



Review of the *Ageing and Adult Safeguarding Act 1995 (SA)*

Fact Sheet 2 – Office for Ageing Well

About the Office for Ageing Well

The Office for Ageing Well ('OFAW'), previously known as Office for the Ageing, is established by Part 2 of the *Ageing and Adult Safeguarding Act 1995* ('the Act') and is situated within the Department for Health and Wellbeing. Under the Act, the Office for Ageing Well is tasked with understanding and addressing the needs and interests of 'ageing' South Australians and to support people to age well. Some of the current initiatives run by Office for Ageing Well include the *South Australia's Plan for Ageing Well*, the *Strategy to Safeguard the Rights of Older South Australians* and the Seniors Card Program.¹

The functions of OFAW include, but are not limited to:

- developing state-wide policies and strategies in coordination with the State Government to meet the objectives in the Act;
- consulting with 'the ageing' to ensure that their interests are considered;
- monitoring the implementation of policy.
- minimising discrimination and negative social attitudes surrounding ageing; and
- educating the public about the rights of ageing persons and other vulnerable adults.

Since 1 October 2019, OFAW also supports the ASU's safeguarding functions (see Fact Sheet 5).

Current issues

The prevalence of ageist attitudes remains a problem within society and greatly influences the way older people are viewed and treated.² It is therefore important that the language used in the Act is respectful, sets a good example, and reflects modern thinking in relation to ageing and older people. The Office for Ageing Well provisions presently use the terms 'the ageing' and 'vulnerable adults'.

Consultation Questions

1. Is the language used to describe older people appropriate and suitable?
2. Do the objectives and/or functions of Office for Ageing Well reflect contemporary society and issues? What changes may be appropriate?

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¹ SA Health, 'Office For Ageing Well' (Web Page) 07 March 2022

<<https://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/public+content/sa+health+internet/about+us/department+for+health+and+wellbeing/office+for+ageing+well>>

² South Australia's Plan for Ageing Well 2020-2025 (Report, June 2020) 41.