Elder Sexual Abuse

POWER AND CONTROL WHEEL

Elder sexual abuse is any kind of non consensual sexual behaviour, language or activity that makes an older person feel uncomfortable, threatened, frightened or unsafe. Elder sexual abuse occurs in a broad range of contexts such as marriage, de facto relationships, family, friendships, aged care facilities, faith communities, home help and health

care. Elder sexual abuse can be a single or repeated act that may include both contact and non-contact behaviour, and can occur with or without physical violence. Gender is an important consideration in the area of elder sexual abuse, where the majority of victim / survivors are women and the majority of perpetrators are male. It is recognised

however, that women can be perpetrators and men can be victims. Because of the secrecy and shame that often surrounds this issue it is important for workers to unpack the language of "elder sexual abuse" for victim / survivors to be able to consider, recognise and name certain actions and behaviour as being abusive.

