

Targeted prevention of elder
abuse in the Australian
context: Applying
a criminological framework

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Opportunity is key

“Suppose all situational controls were to be abandoned: no locks, no custom controls, cash left for parking in an open pot for occasional collection, no library check-outs, no baggage screening at airports, no ticket checks at train stations, no traffic lights, etc., would there be no change in the volume of crime and disorder?” (Laycock & Tilley, 1995)

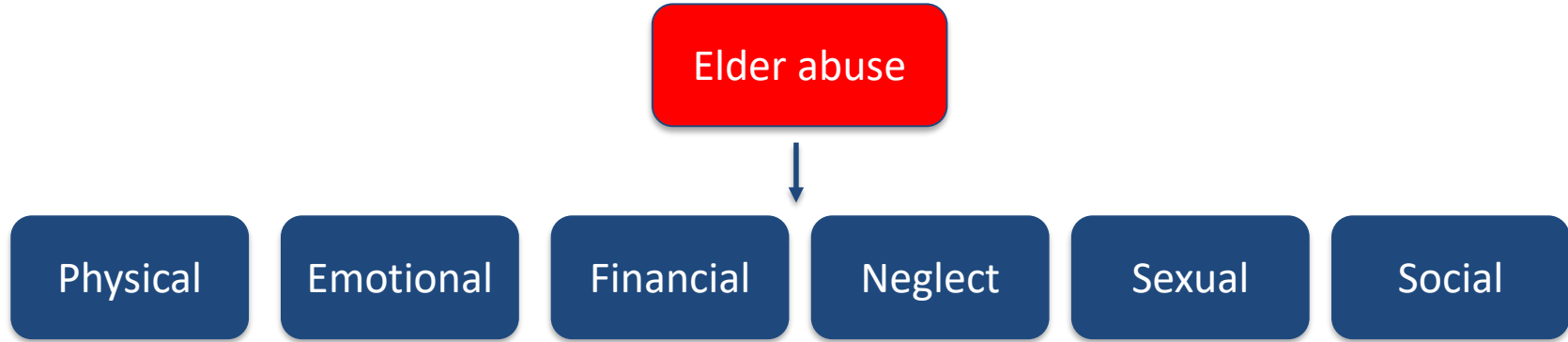
- Crime is lowered when opportunities blocked/not present
- Need to understand specific, proximal opportunities available for specific types of crime/abuse

Problem Oriented Policing Framework

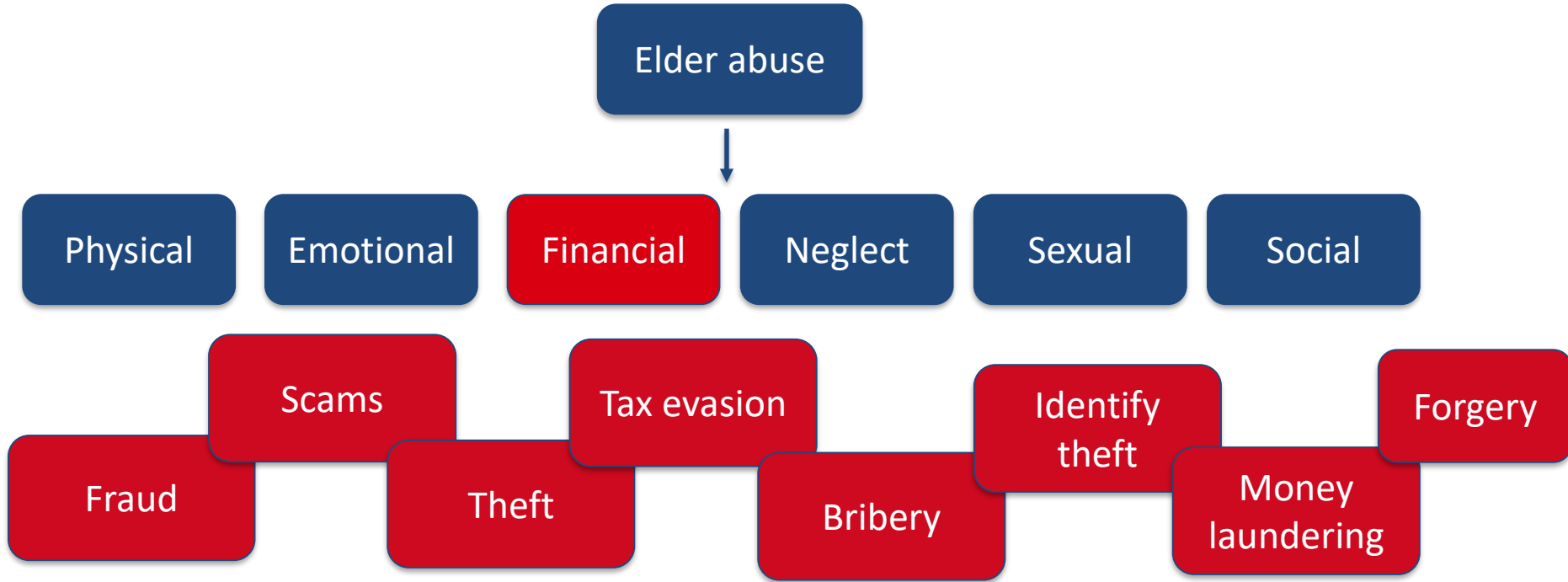
- **S**canning – what is the problem?
- **A**nalysis – what are the characteristics of the problem?
- **R**esponse – what should be done about the problem?
- **A**ssessment – was the response successful?



