

MEDIA RELEASE: EXPERTS SAY IT'S IN OUR HANDS AND STARTS HERE AT THE WEAAD CONFERENCE, ADELAIDE

15th June marks World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) globally and Aged Rights Advocacy Service (ARAS) is hosting its 14th conference to recognise the importance of the day at Stamford Grand Adelaide, Glenelg on Monday, 17th June, supported by the Honourable Stephen Wade MLC, Minister for Health and Wellbeing.

Ms. Carolanne Barkla, Chief Executive of ARAS said “the conference will highlight developments in the areas of elder abuse such the South Australian Adult Safeguarding Unit, the first such unit in the country, as well as national developments, in particular following on from the Australian Law Reform Commission Report 131 into elder abuse.”

A number of keynote speakers will highlight the important issues faced by the increasing number of older people being abused by loved ones and those close to them.

Elder abuse is any act which causes harm to an older person and is carried out by someone they know and trust such as a family member and friend.

Keynote speaker The Hon. Dr Kay Patterson AO, Age Discrimination Commissioner says that ‘elder abuse is a key issue of our times. Like other types of family violence, elder abuse now has a significant profile with strong interest from governments and the community’

Another keynote speaker Dr Duncan, Head of Unit for Older Persons' Mental Health Services, Northern Adelaide Local Health Network will be presenting on ‘Beyond Oakden: Building trust through failure, recovery and reform’. Duncan had a lead role in the Oakden Response Oversight Committee and chaired the state-wide working groups for the development of new models of care, staffing profiles and reducing restrictive practices project.

‘Older people are essential in the fabric of our society. It’s time for us to acknowledge their importance and recognise they are entitled to the respect of their communities and especially their families’ Ms. Barkla said.

On Monday, delegates will be wearing purple in many shapes and forms to raise awareness of elder abuse.

THERE'S NO EXCUSE FOR ABUSE!

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