

HOME IS
WHERE THE
HEART IS



The
**Warm
Safe
Home**
Project



JUNE 15
**WORLD ELDER ABUSE
AWARENESS DAY**
2024 TOOLKIT



2024 WEAAD Warm Safe Home Toolkit

Thank you for participating in the Warm Safe Home (WSH) community art project.

First developed by Dr Becky Nevin Berger for the South West Victoria Elder Abuse Prevention Network, the Warm Safe Home project uses the icon of the house to talk about older people's right to feel safe and live free from fear. In situations of elder abuse, the home can become a place of danger.

As part of the project, small-scale model houses are handcrafted and decorated by students, artists, seniors, carer support groups, professional organisations, and other community members.

Seniors Rights Victoria, Council on the Ageing (COTA) Victoria, and Housing for the Aged Action Group (HAAG) invite groups such as those above to host their own Warm Safe Home creation events and activities. There, you can work together to create models of your own.

We encourage groups to use this time to discuss elder abuse in all its forms, including conversations about respecting older people, and to spread the message that **everyone has the right to live in a warm, safe home.**

Project aims

- To increase and improve awareness of the rights of everyone to a warm safe home.
- To recognise the rights of older people to live safely within the community, free from elder abuse.



Pictured above: A completed Warm Safe Home by Seniors Rights Victoria's Avital Kamil.



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How to organise a WSH event

Step 1: Plan and promote your crafting event

Items to think about:

- Where will you hold your event or activity?
- How will you promote it? We encourage you to [submit your event to the WEAAD website](#).
- Additional [promotional materials and resources](#) are hosted on the WEAAD website.

Step 2: Conduct your crafting event

Items to think about:

- Will you have enough Warm Safe Home templates for artists?
- Will you have enough crafting materials (paints, markers, glue, etc) for artists?
- Do you have a plan in place to exhibit participants' artworks once they've been completed?
- Remember to encourage participants to share their artwork on social media! See [page 5](#).

Step 3: Work with participants to exhibit works

We encourage all participants to work with their organisers to proudly display their Warm Safe Homes!

To do this, please think about the type of exhibit(s) you'd like to run, and the logistics involved when it comes to collecting and displaying the artwork of your participants.

Step 4: Plan, promote and conduct an exhibition

Organisations can plan a specific exhibition event that best suits their situation. This could be a once-off event or even a long-running series of exhibitions -- councils could display homes over weeks or months within libraries in the their area, as a terrific example.

Don't forget to [submit your exhibition to the WEAAD website](#)!



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How to create a Warm Safe Home

Step 1: Access your Warm Safe Home template

If you're creating a Warm Safe Home through a community organisation or event partner, they'll provide you with your template, space to create your art, and supplies to assist in its creation.

You can also print the template found on [page 7 of this toolkit](#). We recommend printing in A3.

Step 2: Decorate your Warm Safe Home

You're invited to decorate handcrafted paper houses and add words that describe what a warm, safe home means to you.

You might want to start by painting the walls of your cardboard house in a colour you like. Then add decorations to make it your own. You could use paints, pens or pencils, glue and paper, or any objects you find around you.

You can make your home in whatever style you like, – it doesn't have to be a "realistic" house.

For your description of what a warm, safe home means to you, we encourage you to write a message on your house answering one of the following questions:

- What does a warm safe home mean to you?
- What made you feel safe and loved at your grandparents' house?
- What brings you happiness in your own home?
- Is there something else you would like to say?

TIP: Make sure that you include the question in your statement - e.g. "A Warm Safe Home means I can..."

You can gather inspiration from others to help in the decoration of your own Warm Safe Home by visiting our [Warm Safe Home online exhibition](#) on the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day website.



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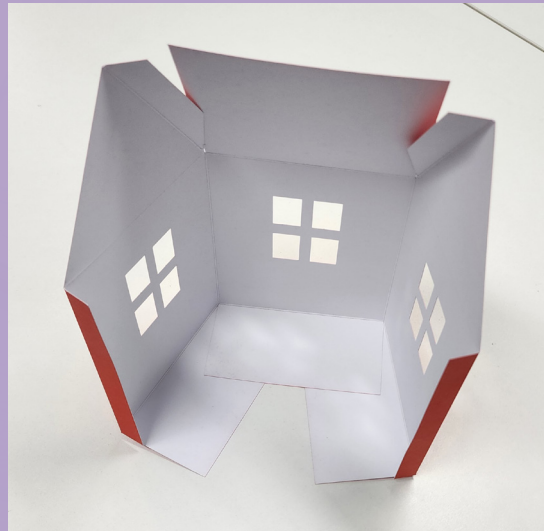


How to create a Warm Safe Home

Step 3: Assemble your Warm Safe Home

When you've finished decorating and messaging your home, you can assemble it by folding along each seam. Then, glue or tape the tabs of the middle section of the home to the base and roof.

You can also scan the QR code on the right to watch a short video that details how to assemble your home.



Step 4: Share your Warm Safe Home on social media

We would love you to share a picture of your Warm Safe Home!

