

Older and Wiser – Standing Strong Warm Safe Home

Information pack for library staff

The Warm Safe Home Project is a craft project developed by Dr Becky Nevin Berger and run by the South West Victoria Elder Abuse Prevention Network to raise awareness of elder abuse.

As part of the Libraries Outreach program, Financial Counselling Victoria (FCVic) would like to encourage library professionals to run these craft sessions in their libraries in conjunction with FCVic's suite of resources and information for older Victorians.

This information pack includes the material and instructions needed to present a Warm Safe Home session.



Image: [Becky Nevin Berger, Warm Safe Home Project](#)

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Running a session: Useful information and resources

The following resources can be used by library professionals to provide information about elder abuse when hosting the Warm Safe Home Project in their library:

- **Warm Safe Home Project booklet:** 28-page booklet with full background information (note, instructions provided on page 4 of this pack have been extracted from this booklet)
https://carerconnect.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/WARM-SAFE-HOME_PP_UPDB.pdf
- **Warm Safe Home Project video:** a video to help professionals run the Warm Safe Home Project within their own communities
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MT89XTt-znE>
- **Stories to Understand:** the Warm Safe Home Project has also created a booklet containing three stories with accompanying artworks. These stories describe situations in which the rights of an older person have been violated by another person
<https://carerconnect.com.au/elder-abuse-stories-to-understand/>
- **Financial Counselling Victoria - Warm Safe Home:** a webpage for older people about their rights to a warm, safe home. Introduces the Victorian Government's Utility Relief Grant Scheme (for help with electricity, gas and water bills), who may be eligible, and how to apply. Includes three short videos about how a financial counsellor may help
<https://www.warmsafehome.org.au>
- **Financial Counselling Victoria – Older and Wiser, Standing Strong:** a webpage for older people with general information and resources about money
<https://fcvic.org.au/standing-strong/>
- **Carer Connect - Everybody's Business Elder Abuse Prevention Network:**
<https://carerconnect.com.au/elder-abuse/>

Financial Counselling Victoria has created some posters that can be displayed while you run a Warm Safe Home session, see pages 11 and 12 of this pack.

Note: a house template has been included on page 9, but you can also contact the Elder Abuse Prevention Project Worker (MPower Inc.) on (03) 5561 8111 for professionally-printed "little house" templates and Warm Safe Home project booklets. They also have five Stories to Understand banners for loan.

Financial Counselling Victoria would like to acknowledge and thank Dr Becky Nevin Berger and the South West Victoria Elder Abuse Prevention Network for creating this activity.

Elder abuse is any act that cause harm to an older person and is carried out by someone that they trust such as a family member, friend, or carer. Elder abuse can be physical, psychological/emotional, financial, sexual, social, or neglect. If you have concerns about a suspected elder abuse situation there are things you can do. Seniors Rights Victoria runs a confidential helpline 10am – 5pm Monday – Friday 1300 368 821. If someone is in danger call 000. The South West Victoria Elder Abuse Prevention Network is coordinated by South West Carer and Respite Services Network. It is one of 10 Elder Abuse Prevention Networks funded by the Victorian State Government. More information about the Victorian Government's Elder Abuse Prevention and Response Program can be found here: <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/ageing-and-aged-care/wellbeing-and-participation/preventing-elder-abuse>

Instructions for making your Warm Safe Home



Step 1: Create and decorate your house

Step 2: Write your message on your house

Step 3: Assemble your house

Step 4: Take a photograph of your house to share online

To connect with both our local campaign & the global campaign to prevent elder abuse, use these hashtags in your descriptions: #warmsafehomeproject #elderabuseprevention #elderabuseawareness

Step
1

You can make a little house from materials like cereal boxes or other card packaging. Type “make a paper house” into an internet search to find examples. OR USE THE TEMPLATE PROVIDED ON THE LAST PAGE OF THIS BOOKLET

- Print the number of copies you need
- Stick the template to another piece of paper or card using a glue stick
- Cut out the shape of the house. You can also cut the windows out now or wait until you have added decorations.
- Use your choice of craft materials, collage, and/or pencils, textas, or pens to decorate your house
- Find tips & examples on the Warm Safe Home Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/southwesteldersbusepreventionproject/>
- It doesn't have to be a “realistic” house – it's up to you what style or design you create
- Think about what a warm safe home means to you? Think about the message people will get when they look at your little house.

