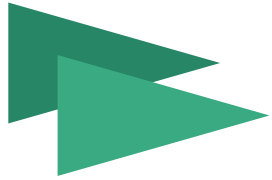


A Specialist Elder Abuse Service Promoting Human Rights

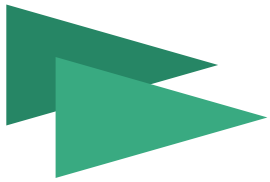
Cybele Koning and Helen Wallace
Seniors Legal and Support Service
Brisbane



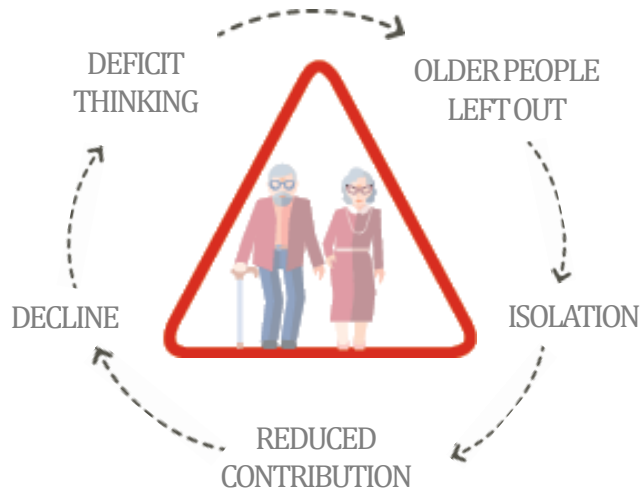
Specialist service



For 15 years, Caxton Legal Centre has been providing a specialist service to older people who are at risk of or experiencing elder abuse.

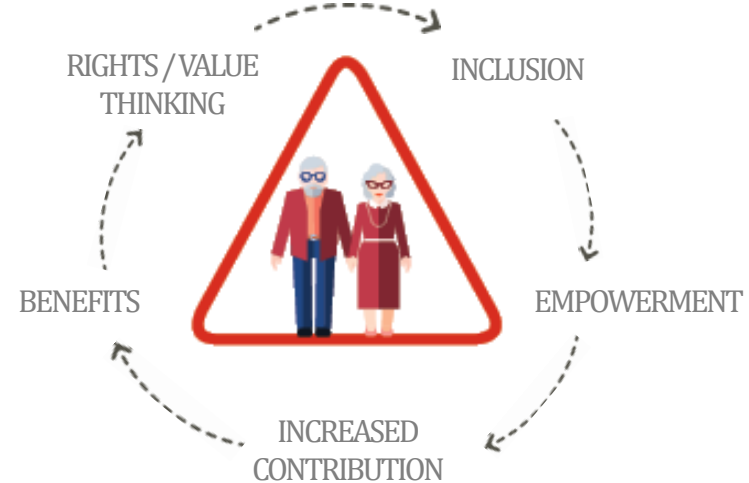


Rights-based framework

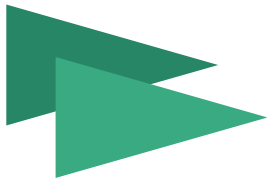


The Vicious Circle of Ageism

- Elder abuse is a human rights issue.
- Older people are vulnerable to abuse, mistreatment, exploitation and neglect.
- Elder abuse exists in a complex matrix of psychosocial and legal issues.
- The older person is viewed as the rights holder whose rights to autonomy, independence and protection are not diminished by the ageing process.
- Interventions should simultaneously promote a life free from abuse, and support an older person's right to self-determination.
- The older person is empowered to choose the social supports and legal interventions they prefer to address the abuse they are experiencing.