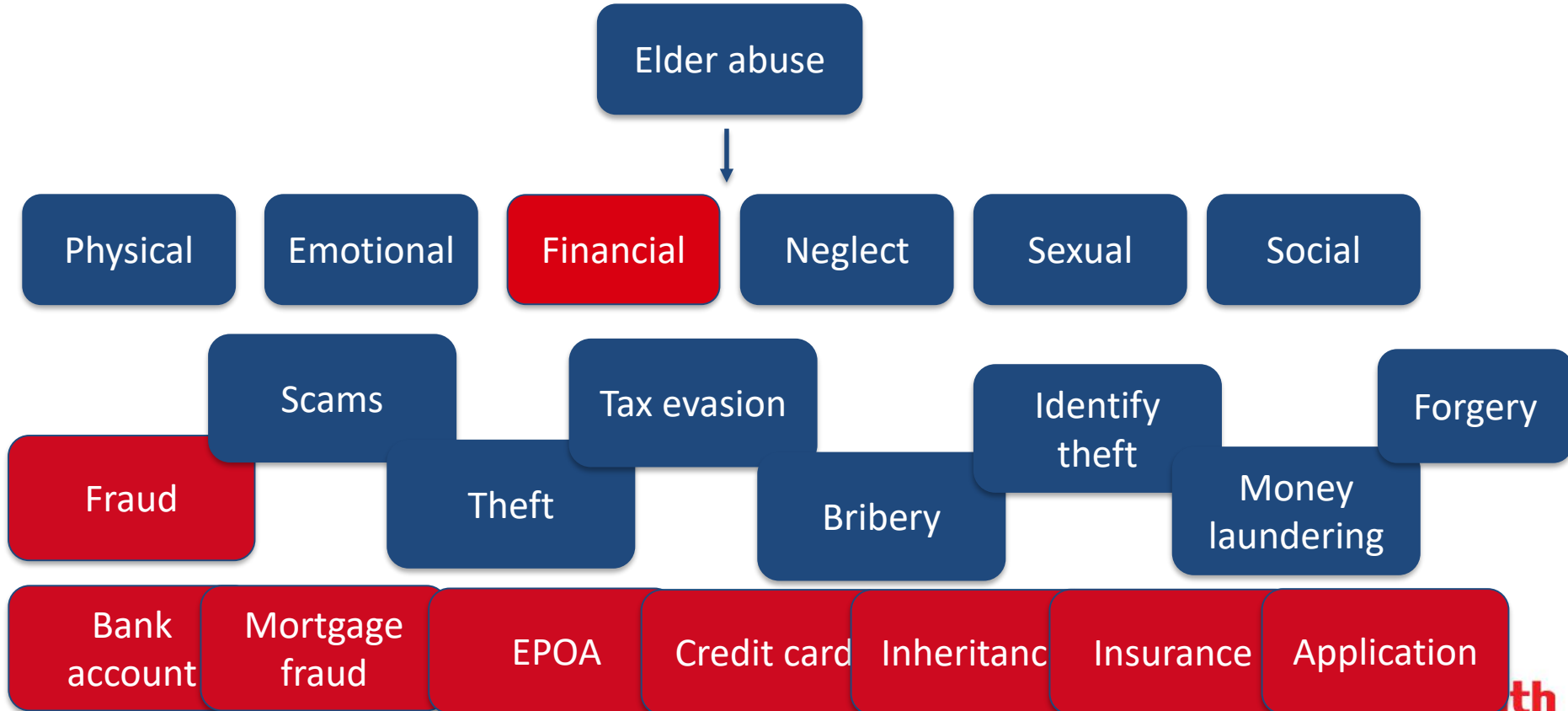
Scanning - Be specific



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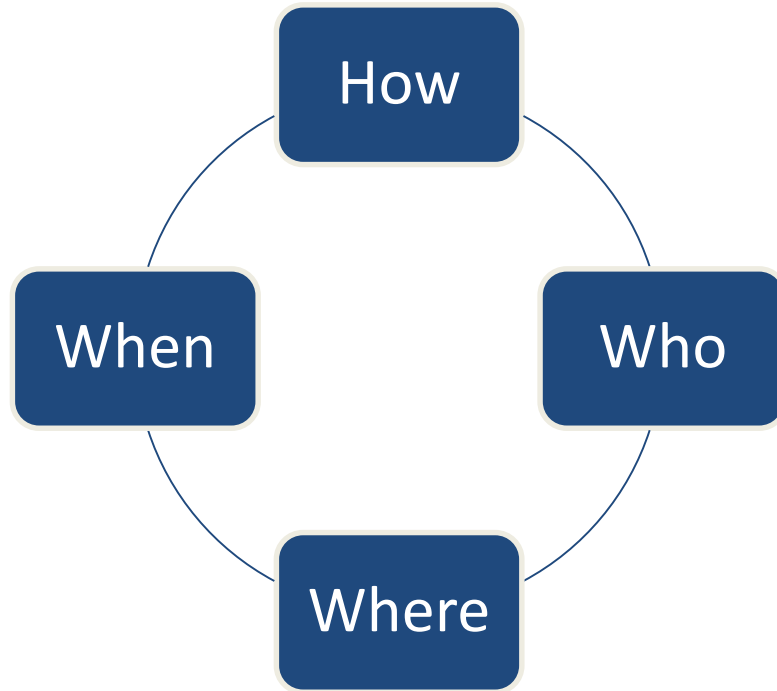
Drilling down = clearer understanding of opportunities and characteristics



Develop appropriate, targeted responses to prevent problem in future



Analysis – Understanding the problem



Response - What should be done about the problem?

Situational Crime Prevention

“When people perceive that there is no risk of detection of a crime, when there is a reward, and when there is an excuse for criminal behaviour, previously law abiding-people are more likely to commit a crime”

(Prichard, 2017)

Response - What should be done about the problem?

Situational Crime Prevention:

1. Increase the **risks** of offending
2. Increase the **effort** of offending
3. Reduce the **reward** of offending
4. Reduce the **provocations** for offending
5. Remove the **excuses** for offending




Assessment – did it work???

- Define how you will measure success before starting
- Process vs impact evaluations
- Measures depend on the problem
 - Reduced calls for service
 - Reduced hospital admissions
 - Reduced number of referrals
 - Reduced number of complaints
 - Increased sense of safety



Helpful Resources

- Ron Clarke & John Eck (2005). Crime analysis for problem solvers in 60 small steps. Center for Problem for Oriented Policing:
<http://www.popcenter.org/library/reading/PDFs/60steps.pdf>
- Kelly Johnson (2002). Financial crimes against the elderly. Center for Problem Oriented Policing:
https://cops.usdoj.gov/html/cd_rom/popguides/pubs/COPS_P013.pdf
- Bryan Payne (2013). Physical and emotional abuse of the elderly. Center for Problem Oriented Policing:
http://www.popcenter.org/problems/pdfs/elderly_abuse.pdf



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