



REASONABLE EXPECTATIONS

Art Competition on Respect for Older Women

You are invited to enter our 2026 Art Competition for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

Submission deadline: Thursday April 30, 2026

This competition calls for people to share art about what respect for older women looks like. The aim of the competition is to help promote awareness that respect for older women matters – and is a reasonable expectation. Respect for older women is fundamental, innate, and intrinsic.

This competition responds to the inequalities many older women experience, including financial disadvantage, homelessness and higher rates of violence and abuse than other older people. These inequalities are driven (in part) by gendered ageism – or the depiction of older women as greedy, stupid and not worthy of respect.

Competition Rules

Elder Rights Australia and Celebrate Ageing Ltd invite artists of all ages to participate in our World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Competition. Our art competition focuses on capturing the little or large ways older women are given or shown respect in families, community, groups, the workplace, services and government. The art competition is part of the BluePrint on Respect for Older Women in Victoria, funded by the Victoria Women's Trust.

Artwork Format and Submission Guidelines

The theme is Reasonable Expectations: What respect for Older Women looks like. How the theme is shown is entirely up to the artist. We invite you to consider including the colour orange – a colour that represents respect. Entries can be created using:

- Traditional media: pencil, pen, crayon, charcoal, oil, acrylic, watercolors or mixed media.
- Digital art: illustrations, designs or digital compositions, photographs
- Performance art: dance, original poetry, or spoken word poetry.

Art may be submitted in any form, including digital media, physical art (paintings, drawings, sketches, mixed media art) or video recordings of original poetry. The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the design or execution of the artwork is not permitted.

For physical art, such as paintings or sketches, please take a clear, well-lit photograph of the final piece and email the photo to admin@celebrateageing.org no later than 4pm on Thursday, April 30, 2026. Only one submission will be accepted per participant. When submitting art, please include the following in the body of the email:

- Full name of the person that created the art piece
- Phone number and email address
- Title of the artwork
- A brief explanation (3–5 sentences) of what your artwork represents and how it connects to the theme 'What Respect for Older Women looks like'

Eligibility

Open to participants of all ages residing in Australia. Participants under 18 years old must have their entries submitted by a parent or guardian on their behalf via the parent/guardian's email address.

Submission Deadline

All entries must be received by Thursday, 30 April 2026 at 4pm AEDT time to admin@celebrateageing.org

Additional Reminders

- All submissions must be original and align with the theme
- Entries not aligned with the theme or rules will not be considered
- Artwork that includes people's images should be done with their consent.

Judging Criteria and Announcement of Winners

Three finalists will be selected by the board members of Elder Rights Australia. Judging will be based on relevance to theme, creativity, composition, technique.

The three finalists will be announced in May 2026 on social media. Finalists will be invited to present their work in person or via video presentation at our WEAD event at the Savoy Hotel (<https://events.humanitix.com/respect-for-older-women-what-works>) on June 2, 2026. Voting for the people's choice award will take place on WEAD (June 15th) between 9am and 5pm online.

Winners will be announced on WEAD 2026 (June 15th) via the Celebrate Ageing Ltd and Elder Rights Australia social media platforms on Facebook and Instagram. Winners will also be contacted via email and/or mobile. Prizes are 4 x \$250 gift vouchers. One for each of the finalists selected by ERA board members, and one for the people's choice award. Finalists selected by ERA are not eligible to enter into the people's choice category.

All artists retain full copyright of their work. By making a submission to enter this art competition, participants agree to have their artwork displayed at public exhibitions, on Celebrate Ageing Ltd and Elder Rights Australia websites, and included in reports created by these organisations aimed at raising awareness about the need to build respect for older women.