

## Preventing Financial Abuse

- Be clear with family members about how and when you intend to distribute inheritances
- Don't be pressured to hand over an inheritance prematurely
- Be clear about what you intend to do with your money, including assets like the family home
- Don't give others your PIN or other bank details
- Don't be pressured to draw down or sell financial assets, including your family home, if you don't want to
- Be clear if money is a loan or a gift
- Write out legal contracts if lending any money
- Think carefully about being a guarantor for someone, even a family member, as you could lose your home if they default on the loan
- Be clear about plans and expectations if moving into a shared living arrangement with family members. Document what your financial share in the new property is and make sure your name is on the Title. Seek independent legal advice.
- Think about what might happen to you if your adult child's living arrangements change, such as if they get divorced
- Discuss your expectations with regards to shared living arrangements. This could include whether you will be expected to cook or baby-sit
- Stay connected and engaged in the community around you. The more isolated an older person is, the more vulnerable they are to abuse
- Obtain and read carefully information on an enduring power of attorney. Think carefully about who you trust to have your enduring power of attorney
- Consider getting legal advice on an enduring power of attorney
- Keep a copy of your enduring power of attorney documents for yourself and inform other family members and friends about them
- Don't sign anything you have not completed yourself.

**If you are experiencing elder abuse or believe your friend or relative is, contact Advocare for information, advocacy and support.**

**Elder Abuse Helpline 1300 724 679**  
**Advocare can be contacted 9479 7566**  
**Freecall: 1800 655 566 (for country callers)**  
**Email: [rights@advocare.org.au](mailto:rights@advocare.org.au)**  
**Website: [www.advocare.org.au](http://www.advocare.org.au)**