

CLE program

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Globalisation

The conference acknowledged that globalisation of society, economics and politics is happening and will continue to happen. The future challenges in relation to globalisation are to achieve a national economic performance that advances the well-being of all Australians, while striking a proper balance between economic performance and social justice. The challenge to participate in and benefit from the international community is to be tempered by the commitment to the preservation of the unique positive aspects of Australian values and culture.

The principles designed to address these challenges include the recognition of Australia as a participant in the international community and the rights and responsibilities that result from this. A formal procedure requiring parliamentary consent before the Executive are authorised to enter into international treaties was called for, replacing the current procedure where parliament has a consultative role. Because international relations affect many aspects of Australian society, the conference promoted the establishment of a framework within which state governments have the opportunity to participate in international relations and international economic activity.

The Environment

Many participants expressed concern about the environment during the conference. The challenge to future governments is to achieve development based upon ecological sustainability. The principle supporting this was the need for Australians to respect the natural endowments of land, water, air and biodiversity of Australia, and to ensure their preservation for future generations. It was recognised that to achieve this, long term planning beyond the life of individual governments was needed. On an issue such as ecological sustainability, partisan politics is a threat, such that a change from adversarial politics to co-operative politics may be needed.

Conclusion

The future challenge for the Convention is to assess the existing Constitution and system of government in light of these challenges and principles, and to devise a Constitution and system of government suitable for the 21st century. This may be a formidable task, but in the words of the Governor-General, Sir William Deane, "to support retention of the status quo or to support change is neither un-Australian nor disloyal and involves nothing more than the legitimate expression of a point of view in the course of democratic debate about what is or is not in our country's best interest."

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¹ The Federation Centenary Convention is a joint initiative of the South Australian Government and the Constitutional Centenary Foundation. Two hundred invited guests participated in the Convention. Participants were chosen because of their ability to contribute to public debate on the Australian Constitution and systems of government, either now or in the future.

² This document is available on the Internet (<http://www.fedcent.sa.gov.au>).

Criminal Law

8 July	Drink Driving Offences
15 July	Sentencing: Drug & Alcohol Offences
	Options & Principles of Sentencing

Property Law

22 July	Leasing- Commercial Retail Tenancies
29 July	Acting for a Vendor in the Sale of Land
5 August	Acting for a Purchaser in the Sale of Land.

Bankruptcy & Insolvency

12 August	Bankruptcy Proceedings in the Federal Court
19 August	Insolvency
26 August	Enforcement of Judgments

Employment Law

2 September	Unfair Dismissal
9 September	Employment Agreements, Australian Workplace Agreements & Contracts for Service.

For more information about any of the above events, contact Darren Hogeboom on 9607 9385.

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