

Rights. Respect. Trust.

Victorian Government Elder Abuse Prevention Strategy

The Elder Abuse Prevention Strategy Victoria

Leanne Glover

Project officer

Elder Abuse Prevention Strategy

Professional Education Program

Sir Zelman Cowen Centre

Victoria University

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Human Rights

United Nations Declaration on the 'Rights and Responsibilities of Older Persons (1991)' include the following:

- **Independence** - including access to basic needs, health care, work, education programs, the right to live at home as long as possible and be in supportive, safe environments.
- **Participation** - in social activities and opportunities to share their knowledge and skills.
- **Care** - that maintains their optimum level of physical, mental and emotional well-being.
- **Self-fulfilment** - to pursue their potential and access education, cultural, spiritual and recreational resources.
- **Dignity** - to be treated fairly, to be valued in their own right, to live in dignity and security, to be free of exploitation, physical and mental abuse, to be able to exercise personal autonomy.

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- [Video](#)

What are some of the messages that are made in the Video

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“When we think about attitudes to ageing within our community, there is a tendency to dwell on the Negative”

Elizabeth Broderick; Australian Human Rights Commission, Age discrimination-exposing the barrier for mature age workers.

Nine oldsters booted out of nursing home — for trying to have an orgy!

LONDON — A group of nine love-hungry codgers were booted out of an old folks' home — after they tried to have an orgy in the recreation room!

The unidentified oldsters, who ranged in age from 73 to 98, had apparently planned the unauthorized after-hours get-together for weeks, according to Melinda Helterford, spokesperson for the well-respected Edith Scarborough Nursing Home.

"They somehow got it in their heads to celebrate the 90th birthday of one of the women with a kind of sex party," said Miss Helterford.

"This may sound harmless or amusing to some people, but Scarborough has a reputation to uphold. We cannot tolerate that kind of conduct."

By MIKE FOSTER
Weekly World News

The nursing home made a concerted effort to keep the bizarre story out of the press and so details are difficult to come by.

But according to British papers, the let-it-all-hang-out party took place just after midnight on October 28. The three wrinkly Romeos and six sagging seductresses gathered together in the rec room and stripped to the buff.

"They really set the scene," a nursing home staffer who was not identified told a London tabloid. "They'd got

their hands on candles, which they lit, and even put on music to create a sexy mood."

The nude geezer gala went on for about 20 minutes before orderlies heard rumba music coming from the recreational room and went to investigate.

When they opened the doors, they were shocked to find the old-timers crowded together in their birthday suits, slathered with baby oil.

"They hadn't got too far — I guess it was taking some of the gents a while to get started," the staffer said.

"But they were all naked. Believe me, it was the scariest thing I've seen in my life."

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Human Rights

Older people like younger people share the experience of not being listened to or taken seriously, of being marginalised. People entering advanced age experience an insidious form of ageism when a range of their human rights are infringed because others assume that:

- older people can't look after themselves
- older people need to be protected (from themselves as well as from other people)
- older people make poor decisions
- older people don't know what's best for them.

Lord, Jennifer, www.humanrightsactionplan.org.au: Ageism is a human rights Issue.

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Ageism can be described as ‘a process of systematic stereotyping of, and discrimination against people’ simply because they are older. As described by the Australian Human Rights Commission, older individuals are ‘lumped together’ or thought of as all being the same just because of their age. This can lead to them being treated unfavourably”.

(Human Rights Law Centre)

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“Ageism and age discrimination, that is, unlawful discrimination against an individual or group on the basis of their age, are entrenched features of Australian society. The broader community, including older people themselves, are often not aware of the myths and stereotypes they have accepted about the abilities and capacities of older people”.

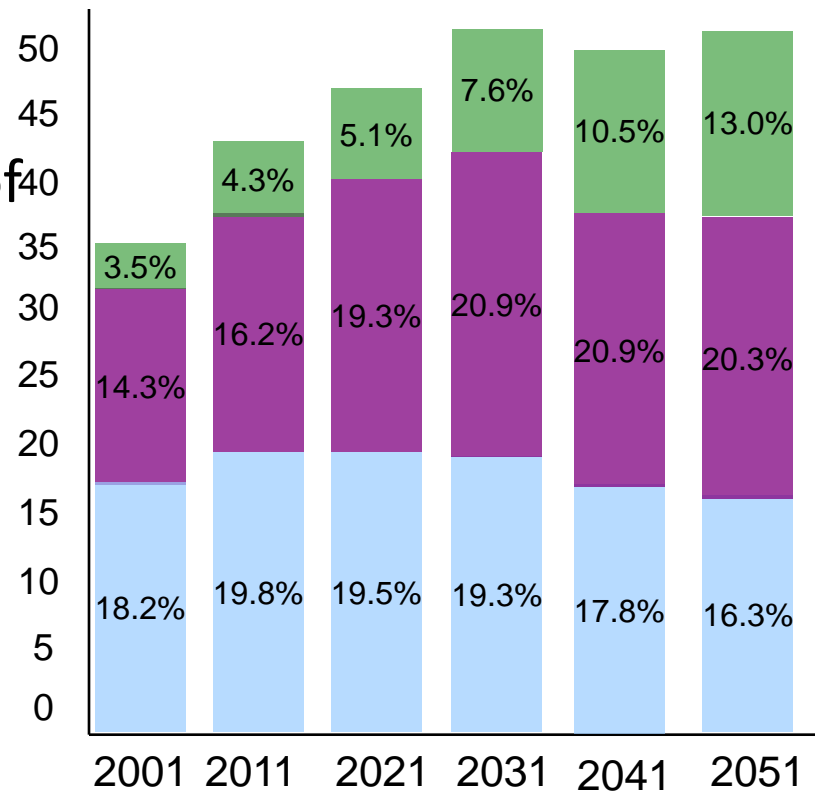
- (Human Rights Law Centre)

