Australian Government
Australian Institute of Family Studies

AIFS

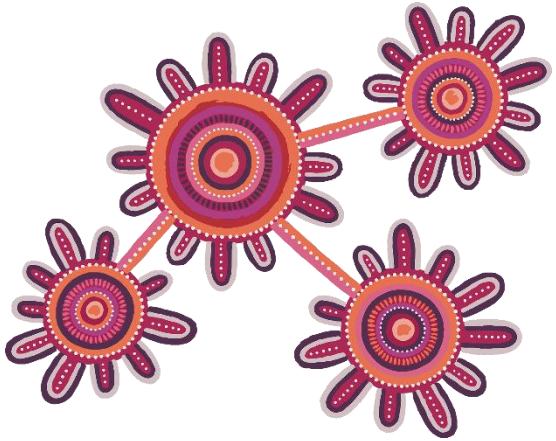
Understanding the abuse and mistreatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander older people

Insights from new research

Professor Victoria Hovane Tjallara Consulting and the University of Western Australia
Elena Campbell - Australian Institute of Family Studies

Australian Elder Abuse Conference, Gold Coast, 28 July 2026

Acknowledgement of Country



The Australian Institute of Family Studies acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognises their continuing connection to lands and waters. We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, and to Elders past and present.

Research design

Australian Government
Australian Institute of Family Studies
AIFS

The project involved:

1. **Consultations with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs)** across Australian states and territories, including metropolitan, regional and remote locations.

   In total, there were 30 consultations.

2. **Yarning circles and interviews** with **190 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander older people across Australia.**

3. **Desktop review** of relevant research literature published before this research project about the abuse and mistreatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander older people.

Fieldwork locations

Australian Government
Australian Institute of Family Studies

AIFS

Acknowledgements

Australian Government
Australian Institute of Family Studies
AIFS

Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department

Tjallara CONSULTING

The Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department

Research Lead: Professor Victoria Hovane

Research Partner: Ralph Mogridge

Members of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Project Advisory Group

Research participants and organisations circulating information and invitations to participate

Co-authors on the AIFS research reports and papers