



**AGE
CONCERN
NEW ZEALAND**

He Manaakitanga
Kaumātua Aotearoa

Elder Abuse: Whose perspective?



Who experiences elder abuse?

-
- a) Older couples?
 - b) Older gay people?
 - c) Older men?
 - d) Older person living alone?
 - e) Older women?



Elder abuse & neglect occurs...

- a) In one incident
- b) In sustained series over 12 months
- c) In two or more incidents
- d) When help is not given



In our mahi, which is the biggest group to abuse older people?

- a) Adult children?
- b) Friends and Neighbours?
- c) Grandchildren?
- d) Paid caregivers?
- e) Partners?
- f) Scammers?



Elder abuse and neglect occurs when...

- a) Living in own home
- b) Living in rest home
- c) Living in retirement village
- d) Living with friends / relatives



In which communities does elder abuse and neglect happen?

- a) Asian
- b) City / urban
- c) European / Pakeha
- d) LGBTIQ2 / Rainbow / Takatāpui
- e) Māori
- f) Pacific
- g) Refugee / Migrant
- h) Rural / Farming



Is elder abuse & neglect a crime?

- a) Always
- b) Sometimes
- c) Never



Consider:

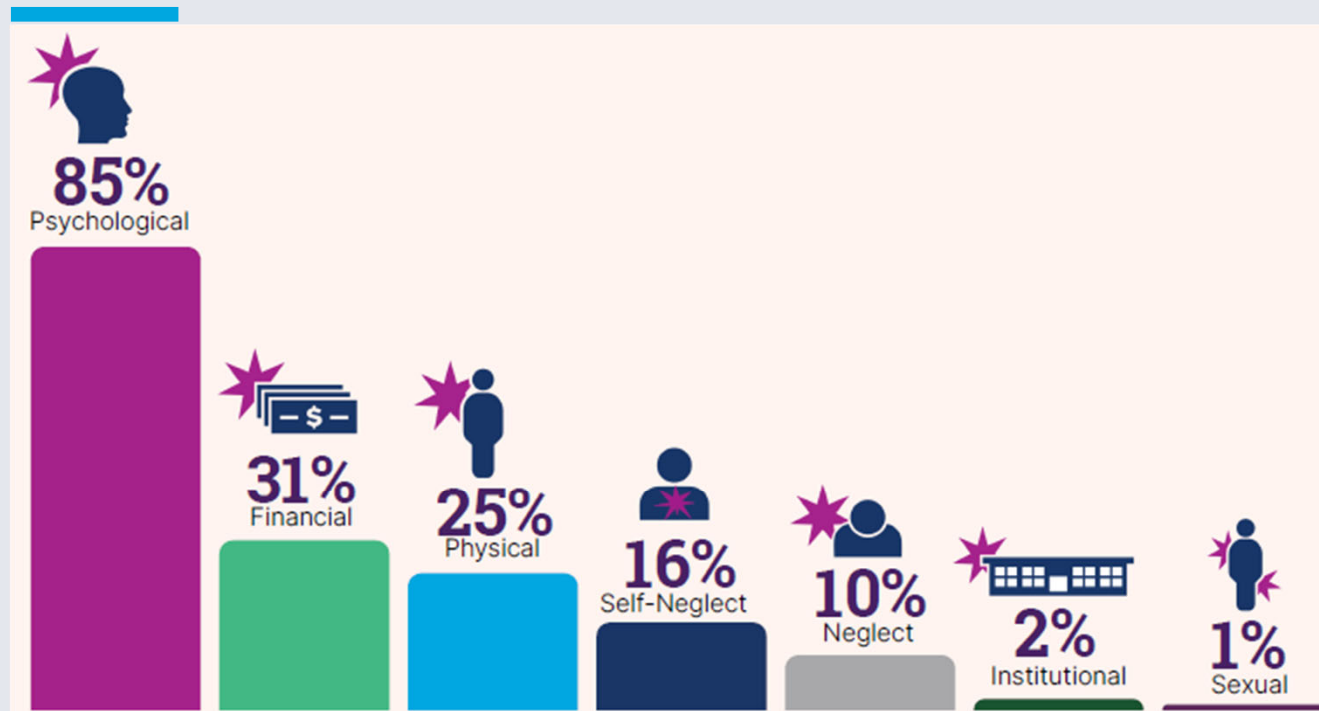
Additional ->
consideration



2002 Toronto Declaration on the Global Prevention of Elder Abuse



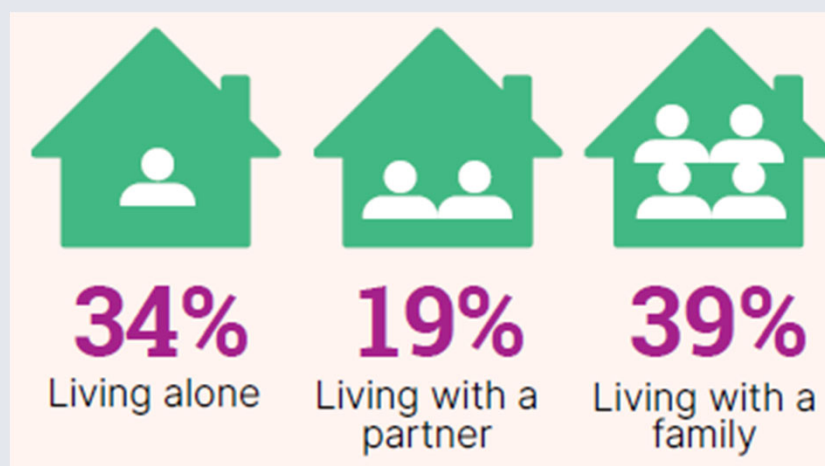
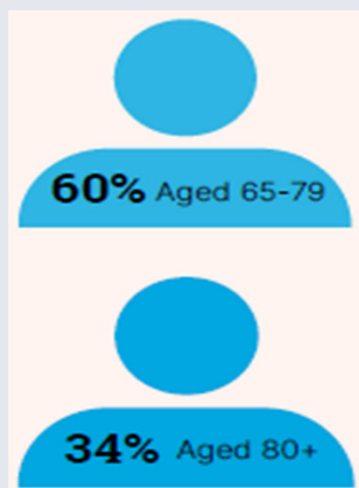
Types of Abuse



ACNZ database statistics 2023-24



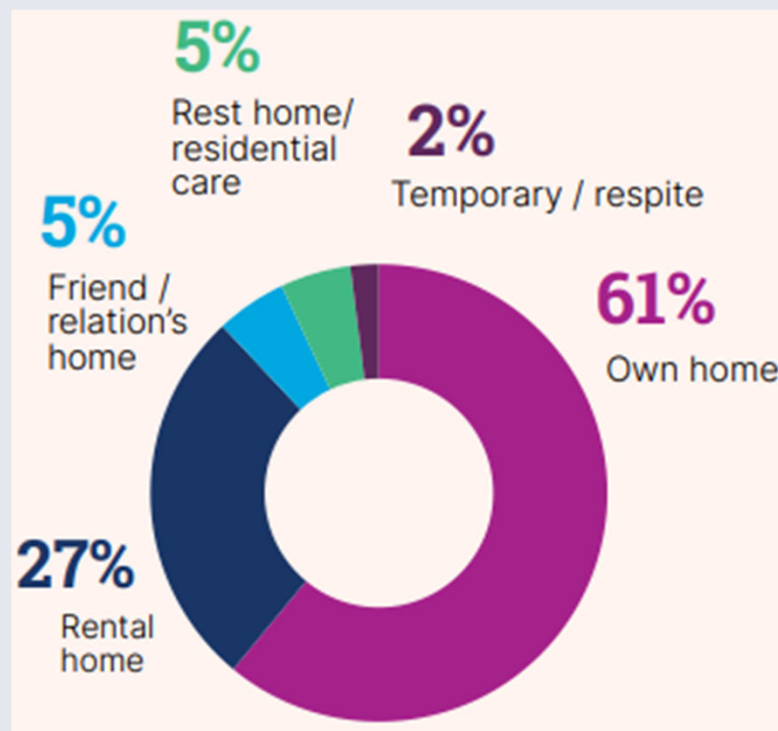
Who experiences elder abuse?



