

## **Inquiry into Elder Abuse in Queensland**

<b>Submission No:</b>	35
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<b>Submitter Comments:</b>	

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, 29 March 2025 3:35 AM  
**To:** Education, Arts and Communities Committee  
**Subject:** submission: Inquiry into Elder Abuse in Queensland

To the committee,

The terms of reference appear to display that the Legislative Assembly is grossly misinformed about elder abuse. Elder abuse is most likely to occur in institutional settings and abuses most likely to be perpetrated by health professionals. As such pursuing a domestic violence model is grossly inappropriate. Hospital and institutional security arrangements need to reject the integrated model desired by the lobbies of racketeering health professionals and instead to reorient hospital and institutional security models as a necessary protection for the rights and interests of both patients and hospital staff with an emphasis on the existing disparity between the control enjoyed by health professionals and neglect of patient safety.

What we know about institutional elder abuse in Queensland according to a study conducted at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital in 2022 is that institutional systems are designed to prevent and obstruct the substantiation of any complaints. The nurses find it desirable for nurses to hold in depth conversations to tease the details out of patients by developing rapport instead of reporting crimes to police to be properly investigated. Nurses risk compromising criminal investigations and act as a healthy stop to prevent police performing criminal investigations.

Victims reporting patient abuse should also be appointed a health advocate and close personal protection that are employed outside of the hierarchy of the hospital to detect and prevent retaliation, intimidation, menace, inappropriate investigations, prescribing and procedures etc. by hospital staff. Personal protection not to be withdrawn until discharge.

It is wholly inappropriate for the Legislative Assembly to refer the Inquiry to the Education, Arts and Communities Committee and I recommend releasing it to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee or to entirely disband the QPS if you seek to persist in this delusional belief that crime is not a justice issue.

Harrison, G. et al. (2022) 'Nurses' perspectives on responding to elder abuse in a hospital setting', *Collegian*, 29(1), pp. 16–21. doi:10.1016/j.colegn.2021.03.004. *Collegian*, Volume 29, Issue 1, 16 - 21.

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