



Resident-to-Resident Aggression in Aged Care

A medico-legal short course for geriatricians and senior clinicians

Attend short course **in person or online**

Friday 13th November 2026

Resident-to-resident aggression is one of the most common yet least understood causes of harm in residential aged care. It challenges clinicians to balance safety, autonomy, dignity, risk and quality of life in an environment where simple solutions rarely exist.

This unique short course brings together nationally recognised experts in aged care medicine, psychiatry, pharmacy, dementia design, forensic psychology, law, governance, policing and public policy to explore the clinical, ethical and organisational realities of resident-to-resident aggression. At the micro-level we will examine how we may prevent aggression through environmental design and dementia-supportive care; exploring the benefits and limitations of pharmacological interventions; when to seek help from specialist services and what to expect, the role of police and emergency responses. At a macro-level we explore the potential for risk assessment and violence prevention, understanding governance, legal and organisational consequences and reflect on policy reform, regulation and unintended consequences.

The Australian Centre for Evidence Based Aged Care is offering an important workshop—Navigating resource constraints in geriatric medicine—to be held on **Friday 13th November 2026** from 9:00 am – 5:00pm at La Trobe University City Campus, 360 Collins Street, Level 3 Room 3.08, Melbourne VIC 3000.

Learn from our expert faculty comprising Professor Simon Bell (geriatric pharmacology and medication safety), Associate Professor Stephen Macfarlane (aged psychiatry and Dementia Support Australia), Professor Michael Daffern (forensic behavioural science and violence prevention), Kirsty Bennett (dementia-supportive design and the built environment), Dr Briony Jain (resident-to-resident aggression research and policy translation), Mr Chris Lee (Victoria Police and elder abuse prevention) and Jo Hall (ethics, governance and health law).

The mode of learning is through didactic presentations and participant discussions to share insights. This is an important workshop for medical specialists in Geriatric and General Medicine. It is relevant to clinicians, managers, leaders, and policy-makers who work in Victoria and across Australia. Attend in person or online. Places are limited to enhance the learning experience.

Our facilitators include senior experienced legal (Mr Bill O'Shea AM and Mr Phil Grano OAM) and medical professionals Professor Joseph Ibrahim).

WORKSHOP DETAILS

FACILITATORS

Prof Joseph Ibrahim
PhD FAFPHM FRACP
Ms Amelia Grossi LLB(Hons)
Mr Bill O'Shea AM
Mr Phil Grano OAM

An electronic information pack is included with the short course registration fee.

TARGET AUDIENCE

Consultant Physicians in Geriatric Medicine, General Medicine, Senior Health Service Executives and Managers, Heads of Clinical Units providing care to older people.

WHEN

Friday 13 November 2026
9:00am – 5:00pm

WHERE

La Trobe University City Campus
360 Collins Street, Level 3,
Room 3.08
Melbourne Victoria 3000

COST

\$1250

ENQUIRIES TO

Amelia Grossi by email
a.grossi@latrobe.edu.au

Online payment and registration

https://pay.latrobe.edu.au/EvProvost/booking?e=PRO_EV384

Terms and Conditions: Refunds will only be given if cancellations are advised at least fourteen days before the event. Please note that a colleague is always welcome to attend in your place. Refund requests need to be received in writing to agrossi@latrobe.edu.au. Registration is finalised once you receive a registration confirmation email from the administrator. For the finance office, use only WBS 4.0101.29.25, ACEBAC cost centre 1346. GL Account 401356 Conference Revenue.

Topics and Speakers

TOPIC:

Prescribing for aggression: achieving more help than harm.

Examines the pharmacological management of resident-to-resident aggression, including the evidence for and against psychotropic medications, issues surrounding off-label prescribing, deprescribing considerations and medication-related harms.

Speaker: Professor Simon Bell
BPharm(Hons), PhD

Professor Simon Bell is Director of the Centre for Medicine Use and Safety at Monash University and Adjunct Professor of Geriatric Pharmacotherapy at the University of Eastern Finland. He is internationally recognised for his research on medication safety and the quality use of medicines in older people. Professor Bell has published more than 340 peer-reviewed papers and contributed to research programs exceeding \$45 million in competitive funding. He has held leadership roles in major NHMRC-funded initiatives, including the Cognitive Decline Partnership Centre and the Centre of Research Excellence in Frailty and Healthy Ageing. He currently serves as Clinical Chair of Australia's psychotropic medication guidelines for people living with dementia.

Simon's expertise highlights the role that medication use, psychotropic stewardship and deprescribing play in managing behaviours associated with aggression while minimising harm.

