

MEDIA RELEASE

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Respect starts here – artwork competition for Territory kids is launched to encourage respect of elders

COTA NT is working with Relationships Australia NT to raise awareness of elder abuse in the lead up to the 2024 World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on 15 June.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) is the main day in the year when the world voices its opposition to the abuse and suffering inflicted on older people and it provides an opportunity for individuals, families, groups and organisations to speak out against elder abuse.

Elder abuse is an often-hidden problem and can include psychological, financial, social, physical and sexual abuse. Most often, elder abuse is carried out by someone known to the older person, with two thirds of abusers being an adult child. Abusers can also be other family members, relatives, or friends. Elder abuse affects people of all genders and all walks of life. The abuse, however, disproportionately affects women. Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and LGBTQI+ communities are additionally vulnerable, as are older people living in rural and regional communities.*

COTA NT is looking to the younger generation to help raise awareness of the day by taking part in an artwork competition, **Respect Starts Here**. Territory kids aged between 5 and 12 years are invited to create an artwork to show the Territory what respect for their elders means to them. The winning entry will be on public display and used in COTA NT print and digital media to generate awareness of the day. The competition has a closing date of 31 May 2024.

COTA NT and Relationships Australia NT are also organising two community events for WEAAD at the 50+ Community Centre, 11 Wills Terrace, Alice Springs on Wednesday 12th June 9.30am and 11.30am and at COTA NT, Spillett House, 65 Smith Street, Darwin on Thursday 13th June from 10am. Both events are free, open to all and include morning tea. Relationships Australia NT will be providing information about elder abuse and what people should do who feel vulnerable to abuse or who may experience it already. They will also be talking about their role in providing much needed services and support for families experiencing elder abuse and finding out whether attendees are aware of their work. Attendees are encouraged to wear purple-coloured clothing or a purple ribbon as part of observance.

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- About World Elder Abuse Awareness Day <https://www.cotant.org.au/territory-seniors-calendar/world-elder-abuse-awareness-day/>
- Competition details <https://www.cotant.org.au/respect-starts-here/>
- Event bookings via Eventbrite (cotant.eventbrite.com) or by calling 08 8941 1004
- Resources for community, <https://elderabuseawarenessday.org.au/resources/>

* Source: <https://elderabuseawarenessday.org.au/>