

INFORMING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL ELDER ABUSE ADVOCACY FRAMEWORK

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INTRODUCTION



- ❖ Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN) aged care advocacy, information and education services include a focus on elder abuse.
- ❖ OPAN members have for some time been addressing elder abuse issues through CHSP or other funded advocacy and prevention work, including from State/Territory governments.
- ❖ Elder abuse is not determined by context. It happens in families and other relationships of trust, including in aged care facilities.

INTRODUCTION

- ❖ It is estimated that **between 2% and 10%** of older Australians experience elder abuse. The prevalence of neglect is possibly higher (Australian Institute of Family Studies) <https://aifs.gov.au/publications/elder-abuse/export>.
- ❖ With 1.3 million aged care consumers (2016-17) this could mean that between 26,000 and 130,000 are experiencing some form of abuse.
- ❖ It is important that groups like OPAN are able to provide advocacy tailored to prevent and address elder abuse, for those receiving aged care services as well as those who may one day receive them.

INTRODUCTION

- Estimated to involve *between 10 and 15 per cent* of overall time and resources of those **not** specifically funded to provide elder abuse advocacy and prevention services.
- Excludes State and Territory government funded *Elder Abuse Help Line* services.

INTRODUCTION

- ❖ Australian Law Reform Commission Inquiry into Elder Abuse (2017) found existing mechanisms for ensuring quality of aged care and its underpinning legislation **inadequate** for responding to elder abuse in aged care settings. Inquiry noted:
 - residential care consumers can be more at risk of abuse and neglect because of their **frailty** and **vulnerability**.
 - Abuse may be committed by paid staff, other residents in residential care settings, family members or friends.

INTRODUCTION

- ❖ In **recognition** of OPAN organisations' elder abuse work, the Minister for Aged Care recently provided OPAN with \$1 million one-off grant to support elder abuse advocacy & prevention.
- ❖ OPAN aiming to develop **national focus** on elder abuse advocacy and prevention activities.
- ❖ Initiatives already undertaken include 2017 **independent review** of OPAN's elder abuse advocacy and prevention programs.

REVIEW PURPOSE

Inform future elder abuse advocacy, education and information, including through a national approach.

REVIEW SCOPE

1. **Document** current practice in elder abuse advocacy and prevention services by OPAN members.
2. **Map** where OPAN elder abuse advocacy sits within national landscape.
3. **Case Study** analysis of established elder abuse advocacy and prevention models – ARAS (SA) and Advocare Inc (WA).
4. **Literature** review and analysis informing the above.



