

South Australian Charter of the Rights and Freedoms of Vulnerable Adults¹

Based on International Human Rights Principles, The Charter will guide the Adult Safeguarding Unit's actions to prevent, identify and respond to abuse or neglect. It does not create legally enforceable rights.

Dignity, respect and self-determination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > The right to be treated with dignity and respect. > The right to live autonomous and self-determined lives, to take risks and be supported to make their own decision/choices. > The right to freedom of movement and to choose where they live. > These rights shall only be restricted in accordance with the law.
Liberty and security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > The right to liberty and security and to be free from exploitation and physical, social, psychological, financial, chemical and sexual abuse, or neglect. No person shall be deprived of their liberty except in accordance with the law. > The right to be free from torture and other forms of cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment.
Equality and non-discrimination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > The right to live free from all forms of discrimination, whether on the basis of age, disability, sex, gender identity, colour, sexual orientation, location, religion, political opinion, educational qualification, national origin, culture or ethnicity. > The right to be treated equally before the law.
Standards of living and care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > The right to food and water to nurture them nutritionally and emotionally, adequate clothing and shelter, adequate means and resources, to enable them to enjoy the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health and wellbeing. > The right to make their own decisions about their health care and end of life, including in advance and for this to be respected.
Privacy and family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > The right to live free from arbitrary or unlawful interference with their privacy, family, home or communications. > The right to a family life and to have their family unit respected by others, including government agencies and officials.
Social and economic participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > The right to freely associate with others and to participate fully in the social, economic and cultural life of their community. > Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander vulnerable adults have the right, with other members of their community, to maintain and use their language, their kinship ties and connection to land and culture.
Freedom of thought, conscience, spirituality, religion and expression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > The right to exercise freedom of thought, conscience, spirituality and religion. > The right to freedom of opinion and expression and to seek, receive and share information and ideas, and to lifelong learning. > The right to seek, and be provided with, personal information about them held by government agencies or officials.

¹ Vulnerable adult is defined in the *Ageing and Adult Safeguarding Act 1995* as an adult who, by reason of age, ill health, disability, social isolation, dependence on others or other disadvantage, is vulnerable to abuse (s3). For the first three years this is defined as people 65 years of age and over, and 50 years of age and over for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people or adults 18 years of age and over living with disability.