

Report on Workshop held in Melbourne, Australia on World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2009.

On June 15th 2009, **Seniors Rights Victoria** (Australia) held a World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Workshop as its contribution to global efforts to raise awareness of elder abuse.

The Workshop attracted over 100 people from government, service providers, community based organisations and other agencies. It provided an opportunity to hear and learn from experts in the areas of human rights, medical and legal capacity, financial abuse, advocacy and the law.

Julian Gardner, who has been involved in human rights and social justice issues for over 30 years, delivered the keynote address "Elder Abuse in a Human Rights Context". This was followed by three concurrent sessions on "Capacity", "Financial Elder Abuse" and "Human Rights". Also in the Opening Plenary, Barbara Mountjouris, the Director of the Office of Senior Victorians, launched the new guide "With Respect to Age" which is a comprehensive manual that will be disseminated throughout Victoria at a series of information sessions educating professionals on elder abuse.

During the lunch break a range of organisations were in attendance to provide information and mount displays related to elder abuse. These included Elder Rights Advocacy, the Office of the Public Advocate, Eastern Community Legal Centre, State Trustees, Victoria Police and Council on the Ageing.

Following lunch, a panel of legal, health and advocacy experts, responded to a hypothetical case study presented by Bill O'Shea, General Counsel for The Alfred Hospital, Melbourne. This was an innovative way of exploring the issues relating to elder abuse.

Some of the feedback from those who attended the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Workshop:

- *It is one of the best professional development days I have attended*
- *The information and resources available was very good, great networking opportunity and chance to talk to professionals and presenters. Very enjoyable day.*
- *I found the session on Capacity to be informative and beneficial to my area of work.*
- *It was helpful to have information stands from different organisations related to elder abuse.*
- *I would appreciate more of these educational days and workshops.*
- *Excellent learning experience. Very worthwhile.*

Presentations and a fuller report are available at www.seniorsrights.org.au

Seniors Rights Victoria is funded by the Department of Planning and Community Development, Victorian Government.

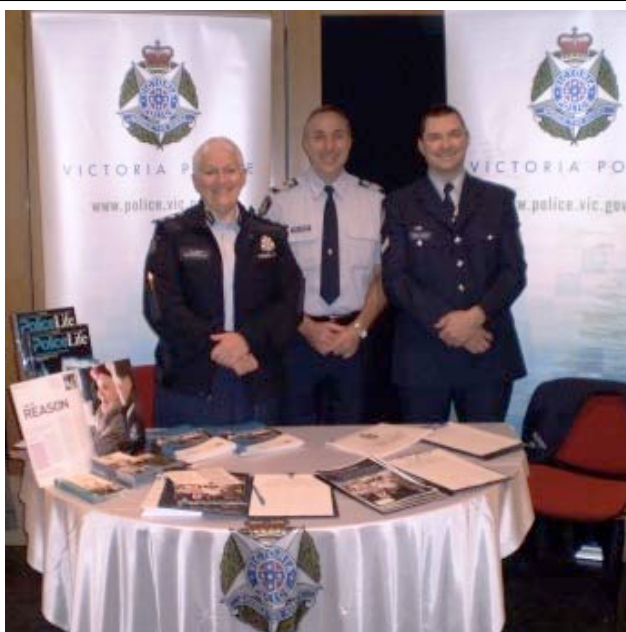
**IMAGES FROM THE WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY WORKSHOP
HELD IN MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA**



Julian Gardner delivering the Keynote Address:
"Elder Abuse in the Context of Human Rights"



Sue Hendy, Executive Director of
Council on the Ageing Victoria,
welcomes delegates to the WEAAD
Workshop in Melbourne.



The Victoria Police Display