

ELDER ABUSE NOW A STAND-ALONE CRIME IN THE ACT

In the wake of the revelations about institutional abuse of vulnerable people and elder abuse generally the ACT has now enacted specific crimes related to the treatment of vulnerable people, through the enactment of the:-

Crimes (Offences Against Vulnerable People) Legislation Amendment Act 2020 amend the Crimes Act 1900 (ACT).



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In effect this legislation deems a person and/or organisation in the ACT who has the care of a vulnerable person liable to committing a crime if they breach the new provisions. The new offences of abuse include : failure to protect and neglect of a vulnerable person.

A vulnerable person is defined by reference to the Disability Services Act 1991 or a person over 60 who has an illness or impairment.

The liability extends to institutions responsible for care and those that work in them.

It is a watch this space moment to see which of the other states and territories follow suit.

See this link for the legislation:-



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<https://www.legislation.act.gov.au/DownloadFile/a/2020-41/current/PDF/2020-41.PDF>



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