

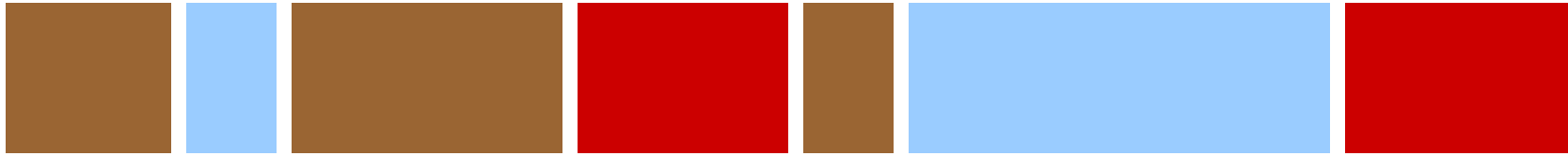
Review of the NSW Interagency Protocol on Abuse of Older People

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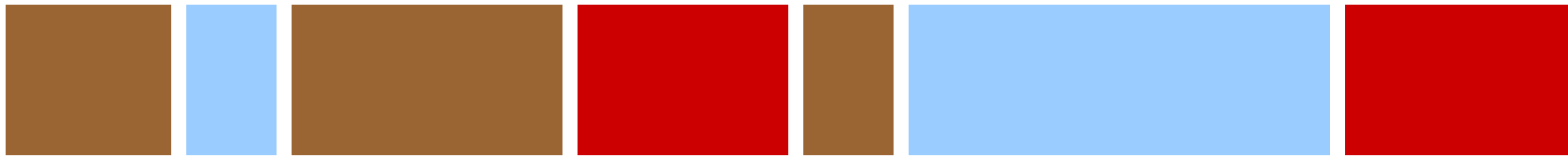
15th June, 2006





Presentation Outline

- Background to Abuse of Older People Interagency Protocol
- 2006 Review of Abuse of Older People Interagency Protocol
- Review of Abuse of Older People Interagency Protocol – Progress
- Research & Literature Review Findings
- Consultations with Practitioners
- Critical Issues
- Next Steps
- Closing Statement

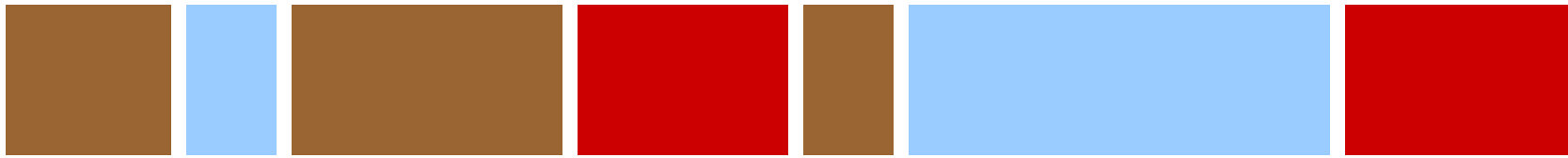


Background to Abuse of Older People Interagency Protocol

- May 1993 – Ministerial Advisory Committee on Abuse of Older People appointed

- Advisory Committee on Abuse of Older People lead development of:
 - A number of research and discussion papers
 - A Legal Issues Manual (September 1995)
 - The Abuse of Older People Interagency Protocol (October 1995)

- 1999 – Ageing & Disability Department developed *Dealing with Abuse of Clients and their Carers Training Kit*



2006 Review of Abuse of Older People Interagency Protocol

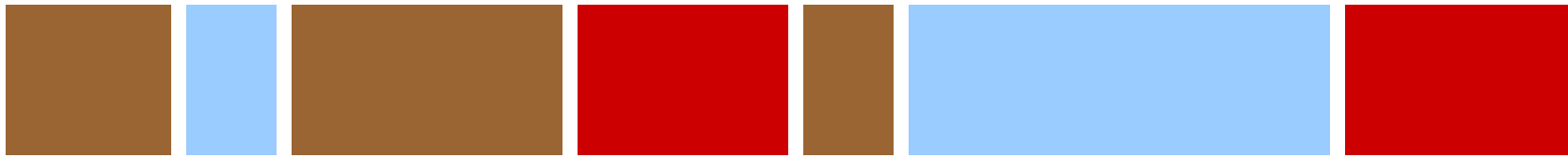
Working Group convened by the Office for Ageing

