

Alliance for the Prevention of Elder Abuse: WA



Developing protocols to recognise and manage **Elder Abuse**

APEA:WA

- The Alliance for The Prevention of Elder Abuse was established to promote a whole of government policy framework that values and supports the rights of older adults who are experiencing elder abuse

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The Alliance for the Prevention of Elder Abuse: WA

.....brings together Western Australian Government Departments that have an interest in matters relevant to older people and organisations that may act as the last resort for those experiencing elder abuse, including older people themselves and their families and friends

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- Members of the Alliance meet monthly. Current membership includes senior personnel from OPA, OSIC, DoH, Legal Aid, DSC, WA Police, Public Trustee, WALGA and the North Metro Older Adult Mental Health.

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- Guest speakers may be invited to inform the committee in specialist areas e.g. from the Office of Multicultural Interests or the Older Peoples' Rights Service.

Legislation:

Criminal Code Act 1913

Financial Abuse: Stealing - Chapter 36, Section 378, Stealing Wills - Section 378 (1)

Funds: Concealing Wills - Chapter 37, Section 380, Concealing deeds - Section 381:
Funds held under direction - Section 373

Fraud: Chapter 40, Section 409

Physical Abuse: Section 221, Section 297

Assaults: Common assault: Section 313 **Causing bodily harm:** Section 317

With intent: Section 317A

Social abuse: Deprivation of Liberty, Section 333

Sexual Abuse: Chapter 31

Psychological Abuse: Threat - Section 338, Threat with intent to influence - Section 338A

Neglect: Acts or omissions causing bodily harm / danger - Section 304 (1)

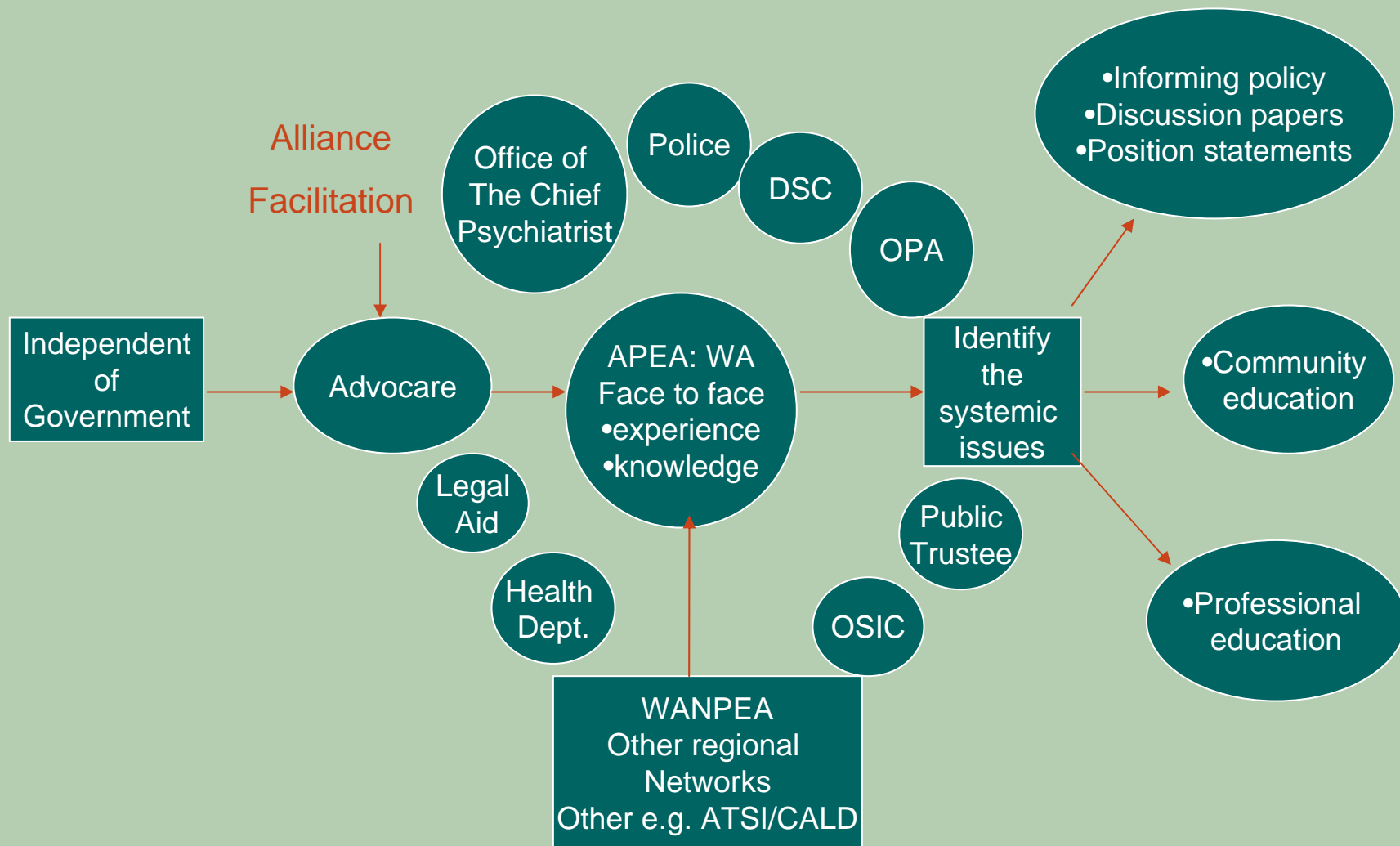
Duty to provide necessities of life: Section 262

