

AUSTRALIAN GREEK WELFARE SOCIETY

**Raising awareness of elder abuse and
rights issues in an ethno-specific setting**

**Presented by:
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- The Ethnic Communities Council Elder Abuse Working Group identified the issues of elder abuse amongst ethnic communities and has worked in collaboration with government and non-government agencies to identify the gaps in service provision and to look at ways in which policies and programs can be developed to protect this population group within Australian society.

Elder abuse is prevalent in all communities within Australian society !!!

**How do we inform older
people of the existence of
elder abuse and their
rights?**

START WITH THE PREMISE

THAT

**We have to accept what is going on in the community
and this is the message**

HEARING - LEARNING - UNDERSTANDING

**Limited
educational
opportunities**



**Many are not
linguistic in
reading or
writing**

**How do we
then get the
message
across?**



FORUMS
CROSS
CULTURAL
BRIEFINGS

ETHNIC RADIO
PROGRAMS

INFORMATION
SESSIONS

NEWSPAPER
ARTICLES

BI-LINGUAL
INFORMATION

BI-CULTURAL
BI-LINGUAL
WORKERS

EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGNS
TO RAISE AWARENESS

• DISCLOSURE IS OFTEN DIFFICULT

1. Powerlessness (dependent on their carers for support) for reasons mentioned earlier, language barriers, systems difficult to understand, dependent on their carer to get things done.
2. Older person wouldn't suspect "abuse" from the person they trust (providing they know and are aware of it).
3. Older people (1st generation post war migrants) often are bulldozed into making decisions by the people they admire and trust the most.
4. This group have immense trust in their children and would never suspect "abuse"