

There is another story

PEEL SAYS
NO TO
VIOLENCE

STORIES OF HOPE FROM THE PEEL SAYS NO TO VIOLENCE PROJECT

We can all
make a
difference ...



Recognise

behaviour that's causing harm to you or an older person you know.



Listen

to their story, let them know you understand what they are saying and how they are feeling.



Level of urgency

Is it an emergency? What are the threats? Is there a possibility of them hurting themselves or others?



Plan

If at risk, tell them you are concerned and call the Police. If it is not immediately serious, talk to them about a safety plan and where they could go for help.



Refer

Let them know you are there for them and help them find services.



Document

Keep a note of what you have done.



ELDER ABUSE - YVONNE'S STORY

"She pushed me against a wall and got up in my face"

My daughter and family moved in with me because they needed somewhere to live and I needed a carer because of my disability. My daughter and her husband didn't have any credible renting history. I did, so I had the lease. They moved me out of the place I was in - where I had been comfortable for the last 8 years to a place suitable for us all to live. Anyway, I was only there for six months if that, not even six months, before my daughter and her husband started to get really bullying towards me.

They would get nasty. The final incident happened just before Christmas. They had been refusing me any access to my grandchildren even though I was living in the same house. Anyway, my little granddaughter at the time had taken her first steps and everybody in the house was excited and I was excited for her too. So, I went to smile and congratulate her. With that my daughter lost her temper with me. She got up in my face and I thought she was going to bite me on the nose so I brought my hands up. She pushed me against a wall and got up in my face. I brought my hands up to stop her from biting my nose and she grabbed my arms and threw me about four feet across the kitchen floor and broke my hip.

Well, I crawled to the phone and rang the police. The police came, I got a move on notice. They moved me out of the house. Even though I was the leaseholder but my daughter had her little children with her and said that I'd been violent to her and she had nowhere to go. I had to leave so I got a cab to a friend's place. My friend took me to hospital and that's where I had the X-rays and they found that my daughter had broken my hip.

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ELDER ABUSE - YVONNE'S STORY

Christmas in hospital.

...
I ended up spending Christmas in hospital and that's where I found services. One of the hospital liaison workers spoke to me and me about an organisation called Care Options. They do an over 50s homeless project and because I wasn't safe to go home that service helped me to get a flat. The worker took me around to check out different places to make sure they were suitable and I finally got a place which I stayed in for 18 months until decided that I was happy enough to move out with a friend to get a bigger space because it was only a one-bedroom place. I haven't looked back, I've been in this new house since.

Yvonne, 67, Mandurah

The woman in this story now lives with a friend after receiving support from the Aboriginal Liaison Officer in hospital and Care Options.

ELDER ABUSE - DISCUSSION TRIGGERS

*Yvonne got help because she ended up in hospital - how could she be helped if things didn't get that serious?
Would you have been able to recognise the signs?*

*What would or could you do if you were Yvonne's neighbour and you realised what was going on?
How could you have had that conversation and*

An elderly friend, always able and willing to go out to social events, suddenly makes excuses, saying she can't afford it. What might this mean and is it the right thing for you to get involved ?

ELDER ABUSE - RECOGNISING THE SIGNS

1. Financial

- Significant withdrawals & sudden changes in bank accounts
- Items or cash missing from the senior's household
- Suspicious changes in wills, power of attorney, titles, and policies
- Addition of names to the senior's signature card
- Unpaid bills or lack of medical care, although the elder has enough money to pay for them
- Financial activity the senior couldn't have done, such as an ATM withdrawal when the account holder is bedridden
- Unnecessary services, goods, or subscriptions

2. Neglect

- Unexplainable weight loss, malnutrition, dehydration
- Untreated physical problems, such as bed sores
- Unsanitary living conditions: dirt, bugs, soiled bedding and clothes
- Being left dirty or unattended

3. Social

- Is used to isolate older people and exclude them from communal activities
- Limiting or preventing contact with friends or family
- Arranging for senior's phone to be disconnected without the older adults consent
- Withholding mail

4. Psychological

- Threatening, belittling, or controlling behaviour by a friend/family member that you see or hear about
- Behaviour from the elder that mimics dementia

5. Physical signs

- Unexplained signs of injury such as bruises, welts, or scars, especially if on both sides of the body
- Broken bones, sprains, or dislocations
- Broken spectacles or frames

Who can help?

Emergency

For emergency & life threatening situations, contact emergency services;

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Urgent

For urgent and after-hours support contact Crisis Care;

9223 1111

1800 199 008

Not so urgent

For support during business hours, contact Advocare;

9479 7566

1800 655 566

For support during business hours where there is no decision-making capacity, contact Office of the Public Advocate;

1300 858 455

Free toolbox resources

For free resources to share with your community, club or employees, go to;

www.peelsaysnotoviolence.org.au/resources/

All of the stories we share are local stories from local people, shared with the permission of each research participant. Names & images have been changed to protect the individual's identity.

To read the research report, go to;
www.peelsaysnotoviolence.org.au