TOPIC:

Prescribing space: how design prevents aggression

Explores how the built environment influences resident behaviour, interpersonal interactions and perceptions of safety. Drawing on contemporary evidence and dementia-supportive design principles, Kirsty examines how environmental modifications can reduce triggers for aggression, support autonomy, improve freedom of movement and create spaces that promote wellbeing while minimising conflict between residents.

Speaker: Kirsty Bennett
BArch(Hons), Grad Dip Gerontology,
BD(Hons), FRAIA

Kirsty Bennett is an architect and nationally recognised leader in the design of environments for older people, particularly those living with dementia. A Fellow of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, she has spent more than 25 years improving aged care environments through architectural practice, research, writing and education. Kirsty was a co-author of the influential World Alzheimer Report 2020: Design, Dignity, Dementia, which helped shape international thinking on dementia-supportive design and the built environment. She is widely regarded as a pioneer of dementia-enabling design in Australia and is a sought-after consultant, educator and keynote speaker whose work has helped shape contemporary best practice in residential aged care.

Kirsty's work demonstrates how environmental design can reduce distress, behavioural symptoms and interpersonal conflict, making the built environment a critical strategy for preventing resident-to-resident aggression.

TOPIC:

Risk stratification and preventing a crisis

Examines approaches developed in general and forensic mental health settings, to explore violence risk assessment frameworks and aggression prevention protocols. Consider what may translate to aged care and the limitations of prediction in complex care environments.

Speaker: Professor Michael Daffern
BA(Hons), MPsy(Clin), PhD

Professor Michael Daffern is Director of the Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science and one of Australia's leading experts in aggression, violence and forensic mental health. A clinical psychologist with more than 30 years of experience, he has worked extensively in prison, forensic and general mental health settings. His research focuses on violence risk assessment, offender rehabilitation and evidence-based approaches to aggression prevention. Professor Daffern also serves as Consultant Principal Psychologist with the Victorian Institute of Forensic Mental Health (Forensicare). He is a former Chair of the Australian Psychological Society College of Forensic Psychologists and received the Society's Distinguished Contribution to Forensic Psychology Award.

Michael's internationally recognised work on aggression risk assessment provides valuable frameworks for understanding, predicting and preventing interpersonal aggression.

Topics and Speakers *continued*

TOPIC:

When good evidence creates new problems

Examines the unintended consequences of translating resident-to-resident death research findings into policy and practice. Explores the pathway from empirical research to Royal Commission recommendations, policy reform, regulation and clinical implementation. Illustrating how well-intentioned reforms can create unforeseen challenges for clinicians, providers and residents.

Speaker: Dr Briony Jain
PhD

Dr Briony Jain is a public health researcher, senior strategic consultant and Adjunct Senior Research Fellow at Monash University. Her career spans Australia and the United Kingdom across academic, government and health sectors. Her doctoral research at Monash University's Department of Forensic Medicine produced the largest national study of intentional deaths and resident-to-resident aggression undertaken in Australian aged care, making a significant contribution to understanding safety risks in long-term care. Internationally, she served as a launch editor for *Nature Aging* and as a Research Fellow at Middlesex University, London. Dr Jain is recognised for translating evidence into policy and practice reforms that improve safety and quality of care for older people. Briony's research has fundamentally advanced understanding of the epidemiology, risk factors and system contributors associated with resident-to-resident aggression in aged care.

TOPIC:

Escalation: what to expect when specialist services become involved

Explores when, why and how geriatricians and aged care providers should seek specialist support for residents exhibiting complex aggression. Addresses referral pathways, resource limitations, organisational barriers and the realities of interagency collaboration within a fragmented system.

Speaker: Associate Professor Stephen Macfarlane
MBBS, FRANZCP

Associate Professor Stephen Macfarlane is one of Australia's leading old-age psychiatrists with expertise in dementia, aged mental health and residential aged care. He is the Clinical Director, Dementia Support Australia and has directed two major metropolitan aged psychiatry services and has practised as a specialist geriatric psychiatrist for more than two decades. Associate Professor Macfarlane has over 25 years' experience in Alzheimer's disease clinical trials as a principal investigator and medical monitor and has authored more than 50 peer-reviewed publications. He served as Binational Chair of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists Faculty of Psychiatry of Old Age and provided expert evidence to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety. Stephen's specialist psychiatric perspective to understanding aggression and his work with Dementia Support Australia provides practical expertise in understanding, assessing and managing aggression associated with dementia and helping clinicians respond effectively.

TOPIC:

The aftershocks: governance after serious harm

Examines the organisational consequences of serious resident-to-resident aggression incidents. Explores aspects of governance responsibilities, regulatory scrutiny, documentation, disclosure obligations, workforce impacts, reputational risks and legal considerations.

