



DISABILITY & ELDER ABUSE

Living free from violence is everyone's right and reducing violence is everyone's responsibility.

Disability and Elder Abuse Team | Disability&elderabuse.statecoord@police.qld.gov.au

State Domestic Family Violence & Vulnerable Persons Unit



Responding to Dementia in Aged Care

Behaviours Forum Gold Coast 2024

Presenter

Detective Senior Sergeant Debbie Phillips



- **I respectfully acknowledge the Yugambah & Kombumerri peoples as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land I am on today.**
- **I recognise their connection to land, sea and community. I pay my respects to them, their cultures, and to their Elders, past present and emerging.**
- **I further extend this respect to any First Nations people present in this room with me today**







VULNERABLE
PERSONS
POLICING



State Domestic, Family Violence and
Vulnerable Persons Command

- 
- **Direction, guidance, advice**
 - **Build partnerships**
 - **Co-ordinate/implement strategies**
 - **Interpretation of information**
 - **Training**
 - **Liaison**
- 



Royal
Commission
into Aged
Care Quality
and Safety

Final Report:
Care, Dignity
and Respect

WHY


148

recommendations

Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission's

Our vision is for older Australians to trust and have confidence that aged care **services protect and enhance their safety, health and quality of life.**

Everyone has the right to safe, compassionate care. We preserve this right and ensure that people who use aged care are treated with **dignity and respect.**



Serious Incident Response Scheme (SIRS)

- **As a worker, you must know your obligation to report all incidents to the appropriate staff member.**
- **Priority 1 reportable incidents**
- **Priority 2 reportable incidents**

Reporting to the police

- **Providers must report an incident to the police where there are reasonable grounds to do so.** This includes scenarios where the provider is aware of facts or circumstances that lead to a belief that an incident is unlawful or considered to be of a criminal nature. An example is sexual assault. These incidents **must also be reported to police within 24 hours of becoming aware of the incident.**

8 types

- Unreasonable use of force
- Unlawful sexual contact or inappropriate sexual conduct
- Neglect
- Psychological or emotional abuse
- Unexpected death
- Stealing or financial coercion by a staff member
- Inappropriate use of restrictive practices
- Unexplained absence from care

