

ADA Australia

Your aged and disability advocates



The Advocate



CEO'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the final edition of *The Advocate* for 2018. It is the end of another busy year, with 2019 emerging as a year of significant change.

Sadly, there continues to be reports issued detailing an increase in elder abuse, so our push to lift the bar on quality and safety in aged care and the community has never been more timely, or more pressing.

The Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety is the beginning of a much-needed discussion about how we can protect and preserve the rights of older people in our community. Its investigation is a critical step in making sure we have a fair and safe system for the future. We will seek to work closely with the Royal Commission and to lead the campaign for change.

As part of our ongoing advocacy, ADA Australia and Caxton Legal Centre will host the 2019 National Elder Abuse Conference (NEAC 2019), one of the most extensive and influential discussions on elder abuse. The conference will be held in Brisbane on 22 and 23 July 2019. Details are available on our brand new [NEAC2019 website](#) – check it out!

Registrations for the conference open on **4 February 2019**, so don't forget to register your interest.

As 2018 comes to a close, we celebrate the achievements and progress we have already made. It is clear, through our team's continued hard work, that we are inspiring deeper conversations, improved training opportunities and pivotal reform. Thank you to all of our employees, volunteers and contributors who have made this year a resounding success. Together, we will continue to press our mission to support and improve the well-being of older people and people with a disability.

ADA Australia will be closed from **1pm, 24 December 2018** until **2 January 2019**. We wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and hope you have a happy and safe holiday season.

Regards,

Geoff Rowe

CEO

ROYAL COMMISSION UPDATE

The Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety has reached out to the 100 biggest aged care service providers in Australia, seeking their input before 7 January 2019. Remaining providers are expected to have until February to respond to a [series of questions](#) and are encouraged to start gathering their information now.



The Commission is seeking details about provider operations dating back to 1 July 2013, particularly data on elder abuse incidents and complaints.

It is also keen to hear provider views about where the Royal Commission should focus its attention – in particular, what areas the industry thinks need to be changed and how that might be implemented.

Joint Commissioner Justice Joseph McGrath has recently stepped down from the inquiry for “personal family reasons”. Federal Court judge Richard Tracey has been appointed as his replacement. His previous experience includes counsel assisting at the building industry royal commission as well as High Court counsel for WorkChoices.

The first directions hearing of the Royal Commission has been postponed from December to 18 January 2019. Stay tuned for a special edition of The Advocate in mid-January where we will discuss the outcomes of this hearing.

To keep up to date with submission deadlines and hearings, you can also join the [mailing list](#).

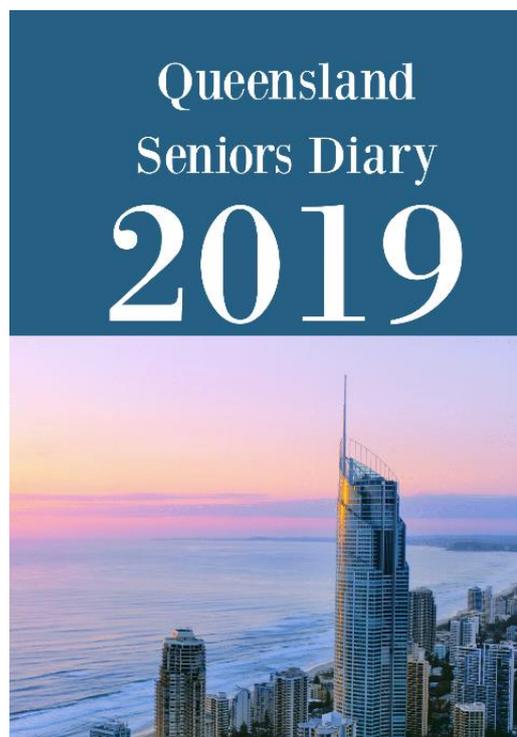
DON'T MISS THE 2019 QUEENSLAND SENIORS DIARY

A 2019 Queensland Seniors Dairy is a great gift idea brimming with valuable advice for seniors.

