

BOOK REVIEW:
“LAW AND ETHICS FOR AUSTRALIAN TEACHERS”
BY BUTLIN, McNAMARA AND ANGLIN

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The publication of a new book on Australian school law is usually an event to be celebrated. This work, by Mark Butlin, Noeleen McNamara and Kerrie Anglin,¹ is no exception.

It meets the back cover description:

Coming to grips with law and policy can be daunting for beginning and established teachers alike. *Law and Ethics for Australian Teachers* provides an overview of the professional, legal and ethical issues teachers may encounter in the classroom and the broader school environment. This book breaks down the relevant case law, as well as state and territory legislation and policy, through an accessible and reader-friendly approach to help readers navigate these complex issues.

The book reflects the teaching, as well as legal, expertise of its authors, and the emphasis on ethics, as well as law, will be of assistance to teachers and school leaders. It is very worthy of publication by Cambridge University Press.

Following a succinct “overview” of the Australian legal system, chapters 1-13 address:

- duty of care
- privacy
- discrimination
- health and safety
- family law
- child protection and mandatory reporting
- suspensions and exclusions
- criminal law
- cyber bullying
- general ethical issues
- teacher registration
- discipline of teachers
- protection of teachers.

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¹ Mark Butlin, Noeleen McNamara, and Kerrie Anglin, *Law and Ethics for Australian Teachers* (Cambridge University Press, 2021). ISBN 978-1-108-72476-0. More information on the book can be obtained from www.cambridge.org/9781108724760. **Mark Butlin** is a Lecturer, School of Education, University of Southern Queensland; **Noeleen McNamara** is an Associate Professor, School of Law and Justice, University of Southern Queensland; **Kerrie Anglin** is formerly a lawyer and now a teacher, St Peter's Lutheran College, Queensland.

Chapters are well organised, with headings, side notes, learning objectives, and scenarios for discussion.

So, the book can be used as a “cover-to-cover” text, as a one-topic only consultation, or (once familiar with it) to “zero in” for initial advice on a specific issue.

Although clearly not to be treated as legal advice, it can greatly assist in general guidance, and identification of when formal legal advice is appropriate.

The book concludes with a substantial list of References (many of which are online-accessible); lists of Cases Cited and Legislation Cited; and then an Index. The Index is detailed, and includes cases and legislation, so navigation is facilitated. These useful features enable readers to focus on their own State or Territory for further detail, or to pursue a topic of particular relevance to them in greater detail.

CONCLUSION

This book is strongly recommended. It is very reasonably priced (\$80 or less) and can be obtained through a number of online sites. It should be in every school staff library, read and consulted.