

# PROTECTING OUR VULNERABLE CANBERRANS



**On 20 April 2021, new laws came into effect in the ACT to protect vulnerable adults. Vulnerable people are adults with a disability and people over 60 years who have a mental, intellectual or physical impairment and/or are socially isolated.**

**Under the new laws, it is an offence to:**

- > Abuse a vulnerable person
- > Fail to protect a vulnerable person
- > Neglect a vulnerable person

**Who do these new laws protect?**

These new laws will protect vulnerable people who are being cared for by someone at home or in a care setting.

**What type of abuse are vulnerable people being protected from?**

Abuse may be physical violence, but can also include controlling, intimidating and threatening behaviours such as:

- > Isolating someone from their friends, family and services
- > Stopping someone from practising religious and spiritual beliefs
- > Frightening, degrading or humiliating someone or restricting their freedom
- > Stopping someone from accessing their money

Under these new laws, all caregivers are required to ensure vulnerable people in their care are not abused, and have access to food, clothing, shelter, hygiene and health care.

**The new offences apply to both institutions and individuals who provide care to vulnerable adults, including family members.**

For more information, please visit [justice.act.gov.au/vulnerablepeople](https://justice.act.gov.au/vulnerablepeople)

Please note that this poster provides general information only and should not be considered legal advice. You should consider obtaining independent legal advice if you require it.