- DADHC, NSW Health, NSW Police, Cabinet Office, Guardianship Tribunal, Attorney General's, DoCS
- Identify best practice from research and practical resources for responding to elder abuse
- Review effectiveness of current Protocol and Legal Issues Manual
- Recommend new policies and procedures

Consultants - Elder Law, University of Western Sydney

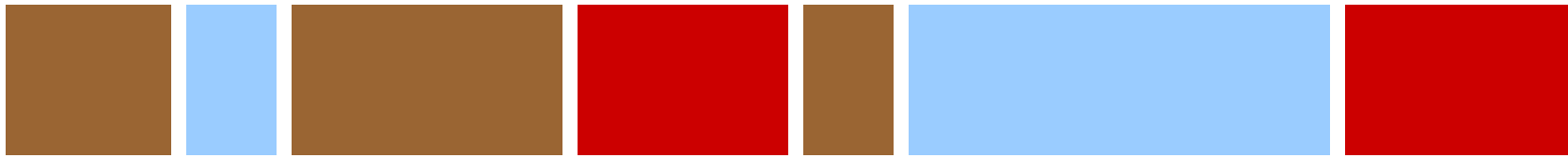
- Research
- Consultations
- Enhance Resources





Review of Abuse of Older People Interagency Protocol – Progress

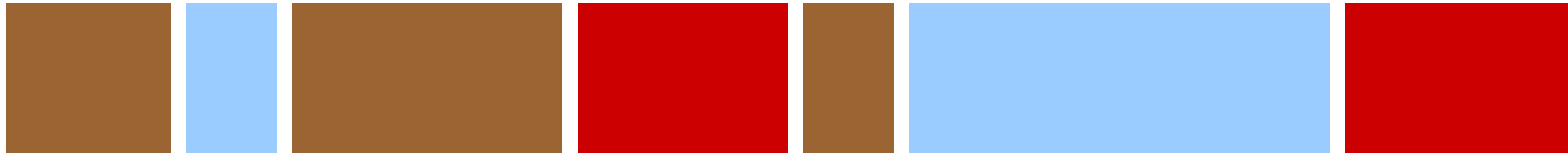
- Literature review - including national and international research and protocols
- Review of existing Protocol and Legal Issues Manual - identify areas requiring update and clarification
- Focus groups and surveys in 5 locations - on-the-ground workers in metro, regional and remote locations
- Session with specific focus on issues affecting Aboriginal communities



Research & Literature Review Findings

- Defining Abuse of Older People
 - Types of abuse including financial, psychological, physical, sexual and neglect
 - Many definitions refer to a 'pattern of behaviour'
 - Many definitions refer to incidents occurring in 'relationships of trust'

- Key examples of international reports and responses



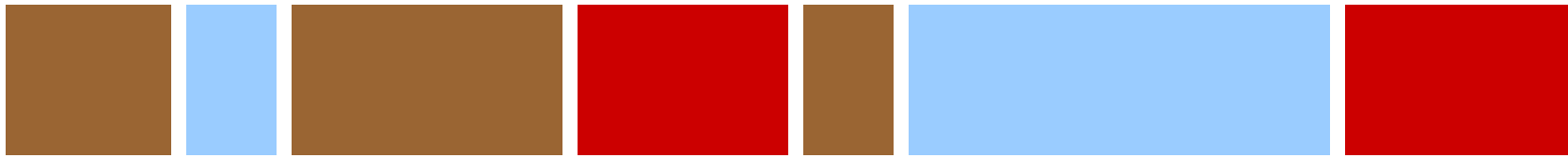
Research & Literature Review Findings (continued)

