

# CASE STUDY

## FINANCIAL ABUSE OF OLDER PEOPLE

### Case study ten: Loss of independence and impact of isolation from assets

**Source: Senior Rights Victoria**

Bruce is 80 years old and grieving for his wife who passed away last year. He has one daughter, Sharon, and no other family in Australia.

After his wife's death he didn't feel he could cope with living alone, and felt lonely because the house was so large. He also needed help with shopping, cooking and other daily needs.

The truth was he was very dependent on his daughter, Sharon, for daily help.

When Sharon suggested that Bruce sell his home and come and live with her and her family, Bruce felt relieved and thought it was a good idea.

Bruce and Sharon put the house on the market and it sold quickly. Bruce then agreed to give Sharon the money in exchange for a home with Sharon and care for the remaining days of his life.

At no time did Bruce receive any financial or legal advice about the proposed agreement. He trusted his daughter completely and did not think anything would go wrong.

After only a couple of months of living with Sharon and her family, they started becoming quite hostile to Bruce, calling him names and telling him he was senile.

Sharon stopped caring for Bruce, and providing him with meals. Shortly after this started, Sharon's husband told Bruce he had to go into a nursing home.

- If Bruce's plans had come to your attention before he sold his home, how would you have advised him?
- How would you advise him now?

BE HEARD.  
BE RECOGNISED.

