

Castan Members Receive Research Grant on Trafficking in Women

By Edwina Howell

Professor Bernadette McSherry, Associate Professor Susan Kneebone and Dr Julie Debeljak have been awarded an Australian Research Council Linkage Grant to further explore the issue of trafficking in women and children in the Asia-Pacific Region. The project, entitled 'Australia's Response to Trafficking in Women: Towards A Model For the Regulation of Forced Migration in the Asia-Pacific Region', is a three year collaborative project with four key organisations currently involved in projects targeting the eradication of trafficking in the Asia-Pacific region: the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, ACIL Ltd (a leading Australian development agency), the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department and World Vision. Gaining the support of these key organisations is a significant achievement and is, in part, due to the

researchers' resolve to consider the issues of criminal justice, international human rights law and migration law in the course of the project.

The project provides the exciting opportunity to gain insight through interviews with those working in the area in the Asia-Pacific; Susan and Julie are travelling to Thailand, the regional epicentre of anti-trafficking projects, and Cambodia to begin primary research later this year, and will be undertake further field work in Southeast Asia in 2007. In 2008, the team will complete the development of integrated training programmes for relevant governmental agencies designed to improve responses to trafficking (both within Australia and in the Asia-Pacific region), and will produce a scholarly monograph, training manuals and a plain English information booklet on the issue.



Professor Bernadette McSherry will be leading the people trafficking project.

UN Health Expert Delivers Talk to Castan Centre

By Marius Smith

Paul Hunt, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health, visited Melbourne on 1 May, where he gave a lunchtime lecture at the Monash University Law Chambers on the enjoyment of the right to health.

Paul is the first Special Rapporteur on health, a position he has held since 2002. During this time, Paul has promoted the right to health as a fundamental human right and focussed in particular on the themes of poverty and discrimination and their impact on the right to health. This focus has special resonance for Australia's Indigenous Peoples – particularly those living in remote communities – and it is in this capacity that Paul is in Australia.

During his visit, which is principally sponsored by the Diplomacy Training Program, based at the University of New South Wales, Paul is visiting Sydney and Canberra and will take part in an intensive workshop on Indigenous

Peoples, human rights and advocacy in Darwin.

Before he was Special Rapporteur, Paul served as an independent expert on the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1999-2002), where he gave attention to the relationship between poverty, human

rights and development and led discussions with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and development agencies on these issues. As part of his role, Paul co-authored the draft *Guidelines on Human Rights Approaches to Poverty Reduction*.

Paul is a Professor in law, and Member of the Human Rights Centre, at the University of Essex, England, and Adjunct Professor at the University of Waikato, New Zealand. He has also lived, and undertaken human rights work, in the Middle East, Africa, Europe and the South Pacific. In addition to his extensive work on poverty and economic, social and cultural rights, Paul is an active member of the Make Poverty History campaign and has written on free trade and, most recently, on the situation of detainees in Guantanamo Bay.

A copy of Paul's paper is available on the Castan Centre website and further details of Paul's speech will appear in the next newsletter.



Paul Hunt