ACNZ database statistics 2023-24



Where Elder Abuse Occurs



ACNZ database statistics 2023-24





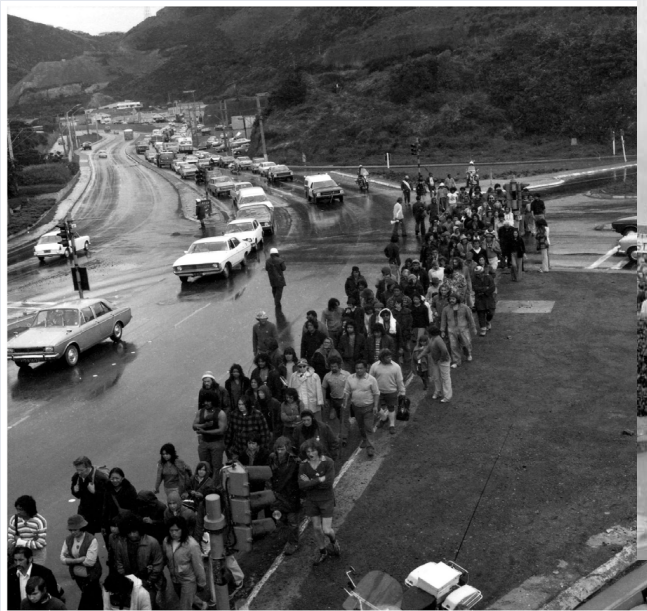
“Elder Abuse” in Aotearoa

1970's.



“Elder Abuse” in Aotearoa

1970's to 1980's



What's in a name?

Ancient

Boomer

Elder

Elderly

Geriatric

Gold Card Holder

Kaumātua

Older adult

Older person

Pensioner

Retiree

Senior





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Why does elder abuse happen?



What's in a behaviour?

- **Arguing**
- **Blaming**
- **Borrowing**
- **Coercing**
- **Joking**
- **Manipulating**
- **Minimising**
- **Sweet talking**
- **Taking**
- **Threatening**