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Benefits and Achievements of the Alliance

- Collaboration between the organisational membership of APEA: WA has enabled research.
- Informing policy
- Hosting seminars in metropolitan and rural areas for relevant professionals and the general community
- Development and distribution of multi-disciplinary brochures
- Casework collaboration

Advocare's model for the development of the Alliance for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (WA)



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Most significant barrier to practical function.....

Lack of Funding

Possible barriers to optimal function

Lack of Memorandum of Understanding

Lack of Terms of Reference

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Activity snapshot

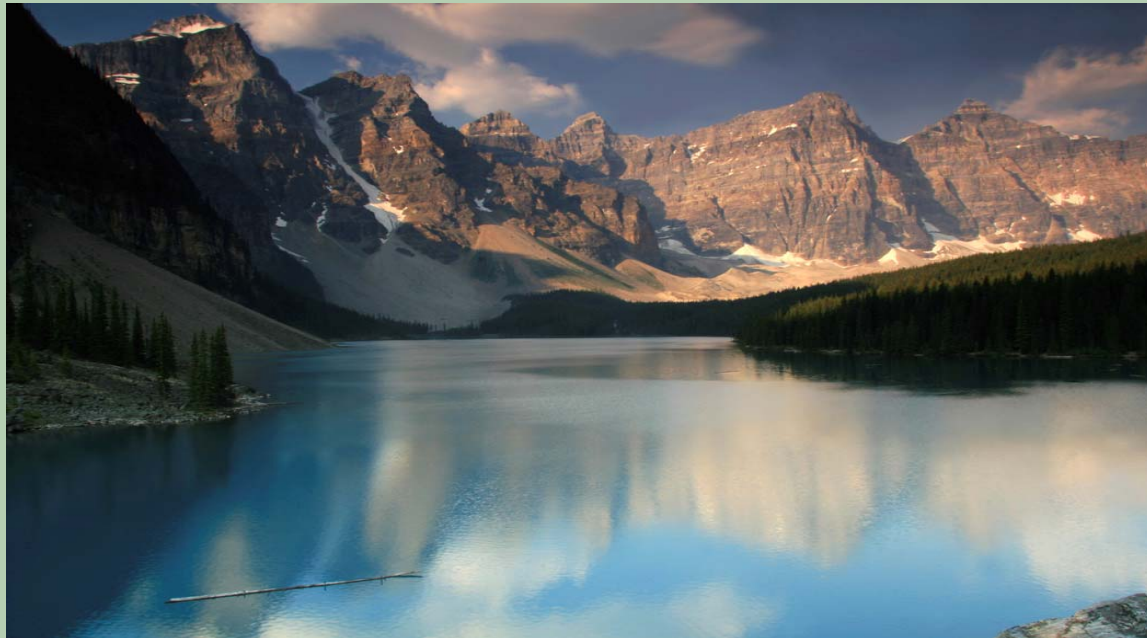
Jan 2009: discussion papers were prepared to propose the recruitment of 2 new committee members

Process: endorsement for letters to be sent to Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) and the Department of Indigenous Affairs (DIA)

Outcome: new committee member recruited via WALGA. DIA declined offer.

Are you satisfied with your existing protocols
for responding to elder abuse?

Reflection



Putting it together

Policy

+

Procedure

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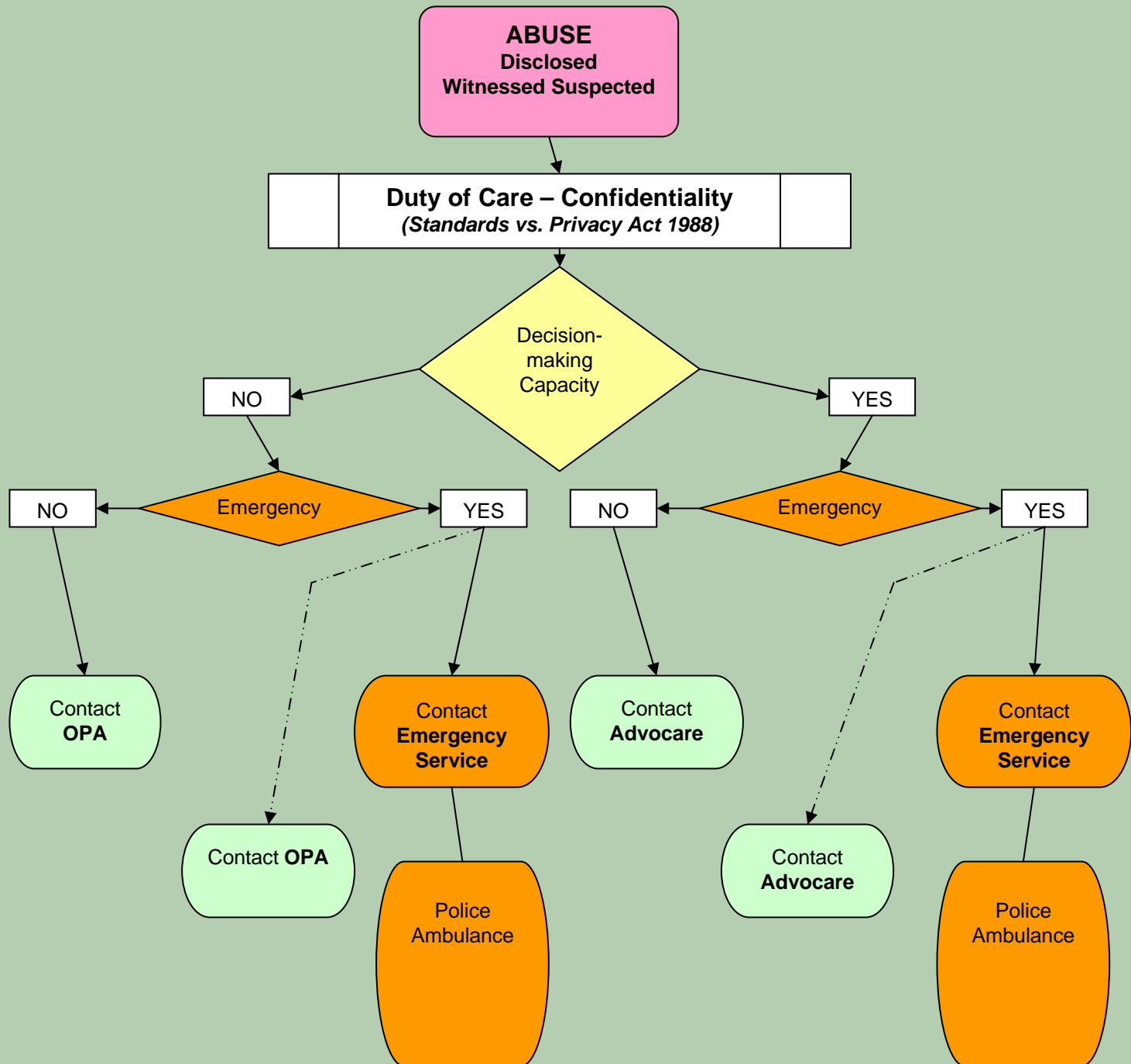
Protocol

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Elder Abuse Protocol: *Guidelines for Action* (2006)

Contains specific information about appropriate responses to **elder abuse**, including:

- **A referral flowchart**
- List of referral agencies and contacts
- Detailed information about relevant legislation



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