

## FOREWORD

I am delighted to introduce this ninth volume of the University of Notre Dame Australia Law Review. This year has been a wonderful year both for our National College of Law and our Law Review. On the College front, our Fremantle Law School celebrated its 10th Anniversary, whilst the development of our Sydney campus continued apace. From the Review's perspective, we were once again very fortunate to have so many high quality articles submitted for consideration. I would like to pay special tribute to the Associate Editor, Ms Catriona Webster, without whose tireless efforts the present volume could not have achieved its admirable level of excellence.

This edition of the Review contains seven outstanding contributions to legal literature.

The first article is by the Chief Justice of Australia, the Honourable Murray Gleeson, and is closely based on a lecture that His Honour was kind enough to deliver at our Sydney campus. The speech provoked some controversy at the time, and we are pleased to be able to include this extremely interesting and erudite analysis of the relevance of the constitutional views of the founding fathers.

The second article, by Professor David Malcolm, focuses on the role of the family, both in contributing to, and in preventing, juvenile crime. It penetratingly considers what factors lead juveniles to commit crimes and seeks to address how juvenile crime can be prevented, arguing that it is a community issue and not merely a matter for government.

Doctor Joseph Azize has produced a highly topical article on euthanasia which explores whether the practice can be supported on the grounds of human dignity. Whilst reference is made to the law in New South Wales, the issues discussed will be of interest to a wide audience.

Doctor Jackson Maogoto's article provides an insightful discussion on self determination in East Timor, both from an historical and a legal perspective. In particular it considers the United Nations' role in East Timor's independence.

Paul Harpur of the Queensland University of Technology has written a timely article on the evolving nature of the right to life. He notes that,

whilst positive human rights obligations are increasingly being recognised, their enforcement is proving somewhat difficult. Particular emphasis is placed both on the right to life and the right to health care.

Ann Hunter from Edith Cowan University has provided a detailed examination of the Aboriginal Evidence Acts in Western Australia in the early 1840s. The article highlights the problems faced by our indigenous people when subjected to the legal system introduced by the early colonial settlers.

The final article in this volume is by John Bourke and Rosemary Lucadou-Wells. It provides a fascinating historical discussion of the inability of the inhabitants of Van Diemen's Land to pay their debts in the period between 1817 and 1830.

In summary, the current edition of the Review comprises a most stimulating and engaging collection of articles for all those with an interest in the law. I commend it to our readership.

*Professor Michael Gillooly*  
*Dean of Law*  
*University of Notre Dame Australia*