Dementia & Elder Abuse

Senior Sergeant Debbie Phillips

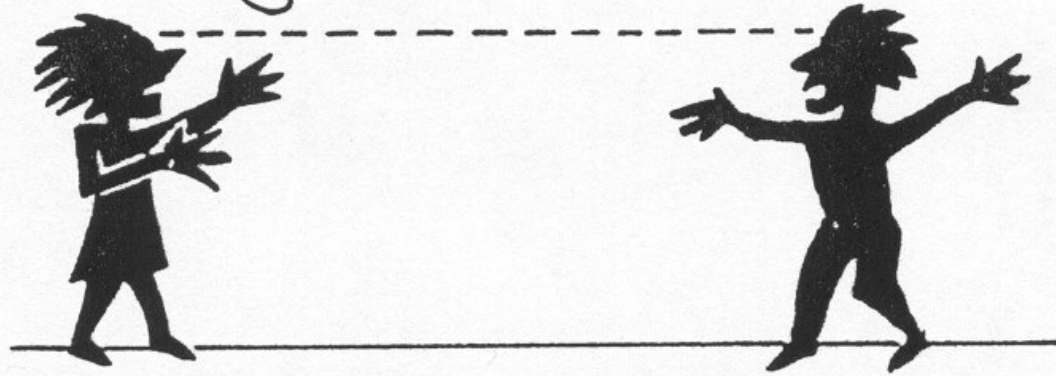
LOOKING BEYOND THE OBVIOUS



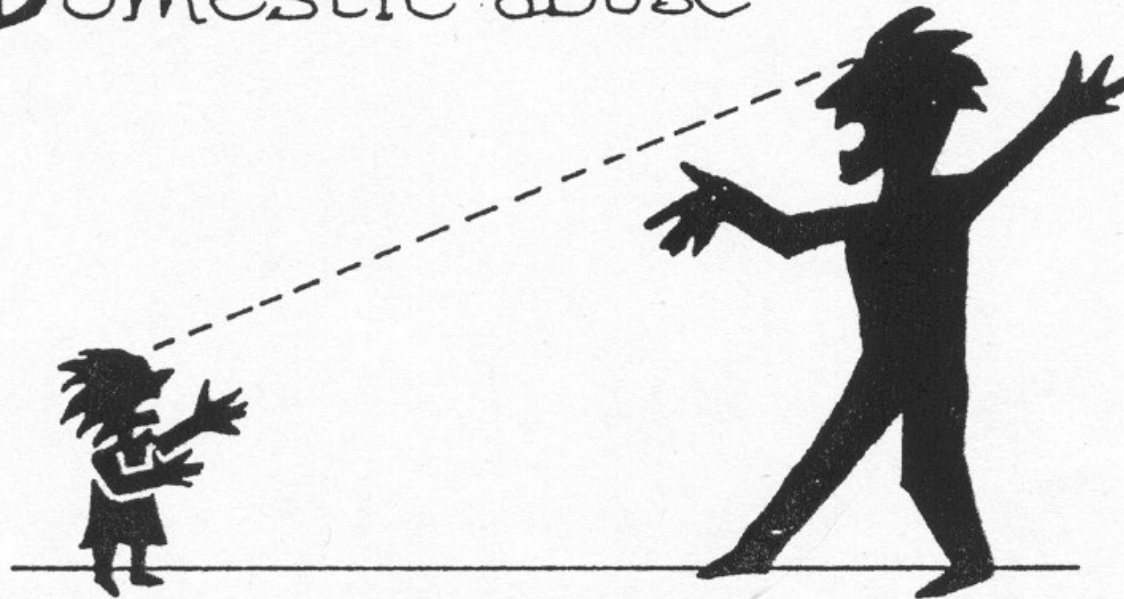
*LOOKING BEYOND THE
OBVIOUS*



An argument



Domestic abuse



WHAT IS ELDER ABUSE

- If an older person is being harmed in some way by a person they trust, that's elder abuse.
- It is common for elder abuse to be experienced at home, in places visited regularly, or where services or care are accessed.
- It is not uncommon for elder abuse to remain unreported, hidden and even unsuspected.
- As defined by the World Health Organisation –
“Elder abuse is a single, or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to an older person.”

TYPES OF ELDER ABUSE

Examples of Elder Abuse include:

Intimidation, humiliation or harassment

Assaulting or restraining someone

Causing fear by threatening to hurt a pet or break belongings

Unwanted sexual behaviour

Threatening eviction or moving to nursing home

Blocking contact with family or friends ...

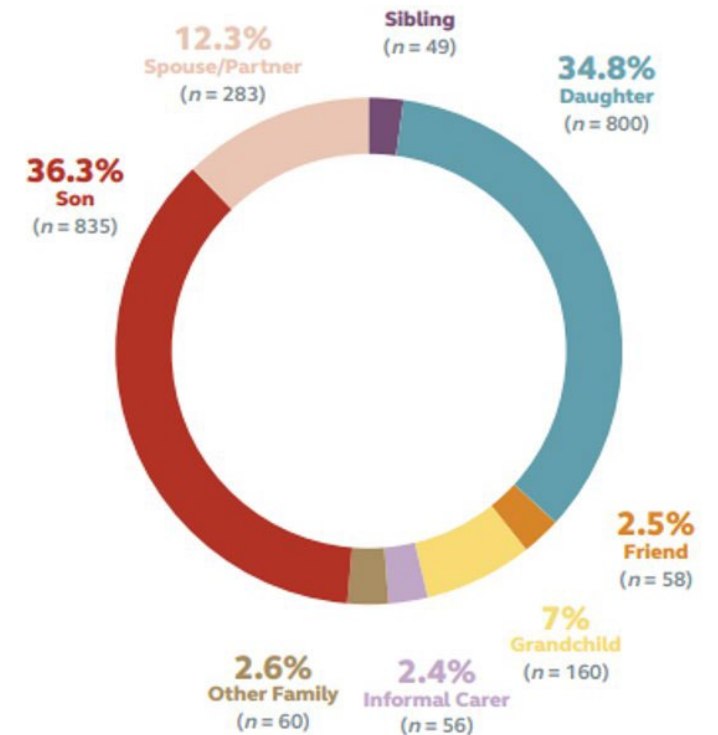
WHAT ARE OTHER EXAMPLES OF ELDER ABUSE

Examples of elder abuse continued:

