



COTA Victoria

2019—2020 Review



Promoting Opportunities. Protecting Rights. For people 50+



COTA Victoria staff at the Victorian Senior of the Year Award in 2019. They are: Nicky Barry, Karen Ivanka, Mitsuko Penberthy, Michelle Wright, Gemma Neve, Karen Iatrou, and CEO Tina Hogarth-Clarke.

About COTA Victoria

COTA Victoria is the leading not-for-profit organisation representing the interests and rights of people aged 50+ in Victoria. For nearly 70 years, we have led government, corporate and community thinking about the positive aspects of ageing.

We are a not-for-profit community organisation and fund our activities with the support of

government, members, philanthropic trusts, businesses and the public. As a member-based organisation, we are run by, for and with older Victorians.

One of our principal programs is Seniors Rights Victoria, which provides information, support, advice and education to help prevent elder abuse and safeguard the rights, dignity and independence of older people.

Our vision

Ageing in Victoria is a time of possibility, opportunity and influence

Our purpose

COTA Victoria advances the rights, interests and futures of Victorians as we age

Our values

Respect, Diversity, Collaboration and Integrity

Our cover

Our cover features COTA Victoria Life Member Shirley Ramsay. Shirley began her association with COTA Victoria in 1962. She rose to head the organisation, served on the Board and in the later stages of her COTA career established what is now known as Seniors Information Victoria. The Board, management and staff of COTA Victoria pay tribute to you, Shirley, and your fantastic contribution to older Victorians.

PHOTOGRAPH: Djoyobisono Photography

Annual report editor and project manager: Phillip Money

Graphic design: Gemma Papprell

Acknowledgement of country

COTA Victoria acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout Victoria and their continuing connection to land, culture and community. We pay our respects to elders past, present and future.

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Message from the President

The past year has been shaped for all Victorians by two disasters - bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic. On the latter, each of us; our families; our communities; our businesses; our health service providers; and our governments, have had to quickly try to understand what a coronavirus is and the danger it poses.

Importantly, we have had to accept the loss of our freedom to make basic decisions about how we work, socialise and look after our collective health and wellbeing.

Council on the Ageing (COTA) Victoria had to quickly change its operations and continued to provide online and call centre services from home and other remote locations. That is testimony to the commitment and capability of our Chief Executive Officer, Tina Hogarth-Clarke, and our staff. Thank you to all of you.

Our continued ability to attract highly capable volunteers for all aspects of our work is a measure of the high standing of our organisation. To our 100+ volunteers, your work is exceptional and appreciated.

We are fortunate to have a highly qualified group of volunteer Directors on the COTA Victoria Board. During the year we welcomed Maya Avdibegovic and Kathryn Brown, who commenced as Treasurer. I thank Jean Raar who retired during the year.

COTA Victoria works closely with the State and

Local Governments; community and health services; and businesses to ensure needs are met on issues that affect older Victorians.

The consequences of COVID-19 resulted in a disproportionate loss of life amongst older Australians. The recovery of older Australians from the pandemic will likely be more protracted than that of the general community. We all hope the news of a vaccine is a success. Our learning from the last six months will be crucial in preparations for the future on how to address the most vulnerable as this pandemic subsides.

Thank you particularly to The Hon. Luke Donnellan, Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers; The Hon. Martin Foley, Minister for Health; The Hon. Gabrielle Williams, Minister for Prevention of Family Violence; Gerard Mansour, Commissioner for Senior Victorians; Jackie Kearney, Executive Director, Seniors, Ageing and Carers, Department of Health and Human Services; and Amy Schwebel, Associate Director, Sector Engagement and Service Design, Victorian Legal Aid. It is with your assistance, and our many other supporters, that we are able to continue to help all older Victorians.

COTA Victoria will celebrate 70 years of active community engagement next year. We have begun preparing for that birthday by thinking about how we can build a better organisation to meet future needs.

