

AMDRAS Elder Mediation Specialisation

What is Elder Mediation?

Elder mediation is a relatively new, specialised approach to decision-making in Australia and New Zealand. It requires mediators to rethink the way they handle interventions involving older adults and to be mindful of older adults' rights, including their right to participate in decision-making about their lives, directly or indirectly, and with or without capacity.

To practise ethically, qualified elder mediators need to have:

- special education and training in relation to ageing and the ageing process
- knowledge of age-related legislation, policies, issues, practices and processes
- an awareness of the subtle effects of ageism on themselves and others, including older adults, and its contribution to elder abuse and the marginalisation of older adults.

Elder Mediation is a unique form of mediation tailored to address the complex, sensitive issues surrounding aging. These can include assisting families and others to have difficult conversations, including about care arrangements, end-of-life decisions, intergenerational differences, estate-planning and other legal issues, allegations or prevention of elder abuse, capacity issues, supported decision-making and so forth. This specialisation ensures that mediators are equipped to navigate the emotional, psychological, legal, and ethical dimensions often encountered in complex situations or conflicts involving older people.

Link to the COMPASS website explanation of elder mediation -

<https://www.compass.info/featured-topics/family-relationships/mediation-of-age-related-issues/>

Elder Mediation is a Growing Need

With Australasia's population aging rapidly, the demand for qualified Elder Mediators is already growing. With this demographic shift comes increased pressure on older people, families, communities, organisations and legal systems to address age-related issues.

Elder Mediation helps to: enhance communication and intergenerational family relationships, uphold the dignity and autonomy of older adults and ensure the older person's voice is heard (directly or indirectly) and respected when decisions are made that affect them, increase or strengthen the older adult's support network, prevent unnecessary litigation and address capacity issues and allegations or risks of elder abuse.

Accreditation Under AMDRAS

The Australian Mediator and Dispute Resolution Accreditation Standards

(AMDRAS) framework governs the recognition and regulation of dispute resolution practitioners in Australia. Elder Mediation is now officially recognised as a specialist discipline within this national framework.

Elder Mediation as an AMDRAS Recognised Specialisation

As of August 2025, the AMDRAS Board has introduced specific criteria for Elder Mediation. This marks a significant milestone in professionalising the field and enhancing the quality of mediation services available to older Australasians.

Who Can Apply for the AMDRAS Elder Mediation Specialisation?

Eligibility Criteria for Registered Practitioners

To be eligible, you must already be listed as an Accredited Mediator on the AMDRAS National Register. This foundational requirement ensures applicants have demonstrated competence and commitment to ethical mediation practice.

Pathway to Elder Mediation Accreditation with AMDRAS

Applicants must meet the following:

- Be an accredited mediator or FDR practitioner with AMDRAS.
- Hold professional indemnity insurance that covers Elder Mediation.
- Be an active member of both the Elder Mediation Australasian Network (EMAN) and the Elder Mediation International Network (EMIN).
- Complete 30 hours of elder mediation training with an approved EMIN certified (Advanced) trainer (a prerequisite for applying for the EMIN elder mediator certification).
- Complete the additional requirements for EMIN certification at either the Cert.EM or Cert.EM (Advanced) level.

See <https://elder-mediation-international.net/certification-overview/>

These requirements ensure that only knowledgeable, skilled and competent practitioners are accredited.

Renewal Criteria for Continuing Practitioners

To renew your specialisation, you must:

- Log **20 hours of elder mediation practice** (as mediator or co-mediator) within two years (as part of your 40-hour practice hours as a specialist practitioner)
- Complete **16 CPD hours** specific to Elder Mediation during the same period (as part of your 25 hours CPD requirements as a Registered Practitioner)
- Maintain membership with both EMAN and EMIN.

The Role of EMAN and EMIN in Accreditation

Required Memberships

You must be a current member of both:

- Elder Mediation Australasian Network (EMAN) - www.elder-mediation.com.au
- Elder Mediation International Network (EMIN) – www.elder-mediation-international.net

These organisations provide community, oversight, and resources for education, training and ongoing development. (Membership of EMAN is free).

Certification Levels Needed

- Certification as an elder mediator is with the Elder Mediation International Network (EMIN) and must be held at one of two levels: Cert.EM or Cert.EM (Advanced).

This ensures your competency is recognised by global standards.

Practice and CPD Requirements

Required Practice Hours

Accredited specialists must log a minimum of 20 practice hours in elder mediation per two-year cycle. This allows you to demonstrate your real-world expertise and ongoing engagement in the field.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

CPD must total 16 hours every two years, focusing specifically on Elder Mediation. There are a range of potential topics such as aged care, intergenerational and family dynamics, elder abuse – risks and prevention, cognitive decline, guardianship, elder law, intergenerational equity, supported decision-making, estate planning and so forth.

