

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Short Course Saves Precious Lives – Prevention of Older Person Abuse

Community Industry Group is pleased to announce the release of a free online ‘Micro Course’ focused on the prevention of older person abuse.

“Older person abuse takes many forms including, but not limited to physical, emotional and financial abuse,” said CEO of Community Industry Group, Nicky Sloan. “But like so many forms of relationship violence, it can be insidious and hidden from sight. This ‘Micro Course’ has been developed to enable people to recognise the signs of Older Person Abuse, and to give them strategies to address it or to report it.”

The release of the Micro Course has been timed to complement World Elder Abuse Awareness Day which was held this week. Community Industry Group participate in and support a number of Older Person Abuse Prevention collaborative groups including Shoalhaven Older Awareness Prevention (SOAP) and the Prevention of Older Person Abuse (POPA) based in the Illawarra. The NSW Ageing and Disability Commission (NADC) are also very supportive of these groups, and send representatives to all meetings to provide information and resources.

“We encourage any service providers to participate in the collaborative meetings,” Ms Sloan said. “But you don’t need to be a service provider to do our free online course. Family members, neighbours and friends of older people should all do this short training course, because they may very well be the only people who regularly see an older person, and who can see signs of abuse or neglect.”

The purpose of reporting signs of abuse is not always about punitive outcomes for the abuser. Early identification of the signs of abuse can result in interventions which assist both the older person and the people caring for them.

“Being a full time carer for an aging relative can be one of the most important, but also toughest jobs and loneliest jobs, anyone can do,” said Ms Sloan. “Early signs of abuse and neglect can be signals that a carer needs help. By reporting early, additional supports can be put in place which relieve pressure on a carer, or offer them some much needed respite from their caring duties.”

“Most importantly the training is designed so that we all share a consistent message to support the rights of older people and their right to live free from abuse,” Ms Sloan concluded.

For more information on prevention of older person abuse see our **free online micro course** [here](#).

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**About the Community Industry Group**

Community Industry (formerly known as Illawarra Forum) is the peak body working for community services and organisations in the South East of NSW. It supports community organisations, promotes expertise and innovation in community development, fosters industry development and provides advocacy for social justice.

Community Industry Group represents the non-government community services industry in the South East of NSW, and works closely with numerous organisations which provide support to vulnerable people across the region.