

Elder abuse and Takatāpui and Rainbow people

Older Takatāpui and Rainbow people have lived through the enormous social and legal shifts of the last fifty years, including managing grief for those they have lost. Our elders grew up when homosexuality was illegal, HIV/AIDS was a death sentence, there were no protections against discrimination, and access to supports for transitioning were non-existent.

While every older person is unique, this shared generational context means older Takatāpui and Rainbow people experience unique risk and protective factors for elder abuse.

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Risk factors	Protective factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social isolation • Disconnection or disrespectful relationships with family and whānau • Ableist attitudes and services that do not treat disabled people with respect, including those with dementia • Racist attitudes and lack of culturally responsive services for Māori, Pacific and ethnic older people • Experiences of past and current mistreatment and discrimination because of who they are • Environments and institutions that do not recognise the needs of older Takatāpui and Rainbow people and are overtly or subtly homophobic, biphobic and transphobic • Lack of legal rights and protections for Takatāpui and Rainbow people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong, respectful and mana-enhancing relationships with partners • Strong, respectful and mana-enhancing relationships with some family or whānau members • Strong, respectful and mana-enhancing relationships with chosen family; people “like family” even though not biologically or legally related • Being accepted for who they are • Pride in their identities, making it less likely they will hide who they are • Diverse Takatāpui and Rainbow community groups and connections • Older person’s services, healthcare and social services which are welcoming and safe for older Takatāpui and Rainbow people • Government policies, strategies and services that value Takatāpui and Rainbow communities, including older Takatāpui and Rainbow people



To access training, support or find out more about elder abuse and other forms of violence in Takatāpui and Rainbow communities, visit www.kahukura.co.nz

