

## Wrap up of the 3rd National Elder Abuse Conference

### Perth WA

Many months of nail biting came to a conclusion early last September, when Advocare hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Elder Abuse Conference. Two hundred and twenty five delegates representing diverse branches of the aged care industry came together at the Hyatt Hotel, Perth for two days of inspiring discussion. A “World Café” style workshop held on the third day condensed and distilled ideas brought forward during the first two days.

The conference provided an opportunity to gather and exchange ideas to safeguard older adults from the various types of elder abuse and was opened by the Hon. Antoinette Kennedy AO, retired Chief Judge of the WA District Court. Sports presenter Karen Tighe, was the very competent Master of Ceremonies and a delightful “Welcome to Country” was sung by Ingrid Cumming. The Hon. Tony Simpson MLA, Minister for Local Government; Community Services; Seniors and Volunteering; Youth, launched the Elder Abuse Helpline which will be managed from the Advocare office in Belmont.

Prof. Lynn McDonald from the University of Toronto, Canada gave the keynote address. Lynn told delegates about the Canadian National Prevalence Study which is currently gathering information about elder abuse from 5000 respondents. One of the aims of the study is to develop helpful evidence-based policy. The data will also inform about the resources required to prevent and reduce elder abuse in the future. Lynn introduced the topic “Rethinking Elder Abuse - Resident to Resident Abuse,” on the second day of the conference. This type of abuse experienced by residents of nursing homes and is mostly outside our current definition of elder abuse.

Legal aspects of elder abuse were well represented by lawyers from the Universities of South Australia, Western Australia, the Northern Suburbs Community Legal Service (WA) and the Caxton Legal Centre in Queensland. The conference embraced a broad spectrum of topics ranging from “Sexual Assault of Older Women” to “Dental Care and Elder Abuse.” Western Australian research was showcased by a paper exploring cross cultural issues in elder abuse policy and another providing an estimation of the prevalence of elder abuse in WA.

Most of the papers presented at the conference may be viewed at the following website:  
<http://www.mandurahgraphics.com.au/elder-abuse-2014-program/>

The conference concluded with a *Movers and Shakers* workshop. This workshop incorporated a World Cafe style interaction which captured the enthusiasm of attendees, tapped their knowledge and experience and lay the foundation toward achieving a collaborative national approach to elder abuse issues. To date there have been two outcomes from this workshop.

1. The first is the creation of the elderabusecommunity website. This community is free to join, and gives members a platform for discussion and debate and to raise critical issues about elder abuse.
2. The second outcome is the compilation of resources to prepare a National Elder Abuse Report. This report is still in progress, but it is hoped to be available in February 2015.

***“Absence of evidence of elder abuse is not evidence of absence of elder abuse”***

## **How to join the NEW Elder Abuse Community**

Please follow the link [www.elderabusecommunity.com](http://www.elderabusecommunity.com), join the group and start contributing your experience and expertise to the number of different discussions. Alternatively, start a new discussion to help solve some of the issues that you face in your own field. We value your participation.

### **You may also:-**

1. Invite your friends to join you:  
<http://elderabusecommunity.ning.com/main/invitation/new>
2. Add Content:  
<http://elderabusecommunity.ning.com/>
3. Tell your Twitter followers:  
[http://twitter.com/home?status=Just+joined+http%3A%2F%2Felderabusecommunity.ning.com%](http://twitter.com/home?status=Just+joined+http%3A%2F%2Felderabusecommunity.ning.com%2F)

## **National Elder Abuse Annual Report**

A further conference outcome is expected to be available early in 2015. An annual report of developments in the monitoring of elder abuse statistics is currently being prepared and will be made available as soon as possible. Gathering this information could help in the preparation of a future submission to government.

The following information will be included in the Elder Abuse Annual Report:

- An overview of elder abuse in Australia
- The numbers of elder abuse cases reported in each Australian state
- The numbers of elder abuse education services provided across Australia
- The numbers of advocacy cases and information calls processed across Australia
- An overview of the 2nd National Elder Abuse Conference
- WEAAD activities across Australia
- An overview of Elder Abuse helplines
- Elder abuse case studies

*If you have any information of national interest which you would like included in the next Elder Abuse Annual Report publication, please contact the Advocare Project Officer, Advocare*

*Phone: 08 6279 9914 or email: [Sarah.Patterson@advocare.org.au](mailto:Sarah.Patterson@advocare.org.au)*

## ANPEA

### NEW **WA Elder Abuse Resources**

The WA Department of Local Government and Communities has developed an eye-catching range of elder abuse resources, (postcards and posters) which are available at:

<http://www.communities.wa.gov.au/communities-in-focus/seniors/Elder-abuse/Pages/Elder-Abuse-Resources.aspx>

### **Elder Abuse Policy. Have you got one?**

The Alliance for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (APEA) is interested in finding out about the extent of the uptake of the WA Elder Abuse Protocol Guidelines amongst the community care sector. It would also be of interest to know how many service providers have an elder abuse policy or protocols of their own. Below is a link to the APEA: WA Protocol Guidelines: for your reference.

