

FOREWORD

It is my pleasure to welcome readers to the 2009 issue of the *Journal of the Australasian Law Teachers Association* (JALTA).

JALTA is a double-blind refereed journal that publishes scholarly works on all aspects of law. JALTA satisfies the requirements to be regarded as peer reviewed as contained in current Higher Education Research Data Collection (HERDC) Specifications. JALTA also meets the description of a refereed journal as per current Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) categories.

JALTA was established by the Australasian Law Teachers Association (ALTA) in 2008, following a decision by the ALTA Executive to proceed with the proposal. JALTA represents an important initiative which supports the research endeavours of its members, in addition to ALTA's highly regarded *Legal Education Review* (LER) and the Centre for Legal Education's *Legal Education Digest* (LED), which is included in ALTA membership. The journal also appropriately reflects the prestige, maturity and development of ALTA as an organisation which now represents well over 1,000 members.

Following the publication of our inaugural 'bumper' issue in 2008, the response to this issue of JALTA continued to be very strong and we received many submissions for consideration to be published. All submissions have undergone a rigorous double-blind peer review and I am confident that readers will find the articles not only interesting and topical, but scholarly as well.

Finally, and most importantly, I need to extend my sincere thanks to a number of people whose collective efforts have made this journal possible. First, in addition to all members of the ALTA Executive, I would like to thank my Editorial Board colleagues for their counsel and support. Second, I must thank ALTA Interest Group Convenors and all referees who assisted us with the double-blind refereeing process. I would also like to offer my thanks to WritWrite and Kaushalya Mataraaratchi for their exceptional work in proofreading, David Brennan for his efforts in typesetting, and to CCH Australia Ltd for their generous sponsorship and continued support of the journal. Lastly, I need to record a special thanks to Katherine Poludniewski who is ALTA's Administrative Coordinator and ALTA Secretariat. Words cannot adequately capture the herculean effort that Katherine has put into making this journal possible. Katherine has been tireless in her work on all aspects dealing with JALTA and has been supremely organised and efficient. I can safely say that without Katherine's contributions this issue of JALTA would simply not have been produced in such a timely and professional manner.

I commend this issue of JALTA to all readers and ALTA looks forward to continuing to contribute to the legal profession through this journal.

Professor Dale Pinto
Editor-in-Chief
JALTA