



**Geoff Lee**

Acting Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans  
Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Monday, 15 June 2020

### **HELP PUT A STOP TO ABUSE OF OLDER PEOPLE**

NSW communities are being encouraged to show their support today for some of the most vulnerable people on World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

Acting Minister for Seniors Geoff Lee said everyone deserves to live in safety and free from threats or violence.

“We all play a part in looking after seniors in our community and that starts with calling out acts of intimidation and violence,” Mr Lee said.

“Elder abuse is often a hidden problem and anyone with grounds to believe an older person is at risk of abuse, neglect or exploitation should immediately contact the Ageing and Disability Commission (ADC).”

NSW Ageing and Disability Commissioner Robert Fitzgerald, AM said too many older people are at serious risk of abuse and harm, even within their own family, home or community.

“As a society we must work together to end the abuse of older people by remaining engaged with them, valuing what they contribute to our lives and taking action if something does not seem quite right,” Mr Fitzgerald said.

“I would encourage anyone to contact us for information, support or to make a report because all reports are taken seriously.”

Since being established on 1 July 2019 the ADC has received more than 1700 reports and enquiries relating to older people.

Psychological harm was the most common form of alleged abuse reported to the ADC in relation to older people, with 751 cases reported to the ADC between 1 July 2019 and 30 April 2020. This was followed by financial abuse (682 cases), neglect (393 cases) and physical abuse (210 cases).

Contact the Ageing and Disability Abuse Helpline on 1800 628 221 or [nswadc@adc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:nswadc@adc.nsw.gov.au). In an emergency call 000.