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What Keeps You Safe: Approaches to promote the safety of older Aboriginal people

Funded by the Office for the Ageing

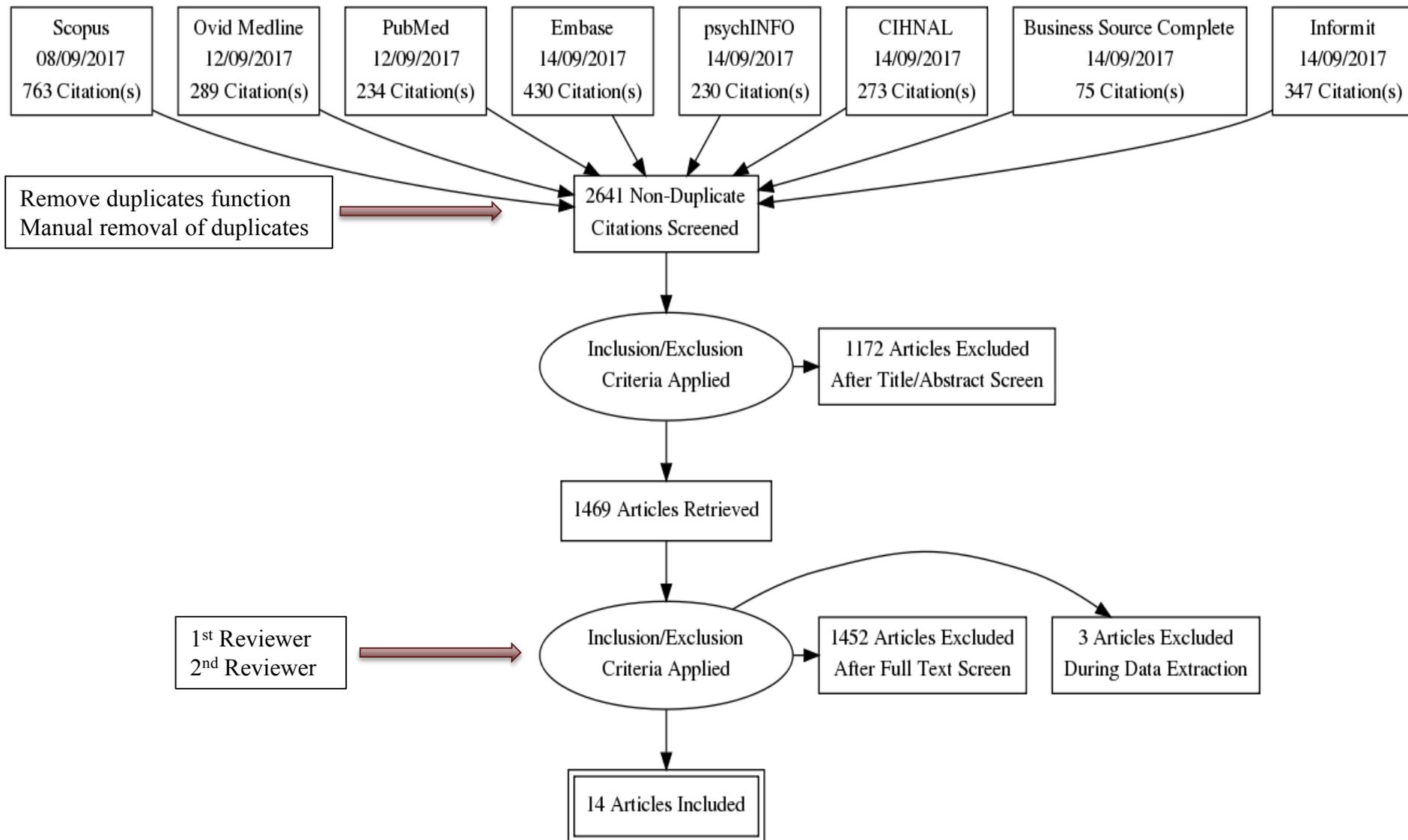
- **Elder Abuse happens across the board: in Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities**
- **This research focuses on the particular context of Aboriginal communities in SA**

