



Open Hand

FROM THE DIRECTOR

In 2013 we consolidated social justice activity within the ANU College of Law, as well as engaging speakers for public events on important issues of law reform and social justice.

A College planning retreat in April confirmed a commitment to law reform and social justice as areas of important focus for the College, prompting us to move the activities away from being a stand-alone program and into the mainstream of College life, teaching and research, and to establish an Advisory Committee comprising College staff.

Law reform and social justice at the College has had a busy social media presence in 2013 through its Facebook page. We expect to increase our social media profile next year with professional advice donated to us by the *Nous* Group, one of Australia's leading management consulting firms.

As you will read below, social justice projects were very successful in 2013, sustained by dedicated and very able students. Our public events in 2013 covered diverse issues of law and social justice. Dr Mark Provera presented a seminar on *Detention of asylum seekers in the European Union and Australia: What mutual lessons can be learnt?*. Professor Mick Dodson AM spoke at the launch of the 'Ready for Recognition' project, an event funded by YouMeUnity and the ANU. Ms Gráinne McKeever from the University of Ulster presented a seminar on *The law of social security fraud: Due process protection or prosecutorial overreach?*, and Ms Kishali Pinto-Jayawardena, a Sri Lankan human rights lawyer and commentator, spoke on *Sri Lanka's rule of law crisis: Patterns of impunity and immunity*.

In 2014 we have scheduled a number of events to explore the ways that law and law reform can engage with social justice issues; speakers include Marc Galanter (in February), Andrea Durbach (April), Michael Kirby (May) and Larissa Behrendt (August).

Thank you to the many people who support law reform and social justice in the College, particularly Polly Walker-Dorras, who has calmly and very ably organised and managed our wide-ranging activities but leaves to start a new job next year.

See you next year.

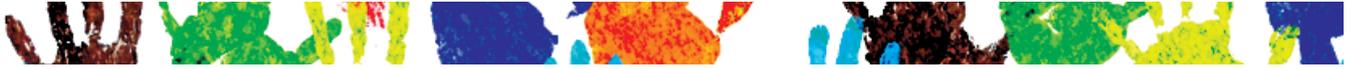
Simon Rice, Director of Law Reform and Social Justice

CURRENT STUDENT PROJECTS

Community Legal Education Project – Delivering Legal Education Workshops in Schools

After the visit from Jeff Giddings at the start of the year, the LRSJ CLE project has worked on developing legal education workshops for high school students dealing with police powers and employment. In the last few months we have visited two high





schools and delivered our first workshops. Here's what two members of our project team had to say about their involvement in the project:

Joseph Frawley

Involving myself in CLE has been incredibly beneficial and truly rewarding. Firstly, the ANU has provided me with the training required to undertake this volunteer work with confidence and vigour. Secondly, I have gained new skills through being required to communicate complex legal rules in a simple way to a non-legal audience. This has helped my research and presentation skills. Finally, I have had a chance to work alongside some fantastic, talented and hardworking students, whom I am sure I will remain in contact with as a result of my participation in CLE.

Monica Paton

Being part of CLE has been a really rewarding and fun experience. The recent school visit to Campbell High was a great reminder about how many misconceptions there are about individual rights and the practical application of studying law. Overall the visit was probably just as rewarding for us as it were for the students.

It was also challenging in unexpected ways. Trying to create lesson plans to communicate legal concepts to the students was a lot more challenging than anticipated. In my mind it was that long ago that I was in year 10. Yet a lot of us (including myself) really struggled to put aside the 'legal talk' and bring the concepts into more colloquial and understandable terms. It was a great reminder of how easy it is to get caught up in the law and forget the need for lawyers, to be able to communicate to everyday people.

Talking out legal issues with the class, seeing how many questions they had and actually being able to answer them made me realise; maybe I actually have learnt things from law school, maybe my brain isn't the sieve I thought it was.

Overall being part of CLR has given me a new perspective on what I am learning, because now I can see the practical application. I am really excited to do more school visits on an even broader range of topics.

R4R Going from Strength to Strength

R4R has had a really big year this year. We finalised the R4R project materials including our information booklet, postcards and website after nearly a year and a half of hard work. A highlight was being able to launch these materials at University House with Professor Mick Dodson.

Since then our newly enlarged team has been focussing on: preparing legal education sessions to deliver in the community, providing regular updates on Constitutional recognition via social media and our website, and generally raising awareness and keeping the momentum up. We've

been able to appear on Woroni Radio to discuss our proposals. We joined forces with other student groups and Recognise to help put on a 'Recognise' BBQ in Union Court, getting the word out to ANU students. We have begun delivering our community legal education sessions – with many to come in 2014.

It's been a real sense of achievement to have been able to do all this in just one year. We have had a great team of really committed students working throughout the year and we're really excited to see what 2014 has in store for R4R.

Global Corporate Power Project Update:

This project is an ANU Law Reform and Social Justice initiative that seeks to identify key global corporations in the global economy, working with faculty adviser Dr Kath Hall.

This semester has seen the global corporate power project team successfully complete research into 6 sectors (Insurance, Military Technology, Tobacco, Games Industry, Pharmaceuticals and the Chemical Industry). Our goal is to develop a working list of the corporations and organisations that make up the 'global elite'. This research was then used as the basis for an article in the LSS Peppercorn entitled 'Global Corporate Power'. Next year will see the project's research available online.

The Global Corporate Power project is currently seeking students to join their research team.

- > For more information about the project, or to become involved, please contact: lrsj@law.anu.edu.au

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Police Integrity Project

Quies custodet ipsos custodies? Who watches the watchmen? Who keeps the police in check? An exiting new LRSJ student project intends to find out. Through a collaboration with the National Police Accountability Network, the Police Integrity Project will explore the human rights violations occurring as a result of police activity and the oversight bodies charged with investigating such incidents. For students interested in protecting the rights of citizens from excesses of the executive this project presents a unique opportunity to be involved in producing comprehensive research and a final document which will help shape public policy. Your involvement in this project would not be expected to commence until after exams are completed. The project will hold a meeting early in the summer holidays to discuss the details of the project and what is expected from students who wish to be involved.

- > For more information about the project, or to become involved, please contact: lrsj@law.anu.edu.au