



For the rights of older people and people with disabilities

Advocacy | Support | Information

Elder Abuse Information Session

About Advocare

- ❖ Advocare is an independent but government funded Advocacy agency.
- ❖ We support people to assert their rights and maintain their own best interests.
- ❖ We assist people to resolve their complaints and concerns relating to services they receive.

We provide advocacy and education throughout Western Australia

Who do we help?

- ❖ **People who receive support from HACC and other community care services.**
- ❖ **Residents in aged care facilities.**
- ❖ **People receiving EACH and CACP packages.**
- ❖ **Older adults who are being abused or at risk of abuse by family or friends.**

We access interpreters when required for clients from non English speaking backgrounds

Review current knowledge

- ❖ Types of elder abuse
- ❖ Signs of abuse
- ❖ Risk factors
- ❖ Why don't older people report abuse?
- ❖ What other circumstances for older people make them particularly vulnerable to abuse?

Responding to Elder Abuse

Daisy, aged 78, lives alone in her Homeswest unit. She went missing for 48 hours but was found by police this morning and brought to the hospital. She tells you that she left her home because her son hurts her but she does not remember where she has been.

Daisy presents with extensive but unexplained bruising. She also talks about her son stealing her medicines and money. Police tell you that Daisy's son is a known drug abuser but that they believed he was living in Victoria, not WA.

It appears that Daisy is a victim of elder abuse but what questions or doubts would you have?

How Advocare responds

- ❖ We believe what we are told until such time it becomes evident the client may not have capacity.
- ❖ We aim to empower the client, not make decisions for them.
- ❖ Where a client is not capable of making their own decisions we refer to the Office of the Public Advocate. We may also speak to a family member (natural guardian) who may advocate on behalf of the client.

Suspected Elder Abuse

Mr Giles, aged 82, has arrived at the emergency department, having collapsed in a shopping centre. He has now been admitted for further tests and you have been asked to speak with him. He discusses severe pain but is not on any medication at present, He tells you that his son steals his medicines.

Mr Giles tells you that he lives with his son and daughter in law. Hospital staff tell you they have not been reachable, on the numbers he offered, since his admission 24 hours ago. When asked about his care and home life, Mr Giles begins to cry.

What could be happening in Mr Giles life?

What questions might you ask and how will you find out more?

Other Contacts

- ❖ Emergency Contact List
- ❖ Office of the Public Advocate

Guardianship

Administration

Security of Tenure scenario

Mrs Benson, aged 73, arrives in an ambulance from a dementia specific aged care facility. She has a suspected fracture to her hip. Upon examination no injury is found and you phone the facility to inform them that she will be able to return. The facility manager states that they will not accept her back as she has difficult behaviours and they have too few staff to manage her care. She also reports that her bills have not been paid for the past eight weeks, by her daughter who is her Enduring Power of Attorney. (EPA).

How would you respond to the facility manager?

The Aged Care Act and Security of tenure

What are the facts?

Contacting Advocare

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