

# CASE STUDY

## FINANCIAL ABUSE OF OLDER PEOPLE

### Case study thirteen: Isolation from assets, loss of independence, and informal arrangements

**Source: Senior Rights Victoria**

Patrick is 84 years old. His wife, Maud, recently passed away, and he now lives alone in a house he owns in Melbourne. Since Maud's death he has been struggling to care for himself at home and believes he is in need of some support in the home.

He does not have many friends and his only son, Bruce, is pressuring him to sell his house and move in with him and his family. Patrick does not want to leave his home but Bruce has threatened to put his father into residential aged care if he does not agree to the arrangement. Bruce told his father that he should use the proceeds of sale to pay off Bruce's mortgage and in return, he would have accommodation and care for life. Patrick has no other family and is dependent on Bruce and his grandchildren for emotional support. Patrick feels compelled to do as his son says and comes to you with Bruce to arrange the sale of his home.

If Patrick and Bruce had come together and asked for your help to put this arrangement into place, how would you have advised them?

- Who would be your client?
- What ethical issues would you need to consider as a professional?