[http://www.advocare.org.au/uploaded/files/client\\_added/SO103%20Elder%20Abuse%20Protocol%20v2.pdf](http://www.advocare.org.au/uploaded/files/client_added/SO103%20Elder%20Abuse%20Protocol%20v2.pdf)

Consider displaying the protocol guidelines in a prominent position at your workplace and pass the link on to your networks. Please contact Mary Kepert if you are able to add to knowledge about the uptake of elder abuse protocol guidelines from the service provider's perspective. Mary may be contacted by email: [mkepert@advocare.org.au](mailto:mkepert@advocare.org.au) or phone; +61 8 6279 9902

### **Research and Resources:**

National Centre for the Care of Older People (Ireland) [www.ncpop.ie](http://www.ncpop.ie)

Launch of the Keep Control Campaign (11 December 2014) [www.keepcontrol.ie](http://www.keepcontrol.ie)

Family Carers of Older People; Results from a National Survey of Stress, Conflict and Coping

<http://vimeo.com/99710256> (Attracta Lafferty)

Age Friendly Workplaces (Simon Biggs)

<http://vimeo.com/99038772>

Screening for elder abuse:

[http://www.ncpop.ie/userfiles/file/ncpop%20fact%20files%20and%20summaries/EASI\\_fact%20file\\_Final.pdf](http://www.ncpop.ie/userfiles/file/ncpop%20fact%20files%20and%20summaries/EASI_fact%20file_Final.pdf)

## LINKS

**Preventing financial elder abuse. Knowledge is power (Mary Gilhooly)**

[http://www.ncpop.ie/userfiles/file/keep%20control%20launch%202014/prof%20mary%20gilhooly\\_11dec2014.pdf](http://www.ncpop.ie/userfiles/file/keep%20control%20launch%202014/prof%20mary%20gilhooly_11dec2014.pdf)

**Identifying and enhancing risk thresholds in the detection of elder financial abuse: a signal detection analysis of professionals' decision making (Gilhooly, M. et al)**

*BMC Medical Education* 2014, **14**:268 doi:10.1186/s12909-014-0268-z

**Security of tenure for the ageing population in Western Australia**

<http://www.cotawa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Housing-for-older-people-summary.pdf>

**Elder abuse a forgotten election issue (Seniors Rights Victoria)**

<http://seniorsrights.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/SRV-Media-Release-26-Nov.pdf>

**Elderly Abuse in Tasmania. Victims demand State Government takes tougher stance**

The details of this instance of "elder abuse" lie outside of the current definition. In the light of this report **is our definition adequate?** Can readers suggest interventions which would safeguard others from the situation Edna experienced?

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-11-07/elderly-abuse-advocates-demand-tougher-laws-to-stop-exploitation/5875354>

**Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) National Aged Care Data Clearinghouse**

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/national-aged-care-data-clearinghouse/>

**Medical Implications of Elder abuse and Neglect, An issue of Clinics in Geriatric Medicine (link to book).**

<http://scholar.google.com/scholar?cluster=14445276607594079940&hl=en&oi=scholaralrt>

**Report on the Social Isolation of Seniors (Canada)**

[http://www.seniorscouncil.gc.ca/eng/research\\_publications/social\\_isolation/page00.shtml](http://www.seniorscouncil.gc.ca/eng/research_publications/social_isolation/page00.shtml)

**Scoping Review of the Literature Social Isolation of Seniors 2013-2014**

[http://www.seniorscouncil.gc.ca/eng/research\\_publications/scoping\\_social\\_isolation/page00.shtml](http://www.seniorscouncil.gc.ca/eng/research_publications/scoping_social_isolation/page00.shtml)

**Government and banks must tackle the overlooked financial element of domestic abuse  
Time for government, banks and creditors to break the silence.**

<http://www.newstatesman.com/politics/2014/12/government-and-banks-must-tackle-overlooked-financial-element-domestic-abuse>