Aim

Recommendations for evidence-based resources that assist the aged care sector and the broader community to promote and protect the safety of older Aboriginal people in South Australia

- Systematic Literature Review – ***learning from the past***
- Consultation with Aboriginal community and service providers in SA – ***learning from the experts***

PRISMA Flow Diagram (Peer Reviewed Literature)



Elder mistreatment in the Australian Aboriginal context:

- **Increasing** due to risk factors
- **Financial mistreatment** is the most common form
- **Cultural obligations** and circumstances of **grandparents** have particular implications
- Norms of **reciprocity**

Risk factors of elder mistreatment (Australia)

Historical and cultural:

- Dispossession of land and cultural dislocation
- Grief and trauma
- Dislocation of families
- Impact of institutionalisation
- Imposed shame
- Socio-economic
- Unemployment

Health:

- Low self-esteem
- Marginalisation as a minority
- Societal attitudes and stereotyping
- Individual, direct and institutional racism
- Destructive coping behaviours
- Poor health outcomes
- Lateral violence

(SA Health, Office for the Ageing adapted from Tasmania,
Responding to Elder Abuse 2012)

Barriers to reporting (Australia)

- Behaviour is **not identified** as mistreatment
- Fear and concerns of being judged as an **inadequate**
- Fear of even **worse consequences**
- **Dependence** on the abuser
- **Shame**
- **Loyalty**
- **Lack of awareness** of services available
- **Isolation**
- **Distrust** of services

(Ngadluku Purkarna Tirra-apinthe – Protecting Out Elders Service Provider Handbook, Domiciliary Care, Government of SA 2015)

Strategies included (all)

- Raise awareness
- Mentoring for youth
- Mediation
- Capacity building
- Education for service providers

Learning From the Experts

Interviews/ Focus Groups:

- Semi-structured, audio recorded or written notes

Questions:

- Do you think these strategies would be useful for Aboriginal Communities in SA?
- Do you have any other strategy ideas?
- What is your approach?
- What has worked well/ not worked well?
- What resources would be effective in preventing Elder mistreatment?

Results - Participants

	Community Members	Service Providers
Total Participants	13	9
Male/ Female	M = 4 F = 9	M = 4 F = 5
Urban/ Regional Remote	Urban = 11 Regional = 0 Remote = 2	Urban = 6 Regional = 2 Remote = 1

- Aboriginal Aged Rights Advocacy Service
- Northern Adelaide Carers Network
- Silverchain
- Aboriginal Community Care/
Aboriginal Elders Village
- Murray Mallee Aged Care
- Catalyst Foundation
- Oodnadatta Aged Care

- ~~Capacity building (community led – develop and implement their own solutions)~~
- Provide opportunities for community leadership
- Raise awareness (identification, types, signs, where to go for help) **through community leaders/ champions**

“I think if you get a group of youth in a room and just get the men that they idolise, to talk to them, because I’ve noticed that if they don’t know that person, that facilitator, they, too, don’t listen”.

– Community Interview C010203

- Mediation, redress – healing of relationships

“(Mediation) could cause more problems because if you had a mother and a daughter in a room talking about, “Oh, she keeps taking my,” that’s like me dobbing on them. Making that kid look bad, and then that kid would - Retaliate. It might work while there’s a mediator in the room, but you’ve got to go home with them”. – Community Interview C010203

Results - strategies

- Mentoring for youth
- Education for service providers

Results – NEW strategies

- Increase Aboriginal staff, access to Aboriginal services and interpreters
- Representation and advocacy
- Safe environments - support for Elders to live away from their abuser/s

“They need to link into a service to get the proper carer. And there needs to be more of those housing projects that have got fences around them, but only for Aboriginal people. It’s just a one-bedroom place, so they can’t relatives staying over. And I think one of the rules is the relatives cannot stay over. But on that thing, too, you put them in there, of course, they’re going to fret for the family.

But being their own house, they can do anything” Community Interview - C010203

Other Considerations:

- **Community leadership to underpin the resource development and implementation**
- **Further engage with remote and regional areas**

Next steps:

- **Consensus workshop**
- **Resource recommendations**

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