



Abuse Prevention

Older people, aged 65 years and over, or 50 years and over for First Nations (or their legal representatives) who are at risk of abuse, or experiencing abuse in any setting (residential aged care, or the community) from those with whom they are in a relationship of trust such as, family, friends or service providers, will be assisted by ARAS Advocates. The aim is to build on the individuals' strength and resilience to improve their health, wellbeing and safety through the provision of advocacy support.

What is elder abuse?

Elder abuse can be defined as 'a single, or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to an older person'. Elder abuse can take various forms such as physical, sexual, psychological, financial, and/or neglect. (WHO, 2002)

How the older person will be assisted

With the older person taking the lead, we will work along-side them;

- Providing information about their rights including the Charter of Aged Care Rights, if receiving aged care services.
- Providing options to help with their situation of abuse by someone they should be able to trust.
- Advocating to service providers on their behalf
- Support to implement strategies to reduce and/or stop the abuse
- Professional and independent interpreters will be made available, upon request

Abuse Prevention service also provides

- Information sessions to community groups, including Retirement Village residents and residents in residential aged care homes.
- Informative and interactive education sessions to service providers, TAFE/Universities/medical students and health and allied health professionals in hospital settings

You have rights – do you know what they are?

The South Australian Charter of the Rights and Freedoms of Vulnerable Adults has been endorsed by the Strategy to Safeguard the Rights of Older South Australians and is based on the United Nations Principles for Older Persons (1991) and includes the following:

Dignity, respect and self-determination	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The right to be treated with dignity and humanity and to be free to exercise personal self-determination.2. The right to freedom of movement and to choose their place of residence. These rights shall only be restricted in accordance with law, where such restriction is necessary to protect public health, public order and the rights and freedoms of others.
Liberty and security	<ol style="list-style-type: none">3. The right to be free from torture or other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.4. The right to liberty and security and to be free from exploitation and physical, social, psychological, financial and sexual abuse. No person shall be deprived of their liberty except in accordance with procedures established by law.
Equality and non-discrimination	<ol style="list-style-type: none">5. The right to exercise their rights free from all forms of discrimination, whether on the basis of age, sex, colour, sexual, orientation, religion, political opinion, educational qualification, national origin or ethnicity.6. The right to recognition before the law and to be treated equally before the law.
Standards of living and care	<ol style="list-style-type: none">7. The right to food to nurture them nutritionally and emotionally, adequate clothing and shelter, adequate means and resources, to enjoy the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health and the right to a dignified death.
Other Rights and Freedoms include Privacy and family; Social and economic participation; Freedom of thought, conscience, spirituality, religion and expression.	

Please contact ARAS:

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TTY: **13 36 77** or SSR: **1300 555 727**

Translating and Interpreting Service: **13 14 50**

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This fact sheet provides general information only and is not intended to substitute for legal advice. Whilst care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the material, no responsibility can be taken for any errors or omissions. ARAS is funded by the Australian Government. ARAS is the South Australian member of the Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN).