

Preventing Abuse of Older People

A primary prevention framework



VISION: A WORLD WHERE OLDER PEOPLE ARE SAFE, VALUED AND RESPECTED. WHERE THEIR CONTRIBUTION IS CELEBRATED.

Themes for Action	GOALS		
	 Individual	 Organisational / Community	 Societal
<p>Promote positive images and role models Popular language, images and narrative celebrate and embrace the life journey across the ages</p>	<p>Attitudes, language and behaviours foster age pride and challenge ageism in the everyday.</p>	<p>Workplace policy, systems and practices promote diversity and encourage positive modelling and representation of older people.</p> <p>Workplace communications promote positive images of older people where the journey of ageing is normalised and embraced, and traditional age and gender stereotypes are challenged.</p>	<p>Increased capacity to understand and address ageism as a driver of elder abuse.</p> <p>Voices of older people in Melbourne's east are sought and elevated to inform the work of policy makers and decision makers.</p>
<p>Identify and eliminate barriers to participation Structures and systems enable adults to participate fully according to their capabilities and ambitions at all stages of life</p>	<p>Expectations of older people are mutual and respectful, where personal freedoms are not restrained by 'shoulds' or heavy caring responsibilities.</p>	<p>Ageism and unconscious bias are identified and redressed to enable the participation of all community members across the key settings where people work, live and play.</p> <p>Older people from diverse backgrounds are involved in decision-making and co-design processes.</p>	<p>Systemic advocacy continues for systems, policies and practices that support older people to participate fully in the community.</p> <p>Support systems are in place for adult children going through difficult life stages, mental health or personal crisis.</p> <p>Urban design promotes social connection and healthy, active lifestyles for all ages.</p>
<p>Foster positive attitudes and behaviours towards ageing Community members demonstrate mutual respect and empathy towards older people, and ageing is embraced as a natural process</p>	<p>Attitudes and behaviours demonstrate respect and empathy in all relationships across the ages.</p> <p>Intergenerational approach to life that embraces the diversity and experience of ages across different settings where people work, live and play.</p> <p>Encourage courageous conversations about ageing, future planning and death.</p>	<p>Programs promote and celebrate the unique and valuable contribution of older people to families, community and organisations.</p> <p>The prevention of elder abuse work is aligned with the regional plan to prevent violence against women (Together For Equality & Respect).</p> <p>An intersectional approach to ageing informs policy and practice, including the gendered nature of ageism.</p>	<p>Policy, programs and systems foster intergenerational communities and interdependency (moving from individualism to interdependency).</p> <p>Activities that foster meaning and social connection are promoted through opportunities such as the arts, volunteering, education, employment, faith communities, connection to land/nature, pets, relationships, hobbies and sport.</p>

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POPULATIONS	ACTIVITY EXAMPLES		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children • Young People • Adult Children • Tertiary Students • Older People • Families • Aged Care Sector • Employers • Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CaLD) • Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander communities • Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender/Gender Diverse, Intersex and Queer (LGBTIQ+) • People with Disabilities 	 <h3>Individual</h3>	 <h3>Organisational / Community</h3>	 <h3>Societal</h3>
<h3>SETTINGS</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workplaces • Homes • Social media / technology • Community / community services • Education institutions • Aged care / Health care • Faith based • Disability sector • Retail / hospitality • Recreational • Justice / legal system • Journalism / media • Local Government – some including open spaces, transport, infrastructure, engineering and communications 	<p>Call out ageism with friends, family and work colleagues</p> <p>Be informed about the issue</p> <p>Reflect and challenge attitudes about ageing, including internalised ageism</p> <p>Initiate conversations about ageing, future planning and death</p> <p>Acknowledge and celebrate the journey of life and contributions of older people</p> <p>Model and foster respectful intergenerational relationships</p>	<p>Develop and conduct an age equity audit on organisational processes and policies</p> <p>Strengthen current family violence policy to include elder abuse</p> <p>Build capacity in organisation/community group to understand ageism and its impacts</p> <p>Take an intergenerational approach to programming</p> <p>Promote and normalise the use of images of older people in all communications</p> <p>Create opportunities for co-designing with older people</p> <p>Advocate to State and Federal Government bodies for increased funds to extend the evidence base for the primary prevention of elder abuse</p> <p>Contribute to regional work to challenge rigid gender roles and promote gender equity across the ages</p> <p>Adopt age-friendly practices that foster healthy and active ageing (eg. WHO Age-Friendly Cities)</p> <p>Build financial capabilities of women and girls across the ages</p>	<p>Further research and evidence on the drivers of elder abuse</p> <p>Further research and evidence on the intersection with other forms of family violence</p> <p>Advocate for and implement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A national longitudinal survey to better understand ageist attitudes and beliefs in Australia • A national longitudinal survey to be used as a benchmark for evaluation purposes • A national framework for the prevention of elder abuse • A boost in funding for action-based research with a focus on intergenerational programs and systems



Eastern Community Legal Centre would like to proudly Acknowledge the First Nations Peoples of Victoria, sovereign custodians of the land and water on which we rely. We respectfully acknowledge their Lore, traditions and customs that have survived over 60,000 years of existence, as well as honouring those who have since passed on to the Dreaming. We thank the Elders for their guidance, their wisdom and their teachings, and endeavour to support Elders in Community within our capabilities. We thank the Community leaders who laid the foundations and whose continued work has paved the way for our ongoing support in Community. We acknowledge the continued leadership role of the Aboriginal Community in addressing, and preventing family violence, including Elder abuse, and join with our First Nations Peoples to prevent Elder abuse from occurring.



This framework has been developed in partnership with members of the Eastern Elder Abuse Network

