National Elder Abuse Prevention and Advocacy Framework

November 2018
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The Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN) member organisations have for some time now been addressing elder abuse issues in order to uphold these rights, through the Commonwealth Home Support Programme, through State or Territory elder abuse service provision as well as other funded advocacy and prevention work.

The work and activities have been of benefit to both users of aged care services and older people who are potential aged care service users. Contact has come through active engagement of older people and their families during information and education provision in the community. Elder abuse, and risk of elder abuse has also come to light when older people, their carers and families contact OPAN and its service delivery organisations requesting generalised and individual advocacy. This can be related to aged care, but also as the older person requests information and assistance in relation to other health, human services or community services.

To that end, OPAN’s members meet and support the older person within the community, service settings and circumstances within which they present – providing a ‘no wrong door’ approach to delivering elder abuse prevention and support.

The extent of this work was identified and documented in the 2017 independent review of OPAN members’ elder abuse programs which confirmed the significant contribution of OPAN to national elder abuse prevention and advocacy activities, and the location of these activities within the broader landscape of elder abuse services. The report recommended that OPAN develop a nationally consistent approach to this work.

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The Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN) is a national network of nine state and territory organisations that have been successfully delivering advocacy, information and education services to older people in metropolitan, regional, rural and remote Australia for over 25 years.

- ACT Disability, Aged and Carer Advocacy Service (ADACAS) – Australian Capital Territory
- Advocacy Tasmania – Tasmania
- Advocare – Western Australia
- Aged and Disability Advocacy Australia (ADAA) – Queensland
- Aged Rights Advocacy Service (ARAS) – South Australia
- CatholicCare, Aged Care Advocacy Service – Central Australia - Northern Territory
- Elder Rights Advocacy (ERA) – Victoria
- Seniors and Disability Rights Service (SDRS), Darwin Community Legal Service – Northern Territory
- Seniors Rights Service – New South Wales.

OPAN is funded by the Australian Government to deliver the National Aged Care Advocacy Program (NACAP) under the Aged Care Act 1997. NACAP provides free, independent and confidential advocacy support, education and information to older people (and their representatives) receiving, or seeking to receive, Australian Government funded aged care services.

OPAN’s delivery of NACAP is guided by:

- National Aged Care Advocacy Framework (2018)
- National Aged Care Advocacy Program Guidelines
- NACAP Funding Agreement and approved activity workplans
- Commonwealth Aged Care Act 1997, including the Grant Principles 2014 and User Rights Principles
- The Charter of Aged Care Rights. 2

In addition, OPAN aims to provide a national voice for aged care advocacy and promote excellence and national consistency in the delivery of advocacy services under the Program.

Individuals eligible to receive NACAP services include:

- people receiving Australian Government funded aged care services
- people seeking to receive Australian Government funded aged care services (this may include prior to receiving an aged care assessment)
- families or representatives of the above.

The Program delivers rights-based advocacy services to ensure that current and prospective aged care consumers understand and can exercise their rights as well as participate in decisions made regarding their care. Services support older people, their families, carers and representatives to articulate and address issues associated with accessing and using Commonwealth funded aged care services. NACAP also funds the provision of free information, and education sessions to consumers and potential consumers of Commonwealth funded aged care services, and their families, carers or representatives.

As a national program, NACAP provides services to a range of people from individually and geographically diverse backgrounds, including vulnerable populations. OPAN is required under NACAP to provide advocacy services to consumers and providers in a nationally consistent manner that also offers the flexibility required to accommodate the individual demographic, cultural, religious, physical and linguistic needs of individual consumers.

In delivering NACAP, OPAN has a focus on older people who identify as being from special needs groups (see box below), along with people who are living with dementia, a mental health condition, a disability or cognitive decline.

OPAN also delivers education on consumer rights and responsibilities to providers of Australian Government funded aged care services as part of NACAP.

THE NATIONAL AGED CARE ADVOCACY FRAMEWORK - SPECIAL NEEDS GROUPS

Under the Aged Care Act 1997, people with special needs include people who identify with or belong to one or more of the following groups:

- people from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities;
- people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds;
- people who live in rural or remote areas;
- people who are financially or socially disadvantaged;
- people who are veterans of the Australian Defence Force or an allied defence force including the spouse, widow or widower of a veteran
- people who are homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless;
- people who are care leavers (which includes Forgotten Australians, Former Child Migrants and Stolen Generations)
- parents separated from their children by forced adoption or removal; and
- people from lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans/ transgender and intersex (LGBTI) communities.

OPAN’S ROLE IN PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO ELDER ABUSE

Until recently, OPAN’s role in addressing elder abuse had not been specifically resourced by the Australian Government Department of Health. In recognition of the elder abuse work OPAN service delivery organisations have been undertaking, the Minister for Senior Australians and Aged Care, the Hon Ken Wyatt AM MP provided OPAN with $1 million in 2017-18 to support the development of elder abuse prevention activities and resources. The first project funded with this grant was the 2017 independent review of OPAN’s elder abuse advocacy and prevention programs, and many of its recommendations have guided the work supported by the initial grant.

In addition, the grant funded research into elder abuse prevention and response models in rural and remote settings and the research and development of tools to incorporate Supported Decision Making approaches within elder abuse prevention and support services.

The grant also supported the development of the national OPAN National Elder Abuse Prevention and Advocacy Framework, research service models for elder abuse advocacy and prevention activities, while supporting new and existing OPAN elder abuse projects and trialling direct service delivery. In the 2018-19 Budget OPAN received a further commitment of $1 million for each of the 2018-19 and 2019-20 financial years to continue this work.

OPAN service delivery organisations provide an immediate response to consumers experiencing elder abuse in community and residential aged care services, and more broadly to prospective users of aged care services. Elder abuse prevention and support occurs through all three of OPAN’s core activities – advocacy, information and education. This aligns with the program activities as defined in the National Aged Care Advocacy Framework.

2 At the time of publication there are four charters relating to the rights of aged care recipients: residential care; home care and short term restorative care however Health is consulting on the development of a single charter of aged care rights.
The National Aged Care Advocacy Framework specifies that the Objectives of the NACAP will be met through the delivery of the following program activities:

- independent and individually focussed advocacy support delivered directly to older people (including their families or representatives);
- the provision of independent information to support older people (including their families or representatives);
- the delivery of education sessions promoting aged care consumer rights to older people (including their families or representatives);
- the delivery of education to aged care providers promoting consumer rights and aged care provider responsibilities, including through online and digital systems.

Specifically related to elder abuse, OPAN members provide the following activities, in addition to OPAN’s NACAP activities. These form the basis of our agreed, ongoing, key performance indicators for OPAN’s members direct service provision in relation to elder abuse. These KPIs are monitored and reported in addition to OPAN’s NACAP activities:

- the provision of independent and individually focussed advocacy support delivered to older people at risk of or who are experiencing elder abuse
- the provision of independent information to support older people at risk of or who are experiencing elder abuse
- the delivery of education sessions on elder abuse prevention or strategies to protect themselves from elder abuse to older people, the community and service providers
- the at least 20% of the above activities being provided to people identifying as being from special needs groups

In providing this range of services, OPAN addresses elder abuse across a continuum of service - spanning prevention, early intervention and ongoing response. Within this continuum, elder abuse services are also designed to be responsive to individual and changing consumer needs.

