

gal', i.e. without a current valid entry permit, the *Manual* provides the adviser with a very useful checklist of time limits – the client may well be too late for a processing entry permit – as well as cross-referencing other options.

Section 3 concerns applicants living outside Australia, who seek asylum here under one of the refugee and special humanitarian programs (for example, as a refugee, in-country special humanitarian, global special humanitarian, emergency rescue or women at risk). The comparative chart at its beginning is useful to answer questions such as: are nomination or family ties required under this program; is there a resettlement need; what type of visa will my relative be travelling under? The practicality of the *Manual* is seen in tips about how to nominate and how the process works in practice. Given the volatility of world politics, the looseleaf format gives the *Manual* flexibility to respond with new sections – for example with the special assistance category of refugee applicant. Hopefully, the plight of victims of persecution will be recognised. The section concludes with further advice to the successful applicant and the adviser about settlement services, such as accommodation, English language classes, financial assistance and health.

Section 4 deals with review and referral. Despite the limited coverage of FoI, overall the *Manual* is an effective advisory tool.

The *Manual's* chief characteristics are its usefulness and practicality. This is clear even as it finishes with useful references and contact numbers for a large number of agencies which assist refugee applicants, their families and friends. Jerry Fox and the team at RACS are to be commended for producing the *Manual* and so contributing to more thorough, practical and effective advice and assistance to refugees.

**CHRIS DELLIT**

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## Medicine, Law & Social Change

by *Leanna Darvall; Dartmouth, Aldershot, 1993; \$84.00*

The influence of social movements on medicine, and its intersection with the law, are the themes of Leanna Darvall's

professional and challenging text. This book, she states in her introduction, is about medical decision making and, in particular, the attitudes of medical professionals and lawyers to the philosophical shift away from medical paternalism and towards patients' rights to choose and be involved in decisions affecting their bodies.

Darvall traces these social changes from the 1960s and explains their influence on three major controversial areas of medicine: consent to treatment, the right to refuse treatment, and the regulation of human subjects in medical research. Law and medicine are exposed in their modern social context, beginning with the influences of the United States civil rights movement, and the subsequent questioning and loss of trust in professional and institutional authority. The major social movements of consumerism, feminism, bioethics and the gay rights movement are examined to demonstrate how diverse groups with unlikely theoretical liaisons can nonetheless significantly influence change. These movements have led to a number of major ideas and Darvall documents their influence on clinical and research decision making in Australia.

The task which Darvall has set for herself is indeed daunting. How well has she achieved her goals? In one review, Ian Freckelton (1 *Journal of Law and Medicine* 130) acknowledges the thoughtfulness and thoroughness of Darvall's scholarship but finds two faults. The first is that its very quality leaves the reader with a thirst for more. And, there is too much reviewing of the views of others, and too little developing of her own views.

Certainly some sections are very short and could have been expanded. The issues are, after all, complex and tantalising. I agree also with Freckelton's second point that most space is given to review rather than overview and synthesis. However, it was this very characteristic of the book which I found most interesting. A concise explanation of complex ideas makes for a text which is extremely valuable for teaching and for provoking debate.

Freckelton justifiably criticises the book's price. At \$84 it is expensive. On the other hand it would be money well spent by teachers, scholars and policy makers. The text is highly relevant to Australia. It includes primarily Australian sources, has extensive bibliographies, and is well indexed. A paperback version would ensure it reached a larger audience.

Overseas materials come mainly from the United States, with less prominence being given to the United Kingdom. This is not a criticism. It simply reflects the way in which social movements for reform have been more influential in the United States. The inclusion of feminism as a major cultural force is welcome, given its absence from so many texts. Feminism has undoubtedly been a major influence in social change in medicine and law and its methodology, arguments, and analytical tools have been significant in overthrowing the dominance of medical paternalism. Darvall acknowledges that feminism has different strands, liberal, cultural and radical – but all are critical of medical paternalism. Her review of the differences, as well as the areas of agreement, is succinct and useful. It also demonstrates the sophistication of feminist thought.

I was a student of Leanna Darvall back in the seventies. At that time she was teaching consumer protection, a new and radical subject. Her book chronicles both her own development as a teacher and scholar and reflects the world in which she, and her students, have participated. This process of change and learning continues and, in company with Ian Freckelton, I look forward to a second edition.

**BETH WILSON**

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