Thinking about your future financial decisions?

It is a good idea to think about how you want your finances managed in later life. Future financial planning involves considering what financial decisions you may need to make as you age, and whether you want to appoint someone to make decisions for you if you are no longer able to make them for yourself.

The key document to appoint someone you trust to make decisions for you is an Enduring Power of Attorney. If you are unable to make or communicate decisions for yourself, making an enduring power of attorney will allow your chosen decision maker to make decisions about managing your finances.

The Public Trustee (1300 360 044) has a paid enduring power of attorney making service, or the Queensland Law Society (1300 367 757) can refer you to a private solicitor in your area. You may wish to contact your local community legal service for general guidance on completing this document yourself. Before you complete your power of attorney, you will need to think about who you would like to make decisions for you. This person is called your 'financial attorney'. You can ask the Public Trustee to be your financial attorney, however, they will charge a fee for this service.

An enduring power of attorney can also allow someone to make decisions about your care and welfare (see our Thinking about your Future Health Care publication for more information).

Referrals:

1. Read Caxton Legal Centre's Decision Making and Power of Attorney publication.
2. Think about who you would like to appoint as your financial attorney.
3. Contact your local community legal centre or Legal Aid Queensland for general guidance.
4. Contact the Public Trustee or a private solicitor for representation to complete an enduring power of attorney.

The Financial Protections Service (FPS) is a joint initiative of Seniors Legal and Support Services and the Elder Abuse Prevention and Support Service. The service is funded by the Queensland Government Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors.