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IN AN EMERGENCY DIAL: 000

GCDVPC Inc.

Counselling line 5532 9000

Open Monday, Tuesday

Thursday, Friday 9am—4.30pm

Wednesday 9am—1pm

Admin: 55 91 4222 Facsimile: 5571 1508

Website www.domesticviolence.com.au

PO Box 409 Southport QLD 4215

Other Useful Telephone Numbers

D V Connect Domestic Violence Line

1800 811 811 7 Days, 24hours

Women's Legal Service

1800 677 278 / (07) 3392 0670

Elder Abuse Prevention Unit

1300 651 192

Qld Aged & Disability Advocacy

1800 818 338

Violence Against Older Women

It Does Happen



Abuse Against Older Women—It Does Happen

Many older women experience family violence from their family or caregivers. The term of:

A powerful way someone may act on. Fear can be created by destruction of property, threats or any other behavior to intimidate.

Behaviors range from hitting, pushing to homicide. Physical neglecting to provide for basic hygienic living conditions

Includes unwanted touching, comments, indecent acts and abuse.

Includes name calling, put down games and any other behavior that undermines her confidence and

Includes misusing or illegally taking possessions or money, withholding pressure to sign over property or misusing a Power of

Many older women have lived with the same partner for many years and the abuse may have been occurring since they were first married or commenced living together. Some other older women also experience abuse from other family members. The abuse may be seen like a 'normal' part of family life.

For many other women, violence and abuse enters their lives in later years. They may be starting a new relationship following a death or divorce. Their previous relationship/s may not have been abusive and they may find themselves the victim of domestic violence for the first time, in later years.

No matter how long the abuse has been occurring the use of **Violence Is NEVER OK** It is not the victim's fault that they are being abused nor is it their responsibility to stop the violence

There are many reasons older women may find it difficult or impossible to leave an abusive partner or family member. Many older women, because of generational values may consider what's happening to them normal, because of

Older women may not seek help because:

May not identify as abused: Abuse against older women is often well hidden, has been ongoing for many years and many may not call their experiences as domestic or family violence.

Fear: They may be afraid of the consequences of intervention including, retaliation, appearing in court, leaving home, being placed in a home, divorce, becoming estranged from friends and other family members including grandchildren, and starting over.

Loss of Security: They may be physically, socially and financially dependent on the abusive partner / family member and are worried for the future.

Lack of Awareness: They may have lack of awareness of their rights and services available.

Medical Condition: Some older women may have a physical or mental disability which could make it more difficult for them to access support. This is further exacerbated if the abusing partner/ family member is also their carer.

Language & Cultural Barriers: Women