



Law of Executors and Administrators

GE Dal Pont, LexisNexis, 2022, pb \$300

In the prologue, the author sets out his justification for a new Australian text dedicated to the topic of executors and administrators. The justification arises from a mix of the circumstances comprising an ageing population, an increase in the size of asset pools the subject of devolution on death, and the critical role in this context of personal representatives.

The book is divided into five parts addressing:

- the office of personal representatives
- grants of probate and administration
- the duties of representatives
- their powers and entitlements
- the allocation and distribution of estates.

The analysis of the above topics is undertaken in a clear and well formatted style.

Of particular interest to both personal representatives and those advising them are the sections in the book in Part III dealing with the practicalities of administering an estate and what constitutes a breach of duty in that context.

Part IV sets out, in an informed and practical way, the details of the personal representative's powers both to sell and postpone sales, to appropriate, to carry on business and to compromise.

As well as estates today comprising more substantial asset pools, those asset pools are increasingly more complex in their component parts. In addition, will instruments themselves are required to deal with a more nuanced set of family mosaics.

The potential consequence of the above is that there are traps not limited simply to new players but rather for all those engaged in this area of law.

This text will stand as a valuable and important new Australian resource in estate administration generally. ■

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