OPAN and other services targeting elder abuse operate in a changing landscape that has seen elder abuse gain increasing policy attention, community awareness and dedicated resourcing. Significant movement on a number of major initiatives has occurred in the last two years.

However, many in the community, academia and legal arenas have been advocating for action on elder abuse for decades. The nation-wide effort has been supported and enhanced by the numerous formal inquiries into elder abuse at State and Territory level in the past decade, with several developing rights-based legislation designed to protect and empower older people. Most State/Territory governments have established Elder Abuse Helplines and some have funded elder abuse prevention and advocacy services for varying lengths of time. In 2018 Victoria became the first State to implement an Elder Abuse Action Plan.3

Importantly, addressing elder abuse now has bipartisan agreement at both Federal and State government levels. As Australia’s Age Discrimination Commissioner noted recently, this harmony of thinking and commitment to positive change represents a rare opportunity for progress. “The current Federal and State bipartisan commitment to elder abuse is a once in a lifetime opportunity for change” (The Hon Dr Kay Patterson AO, Keynote Address, WEEAD Conference, Adelaide, June 15th 2018).

The recent key national influencers of reform are outlined in the figure below and selected breakthrough influences outlined within the following section.
A number of national and cross-sector networks support a coordinated and holistic response to elder abuse. Three structures have been prominent in supporting a national focus on elder abuse – the Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN); the Older Persons’ Legal Service network (OLPS); and the Australian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (ANPEA). ANPEA commenced its collaborative efforts in 1997 and was reconvened in 2006. Both ANPEA and OLPS (via its national umbrella organisation NACLC – National Association of Community Legal Centres) have important formal linkages with influential international bodies INPEA (the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse) and NAPEA with the United Nations. The work of these international bodies and of the World Health Organization has been an important influence on reform in Australia.

In early 2016, the loosely structured national Elder Abuse Network resolved to commission an Options Paper to explore and recommend the most appropriate options for the structure and governance of a national entity which could give a clearly identified ‘voice’ to the issue, driving collaborative and coordinated strategies to pursue shared goals and ‘reduce and prevent elder abuse’. The Options Paper was to inform the decision-making of the Network regarding the type of entity which would give a clearly identified ‘voice’ to the issue, driving collaborative and coordinated strategies to pursue shared goals and ‘reduce and prevent elder abuse’. The Options Paper was to inform the decision-making of the Network regarding the type of entity which would give a clearly identified ‘voice’ to the issue, driving collaborative and coordinated strategies to pursue shared goals and ‘reduce and prevent elder abuse’. The Options Paper was to inform the decision-making of the Network regarding the type of entity which would give a clearly identified ‘voice’ to the issue, driving collaborative and coordinated strategies to pursue shared goals and ‘reduce and prevent elder abuse’. The Options Paper was to inform the decision-making of the Network regarding the type of entity which would give a clearly identified ‘voice’ to the issue, driving collaborative and coordinated strategies to pursue shared goals and ‘reduce and prevent elder abuse’.

Importantly, the three national network structures and EEN AAA all have members in common which facilitates collaboration and information sharing as well as coordinated communication campaigns, including those designed to raise awareness of elder abuse and of unmet need in prevention and advocacy services.
COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT COMMITMENTS AND ACTIONS TO ADDRESS ELDER ABUSE

In 2016 the Coalition Government committed $15 million to support a national agenda to address elder abuse in Australia. This support has resulted in:

- A National Prevalence Study designed to better understand the ‘nature, scale and scope’ of elder abuse (providing $590,000 to the Australian Institute of Family Studies to lead this research);
- Increased training and education for professionals and the wider community; and
- A new elder abuse national peak body, Elder Abuse Action Australia (EAFFA), to support the ‘national coordination and advocacy of issues related to prevention of elder abuse’ (with initial funding of $250,000 per annum for two years).

Established in 2018, EAAFFA was also given the related roles of fostering collaboration, information sharing, learning and innovation, as well as additional funding to conduct a scoping study for an Elder Abuse Knowledge Hub.

The 2018 ‘More Choices for a Longer Life – Protecting Older Australians’ initiative includes the Federal Government’s response to specific recommendations made in the Australian Law Reform Commissioner’s 2017 Elder Abuse Respect. The $22 million funding provided to the Attorney-General’s Department in the 2018-19 Commonwealth budget supports a number of components including:

- Australia’s first National Elder Abuse Plan, to be developed by the end of 2018.
- Core funding to support the newly established Elder Abuse Action Australia peak body to engage with the National Plan and scope the Elder Abuse Knowledge Hub – a mechanism to share expertise and profile best practice.
- Expansion and evaluation of a number of Support Service Trials, for example –
  - Family Counselling and Mediation Services through a pilot across 50 sites to determine whether mediation with legal assistance is an effective model in responding to elder abuse.
  - Specialist Elder Abuse Units in legal services.
  - Health-Justice Partnerships.

- Establishment of a National Register of Enduring Powers of Attorney – ensuring nationally consistent enduring documentation, enhanced by the provision for national consistency in court and tribunal appointments of guardians and financial administrators (dependent on agreement by all jurisdictions).
- Development of national, Best Practice Guidelines for Legal Practitioners in relation to the preparation and execution of wills in order to address elder abuse issues.

3. THE OPAN NATIONAL ELDER ABUSE PREVENTION AND ADVOCACY FRAMEWORK

I. ELDER ABUSE DEFINITIONS AND GUIDING FRAMEWORK

OPAN is guided by the World Health Organization (WHO) definition of elder abuse which identifies elder abuse as occurring within a relationship of trust and having multiple manifestations, including intentional or unintentional neglect.

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, psychological or emotional, sexual and financial abuse. It can also be the result of intentional or unintentional neglect (WHO, 2002).

This definition is currently the most widely used by elder abuse specialists and advocates.

GUIDING PHILOSOPHY

OPAN pursues a human rights approach in all of its work, a guiding philosophy that is in harmony with key elder abuse policies and programs, internationally and across Australia. OPAN’s work is underpinned by principles of the National Aged Care Advocacy Framework. These require advocacy services to be free, independent, confidential, placing consumers at the centre of decision-making and supporting them to do so, and provided with attention to quality, access and equity.

The National Aged Care Advocacy Framework (Section 5) stipulates that NACAP advocacy is guided by relevant rights-based principles and legislation, including but not limited to:

- The Charters of Care Recipients’ Rights and Responsibilities
- Australian Consumer Law.

In delivering NACAP, OPAN places a strong emphasis on proactive / preventative advocacy by educating and strengthening the capacity of consumers, their representatives and the general community. OPAN supports are independent of service delivery organisations. OPAN works to ensure its services are free from any real or perceived conflict of interest.