Take a photo of your finished house and upload it to social media. We suggest the hashtags **#warmsafehome** and **#WEAAD** for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

You might also wish to tag other organisations, such as:

- **Seniors Rights Victoria:** @seniorsrights on Facebook and Twitter (X)
- **COTA Victoria:** @cotavic on Facebook, @cota_vic on Instagram and Threads
- **HAAG:** @HousingfortheAgedActionGroup on Facebook, @ HAAGHomeAtLast on Twitter (X), @h4theaag on Instagram
- The organisation that has hosted your event



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How to create a Warm Safe Home

Step 5: Exhibit your Warm Safe Home

You have several options when it comes to exhibiting your Warm Safe Home.

WEAAD Warm Safe Home exhibition at Melbourne Town Hall

SRV, COTA Victoria, and HAAG will hold a special WEAAD Warm Safe Home Exhibition at the Melbourne Town Hall on 13 June.

If you're interested in exhibiting your creation as part of this showcase event, please contact info@seniorsrights.org.au or call 9655 2159 for further information.

Online exhibition

We invite you to [submit your photo for our Warm Safe Home exhibition page](#).

Or, you can take a photo of your work and email it to us at marketing@seniorsrights.org.au. Make sure you put "Warm Safe Home" in the subject line.

Please ensure to tell us your name and where you made your Warm Safe Home as well!

Your local exhibition

If you've made your Warm Safe Home as part of a larger crafting event, ask your organiser if they're also hosting a local exhibition.

We encourage all artists to work with their organisers to proudly display their Warm Safe Homes!



Pictured above: Completed Warm Safe Homes from previous years of this initiative.

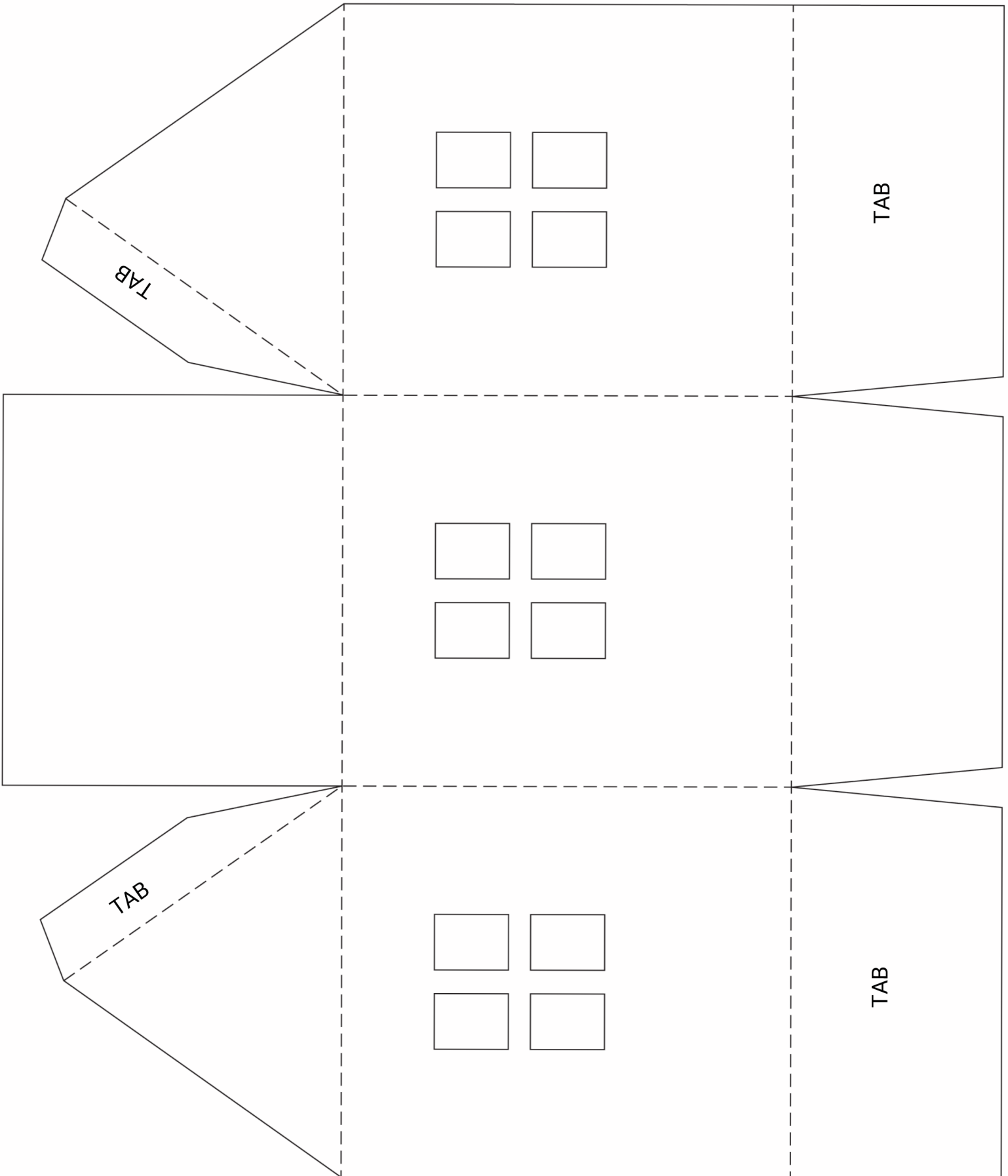


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Warm Safe Home template





World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2024

The United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution 66/127, designated 15 June as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD).

