

# SAFEGUARDING NEWS

care | protect | act

APRIL 2023



Please nominate someone in your office to ensure this email is forwarded to all Parish and Diocesan staff members

## WELCOME BACK

The Safeguarding team would like to welcome you back to our Newsletter!

We want to ensure that we all stay connected in our efforts to promote a safer Diocese and hope this Newsletter brings you relevant information, important updates and guidance to further support your Parish.

2022 was a busy year for Safeguarding, areas for attention in 2023 will be:

- Continued delivery of training for Clergy and Employees/Volunteers.

**NOTE:** Level 1 training is now called **Safeguarding Awareness Training** which is to be provided to all Employees and Volunteers.

**Mandatory Reporting & Reportable Conduct** training is mandatory for all Employees and Volunteers who hold a Working With Children Check.

- We will return to working on the Child Safe Standards



and your Risk Assessments/Continuous Improvement Plans in anticipation of **audit requirements** from the Office of the Children's Guardian in 2024.

The Safeguarding information provided at the **Secretaries Conference** at the end of 2022 should be considered as an example of best practice, however if Parishes have current systems in place which would meeting auditing standards then please continue using that system.

Please watch this space for the 2023 **Child Protection Week** plans!!

While we try our best to circulate the Newsletter to all agencies in the Diocese, please check at a Parish level that your different entities are receiving it, if not please send us their email and we will update our mailing list.

I look forward to working with you all in 2023.

**Julie Patston - Diocese of Lismore Safeguarding Manager**  
**(02) 6621 9444 (Mon-Fri)**

## The Safeguarding Team



*Project Officer*  
*Michelle Davies*

Welcome to Michelle Davies who has joined the Safeguarding team as Project Officer, working two days a week from both the Chancery and at home.

Michelle also works as the Parish Business Manager/Secretary at St John's Parish, Mullumbimby, three days a week, so she has hands-on experience implementing Safeguarding requirements within a Parish.

She will be helping to create our new Diocesan Safeguarding website, and updating our Diocesan Safeguarding Handbook.

She will also be producing the monthly Safeguarding newsletter which will include news inserts you might like to use in your own bulletins to keep parishioners informed about the latest Safeguarding news both here and overseas.

Pope Francis is a driving force in the Church's Safeguarding efforts. We will also include any new information from the Vatican that might interest your parishioners so you can share it with them.

We hope you find the new-look newsletter a handy resource for use in the Parish.



*"We all have the duty to do good" - Pope Francis*



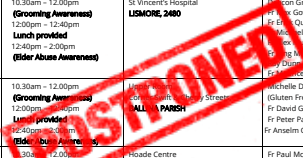
# SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

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## Training

Mandatory TOPIC Training for Clergy – 1 day (2 sessions)			
Date	Time & Course content	Room/Location	Registered participants
4. Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	10.30am – 12.00pm <b>(Rooming Awareness)</b> 12.30pm – 12.45pm <b>Lunch provided</b> 1.25.00pm – 2.30pm <b>(Elder Abuse Awareness)</b>	St Vincent's Hospital <b>LISMORE, 2480</b>	Fr. Leon Graeme Davis Fr. Garry Grew Fr. Brian Quinteros Fr. Michael Nugent Fr. Michael Russo Fr. Peter Padungay Fr. Peter Padungay Fr. Peter Padungay Fr. Peter Padungay
5. Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> July	10.30am – 12.00pm <b>(Rooming Awareness)</b> 12.30pm – 12.45pm <b>Lunch provided</b> 1.25.00pm – 2.30pm <b>(Elder Abuse Awareness)</b>	St Vincent's Hospital <b>LISMORE, 2480</b>	Michelle Davies – BM (Glisten Free) Fr. David Gibney Fr. Peter Padungay Fr. Anselm Okeke
6. Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	10.30am – 12.00pm <b>(Rooming Awareness)</b> 12.30pm – 12.45pm <b>Lunch provided</b> 1.25.00pm – 2.30pm <b>(Elder Abuse Awareness)</b>	Trade Centre 11-13 Frances Street, <b>TWEED HEADS PARISH</b>	Fr Paul McDonald Fr Michael Nilon Fr Michael Brady Fr Peter Wood Fr Michael Rego Fr Darbyshire



As you know, training has not been happening since Shelley left us last year.