12. At the time of writing there are four Charters relating to the rights of aged care recipients: residential care, home care and short-term residential care however Health is consulting on the development of a single charter of aged care rights.
In line with the overarching philosophy, a set of principles guide OPAN service delivery organisations in addressing elder abuse. The ways in which these are translated into service delivery will be shaped by local and jurisdictional level legislation, policy, service systems and resources but take the human rights philosophy and associated principles as their foundation.

1) The rights of the older person are upheld in all actions and interactions, and this includes their right to autonomy and self-determination.

2) Older people are placed at the centre of all advocacy processes and advocates act at their direction.

3) In preventing and responding to elder abuse, advocates aim to empower older people and to enable them to exercise informed choice.

4) The older person’s capacity to make decisions is assumed.

5) It is recognised that older people enjoy legal capacity on an equal basis with other citizens and have a right to be supported to exercise that capacity.13

6) It is safe to assume that older people can make decisions based on the best interests of the older person.14

7) Privacy and confidentiality are respected, unless the disclosure or use of personal information is required and authorised by law.

8) Consumers are linked with other service providers and the wider community.

9) In recognising the diversity of older people, services are accessible and inclusive, and tailored wherever possible to individual need.

10) The importance of preserving family relationships is recognised wherever possible. OPAN recognises and appreciates the complexity of family relationships.

11) Governance and management systems are designed to ensure safe, effective and efficient services.


* Principle 1: The equal right to make decisions
All adults have an equal right to make decisions that affect their lives and to have those decisions respected.

* Principle 2: Support
Persons who require support in decision-making must be provided with access to the support necessary for them to make, communicate and participate in decisions that affect their lives.

* Principle 3: Will, preferences and rights
The will, preferences and rights of persons who may require decision-making support must direct decisions that affect their lives.

* Principle 4: Safeguards
Laws and legal frameworks must contain appropriate and effective safeguards in relation to interventions for persons who may require decision-making support, including to prevent abuse and undue influence.

II. PREVENTING ELDER ABUSE

OPAN service delivery organisations structure their services to address elder abuse across a continuum from prevention, to early intervention and responsive advocacy. A range of preventive strategies are possible and usually reflect existing knowledge of risk and trigger factors. For example, the World Health Organization has identified as important preventive strategies: public and professional awareness campaigns, screening (of potential victims and abusers), school-based intergenerational programs, caregiver support interventions (including stress management and respite care), caregiver training and residential aged care policies that define and improve standards of care.

OPAN elder abuse prevention occurs at multiple levels and includes:

* Awareness-raising activities, such as, national and jurisdiction-based conferences on elder abuse, specific community awareness raising campaigns and a range of media-directed communication strategies. These can be undertaken independently or in collaboration with other organisations.

* At a systemic level, OPAN service delivery organisations are involved in a range of strategic collaborations that involve preventing and addressing elder abuse, for example, through policy initiatives, program design and contribution to major inquiries into elder abuse.

* At the service provision level, OPAN members are funded to deliver two types of services designed to prevent elder abuse, one involving information provision and the other involving education. These are described below and are offered to older people, family caregivers, service providers and the wider community.

INFORMATION SERVICES

OPAN provides information about aged care service provision and the rights and responsibilities of consumers of Commonwealth funded aged care services, family members, carers, service providers and members of the public. Specific information related to elder abuse is also provided and this can be part of advocacy and support services, or a component of education services. This information is always:

* independent from aged care service provision,
* free and accessible to people with diverse needs,
* available in a range of formats including over the phone, electronic, in print, and face to face where required and practical,
* respectful of people wishing to remain anonymous,
* supportive of informed decision making and self-advocacy and
* able to connect people seeking further information or support to an advocate.

EDUCATION SERVICES

OPAN service delivery organisations also offer free education and information sessions to consumers and potential consumers of Commonwealth funded aged care services, as well as their families, carers and supporters. Education sessions focus on:

* the role of advocacy in supporting people to access and interact with the aged care system;
* the role of advocacy in supporting people who are unhappy with their aged care services; and
* consumer rights and responsibilities when receiving Commonwealth funded aged care services.

Working from this core program, consumer education sessions are tailored to the individual needs of each group. Elder abuse-specific education programs are provided in metropolitan, regional and rural locations, sometimes in collaboration with community legal services, in community settings and residential aged care settings.

OPAN Information and education programs align with the National Aged Care Advocacy Framework which identifies the consumer as central to ensuring older people are informed about their aged care rights and education with this constituting a form of preventive advocacy.


14 OPAN acknowledges, Australian Law Reform Commission (2016) The duty of care and mandatory reporting requirements or other legal duties applying in each jurisdiction.
III. RESPONDING TO ELDER ABUSE

SUPPORTING THE INDIVIDUAL OLDER PERSON

Support to individual older people experiencing or at risk of elder abuse is provided within OPAN’s NACAP remit to potential and current users of Commonwealth Aged-care services. This provides a broad scope to where and how the individual may engage with OPAN’s elder abuse advocacy and social support services.

The Commonwealth Department of Health funds OPAN to provide a range of individual advocacy services and these include individual advocacy which may relate to elder abuse. The older person may be a recipient of community aged care, residential aged care or other Commonwealth funded aged care services.

OPAN’s philosophy is to support the older person in the community, service setting and circumstances within which they present – providing a ‘no wrong door’ approach to delivering elder abuse prevention and individual advocacy support.

In addition, individual organisations in the OPAN group receive funding from other sources for elder abuse advocacy and prevention services, most of this coming from State and Territory governments. Elder Abuse Helplines, sometimes in combination with advisory units, are funded in all States and Territories, and four of these are provided by OPAN service delivery organisations (in the Northern Territory, South Australia, Tasmania and Western Australia). Specific elder abuse advocacy services have been funded by the Western Australian (Advocare), and South Australian (Aged Rights Advocacy Service) governments, and most recently by the Northern Territory government, for a twelve month period. 15

All OPAN service delivery organisations have strong links with community legal services, either through collaboration that may be formalised with a Memorandum of Understanding, or through a structure that involves a partnership between a community legal service and an OPAN member. The Seniors and Disability Rights Service (SDRS) is part of Darwin Community Legal Service which provides general legal services prioritised to disadvantaged and marginalised people and communities, and through the SDRS, the Elder Abuse Information Line. The NSW Seniors Rights Service combines the Older Persons’ Legal Service which provides free legal assistance to disadvantaged and vulnerable older NSW people, with its OPAN advocacy service.

Together the various sources of funding support a core of expert advocacy services that has evolved over time to provide a significant set of skills, experience and networks focused on elder abuse. OPAN providers are differentiated from other elder abuse advocates by their extensive knowledge of older people, aged care services and their working relationships in this sector.

COLLABORATION AS A STRATEGIC RESPONSE TO ELDER ABUSE

Elder abuse is a highly complex issue. Services designed to reduce or address elder abuse require a range of professional and sectoral inputs in order to:

- provide the most holistic and consumer-centred response possible; and
- overcome inter-sector boundaries that prevent seamless support.

