



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 2

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Upper House committee releases report on elder abuse

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

24 June 2016

An Upper House committee is calling on the NSW Government to embrace a comprehensive, coordinated and ambitious approach to preventing and addressing elder abuse.

The Chair of General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2, the Hon Greg Donnelly MLC stated, ‘This inquiry has provided the opportunity to step back and consider how the NSW Government can build an effective policy, legal and service framework for preventing, investigating and responding to abuse of older people. This report contains eleven specific recommendations that we are confident will provide strong foundations for this comprehensive approach.’

‘During this inquiry the committee was shocked by the many examples presented to us that indicated that elder abuse is a substantial, pernicious and complex problem in our society. It must never be forgotten that older people have an innate dignity as persons and this must always be respected within the family and society.’

‘We are currently seeing governments take domestic and family violence much more seriously, affording it greater priority. The committee considers that the time has now come – both in New South Wales and nationally – to prioritise elder abuse as a policy issue. The NSW Government already has a framework for addressing elder abuse through which it is doing valuable work. But it is clear that this is not nearly enough. Our committee trusts that this inquiry has, and will continue to provide, momentum for the government to further develop its framework and expand its support for preventing and addressing elder abuse, and to make a substantial investment in tackling it.’

‘The way forward must involve some legislative reform to improve safeguards against financial abuse, and to enable allegations to be investigated by a new Public Advocate. There is also more to be done to improve service providers’ identification of abuse and their responses to it. We urge the government to be ambitious in each of these tasks.’

A list of the committee’s recommendations is attached. The report is on the committee’s website: [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/gpsc2](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/gpsc2).

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*For further information please contact Committee Chair, Hon Greg Donnelly MLC, on 9230 2280.*