



Media Release

6 November 2010

The Public Trustee warns grandparent abuse unacceptable

Grandparents are important family members and we all should all look after them. As part of Grandparents Day 7 November 2010, The Public Trustee of Queensland, Peter Carne is encouraging grandparents to seek help if they are experiencing any form of abuse.

'Abuse is not just verbal threats and physical assault; financial abuse is a serious concern for many older Queenslanders,' Mr Carne said.

'Grandparents make a valuable contribution to their families and the broader Queensland community and abuse is simply unacceptable.

'Sadly some grandparents experience demands from family member to sign documents and handover money, with threats to withdraw access to grandchildren if they don't comply.

'It is important everyone understands the implications of the documents they sign. If you are ever unsure, you should seek independent advice,' Mr Carne said.

Mr Carne cautions grandparents to carefully consider the implications of who they appoint as their Enduring Power of Attorney for financial, personal and health matters.

'At the Public Trustee our legal team regularly undertakes legal action to re-coup money on behalf of people with incapacity for whom we are appointed financial administrator or financial attorney,' he said.

'This is often because attorneys have misused or misappropriated the funds of vulnerable people.

'The Public Trustee provides an impartial Enduring Power of Attorney preparing service and we can assist you to plan for your future while you have the capacity to do so,' Mr Carne said.

To contact The Public Trustee phone: 1300 360 044 or visit: www.pt.qld.gov.au

The Queensland Government's Grandparents Information Service provides information and referral services phone: 1300 135 500