



By Ben Cochrane

This edition of *Precedent* takes motor accidents as its theme, offering a state-by-state review of current law.

The national round-up is a popular and recurring element of the publication, and we are trialling new format for its presentation: a black-and-white lift-out. We will continue to offer such reviews in future, providing members with a library of these outlines that can be stored separately for ready reference.

On the theme of motor accidents, we offer two views on the no-fault MVA scheme soon to be introduced for seriously injured claimants in NSW. A long time in the making, the scheme has already prompted interest from Lawyers Alliance members and is bound to be watched closely around the country. We also present the first in a series of articles on MVA investigation and reconstruction from DVExperts.

On a different note, this edition carries an article on Shayan Badraie's case. The case involved a claim against the Commonwealth for the negligent infliction of mental harm to a child in immigration detention. In recent years, it has not always been easy to offer members an inspirational true story that comes complete with a happy ending. Shayan's success against institutional injustice is such a story.

Last but by no means least, a word of welcome to all the new Australian Lawyers Alliance officer bearers for the coming financial year. We also welcome our new National President, Simon Morrison. His first President's Page and a biography from Adam Tayler will serve to introduce Simon to those members who have not yet met him. ■

Ben Cochrane was formerly the Alliance's Legal and Policy Officer, and is now a criminal lawyer with the Legal Aid NSW.

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