



Elder Abuse Prevention Network Newsletter - December 2018

Ballarat Community Health are pleased to advise of additional funding to support the continuation of the Central Highlands Elder Abuse Prevention Network to 30 June 2020!

Latest News

The Central Highlands Elder Abuse Prevention Network project has grown out of a very successful 10 months of engagement and conversation with the community. The six Local Government Areas of Ararat, Ballarat, Moorabool, Hepburn, Golden Plains and Pyrenees have all participated.

Since our initial launch in February, there has been 34 workshops, presentations and events to raise awareness of elder abuse and seniors rights, with 1056 people engaged and a current data base of 137 people. A range of local resources have been developed to support the network and the elder abuse prevention e3learning module has been heavily promoted throughout the catchment area.

Feedback from a recent survey from our network members highlighted the importance of raising general awareness of elder abuse and providing easily accessible information about pathways to local help and support for elderly people. One member commented on the “hidden problem” of elder abuse which can carry a lot of stigma for those affected and that there are a lot of older people experiencing abuse.



The Active and Healthy Ageing Expo was well attended and included presentations from Seniors Rights Victoria. Presentations on Elder Abuse Prevention, Enduring Powers of Attorney and Getting Started with Advance Care Planning workshops were pleasurably supported by relaxation sessions, the U3A Celtic Band, The Ka-Ching documentary and Tai Chi introductory sessions. An extensive amount of information was distributed about Active and Healthy Living.

A local brochure with referral information and support has been developed and disseminated to rural and regional organisations and groups.



**Thank you all for your support and encouragement in 2018.
Wishing all members a happy, healthy and safe Christmas and New Year**

Message from Roger.....

Next year I would like to support your group or organisation to embed some actions to prevent elder abuse before it happens. I can meet with you to provide information and introduce some ideas for 2019.

1. Introduce the <http://elderabuseprevention.e3learning.com.au> online course into your organisation's induction and orientation program.
2. Develop an "Elder Abuse Prevention" policy and protocol for your organisation.
3. Embed Elder Abuse Prevention in meeting agendas (specifically in agencies responsible for aged care provision, family violence, primary care partnerships).
4. Provide training in awareness of fraudulent business practices and how to protect one's self.
5. Distribute "Elder Abuse "prevention brochures to promote referral networks and support services.
6. Seek out collaborative opportunities with fellow network members to raise awareness of elder abuse.
7. Attend training and workshops to increase knowledge of elder abuse and share information and network with others.
8. Share information for family and friends concerned about someone who may be experiencing elder abuse such as the information in the Seniors Rights Victoria Help sheet- "Concerned about someone?"
9. Conduct workshops about Powers of Attorney and where to get help.
10. Promote the recruitment and participation of older people in your organisation.

I shall be on leave from COB Thursday 13 Dec. and returning on Tuesday 15th January 2019.

Email: rogerm@bchc.org.au



Members of the Sebastopol Men's Shed providing information at the Active and Healthy Ageing Expo.

Some interesting statistics.....

Seniors Rights Victoria provided the following information relating to elder abuse based on statistics from their services for 2017/18:

- There has been a 15% increase in the number of cases from 2016 to 2018.
- 71.3% of older people reporting abuse were women, 28.6% were men.
- 62% of elder abuse incidents were perpetrated by a son or daughter of the older person.
- 30% of older people reporting abuse stated they lived with their son or daughter, compared to less than eight per cent of older people overall.
- The majority of elder abuse incidents were reported by people aged 70 to 84. The majority of alleged perpetrators were aged 35 to 54 years.
- 87% of alleged perpetrators were related to the older person.
- 36% were sons and 26% were daughters.
- A substantial number of perpetrators of all abuse types were described by the older person as having substance misuse, mental health or gambling issues.