

Arts raise abuse awareness



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Colac's Second Sea Scouts are inviting the community to join an arts and crafts session to raise awareness of elder abuse.

Crafters will create and decorate their own craft houses from kits to feature in a Colac Library exhibition in the lead-up to World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15.

The craft day will start at 2pm this Saturday at the Second Sea Scouts Colac Hall on the Lake Colac foreshore.

Scouts leader Jonathon Graham said the Scouts organised this Saturday's craft day in conjunction with Colac Neighbourhood House and Barwon Community Legal as part of the Warm Safe Home project.

"Scouts is all about helping others and doing what is right. They organise and get involved in a number of different activities that support the community, both local and abroad," Mr Graham said.

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"This has included things like helping to sell Anzac badges for the RSL, running children's activities for the Bunnings family activity days, setting up and packing up local festivals and events, or collecting donations for food drives."

The Warm Safe Home project is a community art project aiming to help start conversations about elder abuse, treating older people with respect, and learning about what a warm safe home means for others.

"This particular project is aimed at opening up discussion about an issue that some people may not be aware of at all. It's also an engaging community project for non-Scouts to be involved with," Mr Graham said.

"There's no specific skills required and any age can be involved. All the materials will be provided, people just need to RSVP so that we will have enough kits."

Elder abuse is any act which causes harm to an older person, which can be physical, social, financial, or psychological, and can include mistreatment and neglect.

The Barwon Elder Abuse Primary Prevention Network supports a network of organisations across the legal, local government, health, aged care and community safety sectors to work together to raise awareness and increase capacity to address elder abuse in our region.

"Elder abuse is a growing problem in our community that we, as community members, have the power to change," Mr Graham said.

"Everyone should be treated equally no matter their race, gender, or age. While our community is beginning to recognise the injustices of racism and sexism, the prejudice many of us still don't see is ageism."

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