Mike Lescai

Board members



Mike Lescai
President



Lynette Moore
Director



Graeme Bird
Treasurer
to 6 February 2020,
Director
from 6 February 2020



Kathryn Brown
Treasurer
from 6 February 2020



Cathy Mead
Director



Gregg Nicholls
Director



Robert Caulfield
Director



Minh Nguyen
Director



Maya Avdibegovic
Director



Jean Raar
Director
to 24 September 2019



Tina Hogarth-Clarke
CEO

Message from the Chief Executive Officer

The year 2019-20 will be marked down in all our life calendars as memorable, to say the least. Expressions like unprecedented, extraordinary, or without parallel hardly do it justice. We began with devastating bushfires, which had a significant impact on Victorians living in rural and regional areas. And we know that people in those areas are more likely to be over 50.

Then in late February 2020, we began hearing the word that we now know all too well — COVID-19. Although I might have wished for quieter and more conventional times in my first (financial) year as Chief Executive Officer of Council on the Ageing (COTA) Victoria, I am proud that all of us in the COTA Victoria family have risen to meet some pretty significant challenges.

As with the bushfires, COVID-19 has had a greater effect on older Victorians. I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to the Victorians who lost or have been unable to visit family and friends as a result of COVID-19.

At COTA Victoria, we have continued to work for all Victorians aged 50+ during this pandemic. We have ensured that decision makers — no matter whether they be government, business or community leaders — are aware of the unique challenges that many older Victorians face.

These include, but are not limited to:

- a rise in circumstances that lead to elder abuse

- loss of employment leading to reduced income
- many services placing a greater emphasis on electronic, as opposed to face-to-face, delivery excluding older people who are not online.
- increased loneliness for people who became isolated through lockdowns
- official communication that does not recognise the enormous diversity of Victorians older than 50.
- working to ensure families continue to safely visit their relatives in aged care to provide that contact, love and support.

You will read more about our advocacy efforts in the pages that follow. In closing, I would like to thank my amazing staff for their support, tenacity, and creativity during challenging times. I would also like to send a thank you to our volunteers. While your activities have been constrained, I am confident there are bigger and better things on the horizon. Finally, I would like to thank the COTA Victoria Board for your encouragement and support.

Tina Hogarth-Clarke

Our year in pictures

During lockdown we called everybody on our member database without an email. Most of the people said they were doing OK but were grateful for the phone calls.

Tina Hogarth-Clarke, COTA Victoria CEO, evidence to Victorian Parliamentary Enquiry on COVID-19 pandemic, **May 2020**.



COTA Victoria staff Nicky Barry, Mitsuko Penberthy and Karen Ivanka at the Senior of the Year awards in 2019.



Volunteers Helen Wu and Meena Lalwani at the COTA Victoria annual general meeting in November 2019

Find something to do now - not be thinking too far ahead and being overwhelmed by what you can't do. Think of what you can do at this moment,

COTA Victoria survey
June to August 2020

Zoom meetings are great for information sharing, but they don't build friendships

COTA Victoria survey **June to August 2020**

Pauline Sharples, middle, was the lucky winner of an iPad in our 2019 Seniors Festival competition. Pauline is pictured with CEO Tina Hogarth-Clarke, left, and Karen Ivanka

Not only do we have to embrace positive ageing, we have to put it on the frontline so there is age equity. Every age counts.

Audience member at Challenging Ageism event with Ashton Applewhite, **November 2019**



The Hon. Luke Donnellan, Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers, pats Gino at the launch of our Pat, Chat and a Walk a Day campaign in November 2019. Read more about the campaign on page 12.

Ageing is not a problem or disease, it is a powerful natural lifelong process that unites us all. It's the one universal human experience.

Ashton Applewhite, Challenging Ageism event, **November 2019**



Jing Yan Gong and Bernard Brickhill attend the COTA Victoria annual general meeting in 2019.

Older workers have transferrable life skills. Be confident and listen. Know you are of value.

Reach, Train, Employ participant Sharon Ciberlin

Graeme Worland from Casey OM:NI joins fellow members of the Older Men: New Ideas discussion group held in the City of Casey in 2019. More information: <https://bit.ly/omnigroups>.