KEY FINDINGS: CURRENT OPAN PRACTICE

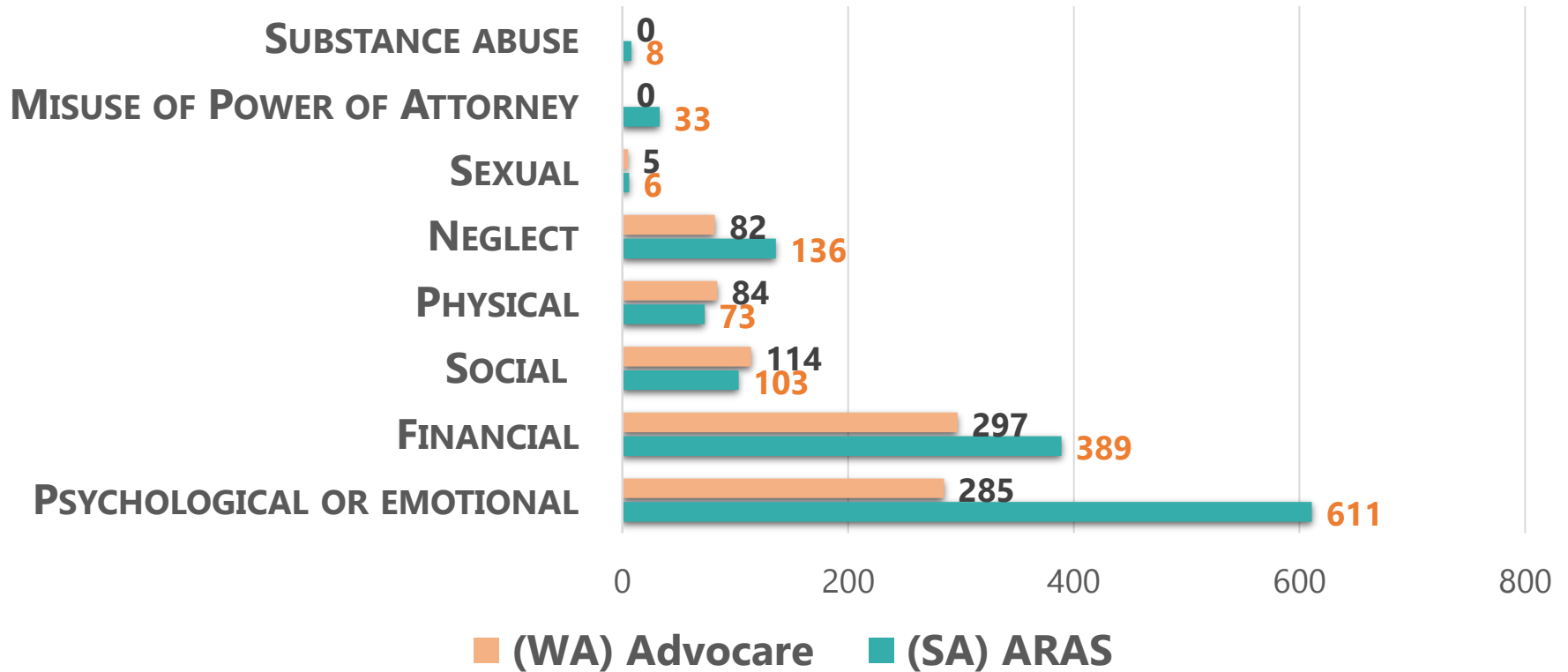
- ❖ Practice reflects funding over time: DoH *one* of several funders.
- ❖ Most OPAN members provide **elder abuse advocacy and prevention (EAAP)** as part of wider advocacy role, but without dedicated funding. **4** exceptions:
 - Advocare Inc (WA, since 1997)
 - ARAS – Aged Rights Advocacy Service (SA, since 1997)
 - SDRS – Seniors & Disability Rights Service (NT, since 10/2017)
 - Advocacy Tasmania Inc – small program supporting 30 people provided as adjunct to Helpline (since 1/2015).

WHAT ARE CORE OPAN ELDER ABUSE ADVOCACY AND PREVENTION ACTIVITIES?

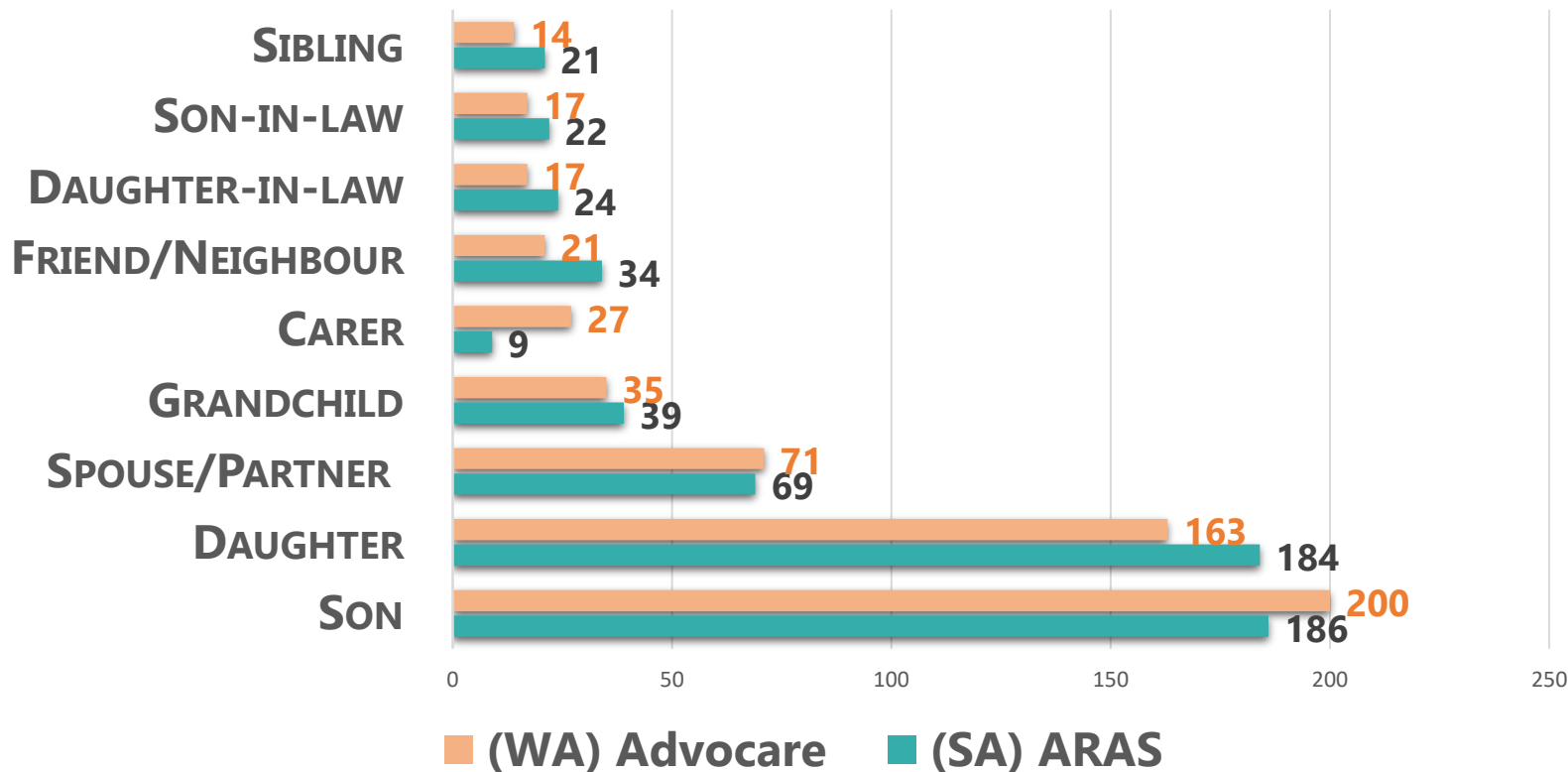
1. **Advocacy** support to consumers or potential consumers of aged care services.
2. **Information** services – consumers, supporters, service providers.
3. **Education** services – consumers, supporters, service providers, community.
4. **Linkage and referral** to other relevant services.
5. **Collaboration** to address elder abuse at **systemic** level.



