

Inquiry into Elder Abuse in Queensland

Submission No:	96
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9 April 2025

Dear EACC Committee,

Re. Queensland Parliament Inquiry into Elder Abuse

On 9 April I had the pleasure of hosting a Seniors Forum in the Mansfield Electorate inviting senior constituents from my community with lived experience of elder abuse. They shared their feedback with me to provide the below submission for the committee's consideration. The submission details forms of neglect and abuse, relationships where elder abuse occurs, and outlines risk, protective and preventative factors.

Abuse by isolation:

- Elder abuse takes on many forms however one form consistently overlooked is abuse by isolation. An example discussed was someone influencing their elderly parent against their own siblings by constantly casting them as uncaring and disinterested. When it's presented and reiterated often enough it undermines the relationships and cuts off meaningful contact.
- It's important for our elderly to have as much social contact as possible. There are people in the community who are so controlling that they won't let anyone other than themselves take their elderly for outings or allow visits if they aren't home as well. In the case of people who work, this means long hours alone for the elderly. It was also discussed that education about isolation should be published with the message about how damaging isolation is for our elderly population.
- Another constituent told her story where her father was abused and neglected by his own daughter, her sister. She controlled his finances, car, health supports phone, communications and medications all the time being mentally unwell. She locked other siblings out of her father's home, security doors added, locks changes and guard dogs were on the

premises. She was unable to get back into the house and never saw her dad again, as he soon passed away.

Relationships with family:

- Not permitting Grandparents to see the Grandchildren. An example was discussed due to a marriage breakdown in the family, the children involved were not allowed to see the Grandparents in-law.
- Children placing Enduring Power of Attorney over their parents without their knowledge.

Institutionalised abuse within aged care facilities:

- The need for standards in aged care to be to the same level as those of Childcare. A constituent told her recount of the abuse and neglect her mother received while being cared for in a nursing home. All videos, photos, dates, times were given to the Health Ombudsman. The Health Ombudsman investigated however the nursing home notified them of difference.
- Better education of the carers that work in aged care.
- Further investigations when a senior has an injury that seems out of the ordinary.
- A solution suggested was having a social worker being available to visit a house and check for signs of elder abuse 2-3 times per week.

Financial abuse:

- Banks introducing a system where if unusual activity of a senior's bank account is detected that it is investigated promptly. A constituent discussed that his bank manager contacted him when he noticed quite a large sum of money was being transferred from his bank account. The bank manager was alerted to this being unusual and contacted the consistent.
- Improvements to provide better education of public servants to understand when it could be elder abuse.

Yours sincerely,



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