Julie Patston is working training into her busy schedule so this can progress during the year.

## Handbook Updates

As work on the website progresses, updates to the handbook will also be made to keep the two cohesive.

We will send out copies of the updated handbook when it has been completed and keep you informed of any updates to policies when they are made.



## Website

We will be doing a lot of research into other Safeguarding websites before we decide what will serve us best.

We want our site to provide relevant information and links to the general public, but also a private portal for parishes providing up-to-date information on all the latest regulations and requirements in Safeguarding, as well as policy updates, documents, and resources.

If you have any thoughts on what you would like to see on the Safeguarding website or resources that would help you in the parish, please email Michelle Davies at [mldavies@lismore.catholic.org.au](mailto:mldavies@lismore.catholic.org.au) - I would love to hear your suggestions.

Jane Fender in Byron Bay will help us build the finished product. They worked with the Diocese on its new website.



The new Diocesan website

## Dates for the Diary

### JUNE



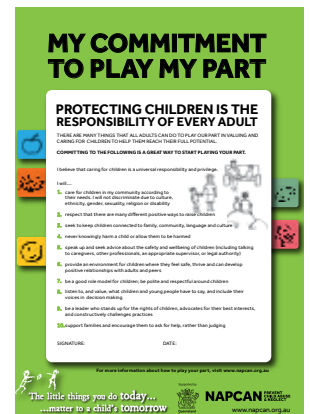
15: World Elder Abuse Awareness Day  
[elderabuseawarenessday.org.au/](http://elderabuseawarenessday.org.au/)

Elder abuse is any act which causes harm to an older person and is carried out by someone they know and trust such as a family member or friend. See Page 7 for more information.

### SEPTEMBER: National Child Protection Week

[www.napcan.org.au/ncpw/](http://www.napcan.org.au/ncpw/)

National Child Protection Week will be looking at what works to keep children safe and supported. We can stop child abuse and neglect – and reduce its impact – by working together.



“We all have the duty to do good” - Pope Francis

## From the Vatican

### Pope focuses prayers on victims of abuse

*“We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.”*

Pope Francis’ Pope Video message for March was dedicated to all the people who have been victims of abuse, “especially to those committed by members of the Church,” that they may “find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.”



Francis’ concern for victims and his call to bring cases of abuse to light were accompanied by an animated video that the Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network created together with Italian artist Hermes Mangialardo.

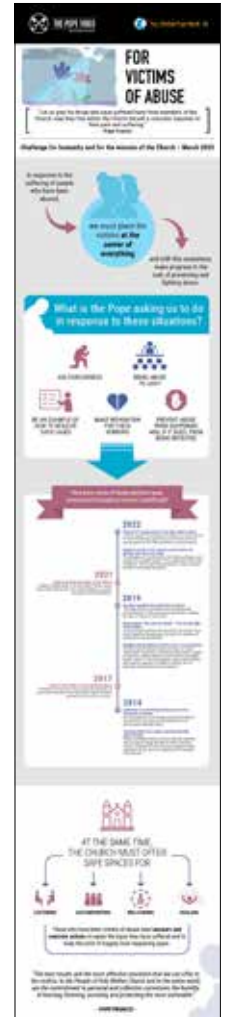
Fr. Frédéric Fornos S.J., International Director of the Pope’s

Worldwide Prayer Network, commented about this intention: “In the Gospel, Jesus, speaking from the depths of his heart, says: ‘If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea’ (Mt 18:6). This reveals Jesus’ suffering in the face of this intolerable crime.

