships

From October 19th, a new avenue of financial support will be available for people escaping violent intimate partner relationships. Although the Elder Abuse Prevention Unit's helpline data shows that most perpetrators are either the older person's adult son or daughter, intimate partner violence still accounts for around 9-12% of cases.

So what exactly is the eligibility?

You must be:

- 18+
- An Australian citizen/ permanent residency
- Have not accessed the program in past 12 months

Other requirements include:

- Person has experienced intimate partner violence within the last 12 weeks and the relationship has ended
- Violence (of course) includes the full scope of abuse types, not just physical violence
- Either the person or perpetrator has left home
- The person is experiencing financial stress and unable to meet current financial needs

What can people get?

- Up to \$1500 for essential items
- Up to \$3500 in goods a services, such as moving expenses, bonds and other support

Where do you access it?

The focus of the program is simplicity. It is encouraged for people to simply ask their **current** support service to apply for the payment. In either case, you can make contact with UnitingCare Australia via their '[Escaping Violence Payment](#)' webpage or [enquiry form](#).

You do not need to be working with UnitingCare.

Will it affect social security payments?

- No. According to the media release it will not be considered reportable income or taxable income.

Visit: [Uniting EVP website](#)

Media Release: [click here](#)

Ageism Awareness Day campaign success!

EveryAGE Counts!

October 1st was International Day of the Older Person. Not coincidentally, it was also the day that [EveryAGE Counts](#) launched the very first Ageism Awareness Day.

The campaign featured an online event, hosted by Dr Marlene Krasovitsky. If you missed it, it's not too late to check it out [here](#) on YouTube.

It was both a fun and informative event, which opened with a live song from esteemed jazz singer and actress, Monica Trapaga. The Honourable Dr Kay Patterson (Age Discrimination Commissioner) and Robert Tickner also joined in the discussion, around the theme: *Ageism. Know it. Name it.*

Fun Fact: Both Dr Marlene Krasovitsky & the Hon Dr Kay Patterson are guests at the upcoming [National Elder Abuse Conference](#) in Feb 22!



Australian Press Standards change to acknowledge elder abuse

New sources of assistance for reporting on elder abuse

The Australian Press Council is a core body responsible for setting principles and guidelines for all forms publishing. For example, it has [guidelines](#) surrounding published material that reports on family and domestic violence. In these guidelines, it recommends that the published material be accompanied by 'sources of assistance' i.e. services that can support readers who themselves, may need to seek assistance.

The Australian Press Council maintains an official list of suggested 'sources of assistance'. This is why you very commonly see the same referrals following many news articles reporting on the same topic. It is this list that was recently updated to help improve sources of assistance for articles reporting specifically on elder abuse topics.

The sources of assistance for family and domestic violence reporting now suggests the 1800 ELDERHELP number, as well as the [compass.info](#) website for relevant publishing/ reporting. This is a great step to supporting people access elder abuse services, as well as increasing broader awareness in the community nationwide!

Elder Abuse in the Media

Recounting the headlines



The goal of looking at elder abuse headlines is to capture a snapshot of how elder abuse and related issues are being reported in the media. Among other reasons, this can be helpful for identifying trending issues, taking notice of how older people are represented and simply tracking if elder abuse issues are making headlines.

Jul – Nov. 2021

- July 12: [Nurse charged over \\$700K fraud from disabled brother](#)
Townsville Bulletin
- July 30: [Perth woman who stole \\$22, 000 from dying elderly friend narrowly avoids jail](#)
WAtoday
- Aug 4: [Relaxation of will-making rules during COVID may open elderly to abuse](#)
Brisbane Times
- Aug 24: [Coast woman charged after elderly mum 'dies in squalor'](#)
Gold Coast Bulletin
- Aug 25: ['Different from the dodgy scammer': the hidden story of elder abuse](#)
Sydney Morning Herald
- Sept 7: [Cases of elder abuse surge 99 per cent during COVID](#)
The West Australian
- Sept 19: [COVID creating 'perfect storm' for elder abuse as helpline calls spike](#)
Courier Mail
- Sept 22: [What happens if I lose capacity due to dementia](#)
Starts at 60
- Sept 23: [Man charged with fleecing elderly relatives of \\$501k](#)
The Daily Telegraph

Elder Abuse in the Media (cont.)

- Oct 7: [New guidance tool could see some aged care sexual assaults unreported for a month, advocates say](#)
ABC News
- Oct 7: [Legal Aid WA data shows more people seeking help over elder abuse in Perth's eastern suburbs](#)
PerthNow
- Oct 18: [Where's the proof? Families punished with unsubstantiated abuse allegations](#)
Crikey
- Oct 25: [Info session aids Kilivan's seniors](#)
Gympie Today
- Nov 5: [Legal service links rising house prices to high rates of elder abuse](#)
ABC News
- Nov 9: [Aged care sector under pressure: unions](#)
7 News
- Nov 10: [Shocking increase in cases of elder abuse](#)
Townsville Bulletin
- Nov 17: [Older Australians must be protected against abuse](#)
Mirage News
- Dec 5: [How Geelong housing, pandemic is increasing elder abuse rates](#)
Geelong Advertiser

Media Statements:

- July 28: [Queenslanders encouraged to have their say on fees and charges](#)
Office of the Public Trustee
- Sept 6-7: [Statement on the National Summit on Women's Safety](#)
Australian Human Rights Commission
- Sept 16: [Trustee House is on the move](#)
Office of the Public Trustee
- Sept 30: [New campaign on the warning signs of elder abuse](#)
Australian Human Rights Commission

Report/ Publications:

- Sept 14: [What's age got to do with it?](#)
Australian Human Rights Commission
- Oct 5: [Improving the regulation of restrictive practices in Queensland: a way forward](#)
Office of the Public Advocate