

Preventing abuse Policy

Policy:

Our organisation is committed to the prevention of abuse and to the well-being of members. We put people's well-being and safety foremost. We recognise the prevalence of elder abuse and will actively work alongside contracted elder abuse services to keep seniors/kaumātua free from harm.

Practices:

We will

- promote training about elder abuse among members and in our communities.
- support isolated people to build new relationships with members who can look out for their welfare.
- wherever possible ensure two members support any one isolated person. This will help prevent any abuse and also support members from having to become solely responsible for the support of any one person.
- report any alleged abuse to the contracted provide of elder abuse services

Gifts: Members will not accept gifts worth over \$25 and all gifts need to be reported to the coordinator (see Gifts policy).

Elder abuse and neglect is 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.¹

Psychological Abuse: behaviour causing mental anguish, stress or fear.

For example:

- ridicule or threats
- harassment or humiliation
- preventing choice or decision-making
- withholding affection.

Financial Abuse: illegal or improper use of money, property or other assets.

For example:

- unauthorised taking of money or possessions
- misuse of power of attorney
- failure to repay loans
- use of home and/or utilities without contributing to costs
- scams that rely on establishing a relationship with the older person with the intention of exploiting their savings and/or assets, e.g. romance scams.

Physical Abuse: infliction of pain, injury or use of force.

For example:

- hitting, pushing, rough handling
- over-medication
- inappropriate use of restraints or confinement.

¹ Taken from Age Concern website 14/2/2018

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Neglect: not providing for physical, emotional or social needs.

For example:

- inadequate food, clothing, shelter
- lack of social contact, support
- health needs not attended to.

Sexual Abuse: non-consensual sexual acts or exploitive behaviours.

For example:

- inappropriate touching
- sexual acts with someone unable to give consent.

Institutional Abuse: a policy or accepted practice within an organisation (e.g. hospital or rest home) that disregards a person's rights or causes harm. For example:

- lack of respect for a person's culture or customs
- inappropriate rationing of continence products
- inflexible routines e.g. breakfast at 8 am in the dining room.

Policy approved by Trust on:	Due for review before:	Signed (co-chair):
25 June 2018	Sept 2020	