

*An uneasy tension, from previous page*

His Honour went on to express the opinion that while the VIS provisions were not primarily intended to fulfil the function of providing the information to which the court is to have regard the purposes of s5(2)(b) of the *Sentencing Act*, a victim impact statement, or parts of it, may be admissible for that purpose.

The problem that has been fairly and squarely raised in the case of Munar is how a sentencing court can moderate and if necessary restrict the right bestowed to a victim when the subject matter of his or her victim impact statement moves from the impact of offences of which which the person sitting in the dock has been found guilty to an attack on a verdict of acquittal in respect of the same person and a recitation of the impacts arising from the trial leading to that acquittal.

Given the current overwhelming popular support for the rights and entitlements of victims and the identified statutory intent of the victim impact statement provisions in section 106B of the *Sentencing Act* of allowing a victim to have his or her own moment in court, any sentencing judge would presumably feel most reluctant to curtail or cut short an oral victim impact statement in full flow.

I do not claim to have thought of a solution to the problem, but it is one which may in at least some cases involve both an unfairness to an acquitted person and an undermining (by means of the court's own processes) of a particular jury verdict, and indeed jury verdicts in general. ①

## Child Support Agency guide

The Child Support Agency (CSA) has amalgamated former legal and technical products into one product called *The Guide*.

*The Guide* is an easy to use source of technical information for legal practitioners, clients and CSA staff. In contrast to the former legal and technical products, *The Guide* is organised into Parts, Chapters and Topics.

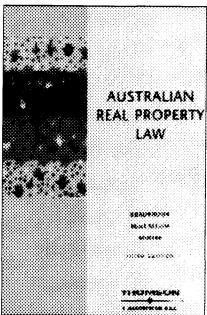
The Parts, Chapters and Topics in *The Guide* make up a collapsible menu located on the left-hand side of each page. Users can locate information using the menu or the extensive A-Z index.

Once in a topic other related topics can be reached by clicking on underlined text.

You can view *The Guide* from CSA's home page: [www.csa.gov.au](http://www.csa.gov.au). It supersedes all former legal and technical products. It includes information that was not covered in earlier material such as a discussion of overseas child support, details of legislative history and CSA's policy about enforcement of debts through court action.

On the bottom of each page is a feedback link. CSA hopes that you will use *The Guide* to answer any questions about child support and welcomes your feedback.

## readers forum - book reviews



**Australian Real Property Law 3rd edition by Bradbrooks, MacCallum and Moore The Lawbook Company, RRP \$115**

From a general law point of view, this is a very comprehensive text and easily compared to my old favourite "Butt on Land Law".

Apart from covering the usual areas such as:

- history of tenure from the year dot,
- various forms of ownership of property; and
- current and future interests;

the book covers more contemporary

topics such as native title, management of property, trade practices, credit legislation and the legislative changes to perpetuities law. The section on perpetuities looks at the particular statutory position in each state and territory.

The book also has a very comprehensive section on the contemporary relationship between landlord and tenant including, interestingly, a section on the legislation governing Retirement Village schemes and its various requirements across the States and Territories.

Another addition to the landlord/tenant bow is the section on recent changes to residential tenancies law and the advent of the retail tenancies legislation.

Add to the above some broad text on the nature of property rights under strata schemes and again a good basic spiel on the nature of various security interests and how they operate and you have a text which could be a Bible for a junior property lawyer and a good point of first reference for someone more senior.

The book is very readable despite covering a lot of quite distinct topics, the authors have obviously made an effort to keep the language relatively simple and split the topics into easy to find categories.

A good comprehensive text covering the breadth of property law issues.

- Karen Christopher, partner, Cridlands Lawyers