OPAN considers that its elder abuse-related work should avoid duplication of the efforts of other agencies.

For these reasons, OPAN service delivery organisations place a high value on collaboration with other service providers, and the building of positive working relationships with a range of stakeholders including peak bodies and government agencies. Coordination of effort and a maximisation of limited resources is considered to be paramount, and this also reflects the National Aged Care Advocacy Framework provisions.

NACAP Guidelines stipulate that OPAN service delivery organisations are required to have effective and active networks and linkages with a number of identified agencies and services in order to support access and referrals to services that address advocacy needs for aged care consumers.

OPAN also undertakes systemic advocacy by regularly engaging with key decision makers including the Minister for Senior Australians and Aged Care and the Department of Health, contributing to government consultation discussions and participating in relevant stakeholder networks and forums, such as the National Aged Care Alliance (NACA).

OPAN service delivery organisations work with a range of specialist agencies to enable them to better provide inclusive elder abuse advocacy and prevention services. The National Aged Care Advocacy Framework encourages the development of innovative approaches for ensuring equity of access for all consumers including those from individually and geographically diverse groups.

Mapping of existing partnerships, links and pathways between OPAN agencies and organisations with an elder abuse prevention or response role (see Chart in Appendix A) shows that:

- all OPAN service delivery organisations are part of interagency networks as these bring multiple service providers together and form an effective and efficient way to ensure that OPAN services are known and recognisable, and that working relationships can be developed on behalf of consumers.

- Systemic advocacy is enhanced through collaboration with State and Territory governments, particularly ageing and aged care policy units, and authorities with responsibility for protecting vulnerable people, as well as important peak bodies like Elder Abuse Action Australia (EAAA) and the Council on the Ageing (COTA).

- Collaboration with services specialising in working with special needs groups is also a key part of OPAN service linkage and development.

The map also identifies where collaboration has been formalised with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). At the time of writing, this involves three MOUs – one between Advocacy Tasmania and the Legal Services Commission of Tasmania, one between Advocate and the Legal Services Commission of Western Australia, and one between Advocate and the Western Australian Public Advocate.

The content and design of those MOUs has informed the development of two template MOUs for OPAN organisations – one for a simple agreement and the other for a more detailed agreement. These are provided in Appendix B.

Appendix C identifies the key agencies with whom OPAN service delivery organisations typically collaborate when responding to elder abuse. The first identifies those agencies based on the type(s) of abuse involved while the second identifies agencies based on special needs groups.

Examples of existing Protocols followed by two OPAN agencies can be found in the Advocate (WA) service and the Aged Rights Advocacy Service (SA). 17

15 However, the SA government ceased funding on 30/9/17.
16 In October 2017, the Office of Senior Territorians provided funding to the Seniors and Disability Rights Service (SDRS) for a one year Northern Territory Elder Abuse Prevention Program.
17 ARAS (2011) (Contact for Development in Response to Abuse of Older People: A National Action Plan in the Community, Aged Rights Advocacy Service, South Australia.)
IV. QUANTIFYING ELDER ABUSE

The Australian Government, the Australian Law Reform Commission (in its Inquiry Into Elder Abuse), organisations providing elder abuse advocacy support, and numerous researchers (in Australia and overseas) have all recognised the need for national prevalence data on elder abuse, underpinned by a consistent definition (e.g. Joosten et al 2016: 10; Kaspiew et al 2016: 5; Lacey et al 2017: 14).18 There is clear agreement that the lack of a consistent definition and the absence of national prevalence data constitute a significant gap in the evidence base.

The development of a National Plan for Elder Abuse has been supported by Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments. This will be informed by a national study to examine the prevalence of elder abuse in Australia by the Australian Institute for Family Studies to better understand the ‘nature, scale and scope’ of elder abuse. This project includes developing a consistent research-focused definition of elder abuse.

The importance of accurate and nationally consistent data collection is also acknowledged in the National Aged Care Advocacy Framework. This requires the reporting of datasets being developed by elder abuse researchers – including work being undertaken by the Australian Institute of Family Studies, the data collected by the Queensland Elder Abuse Protection Unit, the NSW Elder Abuse Helpline and Resource Unit and the review of elder abuse data collected by Seniors Rights Victoria.19 The Dataset has been designed to align with standard data collection parameters set by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). It includes data collected about the Special Needs Groups identified in the Aged Care Act 1997.

The Dataset is designed to collect information about the following:

- Type/s of abuse.
- Referral source (including self-referral).
- Client profile – based on demographic features.
- Client profile – based on special needs.
- Client relationship to alleged abuser/s.
- Alleged abuser profile – demographic, special needs, relationship to client, any known history of abuse.
- Risk factors present (reflecting existing knowledge about risk factors).
- Advocacy response and outcomes.

During 2018-2020 the Dataset will operate as a pilot so that OPAN can monitor and adjust content in response to feedback from OPAN service delivery organisations as it is implemented. Following the pilot, for the first time, OPAN will be able to produce a report that is based on nationally consistent data collection, and can provide important information about need (e.g expressed in type/s of abuse identified) and service responses as well as profiling data. This will provide a benchmark from which it will be possible to capture comparative data and trends over time. A copy of the dataset is presented in Appendix E.

THE OPAN ELDER ABUSE DATASET

The OPAN Elder Abuse Dataset is an evidence-creating mechanism designed to better scope and understand the extent and complex mix of elder abuse issues raised by older people with OPAN services. It has core elements that represent agreement about a common set of information to be collected, and additional elements that OPAN agencies can choose to collect if they wish to capture jurisdictional and local level needs and patterns.

The Dataset has been informed by the 2017 review of OPAN elder abuse services (which included findings and recommendations on data collection); analysis of OPAN organisations’ individual datasets; and a review of other datasets being developed by elder abuse researchers – including work being undertaken by the Australian Institute of Family Studies, the data collected by the Queensland Elder Abuse Protection Unit, the NSW Elder Abuse Helpline and Resource Unit and the review of elder abuse data collected by Seniors Rights Victoria.19 The Dataset has been designed to align with standard data collection parameters set by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). It includes data collected about the Special Needs Groups identified in the Aged Care Act 1997.

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V. BUILDING CAPACITY

As with OPAN’s aged care advocacy services, elder abuse prevention and advocacy are based on a commitment to quality of service provision and continuous improvement, which in turn requires ongoing building of capacity through specific staff training and development. This element of the Framework has two components.

a) Component 1 involves ensuring that OPAN advocates who have not specialised in addressing elder abuse receive the training and information required to recognise signs and risk factors and to understand the service system designed specifically to address elder abuse. Specialist advocates will require ongoing training and development and continued linkage with others providing elder abuse services across Australia.

b) Component 2 involves drawing on the elder abuse expertise that exists within the OPAN group, building the capacity of the aged care sector to address elder abuse, and contributing to national elder abuse information, training and development.

