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Managing Editor's *note*

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child¹ states:

'Article 3.1: In all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.'

'Article 19.1: Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child.'

An important objective of APLA is the encouragement of informed debate in the community concerning issues of interest to plaintiffs and the public.

As Justice Owen said:²

'In an ideal world the protagonists would begin the process by asking: Is this right? ... In corporate decision making, as elsewhere, we should at least aim for an ideal world.'

Another of APLA's objectives is the promotion of excellence in the provision of legal services to plaintiffs. In this edition of *Plaintiff* we have published various articles concerning the law as it relates to children, contributed by leading practitioners and commentators.

This is my last edition as managing editor of *Plaintiff*. From August, Kassie James will take over. No doubt Kassie will continue to build upon the vision and good work of past managing editors, Bill Madden and Geoff Coates. I wish Kassie and her committee well with the ongoing production of the journal and welcome new editor Caroline Henning.

Many people have devoted considerable time, thought and effort towards the production of this journal. I would like to acknowledge the efforts and support of the editor, Lyndal Hayward, the designer, Tianli Zu, and the *Plaintiff* committee, which has included Bill Madden (who is also our photographer), Geoff Coates, Louise Hanby-D'Wynn, Andrew Freer, Michal Horvath, Darren Moore, Melissa Meldrum, Tim Dionyssopolous, Merridy Gordon, Brian Donovan QC, Penelope Watson and Ben Zipser. Thank you, also, to those of you who have submitted articles or notes for publication - contributions are always most welcome.

I am fortunate to have had the opportunity to contribute to APLA's important work. Best wishes to you all.



TINA COCKBURN, QLD

ENDNOTES:

¹ <http://www.unicef.org/crc/fulltext.htm>; discussed by APLA president Rob Davis in *Plaintiff* (2002) 54, p4.

² In the context of highlighting the fundamental nature of corporate governance: HIH Royal Commission report, 16 April 2003 - <http://www.hihroyalcom.gov.au>.