

# Knowledge is power

ON JUNE 6, the Seniors Legal and Support Service is providing a free public information seminar on when to make an enduring power of attorney, what this binding legal document contains and how it works.

The free event will be held at the Hervey Bay Library from 10.30am to 11.30am on Monday week.

An enduring power of attorney (EPA) is a document which gives someone the legal power to act on your behalf in relation to personal, health and financial matters.

Principal solicitor Melissa Seymour-Dearness said current laws fell short of adequately protecting our elders against abuse from friends and family.

Elder abuse can take many forms and extends far beyond the physical realm.

Manipulation, isolation and bullying are some of the main tactics that Melissa and her team of legal experts see being used against seniors for the betterment of a



**Understanding the ins and outs of enduring power of attorney documents will be the focus of a free workshop at the Hervey Bay Library on Monday, June 6.**

handful of ill-meaning individuals.

Melissa said elder abuse often stemmed from a sense of entitlement, where close family or friends abused their relationship with an elder to gain property or finances on the assumption that they would eventually inherit those assets.

"In our society, there is this attitude that people have that we're entitled to an

inheritance," she said.

EPAs are powerful documents and if care is not taken in choosing an attorney and inserting appropriate limitations in the document, people can find themselves with no home and no money due to the actions of a loved one.

Equally, it can be a very useful document to enable someone to make decisions and give instructions to a bank or health provider when an

individual is not able to do so due to illness or incapacity.

Unlike other causes close to our heart, elders who are suffering abuse often don't have the ability to stand up for their rights.

If you would like to register your attendance for the seminar, contact Diane from the Seniors Legal and Support Service on 4124 6863 or email [admin.slass@bigpond.com](mailto:admin.slass@bigpond.com).