Recognise the signs

Elder abuse is often hidden and can be difficult to spot. If an older person you knew was being abused, would you be able to recognise the signs? Would you know how to respond?

Elder abuse can take different forms, including financial, psychological, physical and sexual abuse, as well as neglect.

Here are some common signs an older person may be experiencing abuse.

1. **neglect**
   - You might notice that an older person:
     - doesn’t have food in the fridge
     - looks malnourished
     - doesn’t have warm bedding or clothing in winter
     - has broken glasses, hearing aids, dentures, or walking frames that aren’t being replaced
     - is not attending medical or social appointments

2. **financial stress**
   - You might notice that an older person:
     - is unable to pay rent or for other necessities (food, medication, utilities)
     - has items in their house go missing
     - has someone move in with them who doesn’t contribute to household costs.
If you have concerns that you, or someone you know, may be experiencing abuse, call Relationships Australia Queensland on 1300 063 232

For more information about elder abuse and what type of support is available, visit www.raq.org.au

Acknowledgement: the content within this fact sheet has been reproduced in part from the website Compass: Guiding Action on Elder Abuse, an initiative of Elder Abuse Action Australia, available at www.compass.info.