12. Dr H Vidler

Full name Dr Helen Vidler

Question 1

All of these

Question 2

Question 3

Question 4

Elder abuse is an abuse of power first and foremost. Any situation where there is an imbalance of power offers the opportunity for misuse or abuse of that power.

Question 5

Question 6

Question 7

Question 8

Question 9

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Question 11

Question 12

Question 13

An inclusion of a screening instrument that helps identify whether or not the aged care person has been coerced or manipulated or is afraid

Question 14

Question 15

Question 16

Question 17

Reporting must be made mandatory

Question 18

Question 19

Question 20

Question 21

There should be mandatory reporting of suspected misuse/abuse of power

Question 22

Question 23

Question 24

Question 25

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Question 34

Question 35

Yes it can. Aged care persons have multiple contacts frequently with health care professionals whether in aged care or in the community. Therefore there are multiple opportunities for the health professional to screen the aged person similiar to screening that takes place for domestic and family violence.

Initially, there needs to be better education of health professionals so that the need for screening is recognised. Also, family members often accompany the aged person to health care appointments and therefore the aged person needs to be interviewed separately so that the family member (who may be misusing or abusing their power over the aged person) are not present to intimidate the aged person into keeping silent.

Question 36

Mandatory reporting of suspected misuse or abuse of aged persons needs to be included in all health professionals codes of practice

Question 37

Question 38

Question 39

Question 40

Question 41

Question 42

Yes there should be laws relating to the offence of abuse of aged persons

Question 43

Not currently

Question 44

There is considerable fear and dependency amongst aged persons and they will not report or confirm a report if they think there will be some retaliatory treatment metered out by the abuser. There needs to be protection provided

Question 45

All health professionals. They need to take the time to recognise that it is happening and is probably behind many of the ailments that aged persons present to health practitioners with in the first place

Question 46

Question 47

To provide advocates to assist aged persons

Question 48

Question 49

Yes, this would be good

Question 50

As a deterrent

Other comments?

To put these issues into practice, there would need also to be considerable funding provided to government agencies to investigate and report as well as to put into place alternative arrangements where the aged person is isolated and has no other carer except the abusive carer.

If we are serious about this issue, it needs funding properly

File