“The Pope wants the Catholic Church to pray during the month of March for the victims abuses of power and of conscience, and of sexual abuse, to ‘awaken our conscience and arouse our solidarity and commitment to a culture of care’ and to fight with determination against every kind and form of abuse.”

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*This Infographic is available on the Pope Video website*

You can view March’s Pope Video at: [thepopevideo.org/march-for-victims-of-abuse/](http://thepopevideo.org/march-for-victims-of-abuse/)

### Local church action essential to protect vulnerable

Establishing clear procedures for protecting vulnerable people against abuse “must become a priority in every local church,” Pope Francis said.

In a message to participants at the second Latin American congress on the prevention of abuse, the pope said that while church leaders have done much to combat the evil of abuse, it remains a “clear and present danger” to the faithful that “continues to degrade the Lord’s Gospel in the eyes of all.”

Under the theme “care, inform and communicate,” the conference in Asunción, Paraguay, March 14-16 brought together scholars, pastors and child protection experts to reflect on how to better protect minors in Latin America from abuse. Francis noted that special attention must be given to ensuring the measures created in his 2019 apostolic letter “*Vox Estis Lux Mundi*,” which called for clear and accessible paths to justice for abuse victims, be implemented

in “parts of the church where efforts to promote adequate preventative measures are still in their first stages due to a lack of resources.”

“We should not allow the cruel inequalities that affect our societies to affect our church,” he wrote. Any member of the church hierarchy who downplays the impact of the church’s abuse crisis or the danger posed by abuse to the church “dishonors those who have suffered so much and deceives those they say they serve,” the pope said.

Francis doubled the size of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors by appointing 10 new members.



*Cardinal Séan P. O'Malley, president of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, and Pope Francis (CNS photo/Vatican Media)*



## In The News

### Pope broadens rules for investigating abuse allegations

Pope Francis has updated the procedures for investigating sexual abuse allegations, specifying that leaders of international Catholic lay associations and movements have the same responsibilities over their members that bishops have over diocesan priests.

The updated version of *Vos Estis Lux Mundi* (You are the light of the world), published on Saturday 25 March, also expanded the categories of victims covered by the regulations to include vulnerable adults.

The original text spoke of the crime of “sexual acts with a minor or a vulnerable person.” The updated text reads, “a crime against the Sixth Commandment of the Decalogue committed with a minor, or with a person who habitually has an imperfect use of reason, or with a vulnerable adult”.

“Anything that expands the categories of those who should be protected is to be welcomed,” Oblate Father Andrew Small, secretary of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, said.

Bishop Juan Ignacio Arrieta, secretary of the Vatican Dicastery for Legislative Texts, said the updated document was based on four years of experience operating under the previous version, but the update also needed to incorporate changes Pope Francis made in 2021 to the Code of Canon Law’s “Book VI: Penal Sanctions in the Church.”

Cardinal Sean O’Malley, president of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, said in a statement



*Pope Francis prays during his general audience last week (CNS/Vatican Media)*

that with the updated text, “the Church’s ongoing work of preventing sexual abuse by ministers of the church received a further boost.”

Updating the norms, “Pope Francis has reconfirmed the serious responsibilities on bishops and others in leadership positions to ensure robust safeguarding policies and procedures are in place and are effective,” Cardinal O’Malley said.

The new rules go into effect on **April 30**. *Source: CNS*

### Services ‘failing’ First Nations children

From CathNews

Child protection, education and health services have failed to promote healing and recovery for First Nations children who have experienced domestic and family violence, a new report has revealed.

The “You Can’t Pour from an Empty Cup” report is an initiative of Queensland’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak in partnership with Australia’s National Research Organisation for Women’s Safety (ANROWS) and Australian Catholic University. It found First Nations voices have been “sidelined from decision-making, with devastating effects”.

The first of its kind in Australia, the research project engaged eight Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community research teams in regional and remote Queensland and was led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander chief investigators, in a collaborative process to “elevate First Nations voices and find community-led solutions for healing and recovery”.

