



GLEN EIRA
CITY COUNCIL

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 10 June 2022

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day — 15 June

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (15 June) is aimed at reminding the community that human rights do not diminish as people get older and that everyone has the right to live with dignity and respect.

Elder abuse is any act which causes harm to an older person and is carried out by someone they know and trust.

Council will be showing its support for *World Elder Abuse Awareness Day* by lighting Town Hall's garden in purple — the symbolic colour representing the campaign — from Sunday 12 June to Saturday 18 June.

A 2021 report by Elder Rights Advocacy noted that *“during the pandemic older people have become more vulnerable to abuse, as their children may have had to rely on older family members for financial support.”*

Glen Eira Mayor Cr Jim Magee said recent figures compiled by Monash Health show that unemployment and lockdown have led to an increase in elder abuse. This is especially so for inheritance impatience, a driver of elder financial abuse.

“As a community we should look after each other. Regardless of age, we should want to live in a world where we are safe, equal and respected,” he said.

“We should all expect to have our choices heard, our experiences celebrated, and our contributions welcomed.”

Like other forms of family violence, elder abuse often occurs behind closed doors, so it's important for loved ones to watch out for signs, listen and offer help.

If you or someone you know is experiencing elder abuse, contact Seniors Rights Victoria's free, confidential hotline on 1300 368 821 or visit www.seniorsrights.org.au

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