



Castan Centre for Human Rights Law

Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 1

February 2003

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Having established a solid foundation over the past 2 years or so, I feel that the Centre is now gaining a greater sense of security, direction and confidence. Its spread of activities has not lessened any and the enthusiasm, energy and invention of all involved in the Centre's work has not waned. However, we are now, collectively, a little clearer on what we want to achieve and how we want to go about achieving it.

Our range and depth of research publications, speeches and conference papers, public submissions and commentary remain top priorities and the Castan staff members can be rightly proud of what they continue to achieve in this respect. The variety of attractive human rights units offered by Centre members continues to grow with units in refugee law, practising in the public interest, and human rights and the global economy being recent additions to the list. There are now also plans to establish an LLM in Human Rights Law in the near future.

The Centre continues to win competitive research grants and consultancy contracts for human rights work in Australia and overseas. Recently and notably amongst these, the Centre has just secured a 3-year contract with AusAID to deliver a range of activities under Phase II of AusAID's Human Rights Initiative in Burma.

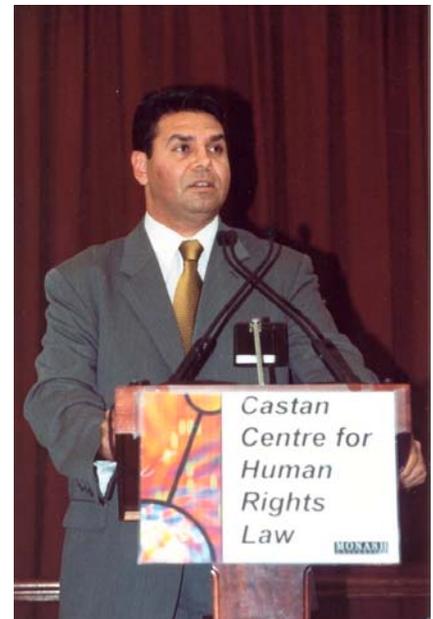
Since the last Newsletter, the Centre has hosted a number of public speeches and events, including the Annual Castan Centre Lecture delivered by Senator Aden Ridgeway, and has been delighted to have assisted in the establishment and projects of the Victorian Branch of the Australian Lawyers for Human Rights.

Of particular note has been the role that the Centre has played in the development of a number of internship and student placement programs.

The students who undertake these placements with such organisations as the Australian Red Cross in Melbourne, the death penalty internship program in New Orleans run through Reprieve Australia, and the Australian Delegation to the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, invariably do themselves proud (and by reflected glory, the Centre as well!) by 'putting in' enormously, and squeezing the very last drop out of their experiences (on which, for example, see Vanessa Szabo's letter on page 2 herein).

I hope that the further details of all of these activities contained in this Newsletter are of interest to you and that you continue your support for the activities of the Centre; for it is upon you that we are ultimately dependent.

Professor David Kinley, Director



Senator Aden Ridgeway delivering the Annual Castan Centre Lecture on the 10th Anniversary of the Mabo decision.



<http://www.law.monash.edu.au/castancentre/index.html>