

Elder Abuse: developing integrated responses to the abuse and mistreatment of vulnerable populations

Dr Barbara Blundell

Aging & Society: Seventh Interdisciplinary Conference
University of California, Berkeley, USA
4th November 2017

Curtin University is a trademark of Curtin University of Technology
CRICOS Provider Code 00301J

1

Overview

- Background and context
- Elder Abuse: definitions and characteristics
- Exploring links with other forms of abuse
- Pros and cons of 'siloed' approaches
- Life-span approach linked to human rights discourse



Elder Abuse: developing integrated responses

Curtin University is a trademark of Curtin University of Technology
CRICOS Provider Code 00301J

4 November 2017

2

Background & Context



- Previous work and research
- Work of colleagues
- Increased national focus on:
 - Family and domestic violence
 - Childhood sexual abuse in institutions
 - Abuse and mistreatment of people with disabilities
 - Elder abuse

Elder Abuse: developing integrated responses
Curtin University is a trademark of Curtin University of Technology
 CRICOS Provider Code 00301J

24 November 2017



3

Definitions and Characteristics of Elder Abuse

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.

(WHO/INPEA, 2002, p. 3)

- Types of abuse: Financial (42%) Psychological (35%), Neglect (10%), Physical (8%), Social (5%), Sexual (0.1%)
- Perpetrators (trust): 95% family members
 - Daughter/Son - 72%, Spouse/partner - 11%, Grandchild - 6%, Other relatives - 3%, Friends - 3%, Informal carer - 2%, Siblings - 2%, Intimate personal carer - 1% ('non-trust' abuse 15% of reported cases)

(figures from EAPU, 2016)

Curtin University is a trademark of Curtin University of Technology
 CRICOS Provider Code 00301J



4

Exploring Links



Elder Abuse: developing integrated responses
Curtin University is a trademark of Curtin University of Technology
CRICOS Provider Code 00301J

4 November 2017



5

Definitions: sub-types and overlaps



	<i>Elder Abuse</i> ¹	<i>Family and Domestic Violence</i> ²	<i>Abuse of People with Disabilities</i> ³
Care staff abuse	•	-	•
Chemical/restraint	Potential	?	•
Denial of access to legal remedies	Potential	Potential	•
Exploitation	Potential	Potential	•
Exposing children to effects of abuse	Potential	•	Potential
Financial/economic	•	•	•
Harm to animal or property	Potential	•	Potential
Institutional	•	-	•
Neglect	•	•	•
Psych/Emotional	•	•	•
Physical	•	•	•
Resident-to-resident	•	-	•
Sexual	•	•	•
Social/Cultural	•	•	Potential
Stalking	?	•	?

Elder Abuse: developing integrated responses
Curtin University is a trademark of Curtin University of Technology
CRICOS Provider Code 00301J

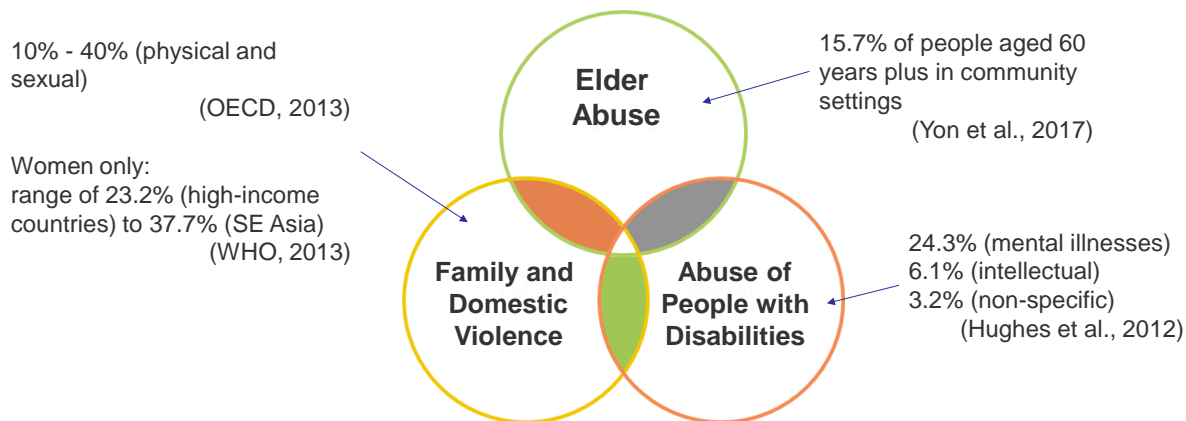
4 November 2017

Table data adapted from ¹APEA:WA (2013), ²Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (2014) OECD (2013), ³Department of Human Services (2017)



6

Global Prevalence Estimates



Elder Abuse: developing integrated responses
Curtin University is a trademark of Curtin University of Technology
CRICOS Provider Code 00301J

4 November 2017



7

Pros and Cons of Siloed Responses

Pros

- Allows focus on specific needs and issues of identified vulnerable groups
- Supported by current service design

Cons

- Overlapping vulnerabilities not highlighted = people lost in the gaps
Underestimation of extent of the issue
- Piecemeal approach = Missed opportunities for collaboration and learning

