

MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE CLAIMS

Our team of highly qualified and experienced doctors at Medico-Legal Opinions can provide reports (in all specialities) regarding medical negligent claims, both **Plaintiff & Defendant.**

- ◆ Medical negligence/ malpractice
- ◆ Nursing Home abuse
- ◆ Wrongful death
- ◆ Cancer-related
- ◆ Product liability
- ◆ Cosmetic surgery claims
- ◆ Personal injury

Please call Linda — All enquiries welcome and assistance given verbally.

- ◆ Opinion only — files can be forwarded
- ◆ Reports clearly and incisively written
- ◆ Applicant seen on request

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Jottings on the Bar, from page 15

The risk of this happening is heightened by, among other things, the competition among modern media outlets, the media's penchant for sensationalism and the desire of individual reporters to promote a career boosting story..

Trial by the media would not be so bad if it were fair and just. However, the common experience is that the media is rarely fair to those whom it puts "on trial". Reputations are ruined, careers destroyed and many people are emotionally scarred by the process. Of course, these things can also occur with a trial at law. The difference is that a court of law is required to dispense justice according to identified legal principles and there are various ethical and other rules constraining what counsel and others can say about a case both in court and to the media.

Furthermore, the media "trial" more often than not comes up with a very different result from the real trial conducted by the court. This can cause damage to the standing and integrity of the court system because many members of the public conclude, based upon the false impression of the case portrayed by the media, that the court, and not the media, got it wrong.

So the question is: should a fair and accurate report of court or other similar proceedings require some contextual relevance to the whole proceedings before it attracts this privilege?①

Slicing up the pie **— the Federal Budget's legal spending**

The Commonwealth Government has allocated \$33.8m within the Attorney-General's portfolio to support access to legal advice and information, including information about options outside the court system.

Resolving disputes outside the court system

\$27.2m over four years to support primary dispute resolution services in helping families sort out conflict themselves wherever possible, rather than going to court.

This figure includes:

- \$22.8m for community-based primary dispute resolution services
- \$4m for Legal Aid Commission family law conferencing
- \$400,000 for staffing costs associated with implementing these measures

Supporting community legal services in regional Australia

\$5.3m over four years for community legal services in regional and rural Australia, including five new community legal services established under the 1999-2000 budget in Broken Hill, Gippsland, Mount Gambier, Riverland and Kalgoorlie, with outreach services from Darwin.

Australian Law Online

\$1.3m for 2002-03 to support access to the free Family Law Hotline and the Family Law Online website which are designed to help people identify the best way to solve their family law problems and get in touch with legal professionals who can help them.

Centenary of the High Court

The Federal government has allocated \$164,000 in 2002-03, and a further \$706,000 in 2003-04 for the High Court to celebrate the centenary of its first sitting in Melbourne's Banco Court on 6 October 1903. Events are likely to include a ceremonial sitting of the Court in Melbourne and an international legal conference in Canberra.①

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