

THE JOHN FLEMING CENTRE FOR ADVANCEMENT OF
LEGAL RESEARCH PRESENTS:



PUBLIC LECTURE

MODERNISING REPRODUCTION

Baroness Ruth Deech



Thursday, 11 December, 1-2pm

(sandwiches from 12.30pm)

Phillipa Weeks Staff Library

ANU College of Law, Fellows Rd (Bldg 5)

This event is free and open to the public.

Please **RSVP** (by 9 December) to E: rsvp@law.anu.edu.au

Enquiries to T: (02) 6125 3487

THE LECTURE

This year sees the 30th anniversary of the birth of the world's first IVF baby, Louise Brown. A new scientific phenomenon, which was originally treated with suspicion and dislike, has become an established feature of modern life and has brought happiness to many families. The techniques of IVF have grown to encompass fertility in old age, saviour siblings, the elimination of inherited disease and now the saving of life through stem cell therapy. The ethical issues remain as controversial as ever and the moral concerns about embryo research are, if anything, even more widespread. In this talk, Ruth Deech will look at those ethical concerns, recent developments in the science and how the law has regulated and kept up with them.

THE LECTURER

Ruth Deech taught law at Oxford University before being elected Principal of St Anne's College, from 1991 to 2004. In 1994 she was appointed chair of the UK Human Fertilisation & Embryology Authority, a national committee charged with monitoring all IVF clinics and laboratories in the UK, and with approving assisted reproductive treatments and embryo research. From 2002 to 2006 Ruth was a Governor of the BBC; and from 2004 to 2008 she was the first Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education for England and Wales—an ombudsman responsible for reviewing student complaints from 147 universities. In 2008 she was appointed Gresham Professor of Law, lecturing in the City of London on reproductive law and ethics. She is a frequent broadcaster on these topics. She is also chair of a national committee on equal opportunities for Women in Medicine. Ruth is an honorary Bencher of the Inner Temple and a Freeman of the City of London. In 2005 she was created a life peer and sits in the House of Lords as a non-party legislator.

The views expressed in this seminar are those of the presenter and do not necessarily represent the views of The Australian National University.

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