I am concerned about going to the doctor, so I find I am postponing routine checkups. Even when I probably really should see my doctor, I do not.

COTA Victoria survey
June to August 2020

Hopefully, we will remember the wins and take them forward.

COTA Victoria survey
June to August 2020

Outcome one

Maintain our leadership in policy development and advocacy on behalf of people 50+ in Victoria and Australia in general.

In February 2020, as Victoria assessed the damage caused by once-in-a-lifetime bushfires another momentous event shifted rapidly into focus. A mysterious new — or novel — virus moved from the back to the front of our minds. Many of our well-laid plans went out the window as we reckoned with the threat of COVID-19.

As the voice of older people, COTA Victoria needed to hear and then amplify — to governments, community organisations, and the wider community — the concerns of older Victorians. And we needed do our best to propose solutions.

From the middle of March 2020, we initiated a COVID-19 coordination working group — led by Community Engagement Officer Amanda Kunkler.

Our inputs included:

- focus groups with COTA volunteers, our Policy Development Committee and peer educators
- media reports
- information from callers to our Seniors Information Victoria (SIV) 1300 135 090 helpline and the Seniors Rights Victoria elder abuse helpline 1300 368 821. We increased the SIV helpline availability from four to eight hours a day.
- regular contact with all levels of government, especially through forums such as the Municipal Association of Victoria's fortnightly Positive Ageing Network

- the COTA Federation's policy officer network
- a survey of 1146 Victorians, of whom almost 90% were over 65.

Throughout the lockdowns, calls increased to the SIV helpline. The leading issues were health, followed by pensions and other government payments, then aged care. Many of the issues were unique to people over 50.

Our responses to the concerns raised by older Victorians during the pandemic included:

- COTA Insurance's Adelaide call centre staff rang the 580 COTA Victoria members who did not have email addresses to see whether they were OK
- advocacy to the Victorian Government including an appearance by our CEO, Tina Hogarth-Clarke, before the Victorian Parliament's Public Accounts and Estimates Committee's Inquiry into the Victorian Government's Response to COVID-19. We followed this with a formal submission
- regularly updated information on our website. This was accompanied by articles in our monthly e-newsletter COTA Connects
- between March and June 2020, actioning 43 issues collected through the SIV and SRV helplines.

COVID-19 — how we advocated for older Victorians

Issue	Action	Result
Lack of activity due to closure of gyms and other means of exercise.	We moved out strength-based fitness training program, Living Longer Living Strong, online.	Better health outcomes and increased digital engagement for participants.
Mixed levels of digital access and literacy.	We highlighted the issue at the Victorian Parliamentary enquiry into COVID-19.	Government established the Coronavirus hotline 1800 675 398 .
Visits to aged care were restricted or tightly controlled.	COTA Australia, supported by 13 other organisations, developed an industry code for visiting residential aged care facilities.	The code, which has been updated twice, cements a human rights approach to care that protects and respects aged care residents and their visitors.
Shops were reluctant to handle cash, disadvantaging people without debit or credit cards.	COTA Australia spoke with retail associations, stressing the importance of cash-inclusive payment alternatives.	Supermarkets and other retailers made appropriate options available for people wanting to use cash.
COVID-19 information did not take account of older people's individual circumstances.	Recommended to governments that messaging should be tailored to older people.	COTA Victoria provided tailored channels through its website, newsletters and social media.



Adelaide-based COTA Insurance call centre staff Lynne, Mandy, Teresa, Paul and Margaret. During the pandemic, the call centre staff rang COTA Victoria members without email addresses to see whether they were OK.

Outcome two

Continue to successfully manage and increase a portfolio of physical, mental and financial health projects and services designed to benefit and improve the quality of life of older Victorians.

COTA Victoria's diverse portfolio of programs continued pace during 2019-20, albeit with some movement online during the second half of the year. An example is our Reach, Train, Employ program, which targets jobless mature workers in Melbourne's western suburbs. When COVID-related social distancing measures were put in place, the program moved to a digital environment.

