



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

Fact Sheet 1 – Background Information to the Review

About the South Australian Law Reform Institute

The South Australian Law Reform Institute ('SALRI') is an independent non-partisan law reform body based at the Adelaide University Law School that conducts inquiries into areas of law. SALRI identifies law reform options that would modernise the law, resolve issues with the law, remove unnecessary laws, or, where desirable, adopt an approach from other States and Territories. To do this, SALRI looks at how the law works, conducts research and consults widely with the community, interested parties and experts. Based on its research and consultation, SALRI makes recommendations to the State Government (for this review, to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing) who, with the State Parliament, decide whether to reform the law.

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

Section 53 of the *Ageing and Adult Safeguarding Act 1995 (SA)* ('the Act') requires an independent review of the Act to be submitted before the third anniversary of the commencement of the same section, and for the report to be laid before both Houses of Parliament within six sitting days after receiving the report.

SALRI has been asked by the State Government to review the Act and, as part of this review, to:

- Identify the extent to which the Act is achieving its purpose.
- Review the functions and powers of the Office for Ageing Well and the Adult Safeguarding Unit (ASU).
- Consult with relevant parties, such as experts, interested groups, and community members with lived experience, such as older persons and persons with a disability.
- Consider independent evaluations of the ASU including their policies, protocols and operations.
- Recommend appropriate changes to the current law that promote human rights and best practices.

According to its terms of reference, **SALRI will not examine the organisational structure or administrative operations of the ASU.**

Your input is needed

SALRI is committed to an active and inclusive consultation process and wants to hear from you about your experiences in using, accessing, and dealing with the Act. We are particularly interested about ways in which the law and practice can be improved. Your experiences and views are very important.

SALRI has a number of consultation questions, but you are welcome to answer only those questions that are of interest to you. Your input can be on a de-identified basis if you prefer.

There are three ways that you can be involved:

1. Fill out the survey available at <https://law.adelaide.edu.au/research/south-australian-law-reform-institute#ageing-and-adult-safeguarding>; or
2. Send us a written submission or letter (formal or informal) to salri_aas@adelaide.edu.au; or
3. Attend an expert or interested party roundtable discussion (by invitation only).

SALRI's consultation process will open on 16th of May 2022 and close on 30th of June 2022.

Please note: SALRI does not, and cannot, provide legal advice to individuals. If you are in need of legal advice we encourage you to speak to a lawyer and/or contact a community legal service.

If you or someone you know might be experiencing any kind of abuse or neglect, please contact the Adult Safeguarding Unit on 1800 372 310 for information support or to make a report. You can also email adultsafeguardingunit@sa.gov.au

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