

WITH RESPECT TO AGE — 2009

Ageing Safely Forum Working across sectors to prevent violence & abuse of older people

22nd — 23rd October 2009, Adelaide, South Australia

Victorian Government practice guidelines for health services and community agencies for the prevention of elder abuse

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Elder Abuse is a violation of Human Rights and a significant cause of injury, illness, lost productivity, isolation and despair.

World Health Organisation 2002

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The Victorian Government is taking action on elder abuse to protect and safeguard the rights of older Victorians.

\$5.9 million has been provided over four years to develop a multi-sector, multi discipline and multi-government department response.

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The Victorian Government through the Department of Planning and Community Development – Office of Senior Victorians (OSV), is implementing an Elder Abuse Prevention Strategy.

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Initiatives under the Victorian Government's Elder Abuse Prevention Strategy, *Rights Respect Trust* include:

- Seniors Rights Victoria (information, advocacy, older persons legal advice and referral)
- A financial literacy program designed to education older people improving their financial management and rights (commencing late 2009)
- A broad community awareness and education program targeting the general population.

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- A professional education and training package for health and community service providers - including doctors and pharmacists (commencing early 2010)
- Review and update the Department of Human Services 1995 elder abuse guide for health services and community agencies
- Roll out the new practice guide *With respect to age – 2009* via information sessions for health services and community agencies and associated stakeholders.

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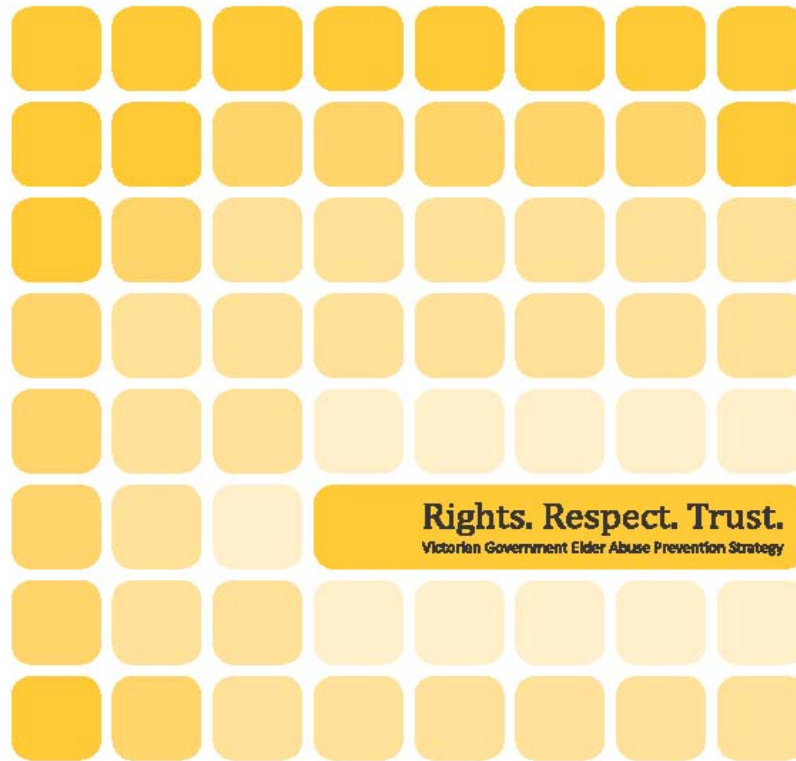
DEFINITION

Any act occurring within a relationship, where there is an implication of trust, which results in harm to an older person.

Types of abuse include financial, physical, sexual, psychological/emotional, social or neglect.

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for the prevention of elder abuse



Rights. Respect. Trust.
Victorian Government Elder Abuse Prevention Strategy



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There is no evidence to indicate an increase in the abuse of older people, however detection of abuse is increasing.

The abuse of older people, is a complex social problem that requires careful and considered responses.

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All adults, no matter what age, have the right to self-determination, and to make their own decisions based on informed choice.

Principles and practice that support the *empowerment* of older people are the key to preventing elder abuse.

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Principles that empower older people include:

- competence and self-determination
- appropriate protection
- best interests
- importance of relationships
- collaborative responses
- community responsibility

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The revised practice guide provides information on:

- The Victorian Government policy context
- Identification of types of abuse and risk factors
- Service response frameworks
- Case studies

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- How to develop agency/service elder abuse policies and procedures
- How to develop local interagency elder abuse prevention protocols
- Sample intervention and referral frameworks
- Resources to support response

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- The guide has been promoted in Victoria via 45 information sessions between July and September 2009
- Over 1300 managers, direct care workers and relevant stakeholders attended the sessions from multiple disciplines and sectors in health services and community agencies.

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Hard copies of the guide are available:
Warehousing Fulfilment Distribution
Solutions (WFDS) via Laura Tavian:
email **ltavian@wfds.com.au**

Soft copy DoH Aged Care website:
**[www.health.vic.gov.au/agedcare/
policy/index.htm](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/agedcare/policy/index.htm)**

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Seniors Rights Victoria (SRV)

For SRV information contact 1300.368.821

Email: info@seniorsrights.org.au

or

For general elder abuse prevention resources
targeting older people
contact SRV on 1300.135.090

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Victorian Government elder abuse prevention strategy:

- For additional information contact Michael Newman, Office of Senior Victorians, Department of Planning and Community Development, Phone: (03) 9208.3881 or email michael.newman@dpcd.vic.gov.au

- For brochures and fact sheets contact Christine Waller, Office of Senior Victorians, Department of Planning and Community Development, Phone: (03) 9208.3873 or visit:

www.seniors.vic.gov.au/web19/osv/dvcosv.nsf/headingpagesdisplay/elder+abuse+prevention

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For further information on the practice guidelines for health services and community agencies contact:

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Thankyou for your attention.