It is designed to educate seniors about important topics relevant to them with up-to-date information on legal rights and issues around care, ageism, carers, mental health and future planning.

The attractive publication also offers specialised information for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander elders, along with details about free mediation services available to older people.

You can purchase the [2019 Seniors Diary online](#) for only \$10 plus postage

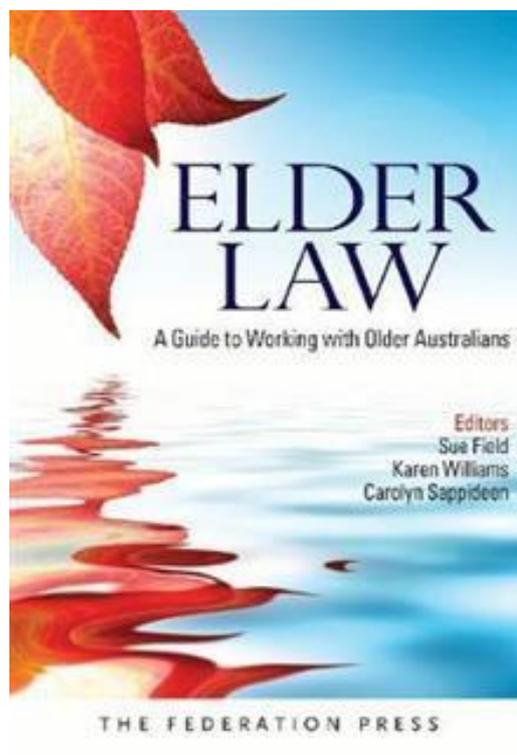


ADA'S OWN KAREN WILLIAMS DISCUSSES HER NEW BOOK

Do you work with elderly Australians? *Elder Law: A Guide to Working with Older Australians* examines many issues facing legal practitioners, financial advisors, allied health professionals and medical practitioners.

The guide fills an important niche with detailed information on the complexities involved in working with older Australians.

ADA Australia's legal expert Karen Williams celebrated the launch of the book in October, with joint editors Sue Field and Carolyn Sappideen.



The publication explores some of the controversial topics professionals may be asked by their older clients, such as 'who will make decisions for me if I am unable to', or 'how do I plan my secure financial future'.

Karen is a Lawyer and Manager of Human Rights Service at ADA Australia. She has received a National Disability Award for Advocacy in recognition of her work in the sector. She said the lack of comprehensive information available for those working with the elderly inspired her to create the user-friendly manual.

"We often think of our children's future and all that that entails. Now it's time we took a hard look in the mirror and realise that issues surrounding elder abuse will effect us all in the future," she said.

"Other social/legal issues such as domestic and family violence are only just starting to demonstrate their stronghold in policy reform and social consciousness.

INDUSTRY NEWS

Aged Care

- [Loophole means aged care resident killings 'woefully under-reported'](#)
- [New resources to help prevent elder abuse](#)
- [Open up your books, let the public see them, Senate inquiry tells aged care sector](#)
- [New Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission to start 1 January 2019 – \\$300M in funding and “dozens of compliance officers”](#)

Disability

- [Funding cuts to disability communication service a 'smack in the face'](#)
- [Parenting with a disability — talkback](#)
- [Celebrating remarkable Stella Young — writer, comedian and advocate for people with disabilities](#)
- [Understanding disABILITY employment](#)
- [Disability groups hold their own awards online](#)

NDIS

- [Focus: Five months waiting for wheelchair parts. An update on the NDIS](#)
- [Report says NDIS at risk of failing](#)
- ["No end in sight" to NDIS delays, says Govt's new supremo](#)
- [Queensland-based plan manager to assist NDIS participants in regional NSW](#)
- [ACT spends thousands bailing people out of crisis under NDIS](#)

Did you know *The Advocate* is printable?

If you would like a printable copy, please email info@adaaustralia.com.au

ADA Australia

121 Copperfield St, Geebung QLD 4034

Telephone: (07) 3637 6000 or 1800 818 338

Website: <https://adaaustralia.com.au/>



ADA Australia

Your aged and disability advocates

