

APLA National Conference held at Coolum

Ron Pearce, Chair, APLA National Conference Committee



Richard D. Hailey, ATLA President, Caroline Harmer, APIL President and Peter Semmler QC, APLA President

The APLA 1997 National Conference was a great success by all measures. The conference was held at the Hyatt Regency Coolum on Queensland's beautiful Sunshine coast, from 30 October - 2 November 1997. There were over 300 APLA delegates and 45 speakers in attendance, plus 160 registered accompanying persons. Topics on the technical program included premises liability, medical negligence, damages and workplace injuries.

The National Conference highlighted the importance of our association, as APLA continues to grow and develop. This year, attendance at the conference was restricted to APLA members only, yet the conference enjoyed a 50% increase in delegates from 1996. The commitment of APLA members and their belief in its principles is clearly evident, as nearly one third of our membership attended this landmark event.

The speakers at the conference included leading plaintiff lawyers and professional experts from across Australia and overseas. I would especially like to thank

Richard D Hailey, President of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America (ATLA), Caroline Harmer, President of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers, UK (APIL) and Michael Napier, Foundation President of APIL, for their contribution to the leading-edge program.

Our sponsors were important in ensuring the success of this event. I would like to convey, on behalf of APLA, our special thanks to our Principal

Sponsors: LBC Information Services; Macquarie Bank and Medico-Legal Consultants of Australia, and our Sponsors: JCA International and Unisearch, for their support of our organisation and input into the conference.

I also wish to express my appreciation to the conference Technical Committee, and the conference organisers, Yarran & Baxter, for ensuring the success of the conference as a quality event. The Technical Committee included Peter Carter, Diana Farah, Roland Everingham, Paul Alvaro and Sukhwant Singh. In particular, I wish



Attentive delegates at a technical session

to record my gratitude to John Peacock and Emma Christie for their enthusiastic support and professionalism in their planning and organisation of the conference.

Congratulations go to Tim Abbott from NSW for winning a free trip to Paris courtesy of AOM French Airlines.

I look forward to seeing you at the APLA 1998 National Conference which will be held at the Hamilton Island Resort in the Whitsundays, Queensland, Australia from Thursday 15 October - Sunday 18 October, 1998. ■

Ron Pearce will be the Conference Chair for the 1998 National Conference, and he has recently been elected National Treasurer of APLA.

Send your evaluation of the 1997 APLA National Conference to the Conference Organisers, **Yarran & Baxter, at PO Box 810 Artarmon, NSW 2064 or via DX 29552 Chatswood Fax 02 9411 8585.**

CONTENTS

Stolen generations	6
Joining insurers	9
Medical panels: threat to justice	10
Misdiagnosis of abdomen pain	22
Unwanted pregnancies	24
Post traumatic stress disorder	25
Structured settlements	28
Protective Commission	31