



LEGACY BRISBANE POLICY

ELDER ABUSE

Policy number: CS-G09

Effective date: 22/07/2024

Approving authority: Board of Directors

Sponsor: Community Services Manager

Web address: www.legateeguide.org.au

Date for review: 22/07/2027

Version History

Date	Description of Change	Version
21.03.2022	Initial release	1
22.07.2024	Separating procedure from the policy to have a standalone document and adding national definition of elder abuse	2

Purpose Legacy Brisbane acknowledges that elder abuse is increasingly common within our society and that there is a range of possible responses available to Legacy to support clients who may experience elder abuse. This policy provides a definition of elder abuse and a framework for a range of possible responses.

Policy Statement Legacy Brisbane is committed to promoting a healthy and safe environment for older clients that is free from abuse or neglect - an environment where elder abuse is not tolerated under any circumstances.

In its association with older people, Legacy Brisbane commits to:

- ensuring that processes are in place to identify incidents of elder abuse;
- ensuring appropriate action is taken in relation to such incidents;
- ensuring that further harm is not perpetrated as a result of Legacy involvement; and
- maintaining the dignity and independence and protecting the safety and security of older people who are clients of Legacy Brisbane.

Legacy Brisbane's commitment to support older clients does not represent a legal "duty of care", unless the client is participating in a Legacy organised activity. There is however, a moral and ethical duty of care present that when acted upon, may stop further abuse from occurring.

Who should read this policy Board of Directors, Service Delivery Committee, Group Chairs, Legatees, volunteers and staff.

Scope This policy applies to all clients over the age of 65.

Definition Elder abuse is defined by the Australian Government as 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. It can be of various forms: physical, psychological / emotional, sexual, financial or simply reflect intentional or unintentional neglect.

Older person is defined as 65 years and over (taken from the Australian Bureau of Statistics).

Related legislation Elder Abuse is covered by the Domestic and Family Violence Act 2012. Elder abuse in an aged care setting or with services providing Home Care Packages is covered by the Aged Care Act 1997 and includes mandatory reporting for abuse in aged care facilities.

Principles

Response to elder abuse will be based on the following principles:

- **The rights of the client-** Clients' rights to safety, self-determination and dignity are of utmost importance.
- **Culture-** Cultural needs of clients are considered and provided for.
- **Consult-** Consultation with colleagues and the Community Services Manager (CSM) ensures shared decision-making on appropriate case management.
- **Refer-** Referral to specialised external services is crucial to a best practise response.
- **Interventions are client focussed and holistic-** Interventions are guided by the client, consider all aspects of their life including the presenting issues of the suspected abuser where appropriate.
- **Document-** Clear, objective documentation of all concerns, actions, consultations and plans is crucial.
- **Report-** Legacy has an ethical and moral responsibility to report where the events are severe enough.

Evaluation and review

Evaluation and review of this policy will be conducted by the policy sponsor each three years. Following review, recommendations for change will be forwarded to the approving authority.

Linkages

Legacy Brisbane Elder Abuse Procedure