



PACTS

What is family
violence?

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR JAN COLES

Outline of Lecture

- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ Definitions
- ▶ Scenario based application of definitions
- ▶ Take home message

What is family Violence?

- ▶ Violent behaviour
- ▶ Threatening behaviour
- ▶ Controlling behaviour
- ▶ By an past or present family member
- ▶ **Coerces** another family member or makes them **fearful**

Who is family?

- ▶ Present or past partners
- ▶ Parents
- ▶ Step parents
- ▶ Siblings
- ▶ Carers
- ▶ Grandparents
- ▶ Uncles and Aunts
- ▶ Others who are household members

What can family violence encompass?

- ▶ Intimate partner violence
- ▶ Child abuse
- ▶ Elder abuse
- ▶ Adolescent violence towards parents

What types of abuse can occur?

- ▶ Physical abuse
- ▶ Sexual abuse
- ▶ Emotional and psychological abuse
- ▶ Neglect
- ▶ Economic abuse
- ▶ Spiritual abuse

What do primary health care professionals see?



Catherine's story

- ▶ Catherine is 74,
- ▶ She is a former teacher,
- ▶ Full time caregiver for her husband John who 79,
- ▶ John has dementia,
- ▶ Catherine finds him is difficult to manage because of his irritability and confusion,
- ▶ She sometimes forgets to give him his medication.

Is this abuse?

- ▶ Why?
- ▶ Why not?



What if

- ▶ Catherine intentionally withheld medication?
- ▶ John's room was unkept and dirty?
- ▶ Does this change your thinking?



The Take Home Message

- ▶ Think about family violence as a possibility;
- ▶ BE PREPARED to respond;
- ▶ Be non-judgemental;
- ▶ Accept uncertainty, enquire about risk and monitor carefully;
- ▶ Duty of care.