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Values

AGEISM works against older people in

- Negative stereotypes
- Prejudice
- Discrimination



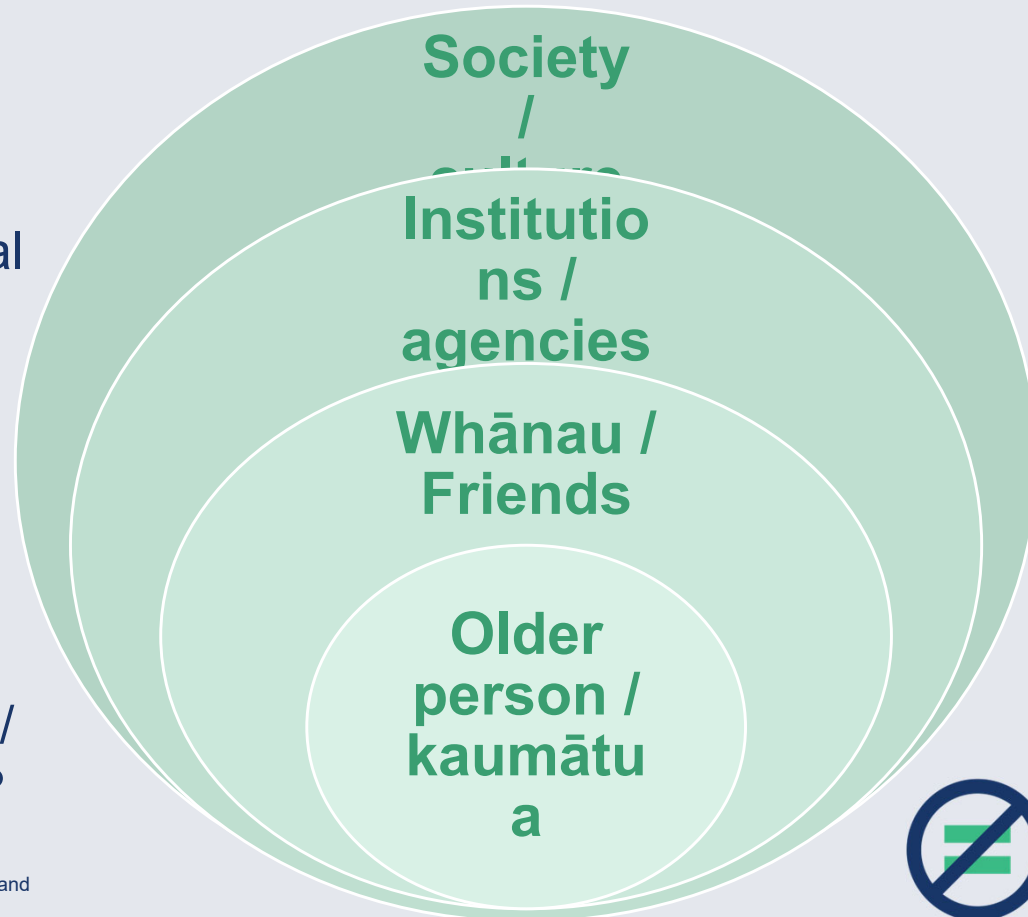
Ageist attitudes in public discussions

Ageist attitudes come through in family discussions



Contexts of elder abuse?

- Ageism
- Organisational goals
- Prioritising own needs
- Own choices / preferences ?



Ageing involves change

Older people have changes and losses

- partners, loved ones, friends and peers
- mobility, vision, hearing, memory
- reduced social connection -> isolation / loneliness
- increased reliance on others



Older people are

Diverse in

- ethnicity,
- gender,
- sexual orientation,
- languages used,
- health status,
- beliefs
- priorities
- life experience.



BUT NOT AUTOMATICALLY VULNERABLE



Why not tell about elder abuse?

-
- blame self, low self-esteem, don't want to make a fuss
 - ashamed that it's from someone known and loved
 - cognitive or physical health barriers
 - fear it will get worse if complain
 - isolated: who to trust or tell?
 - depend on their support



Elder abuse can reduce when we:

- Are valued for who we are and how we identify
- Receive the care and support we need
- Make our own decisions and are treated fairly
- Are included in conversations and part of our community
- Have our physical, spiritual, cultural, emotional needs met
- Live safely, free of exploitation and abuse



Human Rights - Principles

“Older persons should be able to live in dignity and security and be free from exploitation and physical or mental abuse”.

Principal 17

United Nations Principles of Older Persons. 1991



Human Rights - Principles

“Older people should have access to adequate food, water, shelter, clothing and health care through the provision of income, family and community support and self help.” (1)

“Older persons should be treated fairly, regardless of age, gender, racial or ethnic background, disability or other status, and be valued independently of their economic contribution.” (18)

United Nations Principles of Older Persons. 1991



Human Rights → Convention?

Why do we need a convention for older people?

Age discrimination and ageism are tolerated across the world, and older people experience discrimination and the violation of their rights at family, community and institutional levels



One takeaway ?

- ✓ Respects the rights of older people
- ✓ Celebrates older people
- ✓ Responds to growing diversity of older people
- ✓ Values old people – makes it easier to participate
- ✓ **Connects people across all ages**



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