# The mistreatment of older Aboriginal people

The mistreatment of older Aboriginal people is underreported. It’s so common that people think it’s normal behaviour, and many people don’t share their stories because they don’t want to hurt their family of feel shame. We need to care for older Aboriginal people, and the first step is recognising when they’re being mistreated.

What is mistreatment?

Older Aboriginal people are experiencing various forms of mistreatment and neglect by people they trust within community including:

* Humbugging (financial abuse)
* Threats of violence and emotional abuse
* Isolation from family and community
* Physical abuse
* Expectation of caring for kin, with no financial or emotional support
* Not having daily needs met such as food, medicine, clean clothing (neglect)
* Forced houselessness, overcrowding and not being allowed in shelters.

“Older people are struggling to identify that they’re being abused, because their heart is to give, and they want to give. I think any parent wants to give to their family members.”

#### Where to go for help:

* WA Elder Abuse Helpline 1300 724 679
* Have a yarn with someone you trust, like your doctor
* Elder Rights WA (state-wide legal service) 1300 650 579
* Older People’s Rights Service (free legal advice and support in Perth metro area) (08) 9440 1663
* Council on the Ageing WA (08) 9474 0104