

Director Legal Policy
Department of the Attorney-General and Justice
GPO Box 1722
DARWIN NT 0801



Dear Director Legal Policy,

The Alice Springs Town Council's Seniors Coordinating Committee (ASTC SCC) welcomes the Northern Territory Government initiative in seeking submissions regarding possible improvement to the Domestic and Family Violence Act, its operation and its interaction with related Northern Territory legislation.

The ASTC SCC submits that Elder Abuse should be considered by the review as distinct and separate behaviours within domestic and family violence and the amended Act should include explicit references to Elder Abuse.

Existing research notes that some 80% of Elder Abuse occurs within families and is perpetrated mostly by male family members. Financial abuse is rife. All the various indicators of Domestic Violence and Child Abuse are present in Elder Abuse.

The improved legislation needs to be supported by further research on the issue, the development of protocols and the establishment of complementary service responses within the Northern Territory that are sensitive to the needs of the clients and cultures identified.

Amended legislation will allow authorities to prosecute the perpetrators of these concerning acts of Elder Abuse.

It is also important that mandatory reporting protocols be established as per the mandatory child abuse protocols, due to the vulnerability of the aged.

If requested representatives of the Alice Springs Town Council (ASTC) and the ASTC SCC can contribute further to the review of the Domestic and Family Violence Act.

Please contact Mitch Cameron, ASTC SCC Administration Assistant; (08) 89500567 or mcameron@astc.nt.gov.au to arrange any further consultation.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Jennison", is written over the typed name.

Tony Jennison
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Acting Director Corporate & Community Services
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