



Working with Older People

National CLCs Conference August 2014

“**Longevity** is bringing with it more excuses for discrimination and abuse. Abuse is easy to pick when it’s extreme...

But for most of us, it’s expressed in the nuances of ageism. In assumptions about an older persons ability to keep learning, and older drivers competence.

It’s in the language of medicine and health – bed-blockers , the burden of care. It’s in the increasing use of sterile language of economics to describe our nation and the consequential view of pensioners as a drag on growth. Its in the older persons experience of invisibility.”

Janet Wood WEAAD forum COTA Vic 2014



SENIORS RIGHTS VICTORIA

Victoria wide, free, advocacy
and legal service for older people
experiencing abuse.

Helpline: 1300 368 82

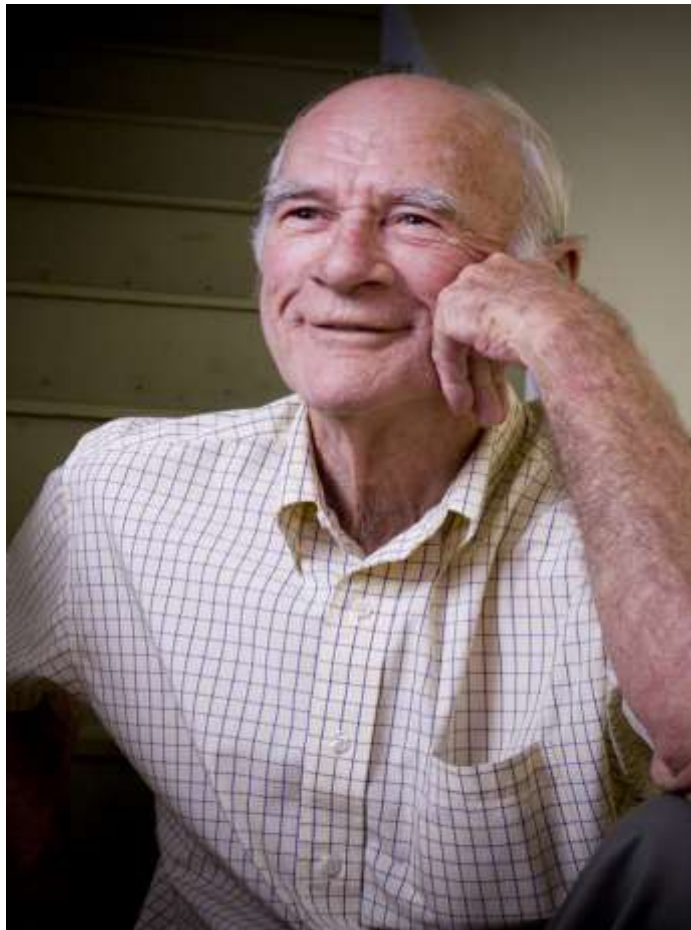
(Monday to Friday 10–5)



Elder Abuse is any act which causes harm to an older person and is carried out by someone they know and trust, such as a partner, relative, friend or carer.

Snapshot of callers to SRV – last 12 months:

- 77% older women, 23% older men.
- 50% were over 75 years of age
- Main abuse types reported: Psychological (51%), Financial (47%), Physical (14%).
- 64% of abusers were adult children
- Many calls relate to “Boomerang Kids” or “Assets for Care” arrangements gone wrong.



Gordon's Story



Working with Older People

- Barriers to disclosure and/or taking action
- SRV approach

Issues that might prevent older persons from seeking help

- Further damage to family relationships
- Shame or embarrassment
- Fear of being “put in a home”
- No previous contact with lawyers or police
- Fear of being left alone.

Legal Issues

- Is the possible legal action appropriate?
- Does the older person want the action taken?
- Will the legal action have a successful outcome?
- Why is legal action not always useful?
- Court processes
- Managing client expectations

Advocacy



Approach in all our work

- Respecting the older persons rights
- Self determination
- Informed choice
- Own Decision making



Helpline: 1300 368 821

Monday – Friday, 10am to 5pm

www.seniorsrights.org.au



