

Centre for Legal Education - New home, same job

At the beginning of the year 2000, the Centre for Legal Education moved to the University of Newcastle. It is now a Centre carrying out independent research and providing support and services within the Faculty of Law.

The Centre was established in 1992 by the Law Foundation of New South Wales, and until the end of 1999, was an activity of that Foundation. Changes in regard to the funding of the Law Foundation meant that the Centre needed to find a new home. The Law School of The University of Newcastle is an appropriate home for the Centre with its strong interest in the process of legal practice and the delivery of legal services.

The Centre's Director, Christopher Roper, joined the Faculty of Law at the beginning of 2000. Most of the existing work of the Centre continues. Its important research work into the career destinations of Australia's law graduates continues and the latest report, *Career Destinations of Australian Law Graduates: first report of a five year study*, has just been published and is available from the Centre.

The Centre is in the process of reviewing its research activities, and it expects to be making an announcement within the next few months as to new developments in its research role.

The Centre also continues to act as a clearing house of information on legal education. This *Digest* is the 35th edition of a long series which has collected and reported, in digested form on what is being written about legal education in a number of countries throughout the world. The *Australasian Legal Education Yearbook* also continues, and the 1999 edition is to be published shortly.

The Centre also continues to support developments in regard to legal education. The six-monthly meeting of the New South Wales Legal Education Conference, was held in early May in Sydney and brought together over 30 key people in legal education and training in New South Wales.

The Centre's consultancy work also continues apace. Two recent projects have included assistance to the South Australian Legal Profession Education and Admission Council and similar work for the New South Wales Legal Practitioners Admission Board.

Other projects include participation in a major review of all aspects of legal education and training in Hong Kong and the development of a training plan and strategy for a major Malaysian commercial law firm. One of the most interesting projects is the work which the Centre is doing in providing a secretariat and other assistance in regard to the training of judges in East Timor. This project is supported by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Centre has been appointed to start the process of a training program for the East Timorese judges and set up and sustain a judicial training institution which the East Timorese themselves will take over and conduct.

The Centre has a new administration assistant, Rebecca Crawford, who is available to assist with enquiries.

Contact details for the Centre are:

Christopher Roper
(02) 4921 6778
chris.roper@newcastle.edu.au

Rebecca Crawford
(02) 4921 5419
rebecca.crawford@newcastle.edu.au

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