



Ageing in Victoria

Elder Abuse Prevention Strategy (EAPS)

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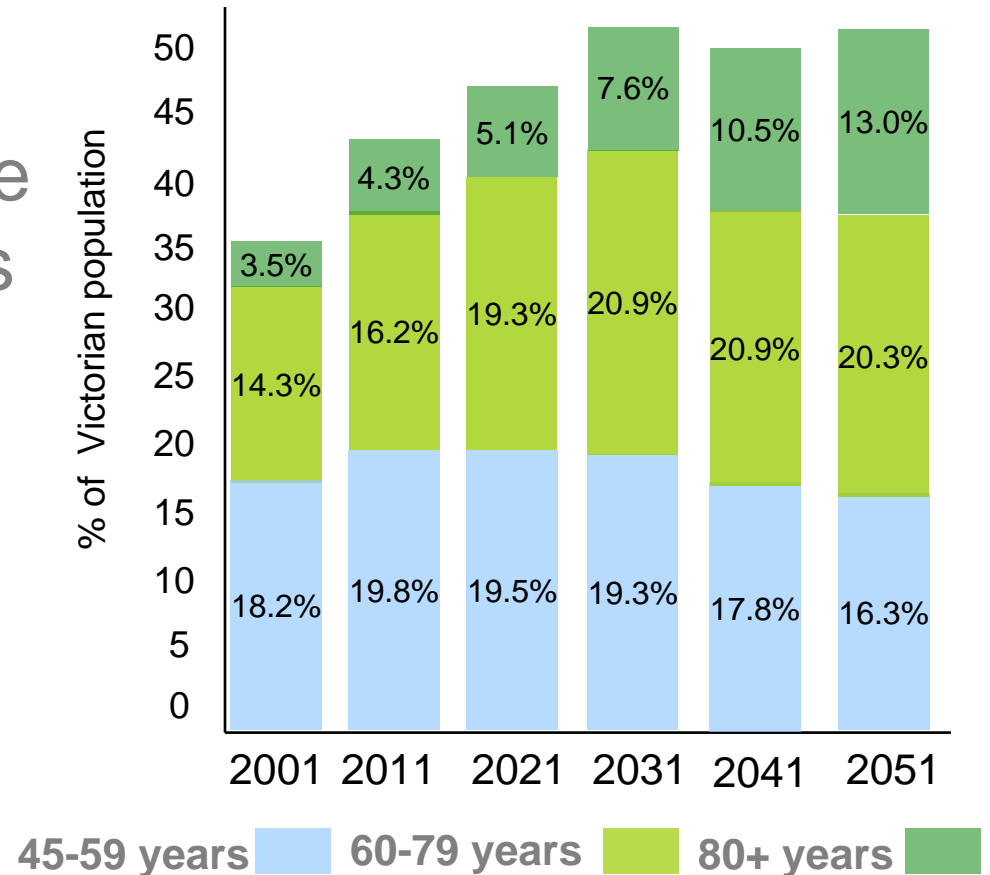
Manager Community Programs

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Ageing in Victoria: Population projections

We are witnessing a rise in the absolute numbers of people aged over 80, and in people living to very old ages





Dimensions of ageing

3 cohorts of seniors:

- Baby boomers (45 – 60 year olds)
- People in their third age (the “younger old” – 60 – 79 years)
- People in their fourth age (the “older old” – 80 years and older)



Ageing in Victoria Policy Framework

- Good health and wellbeing
 - Healthy lifestyles
 - Independence and access to services
- Liveable, safe and sustainable communities
 - Planning and housing
 - Mobility and transport
- Economic and social participation
 - Workforce and skills
 - Rights and social inclusion



Policy approach

- Human rights approach
- Consistent with the Victorian Human Rights Charter
- Empowerment model



Policy approach

➤ Legislative protections

- *Family Violence Protection Act 2008*

(s6) Meaning of *economic abuse*

For the purposes of this Act, ***economic abuse*** is behaviour by a person that is coercive, deceptive or unreasonably controls another person, without the second person's consent—

- (a) in a way that denies the second person the economic or financial autonomy the second person would have had but for that behaviour; or
- (b) by withholding or threatening to withhold the financial support necessary for meeting the reasonable living expenses of the second person or the second person's child, if the second person is entirely or predominantly dependent on the first person for financial support to meet those living expenses.

