

The following information has been provided as part of COTA NSW's Information Hubs established in the community. The information is intended as a guide only and should not be considered as advice. As with all matters of this kind, people need to seek and obtain relevant advice before taking any action.

COTA NSW's Information Hubs are part of COTA NSW's commitment to providing information and guidance to older in their own community. This Place-Based Navigation is designed to provide safe, accessible and independent information for older people.

It has three (3) layers:

Signposting: This is delivered by peers that provide a safe and welcoming environment for older people to engage and ask questions. Information is provided that is designed to be general in nature and the peer will navigate the person to a more appropriate source is appropriate.

Information: This is provided by COTA NSW after the person has received information and aided by the COTA NSW peer, believes they require further information and knowledge to take action.

Guidance: Provided by content experts like Financial Planners or Accountants and Solicitors, supporting the person to act.

PLANNING AHEAD

“I don't know why I need to have an (enduring) Power of Attorney and an Enduring Guardian”

These are different and it is important that the person understands where they apply. The main distinction between an Enduring Power of Attorney and Enduring Guardian is regarding the matters about which they are permitted to make decisions in the event that you lose capacity.

The appointment of an Enduring Power of Attorney formally gives another person, or persons, the authority to manage legal and financial affairs. Depending on what they direct, this may include buying and selling assets, operating bank accounts, and spending money on their behalf.

The appointment of an Enduring Guardian gives another person, or persons, the authority to make lifestyle and medical decisions on their behalf.

These decisions may, for example:

- concern the place of residence
- access to medical care and
- providing consent for the refusal of medical treatment.