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# 2024 elder law capacity & symposium



Hosted by former  
Senior Reporter, ABC News

**PHILIPPA MCDONALD**

## The Hunter Elder Law & Capacity Symposium returns in 2024 with a full agenda

Hear from the experts on what's new and what  
lies ahead for the ageing population.

- Capacity assessment and elder abuse
- The latest on Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD)
- Substituted decision making in residential aged care
- Restrictive practices and informed consent.

**6 SEPTEMBER 2024**

1:30-5:30 PM

**NUspace | University of Newcastle**

Hunter St & Auckland St, Newcastle

ONLINE ATTENDANCE AVAILABLE



REGISTRATIONS OPEN

**HUMANITIX**

Attend and earn 3 CPD units

## GUEST SPEAKERS



**Madeleine Archer**

Member of the Voluntary Assisted  
Dying team, Australian Centre  
for Health Law Research, QUT



**Adjunct Assoc. Prof. Sue Field**

Centre for Law & Justice, CSU,  
author of *Elder Law - A Guide to  
Working with Older Australians*



**Dr. Sharon Reutens**

Psychiatrist/Old Age Psychiatrist,  
Medicolegal Psychiatry Practice



**Dr. Charles Douglas**

Clinical Director Voluntary Assisted  
Dying Unit, HNELHD, Lawyer



**Rodney Lewis AM**

Senior Solicitor Elderlaw Legal Services,  
author of *Elder Law in Australia*



**Viv Allanson OAM**

Chief Executive Officer,  
Maroba Aged Care



**Dr. Penny Webster**

Staff Specialist in Geriatric Medicine,  
CAPAC & Newcastle East, HNELHD

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CATHERINE HENRY  
LAWYERS

# the program

## INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME \_\_\_\_\_ 2:00 PM

### Philippa McDonald

Former Senior Reporter, ABC News

## SESSION ONE \_\_\_\_\_ 2:15 - 3:00 PM

### Unravelling Capacity

#### Adjunct Assoc. Prof. Sue Field

Centre for Law & Justice, CSU, author of *Elder Law – A Guide to Working with Older Australians*

#### Dr. Sharon Reutens

Psychiatrist/Old Age Psychiatrist, Medicolegal Psychiatry Practice

- Understanding the basics – definition and presumption
- The lawyer's role – when to act and what if the assessment is wrong?
- Using medical expertise – the role of GP/neuropsychologist/geriatrician/psychiatrist
- Supported decision making in law and/or medicine

## SESSION TWO \_\_\_\_\_ 3:00 - 3:45 PM

### Voluntary Assisted Dying – where are we at in NSW?

#### Dr. Charles Douglas

Clinical Director, Voluntary Assisted Dying Unit HNELHD, Lawyer

#### Madeleine Archer

Member of the Voluntary Assisted Dying team, Australian Centre for Health Law Research, QUT

- The experience in the Hunter – legal issues
- What can we learn from the experience of other jurisdictions?
- Exclusion of dementia – any developments?

## SESSION THREE \_\_\_\_\_ 3:45 - 5:00 PM

### Regulating restrictive practices – how do we deal with the issue of consent?

A panel discussion between –

#### Dr. Penny Webster

Staff Specialist in Geriatric Medicine, CAPAC & Newcastle East, HNELHD

#### Rodney Lewis AM

Senior Solicitor, Elderlaw Legal Services, author of *Elder Law in Australia*

#### Viv Allanson OAM

Chief Executive Officer, Maroba Aged Care