Supporting ‘Component 2’ includes contributing to the development by EAAA of the national Elder Abuse Knowledge Hub, for which important work has already been undertaken by several OPAN organisations through the NEAPHUB (National Elder Abuse Prevention Hub).20 There are a significant number of elder abuse resources that have been developed across Australia, including by OPAN members, that will be centralised in the Knowledge Hub and it is critical that these are not duplicated, and that best practice evidence can be accumulated through collaboration.

Key to continuous improvement and capacity building is innovation, as new models of service are piloted and reviewed – by OPAN service delivery organisations themselves and in partnership with elder abuse specialist agencies and researchers. Innovation includes applying new technologies that can enhance service delivery (particularly in reaching rural and remote locations), staff training and development, and the sharing of knowledge and information. This reflects directions set in the National Aged Care Advocacy Framework which encourages innovative use of digital technologies to ensure accessible and appropriate service design.

21. The NEAPHUB was established to create a national focal point for elder abuse prevention resources but never reached completion.
### APPENDIX A: MAPPING OPAN COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JURISDICTION</th>
<th>ACT</th>
<th>NSW</th>
<th>NT</th>
<th>QLD</th>
<th>SA</th>
<th>TAS</th>
<th>VIC</th>
<th>WA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interagency networks</td>
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<td>Legal services ++</td>
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<tr>
<td>Counselling, mediation services e.g. Relationships Australia</td>
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<td>Emergency housing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family violence services</td>
<td>MOU</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other advocacy services e.g. Public Advocate</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### COLLABORATION TO SUPPORT SERVICE PROVISION AND LINKAGE

- Interagency networks
- Legal services ++
- Counselling, mediation services e.g. Relationships Australia
- Emergency housing
- Family violence services
- Other advocacy services e.g. Public Advocate

#### COLLABORATION TO SUPPORT SYSTEMIC ADVOCACY AND SERVICE COORDINATION

- Peak bodies e.g. COTA, COSS
- State/Terr government ageing policy units;
- Aged Care Complaints Commissioner;
- Ministerial Advisory Council
- State/Terr government protection authorities **

#### COLLABORATION TO SUPPORT TAILORED SERVICES FOR SPECIAL NEEDS GROUPS

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
- CALD background
- LGBTI
- Living in rural or remote locations
- Living with lifelong disabilities
- Veterans

#### LEARNING AND CAPACITY BUILDING ALLIANCES

- Universities for joint research studies
- Universities/VET to educate students about elder abuse

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### APPENDIX B: TEMPLATE FOR OPAN MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING

**SIMPLE MOU**

This design reflects MOUs between two OPAN organisations (Advocacy Tasmania and Advocare, WA) and two legal aid commissions (Legal Aid Commission of Tasmania and Legal Aid Commission of WA). Both documents are four pages in length.

1. **The roles and objectives of each partnering organisation**

2. **Background: overview of elder abuse**

For example, this can be at State/Territory level. It can provide a definition of elder abuse, a description of the main types, any data.

3. **Purpose of the MOU**

This section has an overarching statement about the goal of the agreement, for example, to support seamless, responsive service provision. It then has specific objectives such as:

   - Collaboration to improve service provision to people affected by elder abuse.
   - Sharing of knowledge, skills and networks.
   - Provision of ‘joined up’ services and assistance.
   - Promotion of the rights of older people.

4. **Objectives of the MOU**

A set of agreed objectives that reflect shared values, goals for consumers as well as for the partnering organisations, and agreement to collaborate in order to provide enhanced and seamless services.

5. **The Agreement**

This sets out how the collaboration will operate in practice, including for example:

   - Provision of contacts and pathways for ‘warm referrals’.
   - Provision of referral and service protocols and processes that complement the service delivery criteria of partner organisations.
   - Agreement to share professional knowledge, resources, data and expertise regarding elder abuse.
   - Development of a framework for effective communication across the partnering organisations.

6. **Provision for Review and Termination**

This sets a timeframe for review of the agreement, for example, annually, and states that either partner may end the MOU and its associated obligations by providing 21 days written notice to the other partner.

7. **Starting Date for agreement and Signatures**

   - Agreement to maintain ‘open dialogue’ about the needs of older people experiencing elder abuse through regular meetings and other processes that support effective communication.
   - Identification of key contact points in each partnering organisation.
   - Agreement to promote the services of each partnering organisation and the role of each in the wider community.
   - Agreement to provide support for research and submission making in relation to elder abuse.
**DETAILED MOU**

This design reflects the MOU between Advocare and the WA Office of the Public Advocate. It is a seven page document with a one page attachment outlining relevant legislation.

1) **Description of role(s) and objectives of each partnering organisation**

2) **Procedures for referrals**

This section specifies:
- which individual (denoted by their title and position) from the partner making the referral will contact the agreed individual (denoted by their title and position) in the organisation receiving that referral;
- the procedure for an urgent referral (e.g. via telephone);
- the procedure for a non-urgent formal referral (e.g. via letter);
- the name and address of the person to whom a formal letter of referral should be sent;
- details of what needs to be included in a letter of referral;
- details of how a referral is to be acknowledged (e.g. via letter);
- details of how the broad outcome/s of the response will be provided (e.g. as written advice).

3) **Dispute resolution procedures**

A statement is made that partners reserve the right to raise issues of concern or to lodge a formal complaint if they are dissatisfied with the services of the other agency.

An outline is given of the process/es to be followed and the individual in each partnering organisation to whom an issue or complaint should be directed. This can identify levels of complaint (e.g. from Advocate to CEO level).

4) **Amendment/termination and review of MOU**

A statement is provided to the effect that the MOU may be amended or terminated by the mutual written agreement of both parties.

It specifies a timeframe for the review.

5) **General Provisions**

This section can include:
- An Honour Clause (stating that the MOU is an expression of purpose and intent that is binding in honour only, rather than giving effect to a legal relationship).
- A Privacy and Confidentiality statement that provides an undertaking to protect the confidentiality and integrity of information shared and agreed methods for disposing of information that is no longer required (e.g. in accordance with State Records Office requirements).
- A statement about Costs specifying that partners will provide all the resources required to support the MOU and the provision of collaborative services.
- A statement outlining how any identified Conflicts of Interest involving the partners will be managed.

6) **Information sharing**

A description of how information is to be shared between the partner organisations (e.g. consistent with a specified section of a relevant Act).