Aged Care Navigators

The Federal Government's My Aged Care program supports people 65 and over to continue to live in their own home with home support services.

COTA Victoria is leading three Aged Care Navigator projects to inform, educate and promote My Aged Care in Victoria. They are part of 62 federal government funded trials in Australia.

There are two physical information hubs — in Dandenong and in Pakenham — and a statewide phonenumber providing information through the Seniors Information Victoria (SIV) helpline 1300 135 090.



The Dandenong trial has focussed on culturally and linguistically diverse communities, and is supported by Southern Migrant Refugee Centre, City of Greater Dandenong, Enliven and Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria. Community Champions who represent various groups have been trained to support and assist the trial activities.

The Pakenham trial is located in Outlook Community Centre and is supported by Cardinia Shire, Outlook staff and community representatives.

Trained Aged Care Navigators make follow up calls to individuals who call the SIV helpline.

The Aged Care Navigator programs have adapted to the COVID-19 challenges through Zoom presentations and phone support services. More information about Aged Care Navigator is at <http://bit.ly/acnavigator>.

The My Aged Care website is at: <http://bit.ly/MACWebsite>.

Maria Erdeg and Dian Price at an Aged Care Navigator information session in Dandenong in early 2020.

Reach, Train, Employ

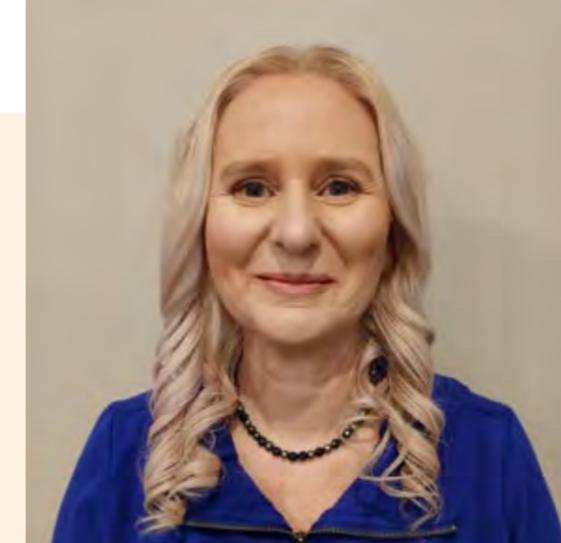
In the race for employment, made even tougher by a COVID recession, older workers face significant hurdles. A joint 2018 report from the Australian Human Resources Institute (AHRI) and the Australian Human Rights Commission found that a third of AHRI members imposed an age ceiling when recruiting for positions. See <https://bit.ly/olderworkerreport>

In March 2020, COTA Victoria kicked off the Reach, Train, Employ program. The program — facilitated by a Try, Test and Learn grant from the federal Department of Social Services — is designed to assist older job seekers in the Brimbank, Melton and Bacchus Marsh areas to re-skill and find paid work in the aged-care and disability industries.

Participants are supported to complete a Certificate III in Individual Support (Ageing and Disability) through RMIT University. In addition, they receive support through a life coach from Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand. 'We are currently running two groups of about 20 students each,' says RTE Project Officer Shirley Carlos. 'One group started training in March, and a follow-up group began in July. To learn more visit: <http://bit.ly/RTEmploy2020>



Darryn Cunningham, Positive Ageing Officer, City of Melton, and Steve Bruechert, from RMIT University, at a Reach, Train, Employ session at Caroline Springs Library.



Reach, Train, Employ participant Sharyn Ciberlin. Picture: supplied.

Case Study: Sharyn Ciberlin

Sharyn Ciberlin joined the Reach, Train, Employ program in March 2020. Sharyn, 53, has a background in the food/hospitality industry, including a seven-year stint in the military as a chef. She is looking for work as a personal care assistant.

Sharyn said that as well as technical skills, Reach, Train, Employ provides participants with softer skills such as self-confidence.

Two things motivated her to seek a career in the disability and aged care sectors.

'The first thing is my age,' she says. 'I have compassion and life experience. I want to see people in facilities have their personal-care needs met and to see improvements in their care.'

