

## Congratulations to Professor George Williams

The ANU College of Law congratulates Professor George Williams on being awarded a [2009 Australian Laureate Fellowship](#) by the Australian Research Council. Professor Williams is the Anthony Mason Professor of Law and Foundation Director of the Gilbert + Tobin Centre of Public Law at the University of New South Wales.

Professor Williams is also a Visiting Fellow at the Australian National University College of Law.



*Professor George Williams*

Professor Williams was one of only 15 successful applicants from over 150 applications nationwide, and the only one in the humanities. The focus of his research project is *Anti-Terror Laws and the Democratic Challenge*. According to the [Australian Research Council](#), the project will examine how the law can 'protect the community from terrorism while also maintaining the democratic and human rights values and traditions that underpin good governance and the rule of law. The project will build internationally competitive research capacity and, in dealing with unanswered questions at the forefront of debate, enable Australians to be leading participants in international scholarship!'

Professor Williams has a strong connection with the Australian National University, having been a member of academic staff of the ANU College of Law from 1995 to 2001. He was awarded his PhD from the ANU in 2000 on the basis of his book *Human Rights Under the Australian Constitution*. He has been a Visiting Fellow at the ANU College of Law since 2008, and has co-authored many works with ANU colleagues.

Professor Williams is a prominent media commentator on constitutional law issues and the author or editor of 22 books and many articles. He serves on the editorial board of journals such as *Asia Rights*, *Australasian Parliamentary Review*, *Public Policy* and the *New Zealand Journal of Public and International Law*.

Over the past two decades, Professor Williams has worked in an impressive range of positions including:

- chairing a NSW Government Inquiry into Options for a New National Industrial Relations System, and the Victorian Human Rights Consultation Committee that led to the enactment of the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities
- practising as a barrister and appearing in High Court cases, and
- serving as a member of the High Level Advisory Group on Federal-State Relations to Kevin Rudd and Bob McMullan.

A wide range of colleagues at the ANU College of Law work in the area of legal responses to terrorism. As a Visiting Fellow at the ANU College of Law, Professor Williams' presence will be of great benefit to those working on counter-terrorism, democracy, human rights, and related areas.