Getting Information & Support

For information or support, please ask an Eastern Health staff member to make a confidential referral to the ELSA team or contact ELSA directly for a confidential discussion on 0429 697 960 or by email at ELSA@eclc.org.au.

The ELSA Community Lawyer, Advocate and Financial Counsellor can discreetly meet with you while you are in hospital or receiving care from Eastern Health to provide free and confidential advice, support and information about your legal rights, wellbeing, and managing any financial challenges. ELSA can also continue to provide support after you have finished receiving care from Eastern Health.

ELSA works closely with Eastern Health but does not share your information with hospital staff without your consent. ELSA will assist you only if you want this support – you are in control.

Eastern Community Legal Centre (ECLC)

ECLC is a multi-disciplinary legal service that provides free and confidential advice and assistance to people who live, work or study in Melbourne's east.

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. ELSA@eclc.org.au
Web. www.eclc.org.au
Information about elder abuse:
www.compass.info

Free interpreter service 131 140*
*Ask to call: 1300 32 52 00

Funded by:

Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department

ECLC OFFICE LOCATIONS

Box Hill	Suite 3, Town Hall Hub, 27 Bank St, Box Hill VIC 3128
Boronia	Suite B, 6 Floriston Rd, Boronia VIC 3155
Healesille	Healesville Community Link, 110 River St, Healesville VIC 3777

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.

Eastern Health

eastern community legal centre

Are you being mistreated by someone you trust?

ELSA is a confidential, respectful and free service providing legal, wellbeing and financial counselling support to older people experiencing mistreatment or abuse.

ELSA

Engaging & Living Safely & Autonomously

A Health Justice Partnership between
Eastern Community Legal Centre and Eastern Health.

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:

- Calling you names
- Using your money or resources in a way you don't agree with
- Stopping you from seeing friends or family
- Physically harming or threatening you
- Pressuring you to change your will or power of attorney

Things that can help prevent elder abuse happening:

- Getting independent legal advice about your Will and 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.

We are all in this together

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.

ELSA stands for Engaging and Living Safely and Autonomously

The ELSA Program is free and confidential. ELSA has a community lawyer, advocate, and financial counsellor. ELSA can help support you to feel safe, empowered, and informed about your rights and options.

- The community lawyer can provide you with legal advice and assistance.
- The advocate can help support you to feel safe and supported and connect you with helpful services.
- The financial counsellor can assist you with your finances including options to resolve any debts.

ELSA can meet with you by phone, at an Eastern Health or Eastern Community Legal Centre site, or another venue of your choice.