
Foreword

The second issue of The Newcastle Law Review has some novel features. For the first time in 1996 students in the final two years of the law programme have been able to enrol in a Law Review subject. The subject enables students to gain credit for their valuable contributions to editorial work and the production of the review, and to engage in supervised research and writing with a view to publication of student contributions in subsequent issues. This marks a significant stage in the academic development of the Faculty of Law. The issue has been edited by the issue editor and the team of assistant student editors. The diligence and commitment of the students has been both stimulating and gratifying.

The academic contributions to this issue are characterised by their critical appraisal of the Australian legal system and its foundations. Whilst there is no formalised theme uniting the issue, several authors contribute to the contemporary debate concerning the place of rights and freedoms in the Australian legal and constitutional framework. In particular, the public law critique of rights discourse in Australia by Imtiaz Omar, the essay on children's rights by Neville Turner and Jim Miller's assessment of judicial method in *Theophanous*, address this subject. Stuart Kaye's article on the Federal Council of Australasia highlights a forgotten constitutional source and thus adds an important historical dimension.

The Newcastle Law Review is pleased to be able to publish in this issue the text of the 1996 Sir Ninian Stephen lecture, delivered on 14 March by the Chief Justice of New South Wales. The subject of the lecture was "The Secrecy of Jury Deliberations". The article reviews the legal regulation and operation of the contemporary Australian jury system. It also addresses significant issues of confidentiality in an age of information

explosion and draws on contrasting experience in other jurisdictions. This article is balanced by an in-depth and informative review of Evan Whitton's book, *Trial by Voodoo*, in which the author is taken to task in thoroughgoing fashion by Frank Bates. The range of titles reviewed in this issue is broad, comprising textbooks, monographs and legal historical works. Warren Pengilley provides a thorough analysis of an important recent precedent on misleading employment advertisements.

Katherine Lindsay

Issue Editor