

Editorial

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Welcome to the first edition of the *LIV Young Lawyers' Journal* for 2008.

This is our first offering as editors of the *YLJ* and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all our contributors. The response and support we have received so far has been overwhelming, and we very much look forward to an excellent year.

In this issue, we reflect on the outcome of last year's federal election, which saw former diplomat Kevin Rudd become Australia's 26th Prime Minister and brought to an end 11 years of Liberal rule under the Howard government. Rudd's victory represented only the 6th change in government in Australia since the Second World War.

Our feature contributions in this issue examine three interesting aspects of the new government.

One contribution assesses Prime Minister Rudd's views on personal and religious morality and their intersection with the responsibilities of the state, and goes on to contemplate the implications of this world view on the ancient doctrine of separation of church and state.

Another contribution briefly analyses a controversial and timely debate, namely the potential implications of the Rudd government's decision to formally apologise to Australia's Stolen Generations in terms of compensation and litigation.

We also take a look at the Rudd government's approach to immigration law and border protection from the perspective of refugee and asylum-seeker advocacy groups.

Also in this issue, some handy hints from our resident Career Doctor and photos of Victoria's young lawyers out and about.

We hope you enjoy this issue of the *YLJ* and we invite you to consider placing a submission for our next edition. ■

