

Overview of Elder Law

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This text is a contemporary Australian summary of the multitude of complex legal concepts and issues contained within the national study of elder law. The contributors to this text have sought to describe and explain the relevant concepts and issues from the perspective of the older person so that resolutions to these issues can be delivered by lawyers who need to be increasingly mindful of the complexity facing their clients. While, at a glance, it may appear that the topics considered in this text are not necessarily exclusive to older people, the perspective of an older person does add to the complexity. This is particularly the case when aware of issues such as:

- being treated differently in the workplace as an older person;
- difficulty in finding work as an older person;
- limited earning ability once retired from the workforce;
- increased pressure from families, such as potentially abusive relationships in the following circumstances:
 - consider the older person's vulnerability where they are reliant on their family for care when executing a will, enduring power of attorney or enduring guardianship, or
 - there is pressure to provide child care services as a grandparent, or
 - there is pressure to provide accommodation for adult children following their separation or divorce, premature retrenchment from the workforce or unable to find employment due to health or mental ill issues;
- cultural and language issues;
- discrimination;
- ageism;
- age-related cognitive and general health conditions;
- often negative impact of someone else making decisions for you (substitute decision-making);
- varying standards of care in the aged care sector; and
- intricate, complex and complicated State, Territory and/or Commonwealth statutory schemes surrounding retirement villages, substitute decision-making, income support and aged care services.

This is a preview. Not all pages are shown.