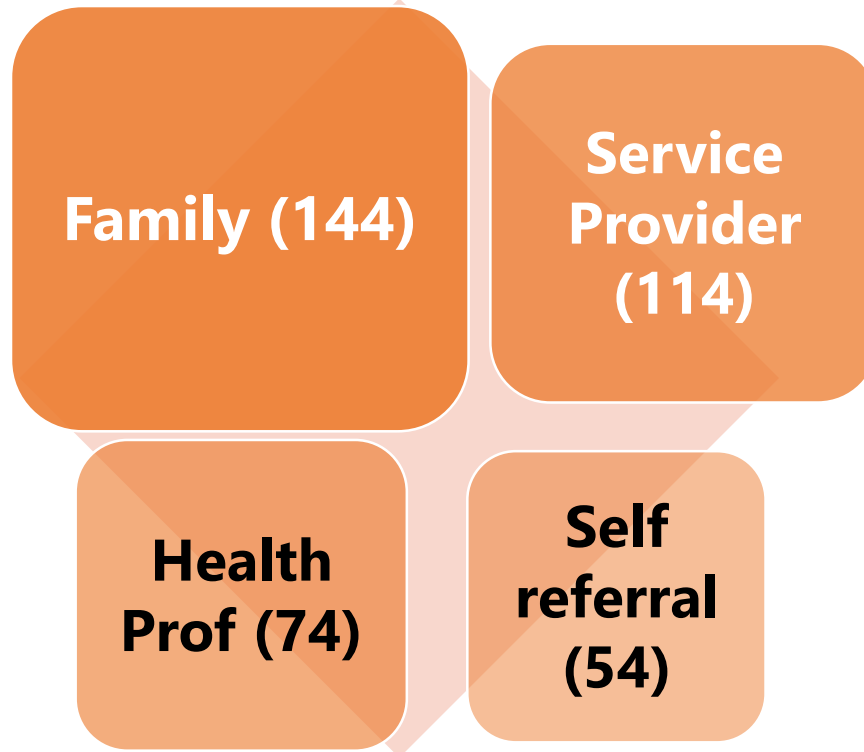
TYPES OF REPORTED ABUSE, ADVOCARE & ARAS, 2016-17



