

GOLDEN JUBILEE OF AIAL FORUM



This issue of *AIAL Forum* marks a milestone for the journal of the Australian Institute of Administrative Law. The *Forum* has progressed from the humble *Australian Institute of Administrative Law Newsletter*, first published in 1989, until it was superseded in 1994 by the journal. From these beginnings the *Forum* has progressed to being available online through the AIAL website, enabling its offerings to reach that broader audience which electronic access makes possible. Fifty volumes of the *Forum* later, the journal is now established as one of only a handful of Australian journals dedicated to provide articles on public law sharing insights into the practice of administrative law.

In the nearly 20 years since the introduction of the *Forum*, significant changes have occurred in this area of the law. From the foundational package of judicial and merits review reforms and the investigative functions of the Ombudsman, we have seen administrative law change and adapt to developments in public administration. Many government services and much regulation is now provided by bodies outside the core public sector; activities are often managed under interstate or international cooperative arrangements; and standards developed outside Australia are having an increasing influence domestically. Administrative law has needed to expand its institutions and approaches to respond to these different challenges.

These changes are reflected in the over 250 articles published in these 50 *AIAL Forum* volumes. From the heartland of administrative law – ‘Is there too much natural justice?’ and ‘The structure of the Commonwealth Merits Review system’ articles have moved to topics like ‘The Legislative Instruments Bill – Lazarus with a Triple By-Pass?’, ‘The Equitable Geist in the Machinery of Administrative Justice’, ‘Non Statutory Review of Private Decisions by Public Bodies’ and ‘Review of Collegiate Decisions: Judicial Protection for ‘Pissants’’. The collection both charts the developments in government and provides a rich source of reflection on public administration and public law.

The calibre of the authors is also a tribute to the growth in stature of the journal, comprising, among others, justices of the High Court, judges from all levels of the court hierarchies, heads of agencies, including Secretaries of the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department, its Chief General Counsel and equivalent State Crown Law Offices, principal

members or presidents of tribunals, the current head of HREOC, Commonwealth Ministers, including two Attorneys-General, five of the 7 Commonwealth Ombudsman, members of Parliament, the current Commonwealth Solicitor-General, academics, legal practitioners and informed citizens.

These contributions have been provided under the capable editorship respectively of Michael Sassella, Kathryn Cole, Dennis Pearce, Hilary Manson, Max Spry, its current editor, Alice Mantel, and the wise counsel of an Editorial Board drawn from Chapters of the Institute. To them we in the administrative community owe a debt. This is an occasion on which to acknowledge that debt and to offer our thanks.

Robin Creyke
National President
AIAL