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Review

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**Editors:** Moira Paterson and Paul Villanti

**Editorial Committee:** Peter Bayne, Laurence Maher, John McMillan

**Editorial Co-ordinator:** Elizabeth Boulton

**Typ setting:** Kasia Graphics, Jan Jay

**Layout:** Peter Robinson

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Please address all correspondence to Legal Service Bulletin, C/- Law Faculty, Monash University, Clayton 3168

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**Comment**

Welcome to the first edition of *Fol Review*. Our aims and objectives are twofold:

- first, to promote the concept of open government by facilitating discussion about issues affecting the development of Freedom of Information and by monitoring the legislation in operation; and
- second, to provide a quick and concise reporting service of Federal and Victorian Fol decisions.

Since December 1982 there have been many decisions under the Federal *Freedom of Information Act 1982 (Fol Act)* given by the Federal Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) and the Federal Court. Space does not permit us to report most of those decisions given before November 1985 but we shall report those given from that month on. As considerably fewer decisions have been given under the Victorian *Fol Act* we intend to report all decisions given by the Victorian AAT and the Supreme Court of Victoria but not those given by the County Court of Victoria before the Victorian AAT was established.

Given the daunting task of trying to 'catch up', we have decided, in this issue, to devote more space than will be usual to the reporting of decisions by the AATs and the courts. In spite of that, lack of space has prevented us from including all decisions given up to 31 December 1985. We shall include them in the next issue.

*Fol Review* will regularly contain a feature article. In this issue Peter Bayne examines the issue of the costs of Fol at the Federal level and the attitude of the Government to the operation of the Federal *Fol Act*.

We shall also have reports on any legislative or policy developments (see 'In Brief'), reviews of literature and governments reports, and comments on overseas developments. We also hope to promote discussion about Fol at the user level. Fol managers, journalists, business organisations and public interest groups all have a significant part to play in the development and the administration of the legislation and we shall attempt to present a range of perspectives and attitudes towards the legislation. In this issue Alan Missen introduces the Freedom of Information Access Network.

In essence, we shall attempt to give you the full picture of what is happening in Fol.

We hope you enjoy the first edition of *Fol Review* and would welcome any comments you may have about content, presentation or style.

**Moira Paterson  
Paul Villanti**