The community-led research project resulted in the creation of the “Healing our children and young people framework”, a “culturally safe, place-based, trauma-aware, healing-informed, children-centred approach” to



engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children experiencing family and domestic violence.

ANROWS chief executive Padma Raman encouraged policy makers and practitioners across the system to consider the report’s findings and adopt the Healing our children and young people framework “as a matter of urgency”.

The director of ACU’s Institute of Child Protection Studies, Professor Daryl Higgins, said culturally-sensitive, evidence-based practices as outlined in the new framework are needed to stop the intergenerational trauma of domestic and family violence on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families.

*Source: National Indigenous Times.*

## In The News

### Diocese renews commitment to be a 'leading light' for safety

From CathNews

Parramatta Diocese has become the first Catholic entity to be accredited as a safe environment for children and adults at risk.

Over the past 12 months, the diocese's chancery office participated in Quality Innovation Performance's (QIP) Standards for Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults pilot program. The chancery was audited against measurable standards based on the 10 principles for child-safe organisations recommended by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

During a ceremony, Australian General Practice Accreditation Limited group chief executive Tina Janamian, on behalf of QIP chair Gary Smith, presented Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv, Bishop of Parramatta, with a certificate of accreditation.

"I am very pleased that we have stood up to scrutiny and that we are who we believe and who we tell the world we are meant to be in terms of a healthy, safe space for children and adults at risk," Bishop Long said.

"Safeguarding is a litmus test for the credibility of the Church and everything that we do.

"Our commitment to zero tolerance of abuse in any shape or form will enable us to be a credible conduit for the Gospel



*Tina Janamian presents Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv with the safeguarding accreditation certificate (Parramatta Diocese)*

of justice, love and life flourishing that we proclaim.

"We renew our commitment to be a leading light for others in our society in this important space."

Dr Janamian said that from the initial engagement in the accreditation process, the chancery team recognised and placed a high priority on the need to create and sustain a safe environment that protects the people they serve.

*Source: Catholic Outlook.*

### Safe space for separated families

From CathNews

Separated Broken Hill families now have a safe space to spend time as a group, thanks to CatholicCare Wilcannia-Forbes' new children's contact service.

CatholicCare Wilcannia-Forbes (CCWF) established the centre out of its Broken Hill office to provide an impartial place for children to see parents or extended family they do not live with.

CCWF's portfolio leader for child contact services, Mark Braes, said not all separated families were able to interact unsupervised.

"Some [separated] people find it really difficult to be able to maintain cordial relationships and sometimes that means it's very difficult for children to spend regular time with parents," Mr Braes said.

"So, this space provides that opportunity in a way that's going to be safe for everybody."

It was senior children's contact worker Julua Hamel, a retired family law solicitor, who originally identified that Broken Hill was unable to operate such a facility due to outdated location selection criteria.

"When I came to Broken Hill in 2020, I was horrified to find an area that was so isolated [and had] such a high level of domestic violence and other risk issues had no contact service," Ms Hamel said.

She then engaged with federal MP Mark Coulton, Broken



*Mark Braes and Julua Hamel (ABC News/CatholicCare Wilcannia-Forbes)*

Hill City Council, and the local community to help change these criteria.

As a result, the federal Government provided about \$2 million in funding last year to get the project underway.

According to Mr Braes, in addition to supervised contact visits, the space can also facilitate handovers of children from one parent to the other, meaning they do not have to meet in public places or the police station. Mr Braes said it is hoped that after a period of using the service, the separated parents would be able to have more positive interactions.

*Source: ABC News.*

## In The News

### New ministries take Christ to abuse survivors to promote healing

From CathNews

A US archdiocese has introduced two new ministries to promote healing for those harmed by clergy abuse.