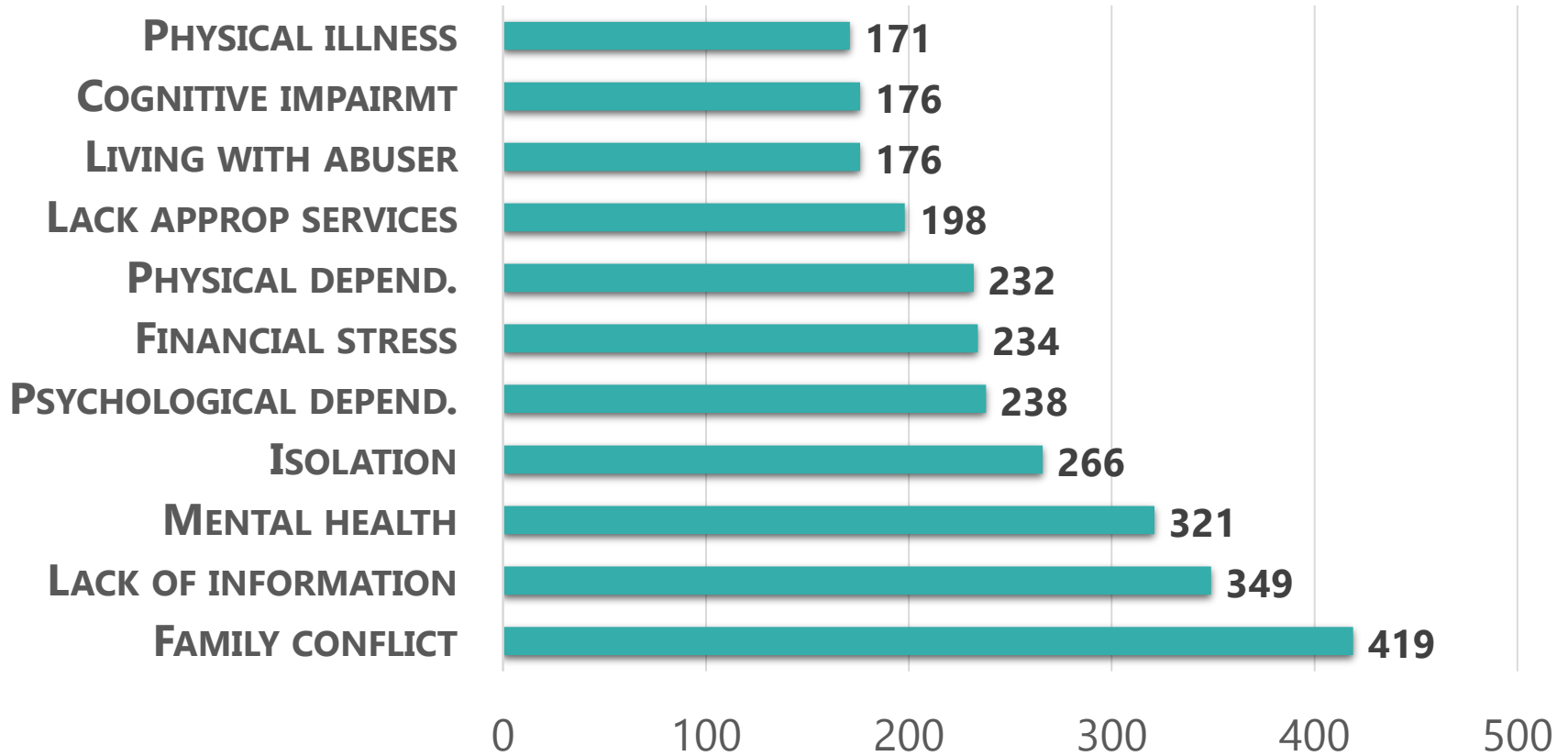
RELATIONSHIP TO PERSON BEING ABUSED, ADVOCARE & ARAS, 2016-17



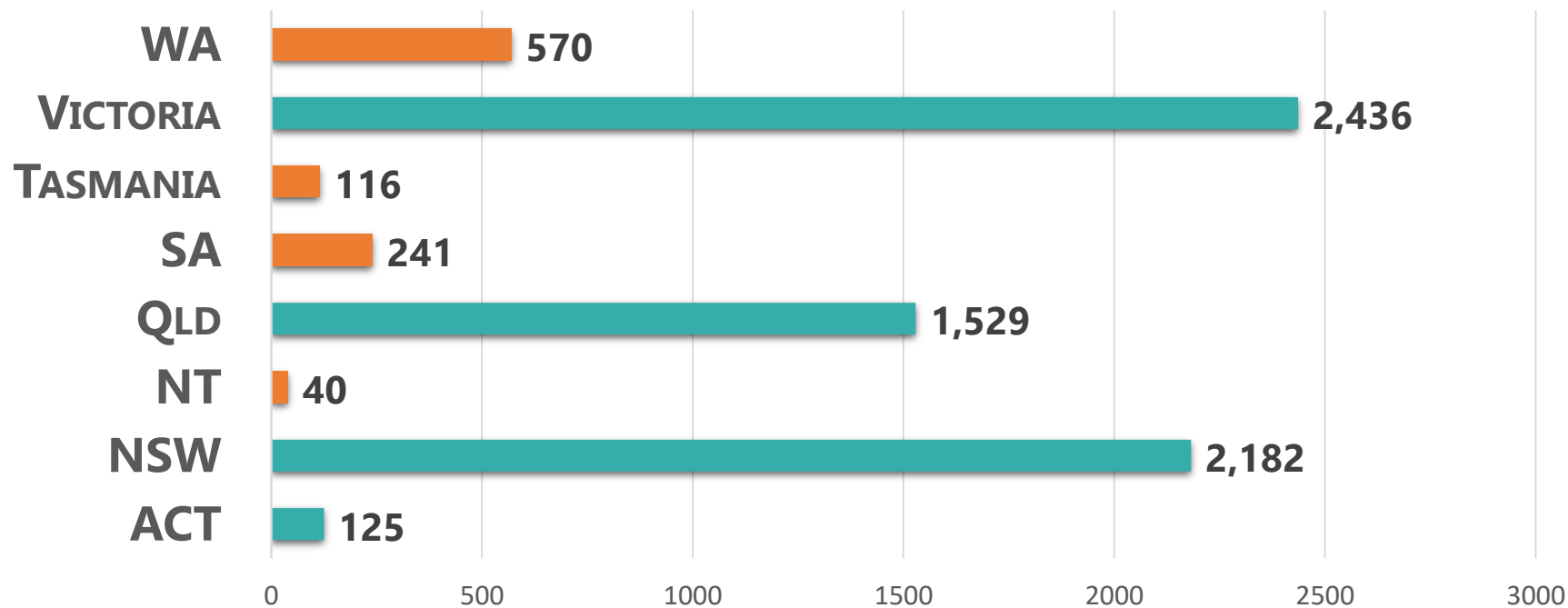
CURRENT PRACTICE: KEY REFERRAL SOURCES (ARAS 2016-17)



KEY RISK FACTORS, ARAS 2016-17



DEMAND: 7,239 HELPLINE ELDER ABUSE-RELATED CALLS, 2016-17



OPAN IN NATIONAL ELDER ABUSE SERVICE LANDSCAPE

- ❖ Critical role of **State/Territory governments** in building OPAN's EAAP capacity.
 - ✓ Includes Helplines, Specialist services, Frameworks to address elder abuse systemically.
- ❖ Has built individual and collective capital in this specialist field.



ADVANTAGES OF A NATIONAL OPAN ELDER ABUSE ADVOCACY AND PREVENTION PROGRAM

- ❖ Opportunities to **leverage** from multiple sources of expertise and resources within OPAN, and from their partnerships and alliances outside of OPAN.
- ❖ Opportunities for **economies of scale** in addressing elder abuse and its prevention e.g. sharing staff training and development, information and education resource development, elder abuse awareness raising and promotion.

REVIEW RECOMMENDED DIRECTIONS

- ❖ **Elder Abuse Advocacy & Prevention program** must be recognised as a **specific** OPAN advocacy service.
- ❖ Needs to be **reflected** as a specific component in the *National Aged Care Advocacy Program Framework*.
- ❖ Older people experiencing abuse should be identified as an additional ***Special Needs Group***, and given priority within OPAN services.

OPAN RESPONSES TO REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❖ Develop nationally consistent elder abuse advocacy and prevention **dataset** with accompanying template/s.
- ❖ Overview and document OPAN organisations' Elder Abuse Response **Protocols.**

OPAN RESPONSES TO REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❖ Review and map OPAN **partnerships, linkages and pathways**, documenting MOUs and developing template **MOUs** and **flowcharts** for responses in all jurisdictions.
- ❖ Develop a national **OPAN Elder Abuse Prevention Program Advocacy Framework**, complementary to the National Advocacy Framework.

FURTHER INFORMATION

❖ OPAN website (including review report) - <http://www.opan.com.au/elder-abuse/>

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