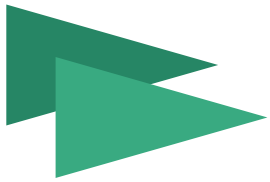
Reframing: Focus on Older People's Rights



Multidisciplinary model: social workers and lawyers



- Social worker-lawyer model promotes a human rights approach.
- Social issues can be indicators of underlying legal issues, especially for older people experiencing abuse.
- Legal issues often coexist with a range of social issues.
- Social worker is the first and continual point of contact.
- When legal issues are identified, the lawyer integrates with the social worker.
- Team provides a seamless pathway of service delivery.
- Older person is empowered to choose their preferred response from a suite of options.



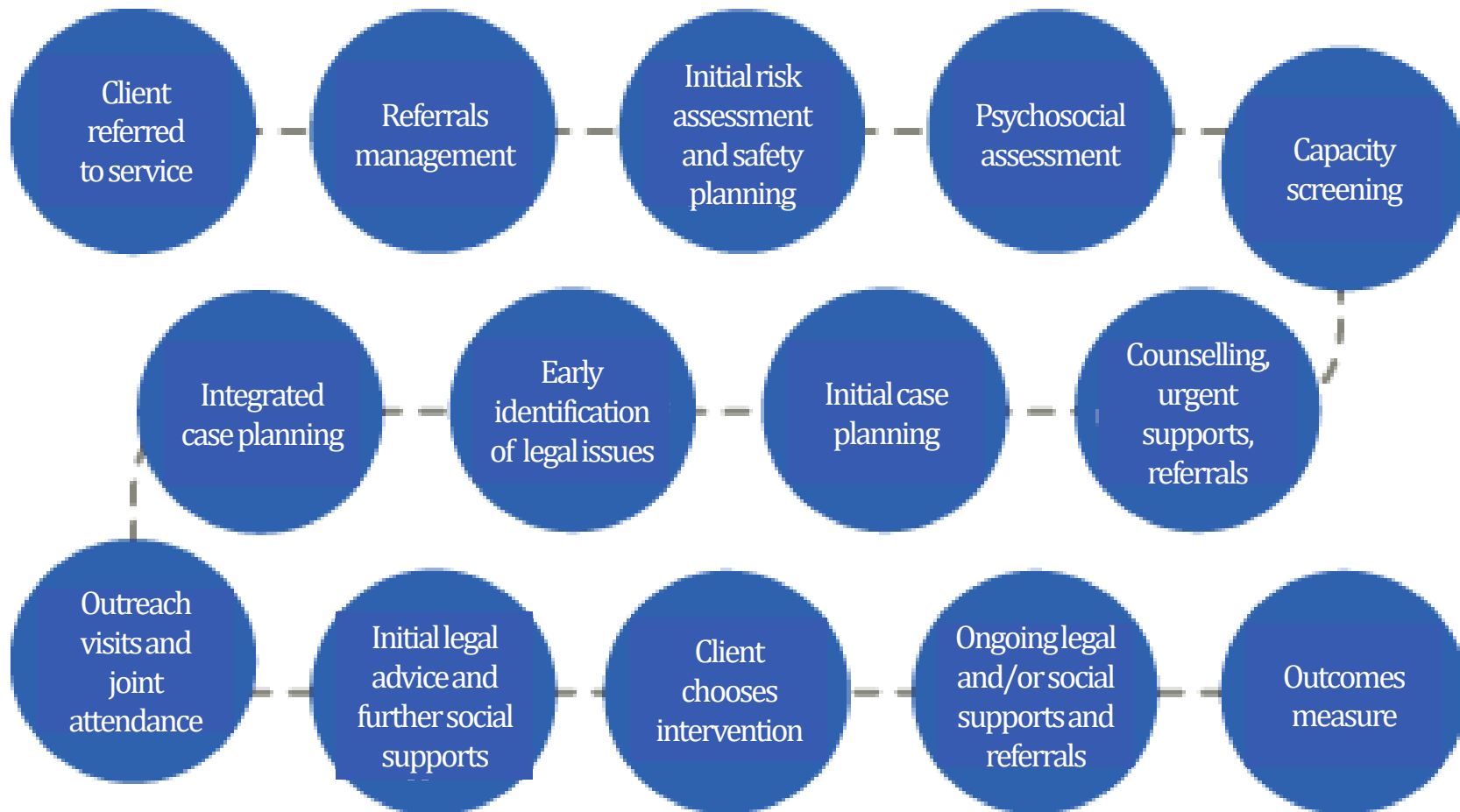
No access barriers



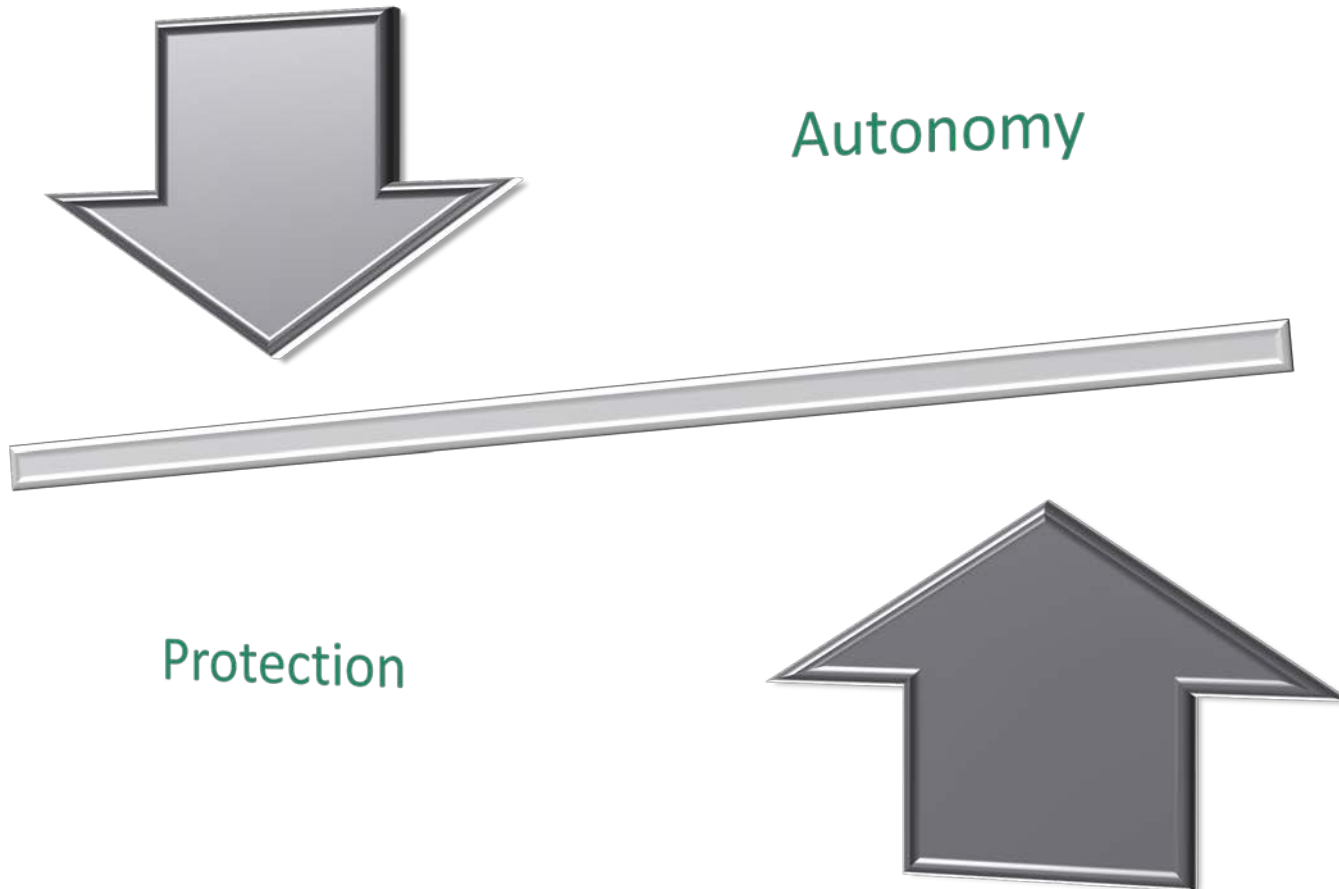
- This multidisciplinary model is highly responsive to any situation in which the abuse occurs.
- There are no barriers to accessing our service.
- The social worker and lawyer visit the older person where they live, stay or at any safe place to talk privately.
- We accept referrals from third parties.