A homebound ministry for victim-survivors of clergy abuse to receive the Eucharist and a support group for employees of faith-based institutions who experienced abuse are now offered through the Archdiocese of St Paul and Minneapolis' Office of Ministerial Standards and Safe Environment.

Paula Kaempffer — the office's outreach coordinator for restorative justice and abuse prevention — said her personal experience as a survivor of abuse and listening to other victim-survivors helped guide the development of the homebound Eucharistic ministry.

"They are Catholics through and through, but they cannot set foot inside of (a) church again because their abuse either happened in the church itself, or it happened by a priest and they can't face a priest," she said.

But many victim-survivors "have a deep hunger for Eucharist," Ms Kaempffer said.

This ministry, therefore, is a way "to bring them Eucharist ... to let them know how much they are cared for and loved by Jesus and the Church."



The Eucharist is brought to them by a minister who also is a victim-survivor of clergy abuse.

Another avenue is the support group for employees of faith-based institutions who have experienced abuse in the archdiocese as well as in dioceses nationally and internationally; Kaempffer said that five days after the group was formally announced, 12 people had already registered. "There is such a need," she said.

"Lay ministers in the Church are really hurting from the abuse that they've experienced." *Source: OSV News*

## From the Office of the Children's Guardian



### New Children's Guardian

Stephen Kinmond OAM started his 5-year term as NSW Children's Guardian in January.

Announcing the appointment, Minister for Families and Communities Natasha Maclaren-Jones said, 'Mr Kinmond has

extensive experience in child protection and with oversight bodies, including as CEO of the Association of Children's Welfare Agencies (ACWA) and as Deputy Ombudsman.'

"Throughout his 40 years of experience in the sector, Mr Kinmond has worked with government and non-government agencies and demonstrated a strong commitment to robust regulatory oversight," Ms Maclaren-Jones said.

### Make a report if something goes wrong online

If you or someone you know experiences online abuse, you can do something about it. Depending on the social media service or online platform, you can report, block or mute the abuse. If it meets our thresholds, eSafety can also remove harmful online content.

Where to report:

[www.esafety.gov.au/report/forms](http://www.esafety.gov.au/report/forms)



### Become an eSafety Champion

eSafety Champions prioritise online safety in schools and have access to the latest resources and opportunities.

We're aiming to have one Champion in every primary and secondary school in Australia, ensuring all schools are supported to deal with online safety issues.

[www.esafety.gov.au/educators/training-for-professionals/](http://www.esafety.gov.au/educators/training-for-professionals/)



## Elder Abuse

[elderabuseawarenessday.org.au/](http://elderabuseawarenessday.org.au/)



World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) is commemorated each year on **15 June** to highlight one of the worst manifestations of ageism and inequality in our society, elder abuse. Elder abuse is any act which causes harm to an older person and is carried out by someone they know and trust such as a family member or friend. The abuse may be physical, social, financial, psychological or sexual and can include mistreatment and neglect.

WEAAD was officially recognised by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2011, following a request by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA), who first established the commemoration in June 2006.

