

CS1.5 Patterns of Abuse & Neglect

Types	Definitions and examples
Long term abuse	Abuse that occurs over a period of time. E.g. Can occur in the context of family or other ongoing living arrangements.
Serial abusing	Perpetrator seeks out vulnerable individuals, and abuses several persons according to a pattern. E.g. Sexual abuse usually falls into this pattern, as do some forms of financial abuse.
Opportunistic abusing	Where a person takes advantage of an opportunity or exploiting opportunities and situations in general, especially in a devious or unprincipled way. E.g. Because a person has access to another person's bank account, and they take their money. Opportunistic abuse is also referred to as situational abuse.
Neglect	A person's needs are neglected because those around him or her are unable to provide care or there is a lack of services or inappropriate services. This includes failure to provide access to key services such as health care, dentistry or prosthesis. E.g. a staff member does not respond to a person communicating they are not feeling well and need to see a doctor.
Institutional abuse	The features are poor care standards, lack of positive responses to complex needs, rigid routines, inadequate staffing and insufficient knowledge within the service/s. E.g. not rostering enough staff on shift to meet the needs of the people requiring support.
Unacceptable 'treatments' or programs	Punishment such as withholding of food and drink, seclusion, unnecessary or unauthorised use of control or restraint or over-medication or the unlawful administration of prescribed medications are unacceptable treatments. E.g. giving a person more medication than they have been prescribed.
Failures of agencies	Agencies are responsible for ensuring that staff receive appropriate guidance on anti discrimination practice and cultural sensitivity. E.g. not providing staff with training on anti-discrimination and/or cultural sensitivity.

Misappropriation	Use of the person's money by others, fraud or intimidation. E.g. staff using a person's money to buy something for themselves.
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