'Secondly, I know there is a huge need: people are living longer. There is a good fit between my skills and the need in our community.'

And what's her message for older people seeking work?

'We have transferable life skills. Be confident and listen. Know where to go for information. Go to your local council and the library and source information for support. Know you are of value.'

Assistive Technology for All

People over 65 who require funding for assistive technology must negotiate a maze of state and federal government schemes. The result often means going without vital equipment, joining long waiting lists or funding it themselves. Assistive technology includes devices such as motorised wheelchairs, screen readers, bed hoists and leg braces. The National Disability Insurance Scheme does not cover people older than 65.

In early 2020, with an alliance of more than 20 organisations representing people with disabilities, COTA Victoria launched the Assistive Technology for All campaign. The campaign, which obtained national news coverage through the ABC, features a website — with case studies of people who use assistive technology — and an online petition. ‘We want a national scheme which provides funding for assistive technology for people who fall outside the NDIS,’ said campaign coordinator Lauren Henley. Learn more at <http://bit.ly/TechforAll>



Peter Willcocks, who is living with post-polio syndrome, needs an expensive wheelchair to meet his daily needs. He speaks with ABC reporter James Hancock. Picture: Phillip Money.

A Pat, Chat and a Walk a Day

There’s nothing like a pat, chat and a walk a day to keep the doctor away. Launched in November 2019, by the Victorian Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers, the Hon Luke Donnellan, COTA Victoria’s Pat, Chat and a Walk a Day campaign encourages older Victorians to get out and exercise.

The campaign highlights the important role pets play in encouraging older people to exercise daily, while providing comfort, happiness, companionship, and opportunities to socialise.

These activities are vital in the battle against anxiety and depression. Regular physical activity such as walking the dog can also help reduce the risk of conditions such as heart disease, type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure and dementia. Walking can also reduce the risk of falls and fall-related injury for older people, which can affect their ability to live independently. To learn more visit: <http://bit.ly/patsnchats>



At the launch of COTA Victoria’s Pats and Chats program are (standing) Steve McGhie MP with Brownie, Hon. Luke Donnellan, Paul Hamer MP, Christine Couzens MP, (seated) Dustin Halse MP, Melanie Scott (K9s 4 Valour) holding Hamish, Tina Hogarth-Clarke with Gino.



Ageism is stopping Australia from tapping into the social capital of the greatest number of healthy, well-educated adults that has ever existed, said activist Ashton Applewhite at an event hosted by COTA Victoria in November 2019. Ashton, left, is pictured with former COTA staff member Donna Swan.

Information outreach program

In early 2019-20, we focussed our information outreach program on a series of face-to-face sessions delivered in nine locations. Topics included planning ahead, looking forward and energy options. By March 2020, we had delivered information to almost 1800 people.

With the advent of COVID-19 lockdown in March, we rapidly reappraised the program, focussing on three key areas:

- engagement and community connection to address issues associated with isolation
- information provision and connection to services and supports
- capacity building.

We moved from face-to-face delivery of information to developing:

- written information packs on each of our key topics to replace in-house information sessions
- partnering with organisations such as Boroondara Library, Donvale Probus Club, Woodend U3A to deliver outreach sessions via Zoom
- podcasts on key topic areas.

Over the coming months, we will further refine the program and are committed to delivering informative and high quality information to Victorians aged 50+. To stay up to date on COTA Victoria events, visit <http://bit.ly/Cotaevents>.

Living Longer Living Stronger

Pivot is one of those over-used words of 2020. However, when the gyms and Living Longer Living Stronger locations closed across Victoria in March, this is exactly what we did. Our strength programs aim to improve the health outcomes, fitness, and quality of life for older people through strength and balance training. COTA Victoria led the way with an online pilot project, so that we could continue to support the physical health and mental wellbeing of older adults.

Faye, 77, a retired teacher from Melbourne’s outer suburbs, was reluctant to embrace the online format. ‘I enjoyed the face-to-face program and wasn’t sure I would have the same connection online,’ she said. As Melbourne’s lockdown dragged on, she bit the bullet, bought herself a new iPad and learned how to Zoom.

