

Elder Abuse reports on the rise in Queensland

Tracey Johnstone | 23rd Feb 2017 12:00 AM



More money is needed to help protect the state's older residents from elder abuse.

MORE Queensland Government money is needed to fund the expansion of legal services which are desperately required to deal with the increasing number of reported cases of elder abuse and people seeking legal support.

Over the last five years the numbers in Queensland have risen by 19%.

People aged over 65 are reaching out to community legal centres for a range of reasons, including financial abuse, psychological abuse, neglect and physical abuse, but the support services available are constrained by resources and funds.

Community Legal Centres Queensland director James Farrell said elder abuse was a new wave of violence which was notoriously under-reported.

"It's not clear how prevalent elder abuse is in the community, but as more people become aware of the support services that are available and as the stigma reduces around issues of elder abuse and domestic violence, people are more prepared to seek help and get the support that they need," Mr Farrell said.

The problem in Queensland is that there isn't enough support resources and money to deal with this significant community elder well-being issue.

Seniors legal and support services in Queensland are provided in five centres - Brisbane, Townsville, Cairns, Hervey Bay and Toowoomba.

These community legal centres respond to enquiries from within their communities, but don't have the resources to respond to enquiries from other parts of Queensland.

The alternative for an older person to call the state-wide Elder Abuse Prevention Unit service.

"Because of the particular vulnerabilities of many older people, they need face-to-face help and integrated local services, and that's what is needed across Queensland," Mr Farrell said.

"The Queensland parliamentary enquiry into financial abuse of older people recommended state-wide coverage of those services, so a significant investment is required from the state government," he added.

From July, the Federal Government will cut funding to community legal centres across Australia by 30%.

ADVERTISEMENT

TUGUN THEATRE COMPANY

WAIT UNTIL DARK

By Fredrick Knott
Directed by Annie Lotocki

Murder, secret identities, and a switchblade named Geraldine set the stage for this knuckle-duster thriller that will have you glued to your seat.

February 9-25 - Thurs, Fri, Sat at 7:30pm (QLD Time)
Matinees 11th and 18th at 2pm

Tugun Village Community Centre 414 Coolangatta Road TUGUN

JUST IN

Elder Abuse reports on the rise in Queensland

DIGITAL EDITION: Seniors Northern NSW, Feb 2017

Learn how to get the best electricity price

Vale Ena Featherstone - you will be missed

Ballina Naval & Maritime Museum houses rich history

New technology reduces power bill by 92% but there's a catch

"Community Legal Centres Queensland is calling on Malcolm Turnbull and George Brandis to reverse this decision to ensure people experiencing elder abuse get the legal help they need and the protection they deserve," Mr Farrell said.

For more information on elder abuse or if you have concerns on this issue, please call Elder Abuse Prevention Unit on 1300 651 192 or go to www.eapu.com.au.



News Corp Australia © NCA Specialist Media Pty Ltd 2017. Unauthorised reproduction is prohibited under the laws of Australia and by international treaty.