WEAAD is celebrated each year, globally, providing an opportunity for communities to stand together against the abuse, mistreatment and neglect of older people.

What is elder abuse?

Elder abuse comes in many forms. It can be financial, emotional, psychological, physical, sexual, or social. Elder abuse can occur once, or many times and can vary in severity from subtle through to extreme. It can include one or a combination of the different types of abuse.

Most often, elder abuse is carried out by someone known to the older person, with two thirds of abusers being an adult child. Abusers can also be other family members, relatives, or friends.

Elder abuse affects people of all genders and all walks of life. The abuse, however, disproportionately affects women – two-thirds of people seeking help from SRV are women.

Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and LGBTQI+ communities are additionally vulnerable, as are older people living in rural and regional communities.

Who is affected by elder abuse?

The most recent study of elder abuse prevalence in Australia found that 14.8% of those 65 years and over had experienced at least one recognised form of elder abuse over the previous 12 months.

This suggests that 160,000 older Victorians are experiencing elder abuse each year to a level they are willing to identify to researchers.



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Additional information

The incidence of abuse towards older people is also predicted to increase as many countries experience rapidly ageing populations, which Victoria is not immune from as our community ages.

By 2046, the number of Victorians aged 60+ is expected to increase by around 60 per cent to more than 2.3 million people, accounting for approximately 25 per cent of the population will be 60 years of age or older.

Insecure housing and homelessness are factors that greatly contribute to elder abuse, whether they are experienced by the older person themselves, or by people close to them.

A safe, secure and affordable home

Housing affordability is the most important factor in determining older people's wellbeing. Many older people, especially older people on low incomes, can't afford to rent, or are retiring without having paid their mortgage. This may place them at risk of homelessness.

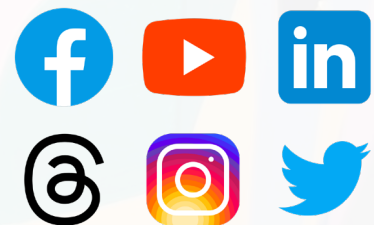
Having a safe, secure and affordable home means you can stay connected to your community, receive aged care in the home and live a healthy life as you get older.

About Seniors Rights Victoria (SRV)

Seniors Rights Victoria is the key state-wide service dedicated to advancing the rights of older people and the early intervention into, or prevention of, elder abuse in our community.

SRV has a team of experienced advocates, lawyers, and social workers who provide free information, advice, referral, legal advice, legal casework, support, and the direct provision of legal advice to older people who are either at risk of, or are experiencing, elder abuse.

If you, or someone you know, is experiencing elder abuse in Victoria, call our helpline on **1300 368 821**.



seniorsrights.org.au

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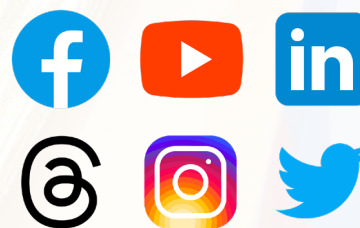


About Council on the Ageing (COTA) Victoria

COTA Victoria is the leading not-for-profit organisation representing the interests and rights of people aged over 50 in Victoria. For over 70 years, we have led government, corporate and community thinking about the positive aspects of ageing in the state.

Today, our focus is on promoting opportunities for and protecting the legal rights of people 50+. We value ageing and embrace its opportunities for personal growth, contribution, and self-expression. This belief drives benefits throughout the nation alongside communities, families, and individuals.

Our free COTA WISE telephone information service aims to make older people feel WISE – Welcome, Included, Supported and Empowered -- and is contactable on **1300 135 090**.



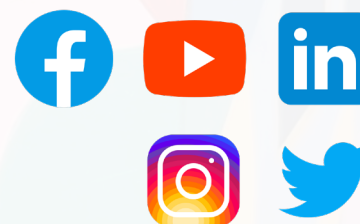
cotavic.org.au
oldernotalone.com

About Housing for the Aged Action Group (HAAG)

HAAG is a community organisation who believe in a society where older people have safe, secure and affordable housing. HAAG is committed to finding long term solutions to the housing crisis facing older Australians.

We engage and work with older people through community activism, services & advocacy to achieve social change and housing justice.

HAAG's Home at Last program assists people who are aged 50+ homeless, at risk of homelessness, or living in unsuitable housing, to achieve long-term and affordable housing and link in with aged care supports so that they are able to age in place.



oldertenants.org.au



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COTA Victoria

1300 135 090

askcota@cotavic.org.au

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Melbourne, VIC, 3004



Seniors Rights Victoria

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HOUSING FOR THE AGED ACTION GROUP

Housing for the Aged Action Group

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