

# CASE STUDY

## FINANCIAL ABUSE OF OLDER PEOPLE

### Case study one: Suspected abuse

**Source: Senior Rights Victoria**

#### **Background**

Molly is 77 years old and lives in rural Victoria on a large farming property. Her husband, Frank died last year. Molly's youngest son, Michael, has been in trouble with the police. He was recently forcibly removed from his home by the police after an argument with his wife. During the argument Michael was violent towards his wife. His wife has taken out an intervention order excluding him from their home. Michael has come to live with Molly to help her look after the farm. He is well known in the local town for being a big drinker and is a frequent customer at the local TAB.

#### **Issues for practitioners**

Molly comes to you to as she does every year to do her tax return. You notice a significant difference in her appearance since you last saw her. She is dishevelled, won't make eye contact with you and directs you to pay her substantial tax refund into Michael's bank account.

- What do you think is happening between Molly and Michael?
- How do you talk with Molly about her situation?
- What do you advise Molly if your suspicions are correct?