Step
2

WRITE a statement on your house answering one of the following questions:

(Include the question in your statement, i.e. “a warm safe home means I can enjoy time with my family...”)

1. What does a warm safe home mean to you?
2. What did you love, or made you feel safe & loved, at your grandparent's house?
3. How can we show respect and care for older people?
4. What do you wish everyone understood about older people?

Discussion points and examples of other responses can be found on pages 24-25.

Step
3

ASSEMBLE into the shape of a house by following the fold lines on the template.

- Check out the instruction video on the Warm Safe Home Facebook page for important tips

Step
4

DISPLAY the beautiful little Warm Safe Home in a nice spot where people can see it.

- Pop a sign up next to your display to let people know what it is all about. You can print off or photocopy the sign we have shared on page 26. Be sure to add some information about you or your group to it.
- Take a photo of your finished house and/or your display and send it to our Facebook page
- Share some pictures on your organization's Facebook or Instagram page.

At first glance...

At first glance, the houses in the Warm Safe Home Project are all the same: same pointy roofs, same three walls, same little windows... But once each little house is decorated it is transformed into an individual & unique little home.

People are a lot like this too. As we age similar things happen to each of us: we grow taller, we get better at doing tricky things, eventually our hair turns white, and little wrinkles get bigger and spread further...

But does that mean all older people are the same?

Do you think that as you get older you will become more like someone else?

Did you know that the older you get the more diverse and individual, You, and Everyone Else, actually becomes?!



I wish that people would understand that elderly people are knowledgeable, kind, caring, and polite. We all need to respect all older people by helping them, looking after them, letting them rest and relax, taking care of them and helping them not to fall or feel unsafe in their own homes. I wish everyone would understand that we all need to help the elderly with things and make everything accessible to them.

- Primary School participant in the Warm Safe Home Project



I feel loved, respected, safe and surrounded by family at every step and everywhere I go. A warm safe home to me means a place you can feel safe in it and it is a place that is a good place to be. It is a good home where you want to be.

- Participant in the Warm Safe Home Project



To me a warm safe home means a place you feel safe, happy and a place you belong.

- Warm Safe Home Project participant



A warm safe house is where you are really safe and you don't need to worry. We need to respect all our older people in every way. I wish that everyone could understand that older people need to be looked after and feel loved.

- Primary School participant in the Warm Safe Home Project



A warm safe home feels warm, friendly, kind and nice. It is full of kindness and respect.

- Younger person, Warm Safe Home Project participant

**What do you
wish everyone
understood about
older people?**



“I wish people understood that we are still valued members of the community.”

- Older person, Warm Safe Home Project participant.

“As you get older life gets more peaceful.”

- Older person, Warm Safe Home Project participant.

“They need looking after.”

- Older person, Warm Safe Home Project participant.

“Old people are wonderful and tell a lot of stories about their past.”

- Older person, Warm Safe Home Project participant.

**How can we show
respect and care for
older people?**



“Using your manners and not making them do EVERYTHING. Do things that are kind and make them feel welcome.”

- Primary School participant in the Warm Safe Home Project.

“We need to respect our elderly people and be kind to them. Don’t say mean things about them.”

- Younger person, Warm Safe Home Project participant.

“Just get to know the older person.”

- Older person, Warm Safe Home Project participant.

“Don’t be rude. Respect them!”

- Older person, Warm Safe Home Project participant.



The Warm Safe Home Project

Homes shelter us from the outside world and provide a space to carry out our lives with our loved ones. In elder abuse situations however, the home can become a place of danger. Elder abuse is any act that causes harm to an older person and is carried out by someone that they trust.

