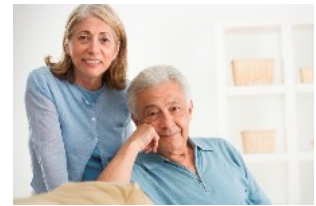


Research Directions

Office of Research Services

Empowering Elder Law

Professor Carolyn Sappideen, School of Law, is leading research into laws to protect the elderly. This NSW Department of Ageing Disability and Home Care grant aims to develop an updated interagency protocol on elder abuse.



The number of Australians 65 years of age and older is rising rapidly and is expected to rise from 12% of the population, at the present time, to 26% by the year 2051. An ageing population is tied to many social issues, particularly health and housing, which also have legal dimensions. In particular, estate planning, access to justice and decision making powers. There are also forms of abuse that may be experienced by older persons, including sexual, psychological, emotional and physical.

'The NSW Government has convened an interagency working group to review and ensure best practice in relation to its older residents' said Professor Sappideen. 'Our research will commence with a comprehensive literature review on elder abuse and facilitate focus groups with key personnel across NSW. On the basis of this groundwork, a review of the "Abuse of Older People Interagency Protocols" and the Department's "Legal Issues Manual" will be done with all interagency protocols updated accordingly.'

Project Title: *Development of Elder Abuse Protocols*

Funding has been set at: \$26,969

August 2006.

Contact Details

c.sappideen@uws.edu.au

<http://www.uws.edu.au/about/acadorg/clb/sl/research/elderlaw/elderlawreview>