She is disappointed that she did not start sooner. Her advice for anyone who believes that they are too old for technology. ‘You need someone to teach you, but it is not beyond you. Learning how to go online opens up a whole new world!’ Learn more about the Living Longer Living Stronger program at <http://bit.ly/longerstronger>.

Outcome three

Seniors Rights Victoria

A just, equitable and inclusive society in which the human rights of older people are respected.

A year in numbers

Seniors Rights Victoria (SRV) is the key state-wide service dedicated to stopping elder abuse. We provide information, support, advice, casework and education to help prevent elder abuse and safeguard the rights, dignity, and independence of older Victorians.

People access SRV services through our helpline — 1300 368 821. During the 2019-20 year, we received 3303 calls (3572 the previous year) to the helpline.

Issues are either handled through the helpline, referred on to other agencies, or formally escalated for further advice. In 2019-20, 388 callers, or 12%, were formally escalated for further advice by SRV.

When an issue is handled formally, SRV will schedule a phone call or meeting with the older person to give them information specific to their

situation. Advice is either legal — provided by an SRV lawyer — or advocacy — provided by a social worker — or provided jointly by a lawyer and a social worker.

If a client requires further assistance after receiving advice, where the issue fits within our guidelines and there is capacity to do so, a case is opened. In 2019–20, we were managing 310 cases. Our process is outlined in the following table.



Seniors Rights Victoria — how we assist callers to our service

1. Calls

In 2019-20 we received 3303 **calls** to our helpline.

Callers include:

- friends and family who are concerned about an older person they suspect might be experiencing abuse
- professionals seeking advice or expertise
- people experiencing elder abuse.

Assistance provided includes:

- support
- referral to other agencies
- information
- a person experiencing abuse may be referred to the SRV advocacy and legal service for an advice.

2. Advices

In 2019-20, we provided 677 **advices** to 388 people.

A lawyer and advocate (social worker) will work together with the person experiencing abuse. Sometimes the person will need either a lawyer or an advocate but not both. If a client needs more formal assistance, a **case** is raised.

3. Cases

In 2019-20, we managed 310 cases on behalf of 188 clients.

Cases may be legal or advocacy or a combination of both. They are raised when the person requires ongoing assistance.



At the launch of the *Concerned About an Older Person* booklet in Colac in November last year are: Shane Foyster, Barwon Community Legal Service; June Day, Colac Area Health; Suzi Parkinson, Colac Otway Shire; Rhonda Mahoney, Colac Area Health; Madeleine McCarney, Colac Area Health; Gary Ferguson, Seniors Rights Victoria; Gerard Mansour, Commissioner for Senior Victorians; Jenny Blakey, Manager Seniors Rights Victoria; Alexandria Jones, Barwon Community Legal Service; Bryanna Connell, Barwon Community Legal Service.

Education, information, and outreach

WEAAD

Along with tight restrictions, the COVID-19 pandemic brought new avenues and opportunities to increase awareness of elder abuse on World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (Monday June 15).

The late Hon. Susan Ryan AO, a former Aged Discrimination Commissioner and minister in the Hawke Government, was the keynote speaker at the online Warm Safe Home Project Forum. The forum was conducted in partnership with the South West Elder Abuse Prevention Network, based in Warrnambool.

Seniors Rights Victoria's Community Education Coordinator, Gary Ferguson, said Ms Ryan's address was inspirational and well-informed. 'We'll be forever grateful that she lent her name to the project,' Gary said. Ms Ryan died on Sunday 27 September.

Other WEAAD events included:

- *Stir a Cuppa for Seniors* featuring guest speaker Seniors Commissioner Gerard Mansour
- a joint forum between the Department of Health and Human Services and SRV. This featured a panel discussing a case study. More than 370 people registered and joined this forum.

