

## You are not alone.....

It is estimated that as many as 1 in 8 Older Australians are being abused by a family member or friend each year.



***“I want to tell you this: You are not alone and you have nothing to be ashamed of. If elder abuse can happen to me, it can happen to anyone. I want you to know that you deserve better.”***

*Mickey Rooney*

**Award Winning Actor**

## Eastern Community Legal Centre (ECLC)

ECLC is a multi-disciplinary legal service that works to prevent problems, progress fair outcomes and support the wellbeing and resilience of communities and community members in Melbourne's East.

It provides free and confidential advice and assistance to people who live, work or study in Boroondara, Manningham, Whitehorse, Knox, Maroondah and Yarra Ranges.

ECLC has extensive experience in preventing and responding to elder abuse and other forms of family violence.

**Phone. 0429 697 960  
or 1300 325 200**

**Email. [eclc@eclc.org.au](mailto:eclc@eclc.org.au)**

**Web. [www.eclc.org.au/rose](http://www.eclc.org.au/rose)**

**National Information:**

**[www.compass.info](http://www.compass.info)**

**Free interpreter service 131 140\***

\*Ask to call: 1300 32 52 00

Funded by:



**Australian Government**  
Attorney-General's Department

ECLC acknowledges the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, the traditional custodians of the land across ECLC's region. We pay our deep respects to the Elders past, present and emerging.



## Are you being mistreated by someone you trust?

ROSE is a confidential, respectful and free service providing legal, social and financial counselling support to older people experiencing abuse.



**OONAH**  
BELONGING PLACE



## What is Elder Abuse?

Everybody has the right to live in safety, to be treated with dignity and respect, and to make their own decisions. Some older people are denied these rights, often by the people who are closest to them.

Elder Abuse is any act which causes harm to an older person and is carried out by someone they know and trust. Often, that person is a family member or carer, but it could be a friend or neighbour whom an older person depends on.

The abuse can be financial, psychological, emotional, physical or sexual. It can also involve deliberate social isolation or neglect.

### Examples include:

- Using your money or resources in a way you don't agree with
- Pressuring you to change your will or power of attorney
- Physically hurting you
- Threatening to harm you, your property or anyone else, including your pet

## Getting Information & Support

The ROSE team of professionals can meet you discreetly at an ECLC office, a location near you in Manningham or by phone. You can bring a support person to your appointment. ROSE will arrange a FREE interpreter for you too, if needed.

So, if you are aged 65 years+, or 50 years + and you identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, and you feel this may be you, contact ROSE for a confidential discussion.

If you are worried about someone you know or care about, please also call ROSE.

## Things that can help prevent Elder Abuse happening:

- getting independent legal advice about your Will & Power Of Attorney
- if you have an adult child returning home to live with you, getting support to set out expectations and boundaries for behaviour, financial contributions and more
- accessing support and advice as soon as possible if you have an adult child experiencing mental illness or addiction

## How to prevent Elder Abuse from happening?

We can all do our bit to prevent elder abuse from occurring in the first place by fostering healthy, equal and respectful relationships that celebrate the contributions of older people. Communities where older people are valued and respected are less likely to see elder abuse occur.

## The ROSE team

The **Community Lawyer** can provide legal advice about your rights and options, and conduct legal casework and advocacy.

The **Advocate** can provide information and support you with:

- ongoing risk assessments and helping to develop a detailed safety plan;
- referrals to specialist services;
- ongoing case management support;
- advocacy; and
- emotional and practical support and link you with other services who may be able to help.

The **Financial Counsellor** can assist with:

- a holistic assessment of your financial situation;
- information about your consumer legal rights and obligations;
- options to address your debt issues; and
- advocacy and negotiating on your behalf with, for example, banks, pay day lenders, telecommunication providers, utility providers, and dispute resolution bodies.

**ROSE provides free legal, social and financial counselling support to people who are experiencing or are at risk of experiencing elder abuse.**