



Australian Institute of
Administrative Law

2008 NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE LAW FORUM

"Practising Administrative Law"

Thursday 7 & Friday 8 August 2008

**Sofitel Melbourne
Melbourne – Victoria**

The *National Administrative Law Forum* is Australia's pre-eminent Administrative Law conference, having been held each year since 1991. The 2008 Forum will be the 18th National Forum. Previous Forums have examined fair and open decision-making, State Administrative Law developments, Administrative Law for the new millennium, the "essentials" of Administrative Law, appraising the performance of regulatory agencies, and a range of specific problem areas.

The aim of the Forum is to provide everyone with a practice, an involvement, or an interest in Administrative Law with a medium in which contemporary issues can be discussed, practical experiences shared, and future changes considered and discussed.

The 2008 Forum is to be hosted by the Victorian Chapter of the Institute under the auspices of the National Executive Committee of the Institute.

2008 FORUM THEME

The theme for the 2008 Forum is the way Administrative Law is practised. This theme is designed to be a stimulating mixture of practical sessions and more reflective and thought-provoking presentations. The organisers hope to involve a wide diversity of groups, organizations and interests.

The Institute would like to encourage contributions on the conference theme but is also interested in finding space for those with fresh perspectives or ideas not reflected in the suggested range of topics.



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CALL FOR PAPERS

Administrative Law has diverse practices. Judges, tribunal members, barristers, solicitors, legal advisers, rule-makers, regulators, policy-makers, decision-makers, investigators, and academics — all bring differing perspectives as well as specialist knowledge, skills and understandings to bear. Yet our practices are not distinct but form part of a network of inter-relationships. This conference calls for public and private practitioners of Administrative Law to share the challenges of their practices, in order to impart their knowledge both to experts and to newcomers in related fields. It also invites all those concerned with and interested in Administrative Law to consider the content of Administrative Law and the effects that both the practices and principles of Administrative Law have on the community, including the way in which Administrative Law is communicated to others, expert and lay.

Topics to be considered for plenary and concurrent sessions may include:

- Problems or issues in key common law concepts in administrative law practice, such as jurisdictional error, the hearing rule, and the obligation not to apply policy inflexibly.
- What are the implications of the application of Administrative Law principles for the community, for business, and for government?
- What challenges are faced by boards of inquiry? What unifying standards exist for their conduct?
- What are the knowledge needs of decision-makers, investigators and tribunal members?
- What standards ought to be expected of members of tribunals?
- What are the unwritten practices of Administrative Law?
- How can newcomers be better prepared for practice?
- What issues arise in practice with unrepresented parties?
- Is the practising of Administrative Law popularly understood, and what role does the media have to play in the public's understanding of it?
- What are the international dimensions of Administrative Law practice?
- Can aspects of Administrative Law be simplified? And if so, in what form? A code? Uniform laws? Is there a case for harmonisation?
- What are the influences on administrative law practice from other areas of law (for example, Constitutional Law or Equity)?
- Are there developing trends in the decision-making of the High Court in Administrative Law?

The Institute welcomes suggestions as to other topics for discussion.

The Conference Director or the Secretary of the AIAL (Vic Chapter) can be contacted to discuss your ideas and preliminary proposals for papers at anytime.

Please send your written proposals by Wednesday 30 January 2008 to the Conference Director, Stephen Moloney, or to Rea Hearn-Mackinnon (Secretary, AIAL (Vic Chapter)) – see contact details below.



PUBLICATION OF PAPERS

All papers will be distributed to Forum participants at the close of proceedings on Friday 8 August. As trialled in 2007, it is expected that the papers will be available on disk, rather than in hard copy. After the Forum it is intended that, in due course, papers will be made available on the Institute's website. Selected papers may also be published in the Institute's quarterly journal, *AIAL Forum*. Papers may be refereed, if required by the contributor.

CONFERENCE DISPLAYS

Do you have an Administrative Law program or activity that would be appropriate for a display at the Forum? The Institute welcomes displays from government agencies, tribunals, academic institutions, publishers, and law firms.

HOLD AN ADJUNCT MEETING

The regular attendance at the Forum of Administrative Law practitioners from around Australia provides a convenient and economical context for national meetings of practitioners. Please contact the Forum organisers for assistance in planning an adjunct meeting, advertising the meeting, arranging the venue, or developing a travel and accommodation package.

FORUM VENUE AND ACCOMMODATION

The 2008 *National Administrative Law Forum* will commence at 1.00 pm on Thursday 7 August and conclude at 4.30 pm on Friday 8 August. A meeting of the National Council of the Institute will be held on the morning of Thursday 7 August. All Forum sessions will be held at Sofitel Melbourne. The Sofitel Melbourne offers world-class facilities, and is located in the heart of the city of Melbourne, close to the Victorian Parliament House and State government offices.

Accommodation will be available at the Sofitel Melbourne and at various other hotels, etc, details of which will be provided in due course.

CONTACT DETAILS

Registration brochures will be available in April 2008 and will be sent to all AIAL members.

For inquiries about the program, or to offer a paper, please contact either:

Stephen Moloney, Barrister - at - Law (Conference Director)

Ph: (03) 9225 8642 Fax: (03) 9225 7114 E-mail: sjmoloney@vicbar.com.au

Rea Hearn-Mackinnon

Ph: (03) 8600 5803 Fax: (03) 8600 5801 E-mail: rea.hearn-mackinnon@mrt-rrt.gov.au

For further details about the Forum, adjunct meetings, accommodation or travel, contact:

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