

Media Release

27 November 2019

New booklet to help if you are concerned about an older person

Information about Elder Abuse and what to do if it is happening to someone close to you are the focus of a booklet to be launched today at the Colac Bowls Club.

The booklet will be launched by the Commissioner for Senior Victorians, Mr Gerard Mansour.

Concerned About an Older Person will be distributed to people who call the Seniors Rights Victoria helpline. 'Half the people who call the helpline are concerned about someone they know,' said Seniors Rights Victoria Manager Jenny Blakey.

'A quarter of callers are service providers, and the rest are people who are experiencing elder abuse from a family member or some other person who is close to them.

'We provide support to people calling about someone they know. However, we act for the older person experiencing the abuse rather than for the concerned other person. This is to ensure we are acting on the directions of the older person. With the consent of the older person we will work with them and other people.'

'The booklet will help concerned family, friends and service providers take practical steps to help the person experiencing abuse.'

Ms Blakey said that might include persuading the older person to contact Seniors Rights Victoria themselves, but it also provides the details of other services that might assist.

The booklet includes information on:

- what is elder abuse
- signs that someone may be experiencing elder abuse
- what you can do if someone you know is experiencing elder abuse
- preparing a plan to ensure the person is safe
- answers to common questions, including if the older person does not want to involve services or the police
- what to do if the person is from a diverse community including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, culturally and linguistically diverse, LGBTIQ+ or from a rural area.

The booklet has been funded by the [Victorian Department of Health and Human Services](#) under the state's initiative to reduce family violence.

Victoria Legal Aid tested the booklet with several focus groups.

Seniors Rights Victoria acknowledges the contribution of Naomi Bailey at Women's Health Goulburn North East, who managed the content development for the booklet.

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