Speaker: Jo Hall
LLB, GAICD

Jo Hall LLB, GAICD is an Ethics and Practitioner Support Lawyer at the Law Institute of Victoria. She advises solicitors on professional ethics, governance, risk management and regulatory compliance, assisting practitioners to navigate complex professional responsibilities. Jo is a recognised contributor to legal education and regularly develops guidance and training on professional conduct, substitute decision-making and powers of attorney. As a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, she combines expertise in legal ethics with a strong understanding of governance and organisational leadership. She also serves on health sector boards, bringing legal, governance and strategic insight to the oversight of healthcare organisations. Jo's expertise helps organisations navigate the ethical and legal challenges of balancing resident safety, autonomy, duty of care and human rights when responding to aggression.

Topics and Speakers *continued*

TOPIC:

Call Triple Zero: understanding the role of police

Explores the circumstances in which police involvement may be appropriate for incidents of resident-to-resident aggression and the practical challenges that arise when a resident's needs exceed the capabilities of the current care environment. It also examines opportunities for collaboration between clinicians, aged care providers and law enforcement agencies.

Speaker: Mr Chris Lee

Chris Lee is Community Portfolio Manager within Victoria Police's Priority and Safer Communities Division, where he leads strategic initiatives aimed at protecting vulnerable members of the community. He manages the Senior Victorians and Victim Survivors portfolios and is recognised nationally for advancing collaborative approaches to elder abuse prevention. Among his most significant achievements was leading the establishment of Australia's first formal partnership between a police service and the aged care advocacy sector through collaboration with Elder Rights Advocacy. Mr Lee's work focuses on strengthening frontline responses to elder abuse and improving coordination between law enforcement, health, legal and aged care sectors.

Chris's experience demonstrates how police, advocacy organisations and providers can respond effectively when resident-to-resident aggression results in serious harm or potential criminal conduct.

Chair, Convenors and Facilitators

Professor Joseph Ibrahim MBBS, PhD FAFPHM, FRACP

Professor Joseph Ibrahim is Professor of Aged Care Medicine at the Australian Centre for Evidence Based Aged Care, La Trobe University, and a practising specialist geriatrician. He is internationally recognised for his work in aged care quality and safety, elder abuse, resident-to-resident aggression and coronial investigations. Professor Ibrahim was an inaugural member of the clinical team supporting the Victorian State Coroner's Office in investigations into failures in health and aged care systems. His research and expert evidence have informed the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, the Australian Law Reform Commission Inquiry into Elder Abuse and numerous Parliamentary inquiries. He was recognised in Good Weekend's "People Who Mattered 2019: Health" and is the founding editor of the Residential Aged Care Communiqué.

Joseph's research and advocacy have been instrumental in establishing resident-to-resident aggression as a major aged care quality and safety issue in Australia.

Amelia Grossi BBiomedSc, LLB(Hons)

Amelia Grossi is an emerging clinician-scholar whose work spans law, medicine and aged care. A graduate of Monash University with degrees in Law (Honours) and Biomedical Science, she has collaborated extensively with Professor Joseph Ibrahim on research examining capacity, consent and decision-making issues affecting older people in aged care. Her academic interests focus on the intersection of legal frameworks, clinical practice and quality of life for older adults. Through her research and educational activities, she has contributed to advancing understanding of complex medico-legal challenges in ageing and aged care. Amelia is currently undertaking postgraduate medical studies at the University of Melbourne.

Amelia's work highlights how legal concepts such as capacity, consent and duty of care influence organisational and clinical responses to resident-to-resident aggression.

Bill O'Shea AM

Bill O'Shea AM is one of Australia's most respected health and elder law practitioners. He was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in the 2020 Australia Day Honours for significant service to the legal profession and the community. A Life Member and former President of the Law Institute of Victoria, he has provided longstanding leadership in health and elder law. Mr O'Shea served as Alfred Health's inaugural General Counsel from 2003 to 2017, providing strategic legal leadership to one of Australia's largest public health services. He is also an Honorary Fellow of the College of Law and Chair of its Victorian Chapter Board.

Bill's expertise provides critical insight into governance, liability and organisational accountability when serious harm occurs in aged care settings.

Phil Grano OAM

Phil Grano OAM is a respected solicitor and advocate who has devoted more than four decades to promoting the rights of older people, people with disability and other vulnerable Australians. Admitted to practice in 1981, he has worked extensively in advocacy, guardianship, human rights and access to justice, including service as a Legal Officer with the Office of the Public Advocate. His commitment to community service was recognised with the Medal of the Order of Australia for advocacy on behalf of disadvantaged and vulnerable people. He has also been recognised by the Law Institute of Victoria for his contributions to elder law and human rights initiatives and remains an influential voice in supported decision-making and legal reform.

Phil's advocacy reinforces the importance of ensuring responses to aggression protect vulnerable residents while maintaining a rights-based and person-centred approach to care.