In many parts of the world elder abuse occurs with little

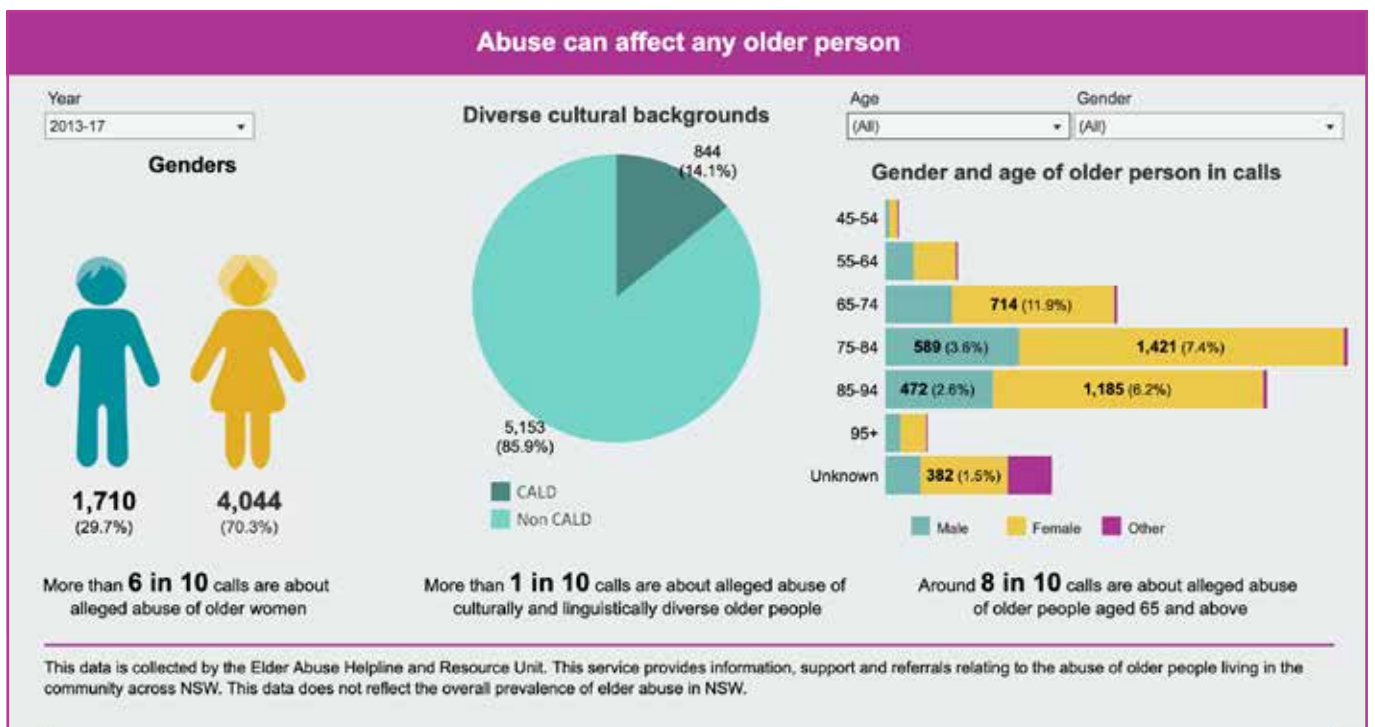
recognition or response. It is a global social issue which affects the health, well-being, independence and human rights of millions of older people around the world, and an issue which deserves the attention of all in the community.

According to WHO, prevalence rates or estimates exist only in selected developed countries – ranging from 1 to 10 per cent. Although the extent of elder mistreatment is unknown, its social and moral significance is obvious.

Individuals, communities, municipalities and organisations will come together across the globe to hold events on 15 June that raise awareness of elder abuse.

**Ageing and Disability Abuse Helpline  
1800 628 221**

**In the lead up to Elder Abuse Awareness Day, you might like to consider what information you have available to your parishioners about this subject. Attached to this email are some resources you might like to use, including 3 posters and an information pamphlet.**





# SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

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## Parish Bulletin Notices

We request that all Parishes include the following notice in their bulletins/newsletters. The black and white version has the logo converted to B&W for better printing results. I will attach these as PDFs to the email for your convenience.

### The Catholic Diocese of Lismore Safeguarding Office

If you or a person close to you has been abused by someone working or ministering within the Diocese of Lismore, we ask you to contact us. We will listen to you respectfully; offer support and discuss options you have available to you. Contact the Safeguarding Office - Phone: (02) 6621 9444 or Email: [safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au](mailto:safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au)



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## Attachments

### Bulletin Notices

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### Safeguarding Logos



## Elder Abuse posters and information pamphlet

Australian Government

If you witness, suspect, or experience Elder Abuse, call the National Elder Abuse phone line for information, support, and referrals.

