Elder Abuse Response Principles

Respect for older people's rights, dignity, wishes and decisions	> Older people have the same rights and freedoms as other community members. Older people's decisions and wishes about finances, living arrangements, health care, lifestyle and relationships should be respected.
Empowerment, informed choice and self-determination	> Older people have the right to access information to help them make informed decision. Empowerment, independence and self-determination, and respect for personal risks and life choices made, are to be valued and supported.
Importance of relationships and community connections	> Acknowledge and respect an older person's existing relationships and wishes. With the exception of situations requiring responses to immediate risk or harm, access to information and services supportive of their wishes and relationships is to be actively supported.
Capacity for decision making	> Capacity to make decisions is presumed and actively supported; older people are supported to participate in their own decisions, for as long as possible.
Partnerships and collaborations	> No single department or agency is responsible for preventing and responding to abuse. More effective responses are achieved when agencies collaborate toward holistic and responsive multidisciplinary outcomes consistent with the older person's wishes.
Least invasive and applied incrementally	> Actions take into account risk to safety and wellbeing, freedom of choice and rights, and are implemented incrementally to minimise intrusion and harm.
Diversity informs responses	> All responses planned and implemented are informed by diverse cultural values and their impact on individuals and families and communities.

For more information

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