



Greg Aplin MP
Member for Albury

MEDIA RELEASE

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ALBURY EVENT PUTS SPOTLIGHT ON SENIORS' RIGHTS

Older people in Albury will be empowered to recognise and speak up about elder abuse as a series of informative workshops begin across the State tomorrow to mark the upcoming 2018 Law Week.

Member for Albury Greg Aplin today announced Legal Aid NSW and the Seniors Rights Service have partnered with local specialists to deliver the workshop in Albury this Friday.

"This event will shine a light on what are often taboo topics for seniors. Financial abuse is one of the most prevalent forms of elder abuse and family members are sadly often the perpetrators," Mr Aplin said.

"It's so important for older people to know how to protect themselves, and where to get help if things go wrong."

Minister for Ageing Tanya Davies said participants will view a screening of the film *Piano Forte*, which explores legal issues such as wills, enduring powers of attorney and elder abuse. After the film, local experts will lead an audience discussion.

"A common scenario might involve an older person being pressured to 'go guarantor' on a home loan to help a child or grandchild get a foothold on the property ladder. In the worst cases, victims are fleeced of their savings by a relative or carer," Mrs Davies said.

Attorney General Mark Speakman said the event, being held in 12 regional and city locations across the State, would highlight the importance of planning ahead.

"All too often, families are left making tough decisions that could have been made easier through early planning."

"Simple things like writing a will and choosing someone you trust to make decisions for you if you need them to, can offer real peace of mind," Mr Speakman said.

The '*Piano Forte – Legal Issues for Older People*' workshop will be held at Albury Library on Friday, 11 May, at 1.30pm, and will feature experts from Legal Aid NSW and Hume Riverina Community Legal Service. Places will be strictly limited – call the library on 02 6023 8333 to secure yours. For further information visit www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/what-we-do/workshops.

Anyone who experiences or suspects elder abuse should call the NSW Government's NSW Elder Abuse Helpline and Resource Unit on 1800 628 221 or visit www.elderabusehelpline.com.au.

Media Contact: Greg Aplin 6021 3042 or 0428 600 343