Curtin University

Examining Elder Abuse using a socio-ecological lens: developing targeted interventions

Dr Barbara Blundell

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Elder abuse

14.6% Estimated Prevalence (60 years + in community)[1]

Sub-types: Financial (42%) Psychological (35%), Neglect (10%), Physical (8%), Social (5%), Sexual (0.1%)[2]

Perpetrators[2]:

    95% family members ('trust'); 15% 'non-trust'

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Risk Factors

(Socio)ecological model of risk of Elder Abuse[3,4]:

- **Individual:** dependency/disability, low income, gender, age, ethnicity/diverse background
- **Perpetrator:** mental health issues, substance abuse, dependency, criminal record, childhood FDV, Pan-violence, education, minority status, social isolation
- **Relationship:** family culture, relationship dynamics
- **Community:** geographical location, degree of service support and availability
- **Societal:** ageist stereotypes, cultural norms

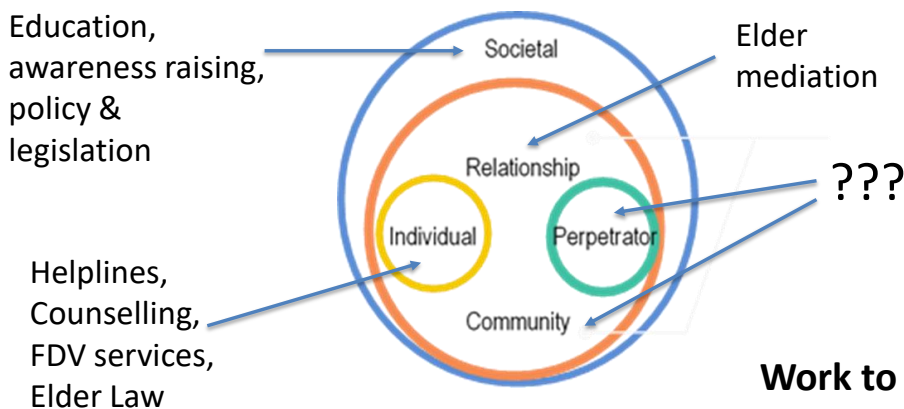AGEING: THE GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY · 50th AAG CONFERENCE · 08 - 10 NOVEMBER 2017 · CROWN PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA · AAG Australian Association of Gerontology

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Elder Abuse Responses

Education, awareness raising, policy & legislation

Elder mediation

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Helplines, Counselling, FDV services, Elder Law

Work to be done!!

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Service integration model

Primary prevention: information, education, screening

Secondary responses: Risk assessment, referral, advocacy, counselling, mediation, specialist legal/medical/financial

Tertiary statutory: Legal and Statutory responses

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References

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