



Elder Abuse Action Australia

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**18 SEPTEMBER 2018**

### **EAAA Co-Chairs: Diedre Timms and Russell Westacott**

Elder Abuse Action Australia is the nation's peak group representing multiple sectors in the fight to prevent elder abuse in Australian society. EAAA is a new body launched by the Commonwealth Attorney-General Hon Christian Porter MP in June 2018. EAAA has an emerging membership base from the legal, health, advocacy, human rights and aged-care sectors.

Elder abuse is systemic across Australian society. It is estimated that 10% of all older Australians experience abuse of some kind. That's almost half a million people. Abuse can be perpetrated in many forms and almost always by people who the older person trusts.

Around 250,000 older Australians are in residential aged care facilities. Another 925,000 older people receive aged-care services in their own homes. That's more than one million older Australians who place their trust and faith in aged care service providers every day of the year.

It is unacceptable that, that trust can be breached in the ways we have seen on ABC's Four Corners episode screened on September 17, 2018.

Elder abuse in all its forms must be stopped.

EAAA co-chairs, Ms Diedre Timms and Mr Russell Westacott, welcome the Prime Minister's announcement of a Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety. EAAA also welcomes other recent government initiatives such as the recent strengthening of the Aged Care Quality Agency. However, it is clear that further reforms of the sector are needed. The Royal Commission must be a catalyst for change.

Timms said: "Given the prevalence of elder abuse is about 10% of all older Australians – affecting almost half a million people – we welcome the government's recent announcement of a National Plan to tackle elder abuse more broadly across the community and now this announcement of a Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety. That said, these initiatives must translate into real actions that stop abuse and neglect. Elder abuse in all its forms must be stopped."

Westacott said: "Elder abuse occurs within our society because of the perverse nature of ageism. EAAA plans to address the systemic nature of ageism as our network grows and more people and organisations join to add to our collective national voice."

**For comment, please contact:**

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**A national voice to end elder abuse**

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