**International elder abuse websites:**

**European**

- Combating Elder Abuse - <http://www.combatingelderabuse.eu/>
- Abuse of Elderly in Europe (ABUEL) (EU) - <http://www.abuel.org/index.html>
- Cornell Institute for Translational Research on Aging - <http://www.cornell.edu/search/index.cfm?tab=facts&q=&id=167>
- SHARE (Survey of Health, Ageing & Retirement in Europe) - <http://www.share-project.org>
- The European reference framework online for prevention of elder abuse and neglect - <http://archive.today/J7A5Z>
- The European Sociological Association Research Network on Ageing in Europe - <http://www.ageing-in-europe.org/>
- WeDO (Wellbeing and Dignity of Older people) - <http://wedo.ttp.eu/>
- Towards an Age-Friendly EU - <http://www.age-platform.eu/>

**Canadian**

- National Initiative for the Care of the Elderly (NICE) (Canada) - <http://www.nicenet.ca/>
- Seniors Department, Government of Canada - <http://www.seniors.gc.ca/eng/pie/eaa/index.shtml>
- Canadian Center for Elder Law - <http://www.bcli.org/ccel>
- National Clearinghouse on Family Violence - <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ncfv-cnivf/index.php>

**United Kingdom**

- Action on Elder Abuse (UK) - <http://www.elderabuse.org.uk/>
- Preventing Abuse and Neglect in Institutional Care of Older Adults (PANICOA) - <http://www.panicoa.org.uk/>

**United States**

- Elder Financial Protection Network (EFPN) - <http://www.elderfinancialprotection.org/>
- Clearinghouse on the Abuse and Neglect of the Elderly - <http://www.cane.udel.edu/>
- Minnesota Centre Against Violence and Abuse (USA) - <http://www.mincava.umn.edu/categories/885>
- National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life - <http://www.ncall.us/>
- National Online Resource Centre on Violence Against Women (USA) - <http://new.vawnet.org/>
- The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Center for Elder Abuse Prevention At The Hebrew Home for the Aged - <http://www.hebrewhome.org/abusercovery.asp>
- US National Centre on Elder Abuse - <http://www.ncea.aoa.gov/>
- Weill Cornell Project on Elder Abuse and Neglect - <http://cornellaging.org/elderabuse/>
- National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (NCPEA) - <http://www.preventelderabuse.org/>
- United States Department of Justice, Elder Justice Initiative - <http://www.justice.gov/elderjustice/>

## REF

Below are some useful contacts on the topic of elder abuse in Australia. If there are other services you would like included in this newsletter, please share your ideas with Mary Kepert

- Older People's Rights Service (OPRS) (WA)  
Phone 08 9440 1663; Website <http://www.nsclegal.org.au>
- International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA) Representative, Greg Mahney  
Phone 08 9479 7566; email [gregm@advocare.org.au](mailto:gregm@advocare.org.au); website [www.advocare.org.au](http://www.advocare.org.au) or [www.inpea.net](http://www.inpea.net)
- Advocacy Tasmania  
Phone 03 6224 2240; [www.advocacytasmania.com.au](http://www.advocacytasmania.com.au)
- Elder Abuse Prevention Unit (Queensland)  
Phone 07 3867 2525; Website [www.eapu.com.au](http://www.eapu.com.au)
- Seniors Rights Victoria  
Phone 1300 368 821;  
Website [www.seniorsrights.org.au](http://www.seniorsrights.org.au)
- The Aged Rights Service (TARS)  
1800 424 079  
[www.tars.com.au](http://www.tars.com.au)
- Aged Rights Advocacy Service (ARAS), Adelaide Phone 08 8232 5377; website: [www.sa.agedrights.asn.au](http://www.sa.agedrights.asn.au)
- ACT Office for Ageing: [http://www.dhcs.act.gov.au/wac/ageing/elderabuse\\_prevention\\_and\\_assistance](http://www.dhcs.act.gov.au/wac/ageing/elderabuse_prevention_and_assistance).
- ACT Older Persons Abuse Prevention Referral and Information Line (APRIL). This is a confidential telephone service for callers who want to discuss elder abuse issues and seek advice and referral on options. The service operates during business hours. The APRIL number is 02 6205 3535.

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Website: [www.advocare.org.au](http://www.advocare.org.au)

### Share the news

We invite suggestions and contributions to this newsletter in regard to format, frequency and content to guide our new venture. Please join in with the spirit and send your information to me at [mkepert@advocare.org.au](mailto:mkepert@advocare.org.au) for inclusion in the next newsletter.

To opt out of the **ANPEA** mailing list, please email Mary on [mkepert@advocare.org.au](mailto:mkepert@advocare.org.au)