7) **Signatures by partners**

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**APPENDIX C: OPAN WORKING RELATIONSHIPS BASED ON TYPE OF ABUSE AND SPECIAL NEEDS GROUPS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE OF ABUSE OR ISSUE</th>
<th>EXTERNAL AGENCIES THAT CAN BE INVOLVED BASED ON TYPE OF ABUSE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FINANCIAL</strong></td>
<td>Community legal services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Public Advocate (applications for capacity; misuse of EPoA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Public Trustee (Public Trustees Australia; Jurisdictional agencies)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jurisdiction-based Administrative Tribunal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jurisdiction-based Guardianship agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Financial counselling &amp; related community services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Banking Ombudsman (banking related financial abuse); Financial institution involved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jurisdiction-based Real Estate Institute body (real estate related issues)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jurisdiction-based Lands Title Registration authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jurisdiction-based Consumer Protection agencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PHYSICAL</strong></td>
<td>Police, usually via agreed liaison officer and/or victim support service</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Victim Support service</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Health services – GP, acute care</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Drug and alcohol abuse services</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Emergency accommodation service</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Family violence service</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aged care respite service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EMOTIONAL/PSYCHOLOGICAL</strong></td>
<td>Counselling, mediation services (e.g. Relationships Australia)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mental health services (hospital, community)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mental Health Commissioner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SEXUAL</strong></td>
<td>Family violence services; Rape Crisis services; Sexual abuse services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Women’s specialist support services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Police via specialist unit if available</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Health services – acute, primary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Emergency accommodation services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SOCIAL</strong></td>
<td>Community Network Groups, including CALD networks, LGBTI networks, CLAN (Care Leavers), Aboriginal networks, Veterans’ groups, Church groups, and any others who can reconnect social isolated older people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Local councils’ community services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Agencies specialising in reconnecting people (e.g. Relationships Australia)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NEGLECT</strong></td>
<td>Aged Care Complaints Commissioner (for neglect by aged care providers)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Health and Community Services Complaints Commissioner (if neglect by a health service provider)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aged care services, including assessment services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Police, if appropriate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Public Advocate (for self or family neglect as there may an issue of capacity)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**SPECIAL NEEDS GROUP** | **EXTERNAL AGENCIES THAT CAN BE INVOLVED BASED ON SPECIAL NEEDS GROUPS AS DEFINED BY THE AGED CARE ACT 1997**
---|---
Dementia or Cognitive Impairment | Dementia Australia and Jurisdiction-based agencies  
Dementia Support Australia – DBMAS & Severe Behaviour Response Team  
Jurisdictional Health specialist services for severe BPSD (Tier 5 +)  
Parkinson’s Australia and Jurisdiction-based agencies  
MND Australia and Jurisdiction based Motor Neurone Disease agencies  
MS Australia and Jurisdiction based Multiple Sclerosis agencies  
Public Advocate (applications for capacity; misuse of EPoA)  
Public Trustee (Public Trustees Australia; Jurisdictional agencies)  
Jurisdiction-based Administrative Tribunal  
Jurisdiction-based Guardianship agency
Cald Background | Telephone or face to face interpreter service (if language requires)  
PICAC (Partners in Culturally Appropriate Aged Care) services  
FECCA and Jurisdiction-based Ethnic Communities’ Councils  
Local ethnic-specific community services
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) | Aboriginal community and aged care specialised, flexible care services  
Aboriginal legal services. Aboriginal health services  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak bodies e.g. NACCHO (health organisations), the Healing Foundation (addressing intergenerational trauma)  
Jurisdiction-based Aboriginal Elders’ Council
LGBTI | LGBTI community and aged care specialist services  
LGBTI peak bodies e.g. National LGBTI Health Alliance (health organisations), RAD Australia
Carers Under Stress | Carers Australia and Jurisdiction-based agencies  
Respite services - Commonwealth Respite & Carelink Service  
Family counselling and support services e.g. Relationships Australia  
Carer Gateway – respite, information, transport, social support, home support services
People with Disability | Jurisdiction-based Disability Services Commissioner  
Disability peak bodies e.g. National Disability Services and disability-specific peak bodies, and Jurisdictional equivalents  
Disability community-based services  
Disability advocacy services  
NDIS providers
People Who Are Homeless/At Risk of Homelessness | Accommodation support/homelessness services  
Tenancy services  
Emergency relief service provider  
ACAT, where appropriate  
Jurisdiction-based Administrative Tribunal
Veterans | Department of Veterans’ Affairs (DVA)  
Veterans’ specialised aged care services  
Repatriation hospitals and other health services in jurisdiction  
Veterans’ advocacy and support services e.g. Legacy, RSL  
CLAN (Care Leavers Australian Network)
Care Leavers | Relationships Australia and Jurisdiction-based agencies  
Carers’ Australia and Jurisdiction-based carer support services

**APPENDIX D: OPAN NATIONAL PROTOCOL FLOWCHARTS**

**FIGURE 2: STAGE 1 - DECISIONS PRECEDING SERVICE PROVISION BY AN OPAN AGENCY**

- Initial contact
- Emergency
- Non-Emergency
- Refer to Emergency Services with continued support
- Check for decision making capacity
- Has decision making capacity
- Lacks decision making capacity
- Obtain consent for continued involvement
- Contact appropriate specialist services in jurisdiction
- No consent
  - With client direction:
    - Discuss needs
    - Provide information, options, services available
    - Co-design safety strategies
- Consent provided
  - Provide information options
  - Document option
  - Offer future support
## APPENDIX D: OPAN NATIONAL PROTOCOL FLOWCHARTS