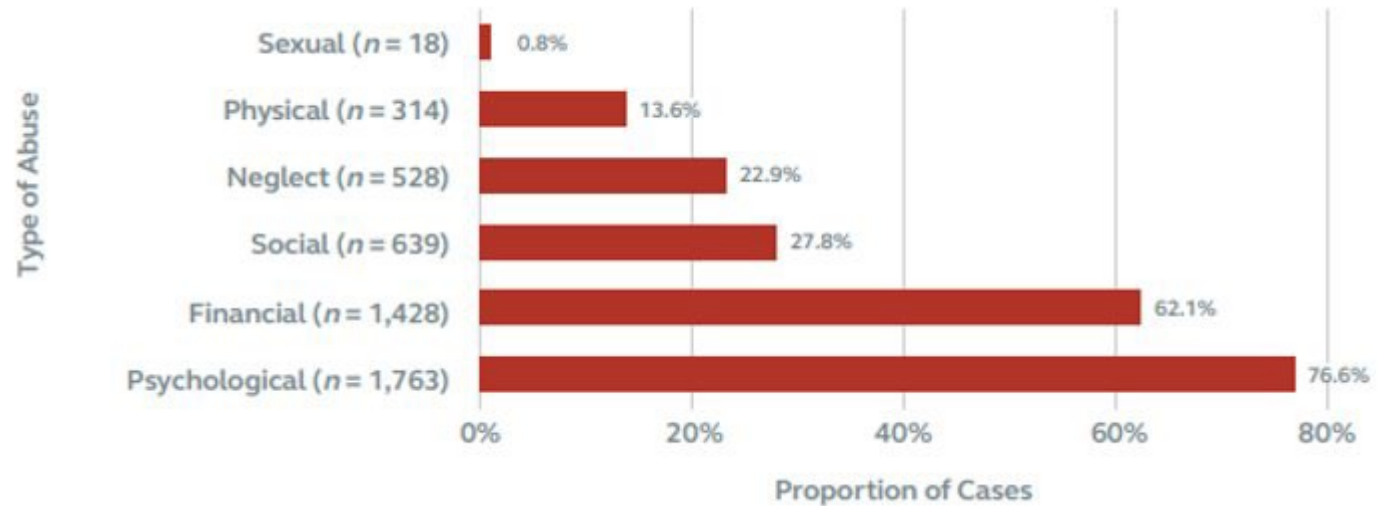
- Disallowing autonomous decisions
- Selling belongings without permission
- Misusing an Enduring Power of Attorney by taking money or property improperly
- Forcing will changes
- Denying access or control of funds
- Disallowing help services
- Neglecting physical, medical or emotional needs.

WHO IS COMMITTING THE ABUSE

- Almost all cases of abuse in close or intimate relationships occurs within family relationships (95%)
- Sons and daughters (including in-laws) were almost equally reported as perpetrators, together accounting for close to three-quarters of cases (71.1%).
- Spouses or partners were recorded as perpetrators in 12.3 per cent of cases.
- Poor family relationships were identified in 21.7 per cent of cases and sibling rivalry was identified in 9.7 per cent of cases.
- Data acquired from the Elder Abuse Hotline – Elder Abuse Statistics in Review 2021-2022. The Helpline received a total of 3,841 calls during the 2021–22 financial year. This included 2,338 abuse notifications and 1,503 enquiry calls.



IDENTIFIED TYPES OF REPORTED ELDER ABUSE



The most common methods of perpetrating financial abuse were :

- Undue influence (22%)
- Misuse of debit and credit cards (12.4%)
- Misuse of an Enduring Power of Attorney (11.7%)

The most frequently reported forms of financial abuse involved:

- Non-contribution (22.3%; for example, living with the victim and not contributing towards expenses such as electricity or groceries)
- Paying perpetrators' bills (22%)
- Victims being coerced into gifting (21.9%)

- Data acquired from the Elder Abuse Hotline – Elder Abuse Statistics in Review 2021-2022. The Helpline received a total of 3,841 calls during the 2021–22 financial year. This included 2,338 abuse notifications and 1,503 enquiry calls.



