

ELDER ABUSE HITS CLOSE TO HOME

Help

Information

Support

Advice

Assistance

Guidance

**Age Concern
Elder Abuse and Neglect
Prevention Services**

AT A GLANCE

1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017

*This information has been taken from the
full report that covers the 20 Age Concern
EANP services contracted by MSD*



Serving the needs of older people

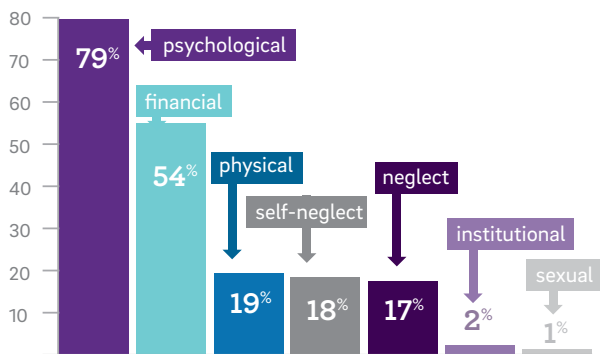
2295

referrals received where abuse was suspected.

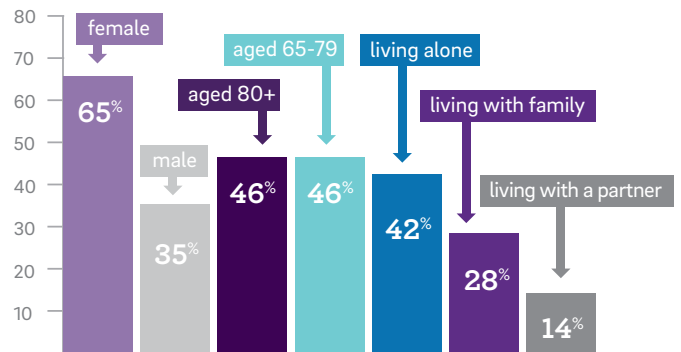
WHAT WE DO

We work closely with older people and their families to resolve issues of abuse. We respond to each referral, assessing the older person's situation then providing intervention and support.

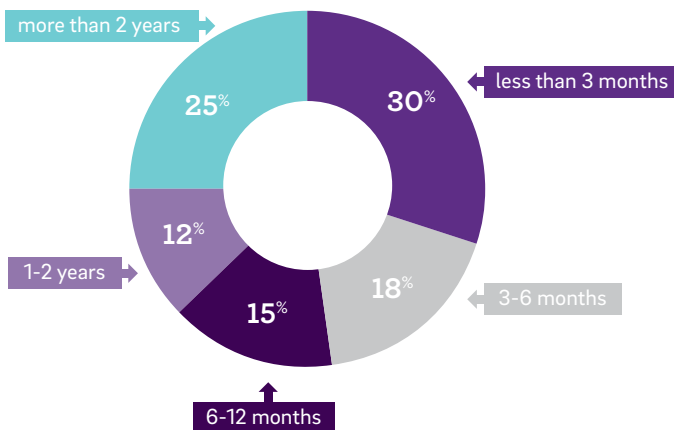
WHAT SORT OF ABUSE WAS FOUND?



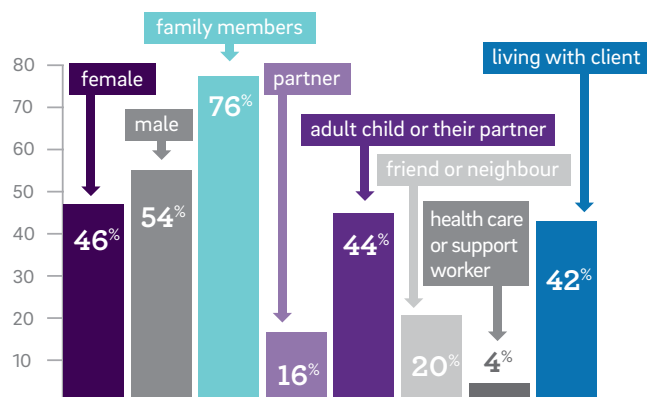
WHO ARE OUR CLIENTS?



HOW LONG HAS THE ABUSE BEEN GOING ON FOR?



WHO ARE THE ALLEGED ABUSERS?



Age Concern Elder Abuse and Neglect Prevention Services intervened in

1736

cases where elder abuse was identified.

OUTCOME

76%

76% of clients increased their wellbeing score, including safety from abuse.

2%

Only 2% of clients had a decrease in their wellbeing score.



