



# Elder Rights WA

## FACT SHEET

**This fact sheet has information about Elder Rights WA**

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### What is Elder Rights WA?

Elder Rights WA (ERWA) is a holistic legal service for seniors and the aged based in the Civil Law Division of Legal Aid WA.

Our legal team provides legal advice, assistance and representation on certain types of legal matters and our social work team provides a range of tailored social work support in assisting clients in dealing with social, physical and mental challenges.

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### Who can use our service?

Our clients are people who are 65 years and older and First Nations and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse clients who are 55 years and older.

We can also provide information and referrals to “third parties” such as adult children or carers of the older person. However, we will not provide advice to third parties in most cases.

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### Who provides the Elder Rights WA service?

Lawyers and social workers with specialist experience in laws and issues that affect older Western Australians.

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### Our Cost

Elder Rights WA provides free legal advice.

**“Our team of lawyers and social workers provide a state-wide service for vulnerable seniors who are experiencing certain types of legal problems”**

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### Where is the Elder Rights WA service located?

Our team is primarily based in Perth, with the state-wide service also accessible through 9 regional Legal Aid WA offices, as well as a network of 16 Virtual Offices in metropolitan Perth and the regions.

We also have an Elder Rights WA lawyer from Peel Community Legal Services who provides our services in the Peel Region, as Peel has one of the highest proportion of seniors in WA.

We provide advice by telephone, virtual office, face to face and through community outreach.

This fact sheet contains information only. It is not legal advice. If you have a legal problem, you should speak to a lawyer. Legal Aid WA aims to provide accurate information but does not accept responsibility if it is not.

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# What types of legal matters does Elder Rights WA cover?

## Legal advice and information on matters relating to planning for the future, including:

- Enduring Powers of Attorney
- Enduring Powers of Guardianship
- Advance Health Directives
- Wills

**Note:** While our service does not prepare or write these documents, the advice provided at our service is very valuable in helping our clients to make appropriate decisions.

## Other matters we can give advice about include:

- Loans given to adult children or others
- Money or debts owed by clients
- “Granny flat” arrangements or other shared living arrangements
- Problems arising from living arrangements, including when adult children move in and refuse to leave
- Guarantors for loans/ mortgages for adult children
- Violence, including physical, psychological, emotional and sexual abuse
- Guardianship and Administration matters at the State Administrative Tribunal
- Voluntary Assisted Dying laws

## Other services include:

- Representation in certain Guardianship and Administration matters in the State Administrative Tribunal
- Information and community legal education
- Referrals to specialist units within Legal Aid WA including Family Dispute Resolution Services and Domestic Violence Legal Unit

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## How can I access the Elder Rights WA service?

To refer clients to the service or to request an appointment with a lawyer, please email:

**[ElderRightsWA@legalaid.wa.gov.au](mailto:ElderRightsWA@legalaid.wa.gov.au)**

or call the Legal Aid WA Infoline on **1300 650 579**.

To find out more about Elder Rights WA you can visit the Legal Aid WA website: **[www.legalaid.wa.gov.au](http://www.legalaid.wa.gov.au)**.

The Legal Aid WA website has information, videos and self-help guides on a range of legal topics.

If we cannot advise or assist on a particular issue, we may refer you to an appropriate service.