



**ANDREW CONSTANCE MP**  
Minister for Ageing  
Minister for Disability Services

**PRU GOWARD MP**  
Minister for Family and Community Services  
Minister for Women

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Wednesday June 15 2011

### **ABUSE OF ELDERS MUST STOP**

As many as 50,000 people aged over 65 in NSW are at risk of being abused or neglected, as Minister for Ageing Andrew Constance, and Minister for Family and Community Services Pru Goward, today marked World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

Mr Constance said the abuse of older people included psychological, physical or sexual, but the most common was financial abuse.

“This can include friends or family members taking money from a person’s bank account, or encouraging an older person to sell property such as real estate or a motor vehicle and accessing the profit.”

The Australian Institute of Criminology estimates that 4.6 per cent of the NSW population aged 65 years and over are victims of abuse or neglect.

“We can all do something to prevent the abuse of older people,” Mr Constance said.

“Looking out for each other can make a difference.”

Mr Constance and Ms Goward today launched the *As Life Goes On* DVD, that will form part of a grass roots campaign to promote respect for seniors in NSW.

The DVD will be distributed to around 200 local government authorities.

Ms Goward said that victims of abuse often suffered in silence.

“Help is available, but often older people are isolated and too afraid to speak out,” Ms Goward said.

“If anyone is concerned about a family member or neighbour, it’s important they follow up their concern by raising the issue with the appropriate authority, such as the police or The Aged-Care Rights Service.”

The Aged-Care Rights Service provides legal advice to financially disadvantaged older people in NSW and assistance in relation to Powers of Attorney and Enduring Guardianship issues.

Planning for later life by putting in place appointments such as a Power of Attorney or Enduring Guardianship is being promoted by a number of government and non-government agencies in NSW, including the NSW Trustee and Guardian and the Office for Ageing.

“It can be a great help and weight off someone’s mind if they know that when they can no longer make financial or personal decisions for themselves, someone they trust has been given the authority to make those decisions for them,” Ms Goward said.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day aims to raise community awareness of elder abuse and recognises the significance of elder abuse as a public health and human rights issue.

**People are encouraged to wear purple on the day.**

For more information on World Elder Abuse Awareness Day visit <http://inpea.net/>

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