



Specialist Accreditation

NEW SPECIALIST ACCREDITATION IN ELDER LAW – COMMON QUESTIONS

Q1. When will Elder Law first be introduced as part of the Specialist Accreditation Program?

Elder Law will be first introduced as part of the 2026 Specialist Accreditation Program. Elder Law will run in alternate years to Wills & Estates. Applications for the Program will open in December 2025.

Q2. Why was the decision made to introduce this area of Accreditation at this time?

There is growing demand for Specialist legal advice relating to issues that confront the elder community. There is increasing public awareness of elder abuse, alongside an increasing number of practitioners who identify as practising in Elder Law (as a distinct area from Wills & Estates). The new Accreditation Law will help to improve expertise in Elder Law and identify those who are Accredited Specialists in this area.

Q3. How will Accreditation in Elder Law differ from Accreditation within the area of Wills & Estates?

There are some factors common to both Wills and Estates and Elder Law and some practitioners may wish to obtain Specialist Accreditation in both fields; however, they are distinct areas of law. Wills and Estates applies to planning for and managing peoples' affairs after they die. In contrast, Elder Law deals with issues arising during a person's life (*inter vivos*) as they age. Some comparisons are listed below:

Wills & Estates focuses on:

- Drafting of Wills
- Intestacy
- Obtaining grants
- Contesting grants
- Administration of Estates
- Accounts & Commission
- Family Provision

Elder Law will focus on:

- Drafting and advising on accommodation
- Drafting and advising on enduring appointments (powers of attorney, enduring guardian)
- Acting in NCAT matters relating to Accommodation, delegated decision making and assisted decision making
- Acting in Supreme Court matters relating to financial elder abuse



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Q4. How do I know if I am eligible to apply for the Specialist Accreditation Program?

Practitioners can apply to the Specialist Accreditation Program once they meet the following criteria:

- Hold a current Practising Certificate
- Are a member of the Law Society or an equivalent body (if Interstate)
- Have practised law full time for a minimum of 5 years
- Have worked in their area of legal specialty for at least three years; and for each of those years,
- Dedicated twenty five percent of the work in their practice to their chosen area

Q5. I am interested in applying for a place on the new Elder Law Advisory Specialist Committee. Am I eligible and how can I apply?

Applications for places on the Elder Law Advisory Committee will open in December 2024, so please refer to the Law Society website closer to this time for further information. Although Advisory Committee members are normally already Accredited Specialists, in this instance applications from practitioners who are highly experienced in Elder Law will be considered given this is a new area of Accreditation.

Q6. Do I need to already be an Accredited Specialist to join the new Elder Law Advisory Specialist Committee?

No. Experienced Elder Law practitioners can apply for the Committee in 2024 as this is a new area of Accreditation. If you are an Accredited Specialist in Wills & Estates and have a passion for Elder Law, we would encourage you to apply.

Q7. I am already an Accredited Specialist in Wills & Estates. Am I eligible to participate in the Elder Law stream of the 2026 Program?

Yes, you can seek a second Accreditation in Elder Law if you already hold an Accreditation in Wills & Estates.

Q8. How do I apply for the Program

Program details are on the [Specialist Accreditation website](#) and more information will be released closer to the time.