

Helpful Hints for Action

Helpful Hints for action to prevent elder abuse



ELDER ABUSE PREVENTION NETWORK

Helpful Hints for Action

Congratulations on joining the Elder Abuse Prevention Network! You have made a commitment to addressing the causes of elder abuse and to undertake actions that improve the health & wellbeing of older people in the community. As a member you will implement actions that address:

- **Negative views of older people and stereotypes around ageing and the value of older people.**
- **Assumptions that older people are not capable of making decisions about their own lives.**
- **Attitudes and media that view older people as a burden – including financially on families and society.**

ACTION AREAS

The Elder Abuse Prevention Plan has identified four key areas for action:

1. Improve systems, structures and processes

2. Challenge the causes and factors contributing to elder abuse

3. Develop partnerships with other organisations motivated to prevent elder abuse

4. Raise awareness of elder abuse in the community

This helpful hints guide will provide ideas, strategies and areas for action for your organisation to take in addressing elder abuse. Choose actions that your organisation can support, not all action areas have to be addressed and you may only choose 1 or 2 actions. Just ensure your actions are challenging the causes of elder abuse.

Helpful Hints for Action

ACTION AREA

Improve systems, structures and processes

Potential actions to take to improve your organisation or groups processes, structures and systems.

- Respond appropriately to members of the community who may disclose elder abuse.
- Promote training to your organisation, through the network, in understanding elder abuse and how to address it, including promotion of the free online course.
<http://elderabuseprevention.e3learning.com.au>
- Develop elder abuse information, policies and protocols about accessing services to increase awareness of elder abuse.
- Embed roles and responsibilities regarding elder abuse prevention, identification and support into position descriptions and also in agendas for networks and partnerships.
- Provide training in awareness of fraudulent business practices and how to protect one's self.
- Review referral networks and pathways between specialist elderly abuse prevention and local support services.



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ACTION AREA

Challenge the causes and factors contributing to elder abuse

Potential actions to take to address the causes and factors that enable elder abuse to happen in the community.

- Conduct workshops about Powers of Attorney and where to access legal advice and information.
- Ensure you are building positive images that reflect diversity and inclusion of older people in all areas of your organisations/groups marketing and communication.
- Prompt employees and members to show positive attitudes towards older people and question attitudes that discriminate.
- Be inclusive of older people in your organisation or group and promote accessibility and encourage participation by older people.
- Recognise the experience and knowledge of older people and respect their opinions and ability to be leaders both in employment and in a community setting.
- Be inclusive and engage older people from diverse backgrounds, ensure all older people can participate and be responsible for their own needs.



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ACTION AREA

Develop partnerships with other organisations motivated to prevent elder abuse

Potential actions to take to share information, support other organisations and develop partnerships.

- Share local stories and action throughout the network.
- Collaborate with other network members on actions.
- Advocate for increased government funding to address elder abuse in the community.
- Develop a multi-agency coordinated approach for older people experiencing elder abuse, eg clear referral pathways that can be navigated by older people.
- Conduct community education programs through Senior Rights Victoria (SRV), legal services etc.
- Attend training & workshops to increase your knowledge of elder abuse prevention and to share information and network with others.



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ACTION AREA

Raise awareness of elder abuse in the community

Potential actions to take to raise awareness, promote positive ageing and support people experiencing elder abuse.

- Raise awareness of elder abuse, how to recognise it and how to prevent it at community events such as Seniors Week, 16 Days of Activism, International Human Rights Day, World Elder Abuse Awareness Day .
- Empower older people by providing information to increase awareness of their legal, financial and societal rights.
- Provide increased community awareness of elder abuse through dissemination of SRV resources, newsletters .
- Conduct education sessions on dementia, provide relevant information and support.
- Provision of information about elder abuse and the supports available to older people, their families and communities at “points of influence” i.e. Medical Clinics, Pharmacies, Clubs, Libraries.
- Raise awareness of elder abuse and tell people you are members of the network. This means talking about it in meetings, train your staff, include it on your emails i.e. “we support the Elder Abuse Prevention Network”.
- Make Elder Abuse Prevention a topic of conversation in small informal meetings in casual environments e.g.cafes.



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How to develop an action plan?

Now that you have chosen actions that are relevant to your organisation, you may want to include them in an action plan. Below is a template action plan that can be used to keep a record of your progress.

Actions	Timeframes	Progress Comments
Improve systems, structures and processes.		
Challenge the causes and factors contributing to elder abuse.		
Develop partnerships with other organisations motivated to prevent elder abuse.		
Raise awareness of elder abuse in the community.		

This action plan template is available in a word format for your use. Please contact Roger Moulton at RogerM@bchc.org.au or 53380576 for further information.

Acknowledgments

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- **Women's Health Grampians**
- **Seniors Rights Victoria**

References:

1. Taking Action to End Violence Against Women and their children, What can your organisation do, Women's Health Grampians available at: <https://whg.org.au/priorities-programs/core#the-core-taking-action-guide-taking-action-to-end-violence-against-women-and-their-children-what-can-your-organisation-do>

For more information about elder abuse prevention and the Elder Abuse Network, please contact the Ballarat Community Health, Health Promotion Team on RogerM@bchc.org.au

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