Thousands of little houses have been made by community members of all ages across Victoria and around the globe to talk about what a warm safe home means, and to spread the message that:

**Everyone, at every age,
has the right to a warm
safe home.**

For more information or to get involved visit:

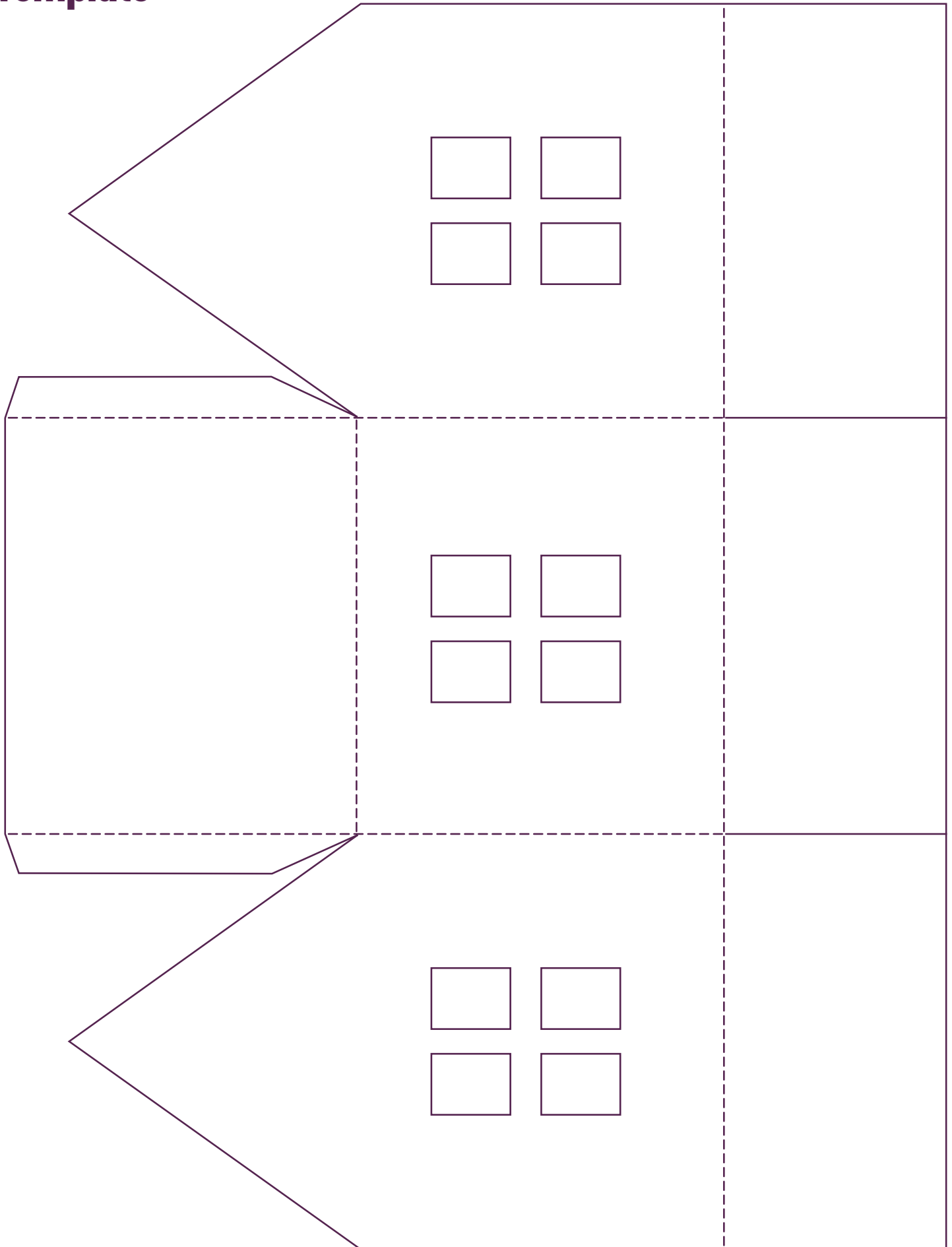
<https://www.facebook.com/southwesteldersbusepreventionproject/>

If you have concerns for you or someone you know talk to your doctor or a trusted friend. You can also call Seniors Rights Victoria's confidential helpline: 10 am – 5 pm
Mon – Fri: 1300 369 821

If someone is in immediate danger call 000

This project is funded by the Victorian State Government and run by South West Carer & Respite Services Newtork

House Template



A warm safe home is the right of every Victorian

Are you struggling to pay your bills?
A financial counsellor may be able to help you

To connect with a financial counsellor in your
local area, visit warmsafehome.org.au

or call

1 800 007 007

Older and Wiser Standing Strong



fcvic.org.au/standing-strong