The population is Ageing.

We are witnessing:

- A rise in the absolute numbers of people aged over 60, and people aged over 80.

People are living to very old ages.



60-79 years 80+ years

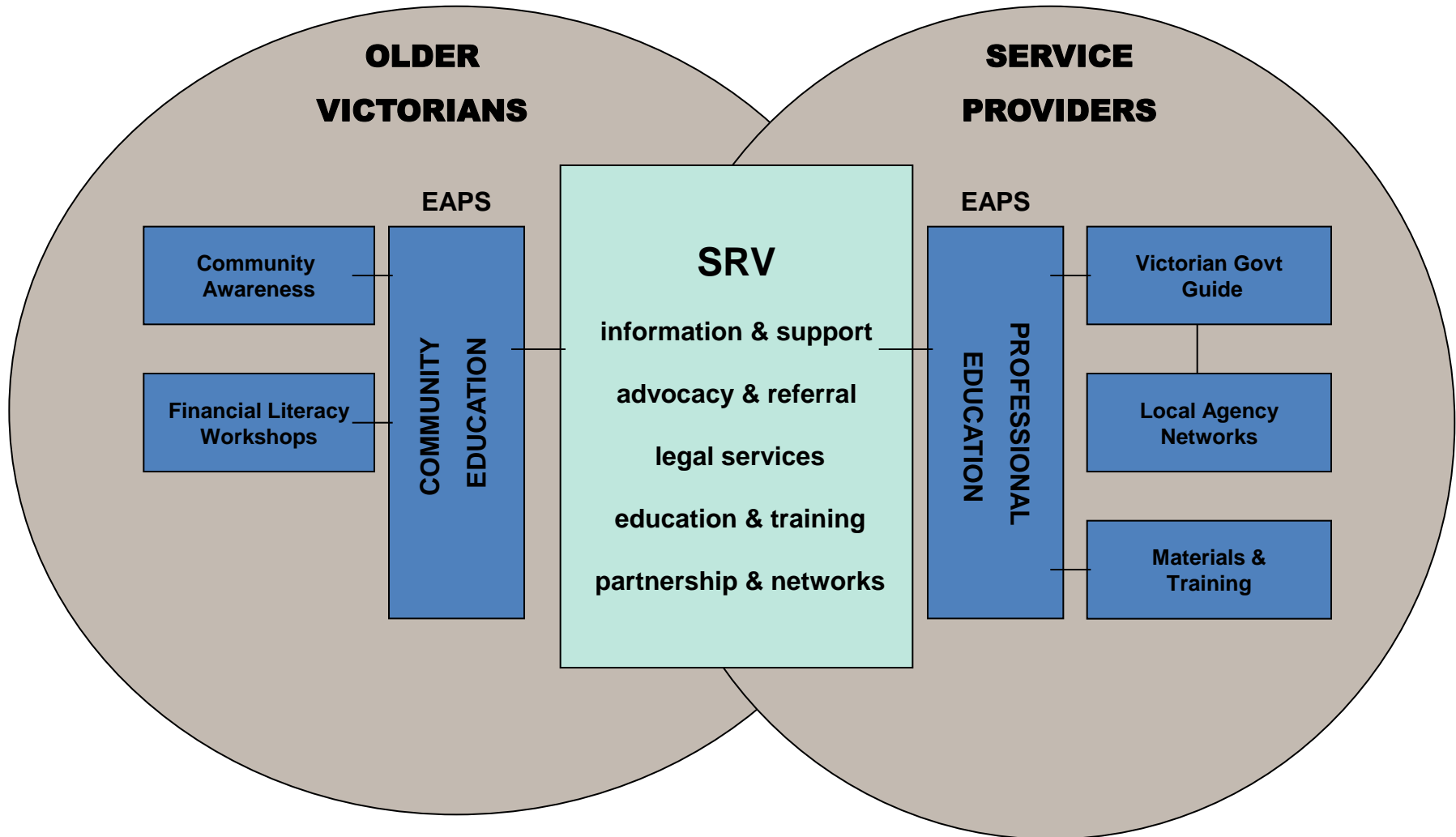
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To strengthen the capacity of people working with older people to respond adequately to indications of elder abuse through training that ensures early intervention, prevention, assessment (including risk assessment), response, referral, and follow up.