WHY ISN'T ELDER ABUSE REPORTED

The person does not want to get family members in trouble

Victim fears retaliation from the abuser

There may be a loss of access to grandchildren as a result of reporting

Shame

Fear of loss of support or independence

Fear of being put in a nursing home

Lack of knowledge on how to get help

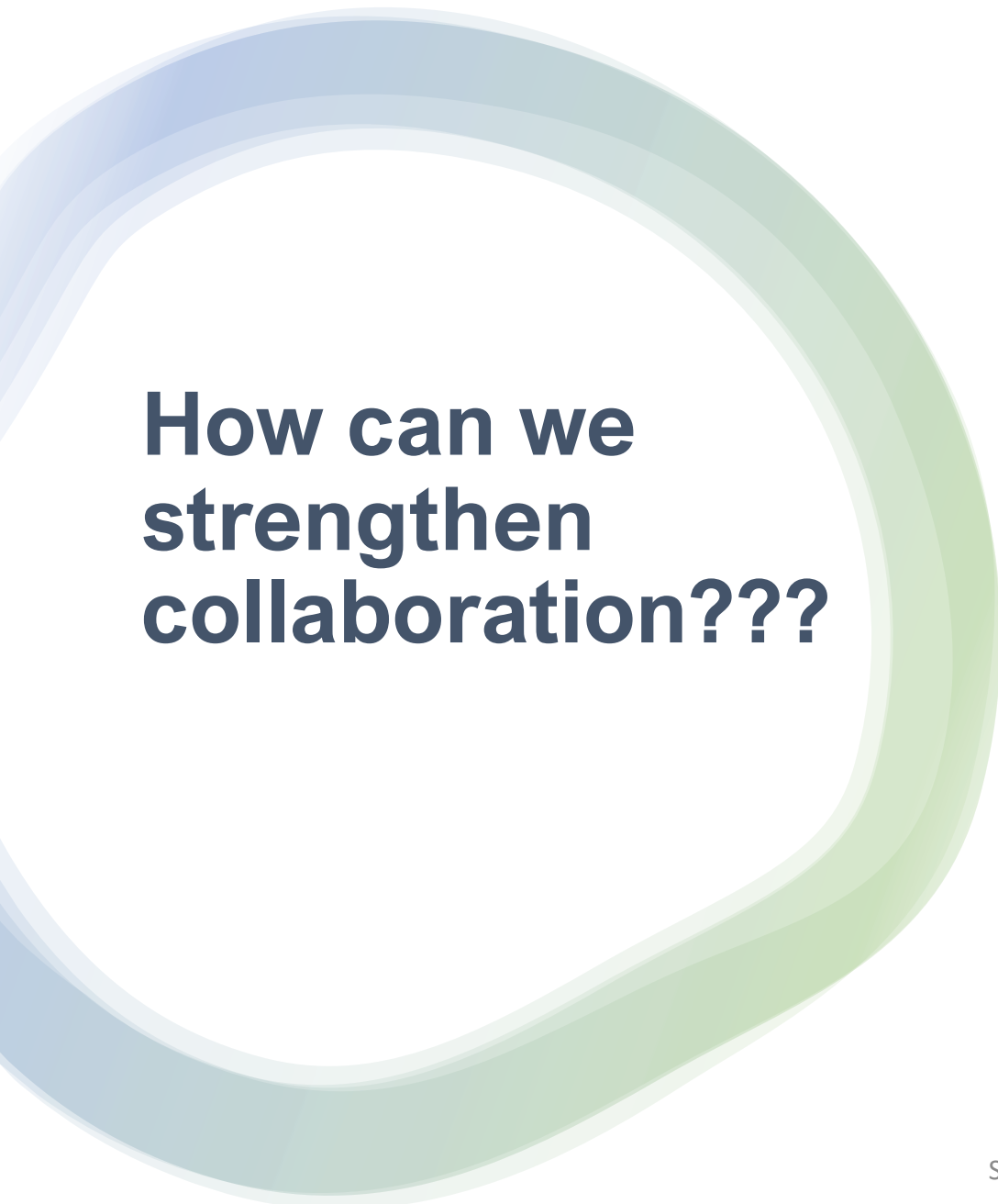


What are the common trends which QPS are notified of

Domestic and Family Violence &

Criminal Offences :

- 1. Fraud – Section 408C Criminal Code**
- 2. Stealing – Section 398 Criminal Code**
- 3. Wilful Damage – Section 469 Criminal Code**
- 4. Extortion – Section 415 Criminal Code**
- 5. Serious Assault – Section 340 Criminal Code**
- 6. Failure to Provide Necessaries – Section 324 Criminal Code**
- 7. Abuse of persons with impairment of the mind - Section 216 Criminal Code**



How can we strengthen collaboration???

- Advocacy
- Support
- Education
- Community events
- Connections
- **Maintain the discussion always**

OFFICIAL



OFFICIAL