

City of Sydney and Eastern Sydney Abuse of Older People Collaborative

C/- Eastern Sydney CHSP Sector Support and Development Officer

Inner Sydney Voice
Rear 770 Elizabeth St
WATERLOO NSW 2017

7 September 2021

Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash
Attorney-General
senator.cash@aph.gov.au

Dear Senator Cash

National Elder Abuse Prevalence Study

We are the City of Sydney and Eastern Sydney Abuse of Older People Collaborative, a group of service agencies that are committed to reducing the abuse of older people. We are writing to request the release of the *National Elder Abuse Prevalence Study*.

Our Collaborative is made up of members representing local councils, local hospitals and health services, aged care services, and agencies that help older people deal with legal and social issues. We also have consumer representation to give us the direct perspective of older people in our area.

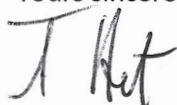
The Collaborative notes that Australia's first major nationwide research into the prevalence of elder abuse, the *National Elder Abuse Prevalence Study*, has been completed by the Australian Institute of Family Studies. We understand that the research has been finalised and is awaiting release by the Australian Government to the wider community. As frontline agencies working together to meet the needs of older people who experience abuse, we would encourage you to release this study as soon as possible. This study will have a real impact in addressing abuse in our community, and around Australia. It will help collaboratives such as ours work towards achieving the goals of the Australian Government's *National Plan to Respond to the Abuse of Older Australians (Elder Abuse) 2019-2023*.

Abuse of older people has a devastating effect on individuals, families and communities, requiring every effort to overcome. As individual agencies, we work with older individuals and their carers and support people to support them with the impact of abuse. As a Collaborative, we come together to share interventions and to improve the way we work and to co-ordinate our approaches to abuse in our area, in order to better support older people and their support networks. We also collectively work to learn about the issues that older people face, and to raise awareness of the abuse of older people in the wider community.

Information about the nature and extent of abuse of older people is crucial in assisting us to meet the challenges of abuse. Our community is complex and diverse, with some of the richest and poorest groups of people in Australia living side by side. The unique characteristics of our community also mean that there are pockets of isolation which may increase social vulnerability. We can better target our efforts and provide responses that consider the diverse needs of specific groups of older people by having current and comprehensive data. We can make a real difference to the lives of individuals, by understanding the key issues that have an impact on the prevalence of abuse.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with the Government to addressing abuse of older people in our community.

Yours sincerely



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Represented by Tim Horton, Collaborative chairperson
Eastern Sydney CHSP Sector Support and Development Officer
Inner Sydney Voice