Postnominals and Recognition

Upon accreditation, you can use the following AMDRAS and EMIN postnominals:

- AMDRAS Specialist Dispute Resolution Practitioner (Elder Mediation)
- Cert.EM or Cert.EM (Advanced)

This formal recognition sets you apart and assures clients, professionals and organisations of your expertise.

How to apply for AMDRAS Elder Mediator Specialist Accreditation on completion of the EMIN Certification Process

Step-by-Step Application Guide

If you are nationally accredited with a Recognised Accreditation Provider (RAP) contact them for assistance. Your RAP must be the organisation to process your application.

Provide evidence to your RAP of the following:

- EMIN certification
- Professional Indemnity insurance that covers elder mediation
- Membership confirmation from EMAN and EMIN
- Key Documents to Prepare for Renewal Applications
- CPD log of Elder Mediation topics
- Practice hours log (do not identify clients' details)

Timelines and Renewal Cycles

Pro Rata Adjustments for First Renewal

If you are applying mid-cycle, your CPD and practice hour requirements are pro-rated based on the time remaining until your next national accreditation renewal.

Syncing with Two-Year Cycle

After your first renewal, the Elder Mediation specialisation aligns with your standard two-year accreditation cycle.

Benefits of Specialising in Elder Mediation

Enhancing Your Practice and Credibility

This specialisation can significantly elevate your professional profile, increase professional, organisational, family and client trust, and open doors to new service opportunities.

Ethical Standards and Professional Insurance

Insurance Requirements for Elder Mediators

All practitioners must carry **professional indemnity insurance** that covers elder mediation, either explicitly or implicitly.

EMIN's Compliance and Obligations

You must comply with EMIN's:

- Elder Mediation Code of Ethics for Elder Mediators (<https://elder-mediation-international.net/code-professional-conduct/>) and
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults, Guidelines for Elder Mediators - <https://elder-mediation-international.net/safeguarding-vulnerable-adults/>

AMDRAS Compliance and Obligations

- Practitioners must maintain accurate records, be audit-ready, and follow renewal protocols per Clauses 46 and 48 of AMDRAS. www.amdras.au

CPD Flexibility Under AMDRAS

CPD for Elder Mediation may **count toward your general AMDRAS CPD** obligations, though category limits don't apply for specialist renewal. This gives you more flexibility in maintaining compliance.

Common Questions

1. Do I need to be an accredited mediator to apply for the 30-hour elder mediation training, which is a prerequisite for entry into EMIN certification?

Yes, you need to be a nationally accredited mediator or FDR practitioner or have the equivalent credentials. The required 30-hour training must be with an EMIN certified mediator (Advanced), approved by the EMIN Board. Opportunities will be provided to top up the required number of training hours if necessary. (Note: there are additional requirements for the EMIN certification).

2. Do I need to be an accredited mediator to apply for elder mediation accreditation with AMDRAS?

Yes, you must be listed on the National Register as an Accredited, Advanced or Leading Mediator and have completed the EMIN certification.

2. Can I apply for AMDRAS accreditation if I'm not yet a member of EMAN or EMIN?

You must join both organisations before applying for this specialisation. EMAN membership is free: contact dale.bagshaw@unisa.edu.au

3. How often do I need to renew my specialisation?

Every two years, aligned with your AMDRAS renewal.

4. Are the CPD hours for Elder Mediation separate from general CPD?

They count toward general CPD but aren't limited by the standard category caps.

5. Where do I submit my application?

Applications are submitted through your RAP – see below for links.

6. Can co-mediation or roleplays count toward the 20 practice-hours requirement?

Yes, co-mediation is eligible and roleplays, with an analysis, if you have no 'live' cases.

Useful Resources and Support

- Elder Mediation Australasian Network (EMAN): <https://elder-mediation.com.au>
- Elder Mediation International Network (EMIN): <https://elder-mediation-international.net/>
- Resolution Institute: <https://resolution.institute>
- [Mediation Institute Member Portal](#)
- ADRA: <https://adra.net.au/national-accreditation-overview/>
- VADRA: <https://vadr.asn.au/amdras-accreditation/>
- Relationships Australia: <https://www.relationships.org.au>
- AMDRAS: <https://AMDRAS.au>

For further enquiries about elder mediation training and resources contact:

EMAN Board Chair: Professor Dale Bagshaw - Dale.Bagshaw@unisa.edu.au

EMAN Board Secretary: Ms Rhonda Whitfield - rhonda@churchillwood.com.au