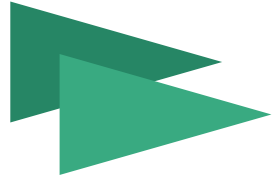


The model

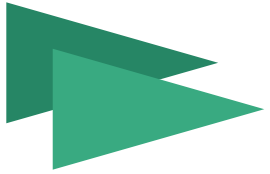


Getting the Balance Right





SUNDAY



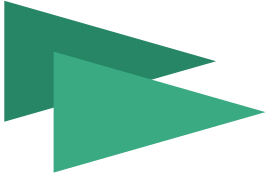
I'll tell them
nana is
"loosing her
marbles"
and "had
another fall"

I don't want
Suzie
getting in
trouble

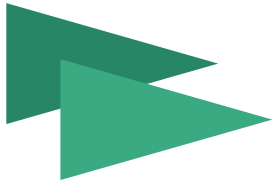
I hope the
police do
something
this time



MONDAY



Rose has chosen
to stay here for
two years ... I
wonder if she has
now had
enough??

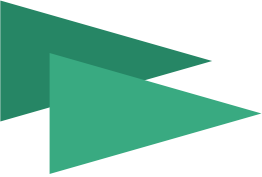


Rose is probably minimising what happened. Has this situation crossed the line where police should have taken out a DVD against Rose's wishes? Rose won't do it herself.



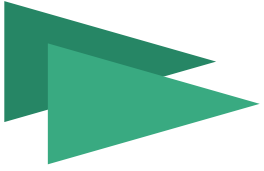
HELEN'S TO DO LIST

1. Safety planning ...
2. Ask for consent to speak with Max – protective ...
3. Make a MyAgedCare referral ...
4. Set up direct debits and safe ways to get \$\$...
5. Respite (dog??) ...
6. Ask for consent to speak with her doctor ...
7. Suzie – carer's stress, drug counselling, housing ...
8. Counselling for Suzie



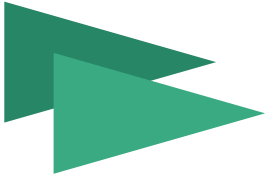
CYBELE'S TO DO LIST

1. Title search ...
2. Advice - equitable interest, loans, remedies ...
3. Mediation about \$\$...
4. Consent to talk with police ...
5. Explain effect of protection order again ...
6. Locate her EPA?? ...
7. Undue influence?? ...
8. Sale of home only real option ...
9. Caveat ...



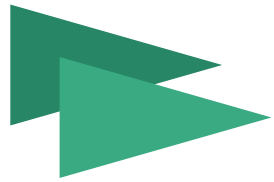
I can't do that to
Suzie!

I promised her
father I'd look after
her...



I can't live with
Suzie for another
12 months.

I'll promise to give
her some money
when this is all over.



END OF MEETING

1. Helen does some safety planning.
2. Cybele takes some more notes to draft a protection application to file the next day.
3. Rose, Helen and Cybele agree on steps to take about Rose's money.
4. Rose does not want to go into respite.
5. Helen will speak with Max to keep an eye out on Rose over the next 24 hours.



TUESDAY



Did we
get the
balance
right?

Did we
get the
balance
right?

ROCK THE BOAT

2019 National Elder Abuse Conference

neac2019.com.au