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Elder Abuse Prevention Strategy Initiatives



With respect to age – 2009

- Victorian Government practice guidelines for health services and community agencies sets out standard processes for responding to elder abuse and encourages organisations to review or develop internal policies and interagency protocols.

- **Elder Abuse** is defined as any act occurring within a relationship where there is an implication of **trust**, which results in **harm** to an older person.

- This definition **excludes** consumer based transactions, professional misconduct and abuse which may occur in a residential aged care setting.
- These types of abuse are dealt with under specific aged care legislation, consumer legislation and professional registration acts.

- The range of acts or omissions that constitute elder abuse occur along a continuum...
- At one end, harm may result from a poor understanding of an older person's needs, at the other end harm results from aggression and serious physical assault

Types of abuse

- Financial
- Physical
- Sexual
- Psychological or emotional
- Social
- Neglect

Mandatory Reporting

There is currently no statutory requirement for the mandatory reporting of suspected cases of elder abuse in Victoria.

The exception to this is the reporting provisions of the Commonwealth Government's *Aged Care Act 1997*.

Empowerment model

- The Victorian Government's response to the prevention of elder abuse is based on empowering older people.
- The empowerment model supports self-determination, informed choice and the ability of adults to make their own decisions

Key principles underpinning the Victorian Government Elder Abuse Prevention Strategy

- Competence
- Self-determination
- Appropriate protection
- Best interests
- Importance of relationships
- Collaborative responses
- Community responsibility

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The Active Service Model

The overall goal of the active service model is to support the HACCC target group to live as independently and autonomously as possible

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The Active Service Model

Autonomy

The goal of independence refers to Older People being actively be involved in making decisions about their lives

The Active Service Model

Independence

The goal of Independence refers to the capacity of people to manage the day to day activities of their daily life.

To do for themselves rather than being done for them

Active Service Mode & The Elder Abuse Prevention Strategy

The goals of independence and autonomy within the active service model align with the principles of the Victorian Elder Abuse Prevention Strategy

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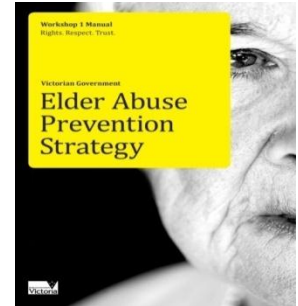
EAPS Professional Education



- Workshops 1& 2 within service settings
- General availability workshops
- Industry days
- Consultation with PCP's
- Consultation with Seniors Rights Victoria
- Consultation with sectoral peak bodies

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Workshop 1: Recognise and Respond to Elder Abuse



Learning outcomes

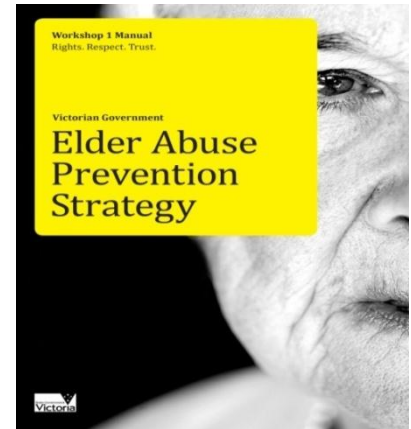
- Orientation to definition & Incidence of elder abuse
- Triggers & Complexity of elder abuse
- The empowerment model and best interest model
- Human rights
- How to respond appropriately to suspected cases of elder abuse
- Consideration of compliance with policy & Legislation
- The best practice approach

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Workshop 1: Recognise & Respond to Elder Abuse

Methodology

- Activities
- Case studies(DVD)
- Discussions
- Check your learning
- Reflections



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DVD

- Case studies
- Prompts discussion
- Contains effective practical prevention messages
- Responsive to a diverse range of audiences
- Multiple use as a training resource



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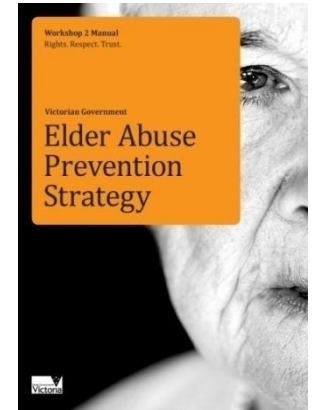
- Preventing Elder Abuse depends on a raised community awareness coupled with a consistent response from services working with older People.

Workshop2:

Respond to Indications of Elder Abuse.

Learning outcomes

- Provides strategies for responding to indications of elder abuse.
- Provides opportunity to explore specific responses & strategies for situations where potential elder is suspected.
- Provides a focus on building a work environment where barriers to reporting are minimised and staff feel supported in identifying concerns to managers and supervisors.

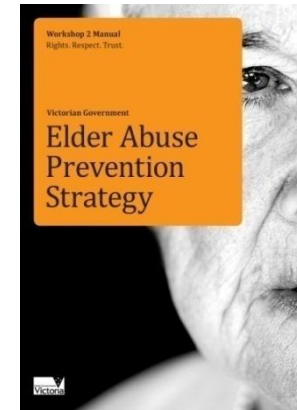


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Workshop2: Respond to Indications of Elder Abuse.

Methodology

- Case studies
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To Conclude

- [Video](#)

Thank you

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