

Elder Mediation Service supports Tasmanians through the Challenges and Changes of Ageing

(World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) 2018 – June 15th)

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World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) – **Friday, June 15** - highlights the unfortunate reality that elderly people often experience ageism and inequality when dealing with the challenges and changes related to ageing.

To help with this, Northern Manager of Mediation Services Simon Reeve said Relationships Australia Tasmania will make its Elder Mediation and Counselling Service available Statewide from 1 July, 2018, ensuring more Tasmanians have access to Elder Relationship services and support.

“Elder abuse is a serious issue faced by too many vulnerable people and has ongoing negative effects on their lives that ripple through communities.” Mr Reeve said.

“WEAAD is an important opportunity for all Tasmanians to recognise and act on the signs of elder abuse.”

“Elder people are an essential part of our society and it is important we acknowledge that they are entitled to the respect of their communities and their families. It’s a common story that family conflicts occur when people who are close to us become affected by age related issues.”

“These often occur at times when significant health issues arise, and families are faced with deciding where older parents will live or who will care for an older person.”

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Mr Reeve said Relationships Australia Tasmania's Elder Relationship Services helps families to have these often difficult conversations in a safe and neutral setting.

"We enable challenges to be resolved and relationships improved while negotiating the often complex issues related to ageing."

Mr Reeve said people can attend the first session of Elder Mediation on their own, with their partner or extended family before decisions are made to invite others into the process.

"It is hoped that the Elder Relationships Service can assist to value senior Tasmanians by ensuring the Elder person remains the primary focus when times come for families to make decisions that affect our senior Tasmanians."

Elder Relationship Services clients pay a flat fee that is reduced for concession card holders. The service is confidential within the limits of the law

To find out more about Relationships Australia services call 1300 364 277 or look up our website on www.tas.relationships.org.au

Members from Relationships Australia Tasmania will walk in support of Elder rights in the COTA Walk Against Elder Abuse Walk on June 15th in both Launceston and Hobart.

To access Relationships Australia Tasmania's Elder Relationship Services call: 1300 364 277

For further information:

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Links – World Elder Abuse Awareness Day – COTA Tasmania

<http://www.cotatas.org.au/programs-events/world-elder-abuse-awareness-day/>

Relationships Australia Tasmania Elder Relationships Service

<http://www.tas.relationships.org.au/services/elder-relationship-services>