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To: RVRA Members
Village Resident Committees
Village residents across NSW

From: Tom Gait, President RVRA

Peter Hill, Hill & Co Lawyers & Honorary Solicitor to
RVRA

Re: NSW Inquiry into Elder Abuse Releases Report

The long awaited NSW Upper House Parliamentary Inquiry into Elder Abuse recently released its report and findings. The report noted that abuse can arise in many different forms, from financial, physical/emotional/psychological and general neglect and there was a need for better education in the community about the issues. The report concluded that more concrete steps needed to be taken by the NSW Government to improve protections for elderly people.

The report documented and referred to numerous submissions and case studies across NSW into instances of abuse and how to better protect elderly people in the process. The report is comprehensive and made some important recommendations to address this growing challenge.

Some key recommendations are:

- A statutory office of Public Advocate be established with powers to investigate elder abuse claims;
- New legislation to enhance safeguards for elderly people in respect of enduring powers of attorney;
- Role of NSW Elder Abuse Helpline & Resource Unit be expanded;
- NSW Police Force establish a Vulnerable Community Support Officer in each regional command across NSW;

- Improved continuing professional education for NSW lawyers relating to the assessment of mental capacity for clients when drafting enduring powers of attorney.

The NSW Government is to release its response to the report in early January 2017. The full text of the report can be found online at the NSW Parliament website.

The Inquiry and the report heralds an important milestone in bringing the issues of elder abuse more into the public spotlight and calling for some widespread changes as to how these issues need to be addressed given the ageing population. The recommendations, if implemented, will assist in helping to address the growing prevalence of these issues in the community.

For more information, please contact Tom Gait from the RVRA or Peter Hill, Hill & Co Lawyers.



Tom Gait
President RVRA
5 July 2016



Peter Hill
Honorary Solicitor to RVRA



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