

Editorial

It is my pleasure as foundation editor to introduce you to the first issue of the Australia and New Zealand Journal of Law and Education. While other equivalent journals exist in Europe, North America and the United Kingdom, ANZELA members have, since the Association's inception, recognised the need for a professional publication that would adequately address the unique developments in education law that are taking place in this part of the world. But it is also important that Australia and New Zealand be informed of developments in education law in other countries. Accordingly, it is intended that the journal maintain an appropriate balance on education law matters from both domestic and international perspectives.

The publication of the journal is another milestone for ANZELA but it has only been achieved through the willingness of a group of people committed to its realisation. In this regard I would particularly like to acknowledge the members of the Editorial Board as well as those who have contributed or refereed articles.

It is most fitting that this first issue includes three papers which provide a comparative introduction to education law in Australia (Shorten), New Zealand (Rishworth) and The United States of America (Rossow). Readers will quickly note that some current developments in Australia and New Zealand have had their parallels in the United States. It is interesting to note, though, as Professor Larry Rossow has indicated, that there appears to be a major shift in court decisions in relation to students' rights in the USA. Such changes have considerable implications for educational administrators and practitioners in that country and, perhaps, Australia and New Zealand might be fortunate enough to learn from their experience.

The three other papers included in this issue address topics of specialist concern related to exclusion from school (Knott), sex discrimination in universities (Lindsay) and principals knowledge of school law (Stewart). Each of these articles provide valuable insights into how law influences educational policy, administration and practice.

The 1996 Annual Conference of ANZELA was privileged to host the launch of a long overdue and keenly awaited text on education law. Written by Professor Ian Ramsay and Dr Ann Shorten the book is reviewed by Associate Professor Peter Williams and provides a most appropriate conclusion to this issue of the journal.

I recommend the journal to you and invite you to contribute articles and or suggestions as to how it might be expanded and improved.

Doug Stewart