



MEDIA RELEASE

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ARAS PRESENTS FREE ONLINE FORUM ON ELDER ABUSE: PERCEPTION VS REALITY

Aged Rights Advocacy Service (ARAS) is once again leading the conversation around elder abuse, hosting its 18th annual World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) conference. This year the online forum will focus on the theme 'Elder Abuse - Perception vs Reality,' exploring the gap between what older people actually experience, and their understanding (or perception) of those experiences.

This year's theme was inspired by recent reforms in the aged care sector, resulting from the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety. These changes aim to place older people first, empowering them with the necessary information to make informed decisions about their care. According to the recent National Institute of Family Studies, in a 12-month period one in six older people experienced some form of abuse by someone in a relationship of trust*. This is the reality. Yet for many older people, their perception of their lived experiences may be very different to how the community perceives it.

"Abuse of older people is a complex issue, and the statistics are extremely concerning. Many older people don't perceive their experiences to be that of 'elder abuse' and as a result they do not recognise or seek the support they need. As a community we need to confront this alarming health and social issue, to address and prevent abuse of older people." Carolanne Barkla, Chief Executive of ARAS.

This conversation is important for all sectors including aged care and community service providers, community members, law enforcement workers, government representatives, researchers, tertiary students, education and training organisations, as well as health and allied health professionals.

The conference will be held online on Friday 16 June 2023 from 10.00am - 12.15pm (ACST) and will feature a distinguished line-up of speakers including an opening from the Hon. Chris Picton MP, Minister for Health and Wellbeing, and a keynote address by the Hon Dr. Kay Patterson AO, Age Discrimination Commissioner.

To participate in this important conversation, register for the free WEAAD Online Forum 2023 today at <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/world-elder-abuse-awareness-day-online-forum-tickets-635231664007>.

Remember, there is no excuse for abuse. See it. Stop it. Prevent it.

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*Study Source - https://aifs.gov.au/research_programs/elder-abuse-research