(s8) Meaning of *family member*

For the purposes of this Act, a ***family member***, in relation to a person (a ***relevant person***), means—

- (c) a person who is, or has been, a relative of the relevant person;

For the purposes of this Act, a ***family member*** of a person (the ***relevant person***) also includes any other person whom the relevant person regards or regarded as being like a family member if it is or was reasonable to regard the other person as being like a family member having regard to the circumstances of the relationship.



Definition – Elder Abuse

Any act occurring within a relationship where there is an implication of trust, which results in harm to an older person. Abuse may be physical, sexual, financial, psychological, social and/or neglect.

Australian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (ANPEA) 1999



World Elder Abuse Awareness Forum June 15

Research indicates that elder abuse affects up to one in 20 older people, and that the most common type of abuse is financial.

A disturbing fact is that elder abuse is usually carried out by a trusted relative or close family friend.

A former Public Advocate, Julian Gardner and keynote speaker at the forum pointed out that “Abuses of rights can occur within families, where there is an expectation of trust”.



Elder Abuse Prevention Strategy Objectives

- Ensure the community is aware of the nature of elder abuse, that it is unacceptable
- Ensure the community is aware of preventative measures that can be taken and options available to address the abuse
- Support a community where older Victorians feel safe and confident and are included into the broader fabric of the community
- Ensure professionals are able to respond effectively to situations of abuse
- Ensure services respond in a coordinated and effective way to situations of abuse



Seniors Rights Victoria

Seniors Rights Victoria was established by the Victorian Government in 2008 to support senior Victorians with a free and confidential service that provides information, legal advice and referral.

Seniors Rights Victoria is on 1300 368 821 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Monday to Friday or visit www.seniorsrights.org.au

SRV provides a range of services, including:

- information, telephone assistance and referral support to older people experiencing abuse;
- legal advice;
- advocacy and support to older people and their families;
- community and professional education regarding older people's rights; and
- support to expand the capacity of existing community legal centres to address the legal needs of older people.



Seniors Rights Victoria

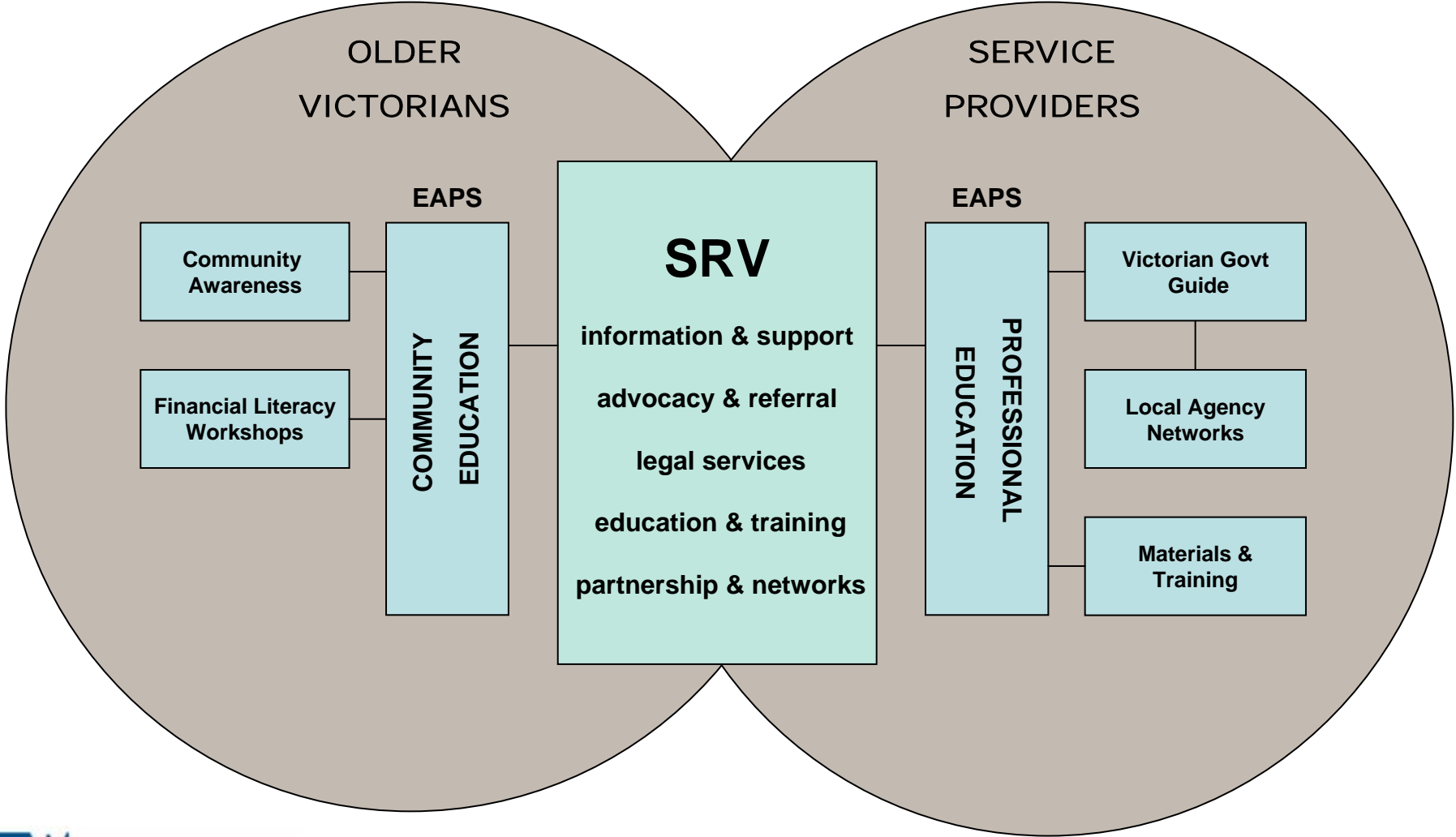
In its first 12 months of operation, SRV received more than 1300 calls:

- 43% raised the issue of financial abuse;
- 33% raised the issue of emotional/psychological abuse of senior Victorians; and
- 10% raised the issue of physical abuse.

During this period SRV managed:

- 119 Information calls;
- 439 cases where legal advice was provided; including
- 119 legal cases, of which 88 were closed

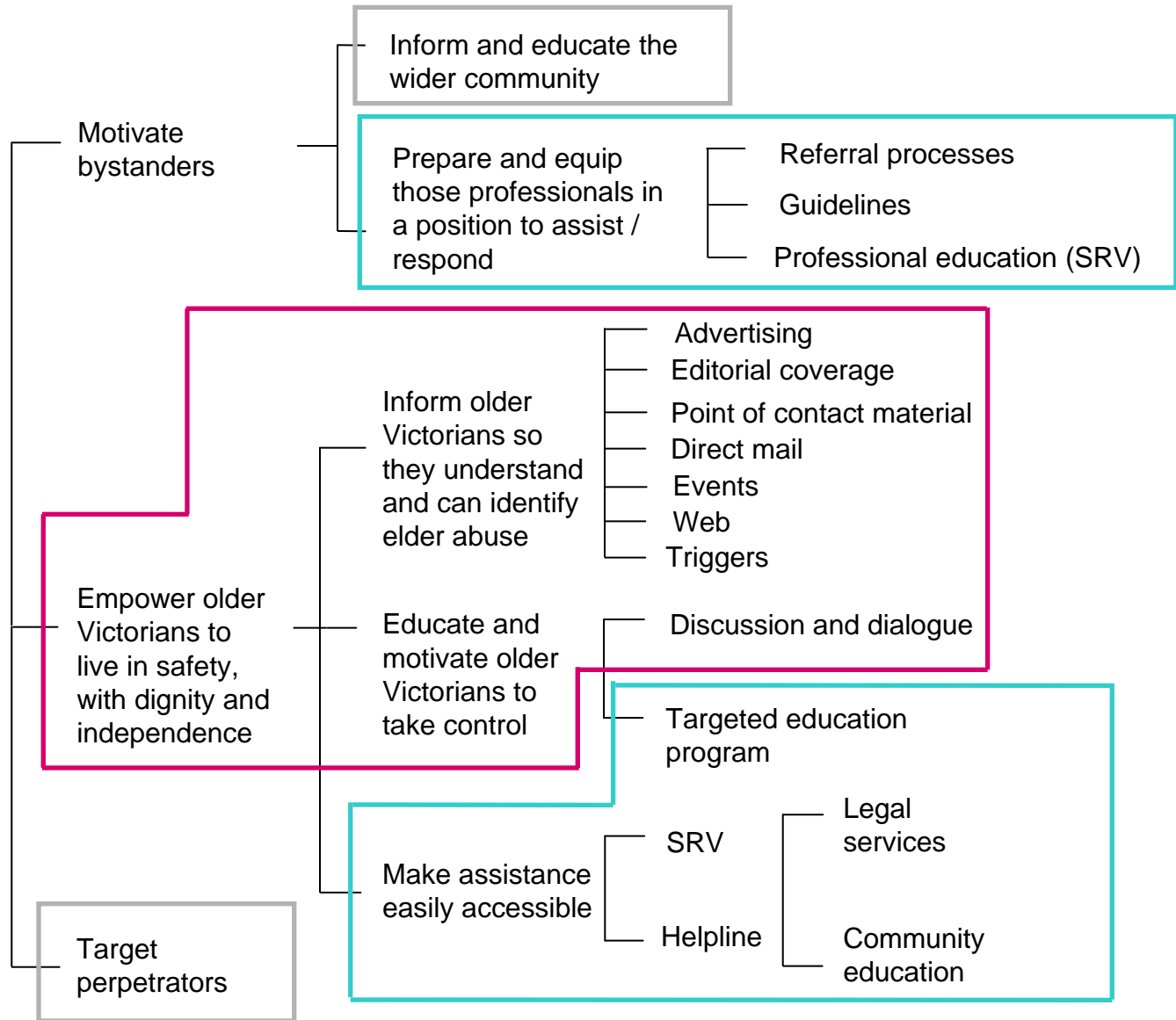
Elder Abuse Prevention Strategy Initiatives



Communications Strategy



How do we decrease the incidence, and prevent further occurrence of older Victorians, living independently, being abused?





Victorian Government Guide - with Respect to Age 2009

- During World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on 15 June 2009, the government released a practice guide “*With Respect to Age – 2009*” which will assist health and community aged care services develop more effective responses to instances of elder abuse.
- The guide, which is an essential tool for service providers, is being distributed through 45 Information sessions across Victoria from July to September '09.



Financial Literacy Workshops

Workshops will commence across Victoria in September 2009

Topics:

- Tracking your money – budgets and budgeting
- Developing a financial plan – making money work for you
- Managing money, managing credit, managing debt
- Scams, swindles and safety
- Retirement planning – financial matters
- Superannuation
- Going guarantor and loans to family and friends – pitfalls and problems
- Funerals – bonds, insurance and prepaid plans
- Where there's a will... and other estate planning considerations
- Where, what and how? Housing and accommodation options
- Reverse mortgages
- Carers and financial care



Professional Education Strategy



Sector	Organisations/agencies
<p>Health, Aged Care and Community Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Local government – community aged care •Community health – community aged care •Other community aged care providers •Health services – acute, sub-acute, allied health & mental health •Veteran’s services •Community nursing – bush nursing, district nursing •Aged Care Assessment Service (ACAS) •General practitioners/nurse practitioners •Pharmacists •Counselling services •Hospital Admission Risk Program (HARP) •Supported accommodation •NGOs providing health & community services •CALD organisations •Family violence/domestic violence services •Sexual assault services
<p>Justice and Advocacy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Police •Community legal services •Office of the Public Advocate (OPA) •Court services – social workers, counsellors, etc.



Key messages

- Senior Victorians, as do people of all ages, have a right to be treated with respect and to be safe in their homes
- Elder abuse can occur in all areas of society, regardless of location, socioeconomic and health status, age, culture, gender, sexual identity, ability, ethnicity or religion
- Senior Victorians are encouraged to take action to prevent abuse or mistreatment in a relationship
- Taking action to overcome elder abuse is a shared responsibility – government, the community, families, business, and professionals working together