

EAAA Member Profile



Organisation: Elder Mediation Australasian Network (EMAN)

Website: <https://elder-mediation.com.au/>

Chair: Professor Dale Bagshaw
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0408 805 641

What services does your organisation provide to respond to the abuse and mistreatment of older people?

The EMAN website has many links to services that respond to the abuse and mistreatment of older people. Our elder mediation training includes education and training on the nature and effects of elder abuse, screening for elder abuse, intervening where older people are at risk of abuse, and referring to appropriate services.

Why is the work your organisation does so important to the people in your community?

Elder mediators can assist older people, their families, and significant others with difficult conversations, to make plans, and to reach outcomes to disagreements – outcomes that work for the older persons, respect their rights, and enhance their safety.

EMAN aims to be the network of choice for matters relating to elder mediation in the Australasian region. Our website aims to:

- Raise awareness of elder mediation and the activities and services of mediators and others who are members of EMAN.
- Provide information and knowledge about elder mediation for dispute resolution practitioners, or other professionals and people wishing to access elder mediation and related services.
- Provide links to publications, conferences, and other events and to relevant resources, services, and websites.

What are the outcomes your organisation is seeing as a result of its work?

EMAN aims to:

- Raise awareness of elder mediation.
- Build the knowledge base of elder mediators.
- Develop professional ethics, standards, and certification for elder mediators.
- Encourage referrals to relevant services, including mediation and other services tailored to the circumstances of older people in Australasia, including those concerned with elder abuse.

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What are some of the areas that are still being overlooked but could make a big difference in the elder abuse space?

Ageism is rife in Australia and underpins many if not most forms of elder abuse. More research and resources need to be funded to tackle ageism and raise awareness of the nature and effects of elder abuse.

What challenges are common across a range of services when it comes to supporting older people?

One of the most common challenges is to find ways of enabling older people who are experiencing abuse, in particular from a family member or carer, to safely report the abuse and access a service that will assist them.

Why did your organisation choose to be a member of EAAA?

Elder mediators are often asked to intervene in situations where a professional, family member, or significant other is concerned that an older person may be either at risk of being abused or may actually be being abused by a family member or carer. It is essential that elder mediators are specially trained to recognise and respond appropriately to all forms of abuse, to refer appropriately and where possible build a supportive network for the older person to prevent abuse from occurring or continuing.

Is there anything else you'd like to share about your organisation's work in the area of abuse of older people?

The EMAN Board is working closely with the Resolution Institute and the Elder Mediation International Network to develop professional standards and certification for elder mediators in Australia and New Zealand. This will ensure that anyone calling themselves an 'elder mediator' is trained, knowledgeable, and skilled in essential areas such as ageing and the family life cycle, family and intergenerational dynamics, elder abuse, capacity, elder law, and safeguarding the rights of older people.

Contact details

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About Elder Abuse Action Australia

<https://eaaa.org.au/>

The Elder Abuse Action Australia (EAAA) is the national advocate for eliminating elder abuse. Funded by the Attorney General's office, EAAA aims to address elder abuse and protect the rights of older Australians at both the grassroots and macro level.

EAAA believes in the rights of older Australians and our actions seek to eliminate elder abuse. Our campaigns, advocacy and policy development positively impact the lives of older Australians and their families, our communities and broader society.

We work with State and Territory bodies and authorities, sharing and co-ordinating information to develop a national understanding, framework and response for elder abuse.

Our mission: Be a national voice for action that eliminates elder abuse

Our vision: A society that respects and values older Australians, and is free from elder abuse

Our commitment

- Social justice and the rights of older people
- Respect for difference and inclusion
- Community collaboration to eliminate elder abuse
- Accountability and integrity
- Evidence-based practice and research
- Innovation and forward thinking

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. EAAA is committed to ensuring equitable and inclusive responses to end elder abuse for people with diverse characteristics and life experiences.