### FIGURE 3: STAGE 2 – ADDITIONAL CLIENT-DIRECTED SUPPORT AND SERVICE PROVISION AVAILABLE THROUGH WARM REFERRAL FROM OPAN AGENCY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPES OF ABUSE INVOLVED</th>
<th>SELECT AGENCY/IES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FINANCIAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community legal services</td>
<td>Community legal services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Advocate (applications for capacity; misuse of EPoA)</td>
<td>Public Advocate (applications for capacity; misuse of EPoA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Trustee (Public Trustees Australia: Jurisdictional agencies)</td>
<td>Public Trustee (Public Trustees Australia: Jurisdictional agencies)</td>
</tr>
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<td>Administrative Tribunal</td>
<td>Administrative Tribunal</td>
</tr>
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<td>Guardianship agency</td>
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<td>Financial counselling &amp; related community services</td>
<td>Financial counselling &amp; related community services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banking Ombudsman (banking related financial abuse); Financial institution involved</td>
<td>Banking Ombudsman (banking related financial abuse); Financial institution involved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real Estate Institute body (real estate related issues)</td>
<td>Real Estate Institute body (real estate related issues)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lands Title Registration authority</td>
<td>Lands Title Registration authority</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consumer Protection agencies</td>
<td>Consumer Protection agencies</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PHYSICAL</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Police, via agreed liaison officer and/or victim support service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Victim Support service</td>
<td>Victim Support service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health services – GP, acute care</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drug and alcohol abuse services</td>
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<td>Emergency accommodation service</td>
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<td>Family violence service</td>
<td>Family violence service</td>
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<td>Aged care respite service</td>
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<td>Relationships Australia (counselling, mediation)</td>
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<td>Mental health services (hospital, community)</td>
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<td>Mental Health Commissioner</td>
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<td>Family violence services; Rape Crisis services; Specialist sexual abuse services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s specialist support services</td>
<td>Women’s specialist support services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Police via specialist unit if available</td>
<td>Police via specialist unit if available</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health services – acute, primary</td>
<td>Health services – acute, primary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emergency accommodation services</td>
<td>Emergency accommodation services</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SEXUAL</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Network Groups, including CALD networks, LGBTI networks, CLAN (Care Leavers), Aboriginal networks, Veterans’ groups, Church groups, and any others who can reconnect social isolated older people</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local councils’ community services</td>
<td>Local councils’ community services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relationships Australia – for reconnecting people</td>
<td>Relationships Australia – for reconnecting people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aged Care Complaints Commissioner (neglect by aged care providers)</td>
<td>Aged Care Complaints Commissioner (neglect by aged care providers)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Police, if appropriate</td>
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<td>Public Advocate (self or family neglect as there may an issue of capacity)</td>
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<td><strong>NEGLECT</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT/DEMENTIA</strong></td>
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<td>Dementia Australia/Alzheimer’s Australia;</td>
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<td>Dementia Support Australia – DBMAS &amp; Severe Behaviour Response Team</td>
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<td>Health specialist services for severe BPSD (Tier 5 +)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parkinson’s Australia; MND Australia/Motor Neurone Disease agencies; MS Australia/ Multiple Sclerosis agencies</td>
<td>Parkinson’s Australia; MND Australia/Motor Neurone Disease agencies; MS Australia/ Multiple Sclerosis agencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Advocate / Public Trustee /Administrative Tribunal /Guardianship agency</td>
<td>Public Advocate / Public Trustee /Administrative Tribunal /Guardianship agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CALD BACKGROUND</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone or face to face interpreter service (if language requires)</td>
<td>Telephone or face to face interpreter service (if language requires)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PICAC (Partners in Culturally Appropriate Aged Care) services</td>
<td>PICAC (Partners in Culturally Appropriate Aged Care) services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FECCA / Ethnic Communities’ Councils</td>
<td>FECCA / Ethnic Communities’ Councils</td>
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<td>Local ethnic-specific community services</td>
<td>Local ethnic-specific community services</td>
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<td><strong>ATSI</strong></td>
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<td>Aboriginal community and aged care specialised, flexible care services</td>
<td>Aboriginal community and aged care specialised, flexible care services</td>
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<td>Aboriginal legal services</td>
<td>Aboriginal legal services</td>
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<td>Aboriginal health services</td>
<td>Aboriginal health services</td>
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<tr>
<td>ATSI Peak bodies e.g. NACCHO; the Healing Foundation</td>
<td>ATSI Peak bodies e.g. NACCHO; the Healing Foundation</td>
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<td>Aboriginal Elders’ Council</td>
<td>Aboriginal Elders’ Council</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LGBTI</strong></td>
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<td>LGBTI community and aged care specialist services</td>
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<td>LGBTI peak bodies e.g. National LGBTI Health Alliance, RAD Australia</td>
<td>LGBTI peak bodies e.g. National LGBTI Health Alliance, RAD Australia</td>
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<td><strong>CARERS UNDER STRESS</strong></td>
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<td>Respite services - Commonwealth Respite &amp; Carelink Service</td>
<td>Respite services - Commonwealth Respite &amp; Carelink Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family counselling and support services e.g. Relationships Australia</td>
<td>Family counselling and support services e.g. Relationships Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carer Gateway – respite, information, transport, social support, home support services</td>
<td>Carer Gateway – respite, information, transport, social support, home support services</td>
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<td><strong>CARE LEAVERS</strong></td>
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<td>Carers Australia and other carer support services</td>
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<td>Tenancy services</td>
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<td>Emergency relief service provider</td>
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<td>ACAT, if appropriate</td>
<td>ACAT, if appropriate</td>
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<td>Administrative Tribunal</td>
<td>Administrative Tribunal</td>
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<td><strong>VETERANS</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Department of Veterans’ Affairs (DVA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Veterans specialised aged care services</td>
<td>Veterans specialised aged care services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repatriation hospitals and other health services in jurisdiction</td>
<td>Repatriation hospitals and other health services in jurisdiction</td>
</tr>
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<td>Veterans’ advocacy and support services e.g. Legacy, RSL</td>
<td>Veterans’ advocacy and support services e.g. Legacy, RSL</td>
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<td><strong>PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Disability Services Commissioner</td>
<td>Disability Services Commissioner</td>
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<td>Disability peak bodies e.g. National Disability Services and disability-specific peak bodies</td>
<td>Disability peak bodies e.g. National Disability Services and disability-specific peak bodies</td>
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<td>Disability community-based services</td>
<td>Disability community-based services</td>
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<td>Disability advocacy services</td>
<td>Disability advocacy services</td>
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<tr>
<td>NDIS providers</td>
<td>NDIS providers</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## APPENDIX E: OPAN ELDER ABUSE DATASET

### 1. ABUSE CASE DETAILS

- Consent given to record information
- Abuse previously notified (Specify who was notified)

### 2. TYPE OF ABUSE

- Psychological/emotional
- Financial (Misure of Power of Attorney)
- Physical
- Social
- Sexual
- Neglect
- Other (Specify)

### 3. REFERRAL SOURCE

- Self-referral – derived from (indicate as many as apply)
  - Aged care information source
  - Word of mouth
  - Advertising, community promotion
  - OPAN information/education session
- Service provider: aged care
- Service provider: health
- Service provider: protection role (e.g. Public Advocate office)
- Service provider: other (Specify)
- Family
- Friend, neighbour etc
- Police
- Elder Abuse Phone Line
- Other (Specify)

### 4. CLIENT PROFILE

#### Accommodation
- Own home
- Rented home
- Retirement Village
- Boarding House/ SRF
- Residential aged care: long term
- Residential aged care: short term/respite
- Other (Specify)

#### Living arrangements
- Lives alone
- Lives with family member
- Lives in home of alleged abuser
- Other (Specify)

#### Indigenous
- Aboriginal
- Torres Strait Islander
- Veteran
- Veteran spouse, widow or widower
- Care leaver (includes Forgotten Australians, Former Child Migrants and Stolen Generations)
- Other (Specify)

#### CALD background
- Born overseas in NES country (drop down list of ABS country classifications)
- Main language (other than English) spoken at home (drop down list as per ABS categories)
- Able to speak English without interpreter or supporter
  - YES
  - NO
  - IF YES
  - Preferred Gender of interpreter (Specify)
  - Preferred Language spoken by interpreter (Specify)

#### Optional additional information:
- Language-specific cultural profile
- Proficiency in spoken English (self-assessed)
  - 1 = Very well
  - 2 = Well
  - 3 = Not well
  - 4 = Not at all
- Religion-specific cultural profile
- Religious affiliation
  - No specific denomination
  - Specific spiritual/religious belief (drop down list using ABS classification)
- Separation or forced removal
  - Separation or forced adoption/removal (Provide brief details)
- LGBTI
  - Sexual Orientation
    - Gay/Lesbian/Homosexual
    - Straight/Heterosexual
    - Undecided/Not sure/Questioning
    - Other (Specify)

### 5. CLIENT PROFILE: SPECIAL NEEDS GROUPS

#### Financially disadvantaged

- Age
  - 50-54
  - 55-59
  - 60-64
  - 65-69
  - 70-74
  - 75-79
  - 80-84
  - 85-89
  - 90-94
  - 95 or older

