

Editors' Note

Welcome to 2019! If the first few months are anything to go by, it's going to be a big year ahead!

This edition is a special digital platforms edition, following the release by the **ACCC** of the Preliminary Report of the **Digital Platforms Inquiry** at the end of last year. While recognising the significant benefits to consumers and businesses that digital platforms have introduced, the ACCC also identified concerns with the ability and incentive of key digital platforms – for the most part, **Google** and **Facebook** – to favour their own business interests, through their market power and presence across multiple markets. There were concerns regarding the digital platforms' impact on the ability of **content creators** to monetise their content, and the lack of transparency in digital platforms' operations for **advertisers, media businesses** and **consumers**. The ACCC also expressed its concerns about consumers' awareness and understanding of the extensive amount of information about them collected by digital platforms, and their concerns regarding the **privacy** of their data. Further the ACCC looked into the role of digital platforms in determining what **news** and information is accessed by Australians, how this information is provided, and its range and reliability.

Following the release of the Preliminary Report, there will be further consultation and discussion, prior to the release of the final report due 30 June 2019. Obviously none of it will be more intelligent, enlightening and authoritative than what follows in these pages. We have the team at Bird & Bird – **Sophie Dawson, Joel Parsons** and **Eleanor Grounds** – comment on the Preliminary Report's recommendation in respect of copyright. **Adam Zwi**, former CAMLA Young Lawyer superstar, gives us his thoughts on the proposed algorithm regulator. **Jess Milner** from Minters tackles the Preliminary Report's

comments on fake news. **Eva Lu** from Thomson Geer summarises the privacy and data related recommendations from Preliminary Report. And newly appointed CLB co-editor **Ashleigh Fehrenbach** interviews **Rachel Launders**, General Counsel and Company Secretary at **Nine**, about working at a major Australian news organisation and the effect of Preliminary Report on that organisation.

Congratulations go out from the CAMLA community to Joel Parsons and Eva Lu for their respective nominations in the TMT field for Lawyers Weekly's **30 Under 30**. (See what happens, kids, when you regularly contribute articles to CLB.)

Of course, the ACCC's Digital Platforms Inquiry is not the only major inquiry being undertaken in this area relevant to digital platforms. The NSW Department of Justice Discussion Paper, titled **Review of Model Defamation Provisions** was issued at the end of February this year. CAMLA held an event at **JWS** (report within) on the topic, and **Judge Judith Gibson** gives you her thoughts in this edition about the issues that should be considered in the next round of reforms.

CAMLA held another event, at **HWL Ebsworth**, on the subject of integrity in sports, focusing on sports organisations, players, and advertisers (report within). And, on the subject of sports, CAMLA Young Lawyer, **Calli Tshipidis**, profiles **Les Wigan**, COO at **Kayo Sports** following the launch of that multi-sports streaming service at the end of 2018.

It's an action-packed edition, and we hope you enjoy it as much as we have!

Ashleigh and Eli

BOOST YOUR CAMLA CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP

Why limit your CAMLA corporate membership to just 5 members?

Add your colleagues for only \$45 per person per year so they too receive the many benefits of CAMLA membership including an annual subscription to the *Communications Law Bulletin* and discounts on CAMLA seminars.

Please contact Cath Hill – contact@camla.org.au if you'd like to take advantage of this great offer.