

TAKING ACTION ON ELDER ABUSE

Recognise it

Raise it

Refer for help

It's everyone's responsibility

Elder Abuse can be difficult to navigate. The situation can be unclear and most often involves people the older person is close to.

So, what can you do to take action when you are worried that this could be happening to a person you know or care for?



ADA Law
Community Legal Service

1800 232 529

www.adalaw.com.au

Recognise it

Physical abuse: eg. pinching, squeezing, slapping, pushing or using restraints

Psychological/emotional abuse: eg. threats, humiliation, harassment, verbal abuse

Social abuse: eg. restricting access to family, friends, activities or services

Financial abuse: eg. forced changes to a will, transferring money or property, withholding funds, neglecting to pay bills

Sexual abuse: eg. any sexual activity for which the person has not consented

Neglect: eg. abandonment, failing to provide the basic necessities of life and care

Chemical abuse: eg. over or under medicating

Often elder abuse happens at the hands of a trusted person. It could be a family member, friend, neighbour or appointed attorney under an Enduring Power of Attorney.

Raise it

- If someone is in immediate danger call 000.
- If there's an opportunity, try to talk to the person alone about it to let them know that it's not ok and that confidential help is available.
- Approach the conversation based on what you have seen or heard, for example, *"I heard how he/she/they spoke to you and it made me feel upset and worried for you. How did you feel about it?"*
- There will be times when it's not appropriate to have a conversation but you still need to act - if you are a care worker, report in line with your organisation's policies, or anyone can contact the organisations below for help.

Refer for help

Elder Abuse Prevention Unit - Queensland Elder Abuse Helpline phone 1300 651 192

ADA Law - Community Legal Service - phone 1800 232 529

The Office of the Public Guardian - phone 1300 653 187

Lifeline - 24-hour crisis line phone 13 11 14