Footer text - slideshow title
Curtin University is a trademark of Curtin University of Technology
CRICOS Provider Code 00301J

30.07.2010

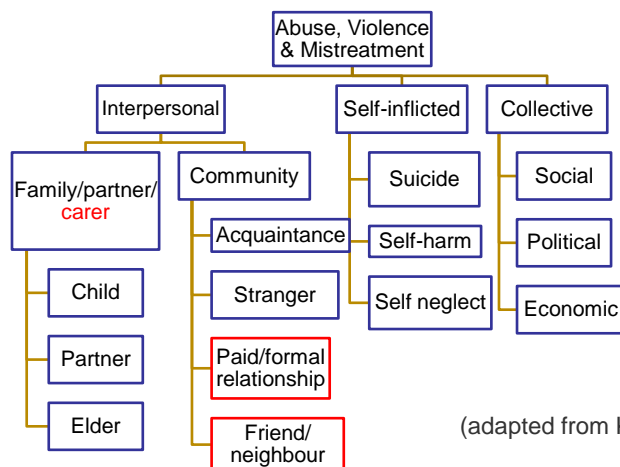


8

Conceptualising of abuse, violence and mistreatment across lifespan & society

Should there be emphasis on?

Vulnerability/
Disadvantage/
Diversity



(adapted from Krug et al. 2002, p. 1082)

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Article 3

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Article 18

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion;

Article 5

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

Article 27

Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.

(UN General Assembly, 1948)

Discussion



- Does elder abuse suffer from inherent ageism?
- How to best benefit from the work being done in other areas?
- Is there a better and more integrated way of responding to violence, abuse and mistreatment in our society?

Elder abuse: developing integrated responses
Curtin University is a trademark of Curtin University of Technology
 CRICOS Provider Code 00301J

4 November 2017



11

Contact

Dr Barbara Blundell

Lecturer | School of Occupational Therapy and Social Work
 Faculty of Health Sciences

Curtin University

Email | barbara.blundell@curtin.edu.au

Web | <http://curtin.edu.au>

Elder Abuse: developing integrated responses
Curtin University is a trademark of Curtin University of Technology
 CRICOS Provider Code 00301J

4 November 2017



12

References

APEA: WA. (2013). *Elder Abuse Protocol: Guidelines for Action*. Perth, WA: Department of Health/Department of Local Government and Communities.

Department of Communities Child Safety and Disability Services. (2014). *Preventing and Responding to the Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability*. Brisbane: Queensland Government. Retrieved from <https://www.communities.qld.gov.au/%2Fresources%2Fdisability%2Fsupport-services%2Fproviders%2Fpreventing-responding-abuse%2Fabuse-neglect-exploitationpolicy.pdf&usg=AFQjCNG2Ox2W3QuJq3cJNYdIEtuCLVsuRA&sig2=8vRFKa9kHR9RD5ZqJl7afQ&cad=rja>

Department of Human Services. (2017). *Family and domestic violence* [web page]. Retrieved from <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/subjects/family-and-domestic-violence>

Elder Abuse Prevention Unit. (2016). *Elder Abuse Prevention Unit: Year in Review 2016*. Cherside, QLD: Elder Abuse Prevention Unit.

Hughes, K., Bellis, M. A., Jones, L., Wood, S., Bates, G., Eckley, L., . . . Officer, A. (2012). Prevalence and risk of violence against adults with disabilities: A systematic review and meta-analysis of observational studies. *The Lancet*, 379, 1621-1629. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/s0140-6736\(11\)61851-5](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/s0140-6736(11)61851-5)

Krug, E. G., Mercy, J. A., Dahlberg, L. L., & Zwi, A. B. (2002). The world report on violence and health. *The Lancet*, 360(9339), 1083-1088.

Elder Abuse: developing integrated responses
Curtin University is a trademark of Curtin University of Technology
CRICOS Provider Code 00301J

4 November 2017



13

References

OECD. (2013). *SF3.4: Family violence*. [policy document]. Paris: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Retrieved from: https://www.oecd.org/els/soc/SF3_4_Family_violence_Jan2013.pdf

UN General Assembly. (1948). *Universal declaration of human rights*. 217 [III], Paris: United Nations.

World Health Organization. (2002). *The Toronto Declaration of the Global Prevention of Elder Abuse*. Geneva: World Health Organization. Retrieved from http://www.who.int/ageing/publications/toronto_declaration/en/

World Health Organization. (2013). *Global and regional estimates of violence against women: Prevalence and health effects of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence*. Geneva: World Health Organization. Retrieved from <http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/violence/9789241564625/en/>

World Health Organization. (2014). *Global status report on violence prevention 2014*. Geneva: World Health Organization. Retrieved from http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/status_report/2014/en/

Yon, Y., Mikton, C. R., Gassoumis, Z. D., & Wilber, K. H. (2017). Elder abuse prevalence in community settings: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Lancet Glob Health*, 5(2), e147-e156. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/s2214-109x\(17\)30006-2](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/s2214-109x(17)30006-2)

Elder Abuse: developing integrated responses
Curtin University is a trademark of Curtin University of Technology
CRICOS Provider Code 00301J

4 November 2017



14