

About Elder Abuse Action Australia

Who we are

Elder Abuse Action Australia (EAAA) is a national peak body established in 2018 to prevent harm and alleviate the distress caused by the abuse and mistreatment of older people (elder abuse). Elder abuse is a serious issue that causes suffering, disadvantage and vulnerability for many older Australians. EAAA works to reduce this harm, ensuring older people can live safely, with dignity and without fear. Our work positively impacts older individuals, their families, carers, communities and Australian society.

What we do

EAAA works to prevent elder abuse and support older Australians affected by discrimination, neglect and mistreatment. We provide information, education and capacity-building initiatives to reduce harm and provide relief for older people experiencing or at risk of elder abuse.

As the national voice for action, we advocate for the rights of older people by developing policy positions, promoting effective solutions to ensure equal access to support, and to help uphold safety, dignity and justice.

Since its inception, EAAA has established itself as Australia's leading authority and primary information resource on elder abuse.

As the national peak body supporting older Australians who are vulnerable, at risk or experiencing mistreatment, EAAA provides:

- **Compass.info**, a national elder abuse information hub that offers a direct pathway to support services for older Australians and those who care for them
- **Education and training** including *SaferSeniors*, Lunch & Learn webinars and tools and resources that equip frontline workers, carers and older people to recognise abuse and respond safely
- **National advocacy and collaboration** that brings together lived experience, service providers, researchers and government to develop coordinated solutions that reduce harm and disadvantage
- **The Australian Elder Abuse Conference**, a national education, training and capacity-building forum dedicated to addressing elder abuse and improving prevention and response efforts.

Through these channels, EAAA delivers practical relief, strengthens sector capability and promotes safer outcomes for older Australians.



Membership

Membership is an important feature of EAAA as it builds, strengthens and unites a national movement dedicated to protecting older Australians from harm and advocating for their rights. We seek to ensure that everyone has access to the support, justice and dignity they deserve.

Without a broad-based and substantial membership community, EAAA's ability to advocate, raise awareness and influence government action is diminished. Membership helps us create meaningful change and provide direct support for initiatives that relieve the suffering of older people experiencing abuse.

EAAA membership is open to individuals and organisations who want to contribute to reducing the distress and harm caused by elder abuse. Whether they have a personal connection to elder abuse, work in the sector or support the rights of older people, members strengthen our ability to provide help and relief where it's needed most.

Compass

Our flagship achievement, Compass is a national website that continues to grow and attract more visitors to the site, far exceeding all expectations. Last year, Compass had over 567,000 visitors and more than 2.5 million video views. New topic areas, interactive formats like the Compass Q&A Series, and multilingual resources expanded our reach and accessibility. Compass has published 108 videos which have been viewed over 2.5 million times in the past 12 months.

Safer Seniors

Safer Seniors is a professional development program designed to strengthen the capacity of workers who support older people. It builds understanding of elder abuse - its causes, signs, and impacts - and develops practical skills to recognise, respond to, and prevent mistreatment.

Developed by EAAA, this short course combines evidence-based learning with real-world case examples. Learners explore trauma-informed and culturally sensitive approaches that promote safety, autonomy, and dignity for older people.

Each self-paced module includes interactive content, reflection activities and practical examples to apply in everyday work.

What we know

Elder abuse prevalence

- Around 1 in 6 older Australians (15%) living in the community (not including aged care) experience elder abuse each year
- Family members are the most common people causing harm, often adult children
- Only around 1 in 3 victim survivors reach out for help

- National Elder Abuse Prevalence Study suggested incidence of elder abuse in aged care is more than 39%
- Elder abuse drives significant impacts on a person's health, housing stability, mental wellbeing, and demand on health and justice systems.

Australia's ageing population

- 1 in 6 Australians is aged 65+ today
- By 2066, 65+ is projected to be around 21–23% of the population meaning more than 1.5 million older people will be experiencing abuse and mistreatment.

High-level impacts of elder abuse

- Serious physical and mental health impacts, including trauma, anxiety and depression
- Financial devastation - loss of housing, savings and independence
- Social isolation, which increases vulnerability and reduces help-seeking
- Greater pressure on hospitals, aged care, legal and justice systems
- Preventing elder abuse is both a moral responsibility and an investment in our community.

Lived experience

- Many older people fear speaking out because they depend on the person harming them
- When help is unavailable locally, people may stay in unsafe situations. Timely, specialist support can be the difference between safety and continued harm.

EAAA calls for:

- Release of the first 5-year Implementation Plan with secure and appropriate funding
- Retention and growth of specialist elder abuse services and programs to meet the need of a growing and at-risk population
- Investment in adult safeguarding units in each state and territory to incorporate the Elder Abuse Helplines
- Knowledge of elder abuse scaled across Aged Care providers and clinical settings to improve understanding and response

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