#### Socially disadvantaged

- Optional additional information: Main source of income
  - Age pension
  - Disability pension
  - Veteran pension
  - Overseas pension
  - Superannuation
  - Self-funded
  - Paid employment
  - Other

#### Geographical location

- Metropolitan
- Regional
- Rural
- Remote
- Homeless or at risk of homelessness

### 6. CLIENT PROFILE: OTHER SPECIAL NEED

- Living with dementia
- Level of support needed to make decisions
  - Able to make decisions independently
  - Needs support in making decisions
  - Needs high level of support to make decisions
  - Has a substituted decision maker for (Name the area/s of life)
- Alternative decision maker appointed
  - Guardianship Order
  - Other (Specify)
  - Power of Attorney

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## National Elder Abuse Prevention and Advocacy Framework

![OPAN Logo](image-url)
7. CLIENT RELATIONSHIP TO ALLEGED ABUSER

- Father
- Father-in-law
- Grandfather
- Brother
- Cousin
- Aunt
- Friend or neighbour
- Client of formal aged care provider
- Client of other service provider (Specify service type)
- Other (Specify)

8. PROFILE OF ALLEGED ABUSER(S)

Number of alleged abusers
- One
- More than one (Specify)
- Not given

Gender
- Female
- Male
- Non-binary
- Prefer not to say

Optional additional information: Disability profile
- Presence of disability (drop down list based on National Disability Services categorisation)
  - Physical
  - Intellectual
  - Acquired brain injury
  - Neurological
  - Vision
  - Hearing
  - Speech
  - Psychiatric
  - NDIS participant

Optional additional information: Gender
- Transgender
- Intersex
- Other (Specify)

Optional additional information: Main source of income
- Age pension
- Disability pension
- Veteran pension
- Overseas pension
- Superannuation
- Self-funded
- Paid employment
- Other

Optional additional information: Disability profile
- Presence of disability (drop down list based on National Disability Services categorisation)
  - Physical
  - Intellectual
  - Acquired brain injury
  - Neurological
  - Vision
  - Hearing
  - Speech
  - Psychiatric

Optional additional information: Age
- 24 or younger
- 25-29
- 30-34
- 35-39
- 40-44
- 45-49
- 50-54
- 55-59
- 60-64
- 65-69
- 70-74
- 75-79
- 80-84
- 85-89
- 90-94
- 95 or older

Optional additional information: Geographical location
- Metropolitan
- Regional
- Rural
- Remote
- Homeless or at risk of homelessness

Optional additional information: Accommodation
- Own home
- Rented home
- Retirement Village
- Boarding House/SRF
- Other (Specify)

Optional additional information: Living arrangements
- Lives alone
- Lives with family member
- Lives in home of person being abused
- Other (Specify)
- Financially disadvantaged
- Socially disadvantaged

Optional additional information: Preferred Language spoken by interpreter

Optional additional information: Main source of income
- Age pension
- Disability pension
- Veteran pension
- Overseas pension
- Superannuation
- Self-funded
- Paid employment
- Other

Optional additional information: Religion-specific cultural profile
- No specific denomination
- Specific spiritual/religious belief (drop down list using ABS classification)

Optional additional information: Language-specific cultural profile
- Not well
- Well
- Very well
- Not at all

Optional additional information: Aboriginal
- Torres Strait Islander

Optional additional information: CALD background
- Born overseas in NES country (drop down list of ABS country classifications)
- Main language (other than English) spoken at home (drop down list as per ABS categories)

Optional additional information: Separation or forced removal
- Separation or forced adoption/removal
- Other (Specify) (Provide brief details)

Optional additional information: LGBTI
- Gay/Lesbian/Homosexual
- Straight/Heterosexual
- Undecided/ Not sure/ Questioning
- Other (Specify)

Optional additional information: Additional special needs groups
- Veteran
- Veteran spouse, widow or widower
- Care leaver (includes Forgotten Australians, Former Child Migrants and Stolen Generations)

Optional additional information: Other special need
- Living with dementia
- Alternative decision maker appointed
- Other (Specify)

### 10. RELATIONSHIP TO PERSON BEING ABUSED
- [ ] Son
- [ ] Son-in-law
- [ ] Grandson
- [ ] Brother
- [ ] Cousin
- [ ] Niece
- [ ] Friend or neighbour
- [ ] Other (Specify)
- [ ] Daughter
- [ ] Daughter-in-law
- [ ] Granddaughter
- [ ] Sister
- [ ] Nephew
- [ ] Formal care provider

### 11. HISTORY OF ABUSE
- [ ] YES
  - Specify type of abuse and source/s of that information
  - ___________________________
  - ___________________________
  - ___________________________
  - ___________________________
- [ ] NO

### 12. RELATIONSHIP TO PERSON BEING ABUSED
- [ ] Present for older person
- [ ] Optional: Present for alleged abuser

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Factor</th>
<th>Present for older person</th>
<th>Optional: Present for alleged abuser</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family conflict</td>
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<td>Living with abuser/person being abused</td>
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<td>Caregiver stress</td>
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<tr>
<td>Care leaver</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early removal or separation from family</td>
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<tr>
<td>Psychological dependence</td>
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<td>Mental health issue</td>
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<td>Cognitive impairment</td>
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<td>Self-neglect</td>
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<td>Physical dependence</td>
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<td>Physical illness</td>
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<td>Financial stress e.g. bankruptcy, debt</td>
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<td>Homeless or risk of homelessness</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social isolation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Socially disadvantaged</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lack of appropriate services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lack of information</td>
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<tr>
<td>Language barriers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cultural barriers</td>
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<td>Substance or alcohol abuse</td>
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<td>Gambling problem</td>
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<td>Criminal record (e.g. theft)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### 13. ADVOCACY RESPONSE/OUTCOMES
- [ ] Preferred Gender of Advocate assigned (based on client gender, culture and religion)
  - [ ] Male
  - [ ] Female
  - [ ] Other preferences (Specify)
- [ ] Male
- [ ] Female
- [ ] Other preferences (Specify)
- [ ] Informal response
- [ ] Formal response
  - [ ] Information, advice
  - [ ] Referral made (Specify via drop down list)
  - [ ] Other services being provided to person (Specify via drop down list)
  - [ ] Other services being provided to person (Specify via drop down list)
  - [ ] Interventions made with alleged abuser (e.g. removed from home if co-habiting; referred to substance abuse clinic) (Specify via drop down list)
- [ ] Protective response
  - [ ] Information, advice
  - [ ] Referral made (Specify)
  - [ ] Personal Protection order made
  - [ ] Domestic Violence order made
  - [ ] Other (Specify)
- [ ] Case closed (Date __________)
- [ ] Resolved to client’s satisfaction
- [ ] Client withdrew from the process
- [ ] Placed on hold by client
- [ ] Closed by the organisation (Give reason)
- [ ] Not resolved/No outcome possible
- [ ] Unable to contact