

INTRODUCTION TO THE WELLNESS FOR LAW SPECIAL EDITION OF THE QUT LAW REVIEW

The Wellness Network for Law was established in 2010 through Rachael Field's Australian Learning and Teaching Council Teaching Fellowship which worked on curriculum strategies to address the high levels of psychological distress experienced by law students.¹ The Network is a community of legal academics, practitioners and students who are committed to: first, addressing the high levels of psychological distress experienced in law; and second, promoting wellness at law school, in the legal academy, and in the profession. The Network seeks to achieve these aims through supporting a deeper understanding of the onset and causes of psychological distress, as well as through the development of strategies for preventing and ameliorating distress, and for fostering wellbeing, within law schools and the profession.

The Network hosted Wellness for Law Forums in 2012 in collaboration with RMIT and in 2013 in collaboration with the Melbourne University Law School. The members of the 2013 Forum organizing committee were Wendy Larcombe, Rachael Field, Helen McGowan and Michelle Sharpe. The Forum was supported by financial assistance provided by Professor Carolyn Evans, Dean, Melbourne Law School, and the Office for Learning and Teaching.

One of the aims of the Network is to contribute to developing existing knowledge on well-being in the law through scholarly research outcomes. This Special Edition is a collection of scholarly double-blind peer reviewed articles and practice notes first presented at the Wellness for Law Forum in 2013. It includes articles by a number of the leading Australian scholars on well-being in the law, with a particular focus on the role of legal education in promoting law student well-being. The practice notes showcase practical issues relating specifically to the well-being of barristers. The Special Edition includes a feature article by Justice Michael Kirby on judicial bullying. This article was one of the Keynote presentations at the Wellness for Law Forum in 2013 and was first published in Volume 87 of the Australian Law Journal.² It is reproduced here with the kind permission of the Judge and the Journal.

Finally, we would like to heartily thank all the reviewers for this Special Edition for their generosity with their time and expertise. We also thank Brooke Lee, the journal manager, and Sandra Coe, our production editor, for their professionalism and commitment to the quality and standards of this and every edition of the QUT Law Review.

We commend this Special Edition to you.

Rachael Field and Wendy Larcombe
Special Edition on Wellness for Law Editors

¹ See www.wellnessforlaw.com; and also www.tjmf.org.au.

² [\(2013\) 87 ALJ 516](#)