EXAMPLES OF WORKING WITH OTHERS TO END ABUSE

WORKING TOGETHER:

To resolve issues of abuse, EANP staff work closely with other agencies such as health, legal and financial services as well as the whanau, police, counselling services and others to ensure a holistic approach that meets the needs of the older person. Some examples of our collaborative approach are:

Working with the needs assessment service and home support agency to employ a paid carer for an older woman with dementia so that her husband could go grocery shopping and not have to tie her in her chair while he was away.

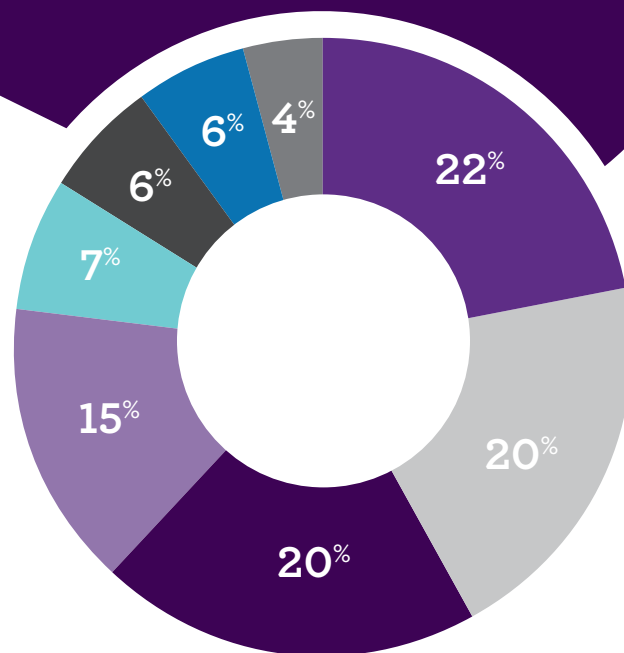
Working with Police to support an older man they found wandering in streets carrying cash and giving money to any "mates" who asked him. As he was afraid of forgetting his pin number, it was important to also work with his bank, iwi health provider and community police officer to increase his safety at his home and in his community.

Working with City Council, Public Health and Fire Services to support an older woman to clean her house so that she could return to live at home following hospitalisation for a broken leg as it transpired that her hoarding clutter had led to her fall.

Working with a counsellor, district nurses and community worker from Salvation Army to support an older man to find long lost relatives who could be supportive of him. Since being moved into a private boarding house following his discharge from a mental health institution years earlier, he had been repeatedly bullied and abused by other guests.

WE RECEIVED REFERRALS FROM

21% from family members, 19% from the older person themselves, 16% from health workers, 16% from Police, 10% from a friend or neighbour, 8% from home support agencies and rest homes, 8% from other agencies.



CLIENT FACTORS THAT MAY HAVE INCREASED VULNERABILITY

- inadequate support
- cognitive impairment
- social isolation
- poor physical health
- financial stress/dependency
- poor mental health
- grief, loss, depression
- challenging behaviour, substance abuse

ELDER ABUSE EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

WHAT DID WE DO?

We provide education and awareness, promoting respectful practices and ways to reduce the incidence of elder abuse.

We held education sessions for: **6,910 PEOPLE**

60 sessions for community and government agencies

192 sessions for aged residential care workers

68 sessions in education institutions

28 sessions for home support agency workers

62 sessions for health professionals


81 sessions for other agencies

75% More than three quarters of alleged abusers are family members

50% More than half of the alleged abusers are adult children or grandchildren

50 / 50 Alleged abusers are as likely to be female as male

Report compiled by
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We have held **1145** public awareness activities to raise awareness of elder abuse and neglect, such as:

195 social media posts



125 TV and radio broadcasts



41 articles in newspapers and magazines



784 network meetings, advertising campaigns, expos and displays



What we do Matters:

It is valuable for all communities to know that those experiencing elder abuse can access confidential and professional support services to regain their personal safety and wellbeing and that Age Concern Staff can provide both intervention and education.

A group of friends saw a terrible story on TV about an older person being abused, they talked about it at their midweek bowls 'roll up'. Nobody they knew would treat their older parents like that, so they thought it must be a media 'beat up'. But then an article appeared in their local paper about Age Concern working with elder abuse and neglect issues in their own community.

At the next Rotary club meeting they asked for a guest speaker on the topic and approached Age Concern. The attendees were surprised that elder abuse is more common than they realised. They also got an understanding about why it was hard for those experiencing elder abuse to talk about it and instead cover upped their adult children's behaviour rather than admit abuse.

When this group were children most forms of abuse had been hidden, but in recent decades these topics were being discussed in public. This showed them the importance talking more openly about abuse for older people. Having learned about how elder abuse and neglect happens, they could share the information pamphlets with their families and friends. It made it easier for them to have conversations and pass on website details or call the local Age Concern elder abuse services to discuss any queries.