



OPALS

Older Persons
Advocacy & Legal Service

**Legal
Advice
and**

**Social
Work
Support**

for older people



Australian Government

**Metro South
Health**



Queensland
Government

caxton
legal centre inc

What is OPALS?

This service offers free legal assistance and social work support to older people who have been identified in hospital and health services as being at risk of or experiencing abuse.

Hospital social workers

Hospital staff can make referrals of at-risk patients to a hospital social worker.

OPALS lawyer

A lawyer is available at the Metro South Health hospitals either face to face or via telephone.

OPALS community social worker

Hospital social workers can make referrals of patients to be discharged to the community social worker for ongoing support.

Where there is no social worker attached to the team, staff may refer directly to the community social worker.

Referral pathways

Hospital social worker: usual referral process

OPALS lawyers: 0408 376 117, 0436 125 030
or (07) 3214 6333

OPALS community social worker: 0427 727 399
or (07) 3214 6333

The OPALS lawyer and community social worker are able to make home visits.

Training

OPALS conducts 'red flag' training on elder abuse for hospital staff and community health professionals. Contact the service on 0427 727 399 to arrange a training session.