

Foreword

Duncan McConnel

President of the Law Council of Australia

The papers in this collection were presented at a joint conference of the Federal Court of Australia and the Law Council of Australia of the same title held in Melbourne in August 2014.

The Court and the Law Council have a long history of co-operating in the presentation of joint conferences designed to bring the bench, practitioners and academics together to learn about and discuss current issues and developments in the law. The conferences, invariably well attended, provide a unique opportunity for the profession to interact collegially with the judges of the Court in a forum removed from specific cases, permitting a broader and more contemplative examination of issues of interest or concern.

The last such conference on the topic of administrative law was held in 2004 in Sydney, and both the Court and the Law Council thought in late 2013 that another was overdue.

The Administrative Law Committee of the Law Council and Justice Kenny, Justice Robertson, Justice Griffiths and Justice Mortimer worked together on an organising committee to decide on a theme, draw up a program, invite presenters and attendees, and generally to make the conference happen.

Given the quality of the papers presented it was decided to publish them in this collection, under the ongoing guidance and editorship of Justice Mortimer.

The collection presents not only a snapshot of current issues in administrative law in Australia, but also examines in some depth the complexity and history of this area of the law which occupies such an important and fundamental place in the jurisdiction of the Federal Court. While a number of the papers address current judicial review issues others consider merits review and accessibility.

Administrative law, regulating as it does the interaction of individuals and corporations with government, continues to throw up matters of

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profound legal, social and political significance with increasingly strong constitutional, public interest and human rights implications.

The conference and this collection address all of those implications, including: insights into the operation of administrative law internationally, exploration of rationality and reasonableness as the basis for challenging decisions, much consideration of contemporary approaches to jurisdictional error, the growing significance of statutory interpretation and importantly, given the title of the conference, accessibility to administrative law and its remedies.

I commend the collection to all who might be interested in administrative law, and I hope and expect that there will be more such joint conferences and publications as Australian administrative law continues to evolve and develop.

Darwin
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