



Neglect of
older people

**Don't
look
away**



Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government



Te Tari Kaumātua
Office for Seniors

It's Elder Abuse, and it's not OK.



Neglect is the failure of a carer to meet an older person's basic needs, or preventing others from providing them.

Forms of neglect

Neglect can be intentional or unintentional.

It can involve failure to provide adequate food, water, shelter, clothing, medical care, or hygiene.

Or it may be a failure to give social or emotional support, or protect them from harm.

Signs of neglect

Poor nutrition, housing, or clothing

Unexplained weight loss

Not getting medical care and untreated injuries

Not having necessary medication/over-medication

Poor hygiene, unhealthy skin

Unsafe or unsanitary living conditions

They often feel too cold or too hot

They're left alone or unattended for long periods

Lack of social, cultural, intellectual, or physical stimulation

What motivates abusers

In many cases, neglect is unintentional and is the result of a lack of knowledge or resources. In other cases, neglect is intentional and stems from a desire to control someone.

The harm to an older person

Neglect can have serious consequences.

Neglect can lead to malnutrition, dehydration, illness, and injury. For many, it causes depression, anxiety, and social isolation.

How you can help

If you're concerned about how someone is being treated, it's OK to help.

Call the Elder Abuse Response Service helpline for support:
0800 326 6865

If you think someone is in danger, call 111. Ask for the Police.



**ELDER ABUSE
IT'S NOT OK
SPEAK OUT**

0800 326 6865
support@elderabuse.nz | text: 5032