No Secrets: Guidance on developing and implementing multi-agency policies and procedures to protect vulnerable adults from abuse

- Emphasis on interagency focus
- Identifying local responsibility
- Importance of annual reviews

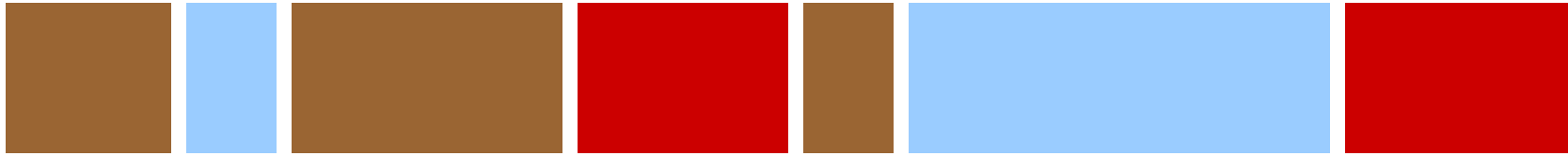
Protecting our Future: Report of the Working Group on Elder Abuse

- Development of a standardised approach
- Framework to ensure consistency and quality
- Response targeting all levels of government
- Emphasises the need for support, awareness and education for carers



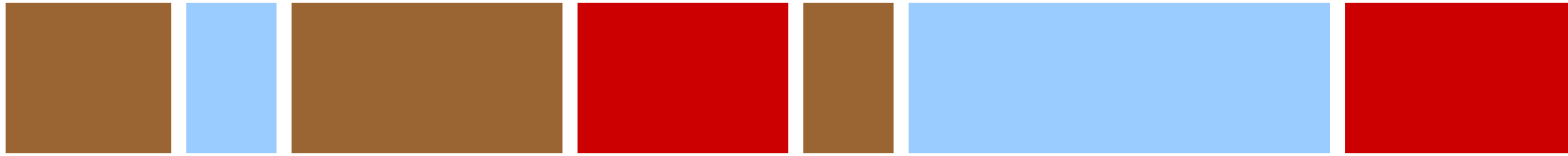
Consultations with Practitioners

- Need to clarify on the ground response – what to do, who to call
- Need a practical one page, quick reference overview of response process
- Concerns regarding anonymity in reporting to the Guardianship Tribunal, particularly in small communities
- Tension between respecting desire of victim to not report incident and duty under the Crimes Act 1900 to report crime
- At times, difficulty in assessing mental capacity of victim
- Reliance on Aged Care Assessment Teams



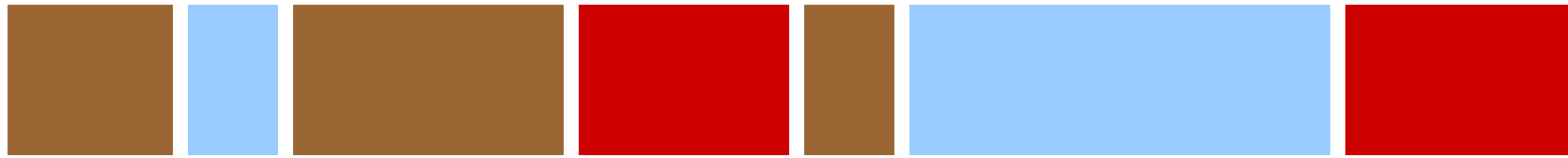
Critical Issues

- Consistent Definitions & Terminology
- Recommended Response in Different Circumstances
- Clarifying Roles & Responsibilities
- Reporting & Data Collection



Next Steps

- Finalise draft documents
- Consultation
- Pilot Implementation & Training Strategy - metro and rural locations



Responding to the challenges

- The complexity of the circumstances surrounding individual situations
- The complexity of social attitudes
- Balancing rights and obligations
- The empowerment of older people