

LEGAL RESOURCES

If you would like more information or guidance on anything discussed in this guide, you can contact the Seniors Rights and Advocacy Service.

Older People's Rights Service (OPRS)

The Older People's Rights Service (OPRS) comprises of a senior lawyer and nurse advocate team. The service is funded through the Department of Communities to provide legal advice, information and support to older adults who are at risk of or are experiencing elder abuse in the Perth Metropolitan and City of Mandurah area.

Elder abuse can be physical, financial, psychological, social, and sexual and/or neglect, it is a very complex area that can cause distress with finances, relationships, physical health, mental health and quality of life.

How can the Older People's Rights Service (OPRS) help?

The service provides a monthly outreach clinic to the Southern Communities Advocacy, Legal and Education Service (SCALES) in Rockingham. Outreach services can also be provided to clients within their own home or other suitable environments whereby they meet the outreach criteria.

OPRS focuses on empowering older adults in their decision making by providing relevant advice, information, education and support. In addition, calendars, brochures and support materials are produced to assist older adults in contacting services that can help them.

To access a lawyer at Older People's Rights Service (OPRS)

T: 08 9440 1663

Address: Mirrabooka, 10 Cobbler Place, Mirrabooka WA 6061

Address: Joondalup, Building 1, Edith Cowan University, 270 Joondalup Drive, Joondalup WA 6027

E: info@nsclegal.com.au

W: <https://www.nsclegal.org.au/>



Elder Rights WA (ERWA)

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

The ERWA 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.

Who can use the Elder Rights WA (ERWA) service?

The ERWA team of lawyers and social workers provide a state-wide service for vulnerable seniors who are experiencing certain types of legal problems.

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

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

Who provides the Elder Rights WA service?

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

Where is the Elder Rights WA service located?

The ERWA 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.

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

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

What is the cost the Elder Rights WA service?

Elder Rights WA provides free legal advice.

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 the ERWA service does not prepare or write these documents, the advice provided at their service is very valuable in helping their clients to make appropriate decisions.

Other matters ERWA 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 ERWA 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

How can the Elder Rights WA service be accessed?

The Legal Aid WA website has information, videos and self-help guides on a range of legal topics. If they cannot advise or assist on a particular issue, they may refer you to an appropriate service.

To access Elder Rights WA (ERWA)

T: 1300 650 579 Legal Aid WA Infoline

E: elderrightswa@legalaid.wa.gov.au

W: <https://www.legalaid.wa.gov.au/>