**1800 ELDERHELP (1800 353 374)**

**WE'RE LISTENING. YOU'RE NOT ALONE.**

Elder abuse may involve physical harm, misuse of your money, sexual abuse, emotional abuse or neglect.

**ELDER ABUSE**  
EVERYONE'S BUSINESS

If you require immediate assistance in an emergency or life threatening situation, contact **Triple Zero (000)**.

A collaboration between the Australian, state and territory governments

Abuse of older people and people with disability is unacceptable.

Together we can prevent it.

Has someone ever tried to...

- Control your money or actions?
- Force you to sign papers against your will?
- Make you feel unsafe?
- Touch you in ways that you did not want?
- Hurt you physically?
- Deny you food, clothing, medication, medical care or proper shelter?
- Hurt your assistance animal?
- Damage or withhold a device you depend on for daily activities?
- Stop you from seeing family or friends?
- Threaten to abandon you or send you to a care facility?

To report something that is happening to you or someone you know, call:

000 - Triple Zero for emergencies or life-threatening situations  
131 444 - Police Assistance Line for non-emergencies

1800 353 300 - Crime Stoppers to provide information (to call for anonymity)  
1800 628 221 NSW Ageing & Disability Abuse Helpline for information, support and referrals.

NSW  
National Relay Service - 1800 555 600  
Telephone Integrated Services - 131 442

Protecting vulnerable communities

Report abuse of an older person or adult with disability in their family, home and community to the Ageing and Disability Commission.

Speak with a trained professional about your concerns and be heard without judgement.

**NSW Ageing and Disability Abuse Helpline**  
1800 628 221 (M-F 9-5)  
[adac.nsw.gov.au](http://adac.nsw.gov.au)

Why would you contact the Ageing and Disability Commission with disability?

- In being told how to spend their money.
- In unable to explain routine, rules or regulations on their behalf.
- In unable to speak freely with you at appointments, especially when another person is present.
- In unable to family member, friend or someone they know in their community had hit, threatened or sexually abused them.

What happens when you call us?

- Speak with a trained professional about your concerns.
- Get information on what services are available to help.
- Be supported to make a report, and be heard without judgement.

**Call the NSW Ageing and Disability Abuse Helpline (1800 628 221)**  
(M-F, 9am-5pm)

[adac.nsw.gov.au](http://adac.nsw.gov.au) or [adac.qld.gov.au](http://adac.qld.gov.au)

Ageing and Disability Commission

You can raise concerns about your own wellbeing or of an older person or an adult with disability you suspect is being abused or mistreated by someone they know in their family, home or community.

Speak with a trained professional about your concerns and be heard without judgement.

Get information on what services are available to help or be supported to make an emergency report.

**NSW Ageing and Disability Abuse Helpline**  
1800 628 221 (M-F 9-5)  
[adac.nsw.gov.au](http://adac.nsw.gov.au)

Ageing and Disability Commission

Some choices you should be free to make

- Have your own money
- Live where you want
- Live safely and healthily
- Control your own care
- Control your own decisions
- Control your own life

Everyone has the right to feel safe and be treated with dignity and respect in their family, home and community.

What is abuse?

Physical abuse: hitting, pushing, shaking, pulling, twisting, or other forms of physical force that cause pain or injury.

Psychological abuse: causing someone to feel afraid, nervous, or stressed.

Financial abuse: preventing someone from using their own money or assets.

Sexual abuse: forcing someone to have sex or engage in sexual activities without their consent.

Stalking: repeatedly following or contacting someone, especially by text or email.

What is exploitation?

Forcing someone to do something that is not in their best interests, especially if they are vulnerable.

Forcing someone to sign documents or give away their assets.

Forcing someone to do something that is illegal or against the law.

Forcing someone to do something that is against their wishes.

**1800 628 221**  
(M-F, 9am-5pm)

[adac.nsw.gov.au](http://adac.nsw.gov.au)



"We all have the duty to do good" - Pope Francis