



# Topic Talks

## Elder abuse

The abuse of older people is a complex health and social problem that can have devastating physical, emotional and social consequences for older people, their families and their communities. This week we will learn more about elder abuse.

### What is Elder Abuse?

The World Health Organisation defines elder abuse as a single or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust which causes harm or distress to an older person.

- **There are 5 commonly recognised forms of elder abuse**
- **Physical abuse** is an act that causes physical pain or injury to an older person
- **Financial abuse** is the misuse or theft of an older persons' money
- **Sexual abuse** is any sexual behaviour without a person's consent
- **Psychological or emotional abuse** is an act that causes emotional pain or injury to an older person
- **Neglect** is the failure to meet a person's basic needs such as food, housing and essential medical care

## Let's talk

Suggested questions to ask yourself or your peers this week



### How would you rate your level of understanding of this topic?

Watch a webinar, listen to a podcast, look at the websites. Learn something new.

### What is your understanding of elder abuse?

Think about what your perception of elder abuse is. How did you come to that perception? Does it differ from the definitions outlined in this weeks activities?

### If you were to suspect or identify elder abuse, what is the course of action you should take?

What are your organisational / local processes / resources for cases of Elder abuse? How do you access them?

### What are 2 new pieces of information you have learned about the topic this week?

Think about what you have learned. How can you use this learning going forward?

# Loddon Mallee Activities and Resources



## What's on the Web?



## References:



### Tuesdays@2 Webinar Series

Tuesday 15th June 2pm : Join the webinar via the [Bendigo Health Website](#)

or via zoom <https://bendigohealth.zoom.us/j/93324155450?pwd=Nm9iSUZmSEI4enJHWFRheWRtaTdaUT09>

#### Speaker:

- Helen Rushford, Elder Abuse Prevention and Response Liaison Officer, Melbourne Health.

**Topic:** Elder abuse (pre-recorded June 30, 2020) answering the questions:

1. What is elder abuse and how does it differ from other forms of family violence?
2. Can you tell us a bit more about how gender discrimination might intersect with ageism?
3. What are the barriers to disclosing experiences of elder abuse and which services are most likely to respond to elder abuse?
4. What is it you think practitioners need to know in order to improve their response to older people experiencing elder abuse?

#### E-Learning:

- Department of Health. Elder Abuse Prevention online training <https://elderabuseprevention.kineoportal.com.au/>

#### Webcasts:

- Australian Human rights Commissioner: Elder abuse: Know the signs <https://youtu.be/khniYQZUOv0> [1:27]
- National ageing research institute (16 June, 2020) The only family I've got. Emerging themes for older people referred to elder abuse counselling <https://youtu.be/-dwSpKqAYck> [53:12]

#### Podcasts:

- ABC Elder abuse <https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/bigideas/elders-abuse/8941462> [1:15:00]

#### Web Sites:

- Melbourne Health Elder Abuse Advice and secondary consultation <https://www.thelookout.org.au/melbourne-health-elder-abuse-advice-and-secondary-consultation>
- World elder abuse awareness day June 15 <https://elderabuseawarenessday.org.au/>
- [Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria Hotline](#)
- [National Ageing Research Institute](#)
- Victoria Police [Elder Abuse](#)

- Australian Human Rights Commission (2020) Elder Abuse <https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/age-discrimination/projects/elder-abuse>
- Bendigo Loddon Primary Care Partnership- Bendigo elder abuse prevention network <https://www.blpcp.com.au/>
- Council of Attorneys General (2019) National Plan to Respond to the abuse of older Australians [Elder abuse] 2019-2023 <https://www.ag.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-03/National-plan-to-respond-to-the-abuse-of-older-australians-elder.pdf>