



POLICY - ELDER ABUSE

ID No: FBCNW-18-318

Version: 3.0

Applies to:	All Employees All clients, carers, staff, sub-contractors and volunteers
Applicable Standards:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aged Care Quality Standards• NDIS Practice Standards
Applicable Legislation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aged Care Act 1997• Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission Act 2018• Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission Rules 2018• National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013• National Disability Insurance Scheme (Code of Conduct) Rules [2018]• National Disability Insurance Scheme (Incident Management and Reportable Incidents) Rules 2018• National Disability Insurance Scheme NDIS (Quality and Safeguards Commission and Other Measures) Transitional Rules 2018

Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to:

- Ensure that mechanisms are in place to identify cases of elder abuse and that appropriate action is taken in cases of elder abuse and suspected elder abuse.
- Maintain the dignity and protect the safety and security of older persons using Family Based Care Tasmania's services.
- Achieve an integrated and standardised approach to the management of elder abuse.

General

There are five types of abuse commonly experienced by older people:

- Physical
- Sexual
- Financial
- Neglect
- Psychological / Emotional.

Key Themes

As an agency with significant interface with older people through service delivery, Family Based Care Tasmania is required to ensure it has appropriate policies and procedures in place that reflect the following four key themes:

- prevention and early detection
- support for people who are abused or at risk of abuse
- intervention and protection
- a commitment to collective action.

Principles to Guide Action

These four themes describe the Family Based Care Tasmania response to the suspected abuse of older people. The following principles shape how these themes are to be put into action.

Protect

All community members have the right to live free from abuse; ensuring safety is paramount. Sometimes, when the health or safety of an individual is at risk, safety may be a greater concern than privacy.

Empower

Older people at risk of, or subject to, abuse should be given the support and information they need to make informed decisions about how to respond. This includes access to culturally aware and competent services trained to support and equip them to understand their rights and stop abuse when it occurs.

Access to services is also contingent on the recognition that some elderly persons will not be aware of the rights and services available to assist them. Persons with language and education barriers should be considered in how Family Based Care Tasmania seeks to engage with older people when developing policies and initiatives.

Respect

Where older people can make informed decisions about responses, they should be supported to do so. Where an individual makes an informed decision to not act in response to abuse, and the abuse is not criminal, that decision should be respected. People with impaired decision-making capacity may benefit from the involvement of an advocate, or other decision making support.

Respond

Older people who are subject to abuse should be supported and offered access to services. Many forms of abuse of older people are criminal. Where this is the case, the abuse must be treated as a crime and appropriate legal remedies and protections offered.

Reports can be made to Tasmania Police without the consent of the victim, although consent is always desirable and beneficial for investigations and prosecutions.

Separate

Relationships can be complex, particularly where the abuser is managing their own complex needs. The needs of each individual should be considered separately and not compromise the response for the victim.

Collaborate


There may be a number of people from different services involved and it is important that they work together to help the older person.

This can include the need to develop and maintain connections between older people and the community; the need to share information and raise awareness of these issues between different services.

Detailed Procedures

The CEO is responsible for developing and implementing a detailed set of procedures for staff, sub-contractors, and volunteers, and guidance for Clients and their carers.

Authorised by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'R' followed by a large loop and a horizontal stroke.

Date:

21/6/21

President of the Board