Commissioner launches new booklet

A highlight of our education and outreach events in 2019-20 was the launch of the *Concerned About an Older Person* booklet. In November 2019, the Commissioner for Senior Victorians, Gerard Mansour, launched the booklet aimed at service providers and the family and friends of people who are experiencing elder abuse.

'Half the people who call our helpline are concerned about someone they know,' said Seniors Rights Victoria Manager Jenny Blakey. 'We only act when the person who is experiencing the abuse contacts us to ensure we act on their directions.'

'The booklet, which can be ordered through our website, helps concerned family, friends and service providers take practical steps to help the person experiencing abuse.'

Service providers and members of the public attended the booklet launch in Colac, south western Victoria. The booklet has been funded by the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services under the state's initiative to reduce family violence.

Gary Ferguson, Seniors Rights Victoria's Education Coordinator, led the project to produce the booklet with the support of a project advisory group. To order the booklet, contact SRV at info@seniorsrights.org.au or phone 9655 2129. You can download the booklet at <http://bit.ly/concernedbooklet>.

Study provides an insight into elder abuse

Family members — notably adult sons or daughters — are the most likely perpetrators of elder abuse, according to a landmark study of elder abuse data.

Seniors Rights Victoria and the National Ageing Research Institute (NARI) jointly undertook examination of 2385 cases of elder abuse reported to SRV from June 2012 to July 2019 in the study, *Seven Years of Elder Abuse Data in Victoria*.

NARI Director Professor Briony Dow said the report was vitally important because there is very little data on elder abuse in Australia.

SRV's Principal Lawyer Rebecca Edwards said that in more than 90 per cent of elder abuse cases the perpetrator was a family member. It was most likely to be an adult son — 39% of perpetrators — or adult daughter — 28% of perpetrators.

'Increasingly, this adult child is experiencing their own difficulties — which include mental illness or a gambling or substance abuse problem —

which can make the abuse harder to address,' Ms Edwards said.

In August 2020, more than 300 professionals attended a webinar — featuring experts including Professor Dow and Rebecca Edwards — to launch the study.

Melanie Joosten, Seniors Rights Victoria Policy Officer, led the project to compile the study. More information is available on our [website](#).

Education outreach

Seniors Rights Victoria conducts outreach and education throughout Victoria to increase awareness of elder abuse. During 2019-20, 2377 people attended 76 community education events, while 917 people attended 35 professional education events. With the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic, some of these events occurred online.

The Honourable Dr Kay Patterson AO, Age Discrimination Commissioner, bottom right, attended the Elder Abuse Roundtable in August 2019. With Dr Patterson are back row: Luke Wright (State Trustees), Faith Hawthorne (Justice Connect), Fiona York (HAAG), Lauren Adamson (Office of the Public Advocate), Natalie Gibbons (Victoria Police), Brenda Appleton (LGBTI Alliance), Philippa Campbell (Elder Rights Advocacy), Melanie Joosten (SRV), Donna Askew (ECLC), Tina Hogarth-Clarke (COTA Vic). Front row: Ingrid Kirchner (No to Violence), Jenny Blakey (SRV), and Dr Patterson. Picture: Phillip Money.



Thank you to our funders

COTA Victoria is a not-for-profit organisation reliant on funding and assistance from a variety of Government, philanthropic, and corporate funders. We are very thankful for the assistance, including in-kind support, we receive.

Federal Government

Council on the Ageing (COTA) Victoria acknowledges the support of the Federal Government.

Department of Health
Department of Social Services
Attorney-General's Department
Australian Sports Commission

Victorian Government

Council on the Ageing (COTA) Victoria acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government.

Department of Education and Training
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
Department of Health and Human Services
Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions
Department of Justice and Community Safety
Department of Premier and Cabinet
Victoria Legal Aid

Philanthropic funders

Collier Charitable Fund
State Trustees Australia Foundation
Federation of Community Legal Centres
Victoria
The Andrews Foundation
Gandel Philanthropy
JO and JR Wicking Trust - Equity Trustees
Our Watch Limited
Casey Cardinia Foundation
Delys Sargeant Memorial Fund





COTA Victoria

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