

DISCUSSION RESOURCE

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change

PROJECT OF
5TH NATIONAL ELDER
ABUSE CONFERENCE

HOSTED BY SENIORS
RIGHTS SERVICE



COMMUNITY EDUCATION ABOUT ELDER ABUSE

DORIS GIOFFRE





ABOUT THIS PROJECT

In February 2018, Seniors Rights Service hosted the 5th National Elder Abuse Conference, which brought together more than 500 delegates from a broad range of backgrounds. The conference culminated in an announcement by the Commonwealth Attorney-General, Hon Christian Porter MP, that a “National Plan” would be developed to ensure the protection of older people in Australian society.

To further the conversations generated by the conference, Seniors Rights Service engaged Ellen Fanning to conduct a series of interviews with experts who attended the conference. These videos, along with a discussion sheet for each video, are freely available to community members, professionals and students of all sectors, to enable engagement with the content using suggested discussion questions and to follow up with further reading.

IMPORTANT! READ THIS BEFORE HOLDING A DISCUSSION GROUP

Many people will share and benefit from participating in study and discussion on the topics.

Due to the sensitive nature of the topics, however, group leaders should ensure they are prepared to support individuals to find qualified assistance in a timely manner, should a topic generate personal concerns or issues for individuals.

As a minimum, group leaders should have available information sheets and phone numbers from the relevant seniors' legal rights service and/or elder abuse prevention service in your state or territory (on page 4 and current as of 2018).

ABOUT THIS RESOURCE

SHORT DESCRIPTION

Ms Gioffre talks about the Living A Positive Life toolkit developed by the Aged Rights Advocacy Service (ARAS), which aims to help communities start conversations about elder abuse. Rather than focus on the term “abuse”, which is difficult to translate for culturally and linguistically diverse communities, the kit promotes four key positive strategies. The toolkit is meant for anyone who has a connection with elderly people in the community. The kit has also been trialled successfully with Aboriginal communities.

FOCUS AREA

Community education about elder abuse

RELATED TOPICS

Elder abuse prevention, elder abuse intervention, rights, community education, Aboriginal communities

AUDIENCES

Community members, aged-care workers, health workers, Aboriginal health workers, Aboriginal aged-care workers, researchers, students, advocates, policy officers

MATERIALS FOR FURTHER READING

Gioffre, D. (2018), For The Rights Of Older People, presentation at the 5th National Elder Abuse Conference, Sydney, accessed from <http://togethertomakingchange.org.au/presentations/>

SUGGESTED AGENCIES

Aged Rights Advocacy Service Inc.
www.sa.agedrights.asn.au



DORIS GIOFFRE
MANAGER, AGED RIGHTS
ADVOCACY SERVICE INC.
(ARAS) SOUTH AUSTRALIA

BIOGRAPHY

Doris Gioffre is manager of the abuse prevention program for Aged Rights Advocacy Service Inc. (ARAS), South Australia. Gioffre is pro-active in raising awareness about issues concerning older people and how they might protect their rights and safeguard their own futures. She chairs the Alliance for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (APEA), which comprises agencies that are key stakeholders in responding to elder abuse. Gioffre sits on many committees and steering groups to ensure the voices of older people are heard.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION ABOUT ELDER ABUSE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Why did the abuse prevention program for Aged Rights Advocacy Service, South Australia need to spend a lot of time talking to communities about how to start a conversation about elder abuse? How did they go about raising the issue?

The word “abuse” frightens a lot of people in the community, particularly in culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities. Instead of focusing on “abuse”, which did not engage people, ARAS instead promoted four key messages about positive ageing. These messages are: stay active, stay healthy, stay connected and stay in control. ARAS introduced these concepts via a “toolkit” they developed for communities to use. After its development, they sought feedback from community members to find out if the toolkit was resonating with community members, and if it might be successful in raising awareness about elder abuse.

How have older people been responding to this toolkit and its key messages?

Ms Gioffre says that, typically, people who are introduced to the toolkit begin to look at what they can do to reduce the risks of elder abuse. Actions include contacting family members via email or by visiting, reducing isolation, and connecting back to the community. She says some people also begin to consider their financial affairs and ensure they have appropriate plans in place, such as powers of attorney and advanced-care directives.

ARAS trialled their toolkit with Aboriginal communities. How was it received? How did they respond?

Ms Gioffre says Aboriginal communities that trialled the kit “absolutely loved it”. The participants wrote activities they planned to do to stay in control of their lives. They wrote “to do” lists, which included talking to their children and grandchildren about what they would like to do in order to stay connected with their families. And they planned to let family members know their wishes, should anything happen to them. Ms Gioffre says the toolkit inspired important conversations within Aboriginal families and extended families.



STATE/TERRITORY	AGENCY CONTACT	CONTACT
AUSTRALIA-WIDE	Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN)	1800 700 600 Connects you with aged-care advocacy services in your state or territory
NEW SOUTH WALES	Seniors Rights Service	1800 424 079
	NSW Elder Abuse Helpline	1800 628 221
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY	Older Persons Abuse Prevention Referral and Information Line (APRIL)	(02) 6205 3535
	A.C.T. Disability, Aged and Carer Advocacy Service (ADACAS)	02 6242 5060
NORTHERN TERRITORY	Elder Abuse Information Line	1800 037 072
	Seniors and Disability Rights Service of Darwin Community Legal Service	1800 812 953
QUEENSLAND	Elder Abuse Prevention Unit	1300 651 192
	Aged and Disability Advocacy Australia (ADA Australia)	1800 818 338
	Caxton Legal Centre	(07) 3214 6333
SOUTH AUSTRALIA	Aged Rights Advocacy Service	(08) 8232 5377 (Adelaide)
	Alliance for the Prevention of Elder Abuse	1800 700 600 (rural)
	Legal Services Commission of South Australia	1300 366 424 (08) 8111 5555
TASMANIA	Tasmanian Elder Abuse Helpline	1800 441 169
	Advocacy Tasmania Inc. (ATI)	(03) 6224 2240
	Legal Aid Commission of Tasmania	1300 366 611 (03) 6236 3800
VICTORIA	Seniors Rights, Victoria	1300 368 821
	Elder Rights Advocacy (ERA)	(03) 9602 3066 1800 700 600 (rural)
WESTERN AUSTRALIA	Advocare Inc.	1300 724 679 (Perth) 1800 655 566 (rural)
	Older Persons Rights Service, Northern Suburbs Community Legal Centre	(08) 9440 1663 (Mirrabooka) (08) 9301 4413 (Joondalup)

DISCLAIMER

This is information only, not legal advice. If you have a legal problem, call our service directly or see your lawyer. The views expressed in the video are the views of the individual making them, not those of Seniors Rights Service Inc.