

Friday 17 February 2017

08:00 – 09:00 Registration Open

09:00 – 9:30 Conference opening ceremony

09:30 – 10:30

Concurrent session A

Key High Court decisions on refugee matters: lessons learned

A number of significant cases have come before the High Court in recent years, challenging various aspects of Australia's approach to asylum and refugee protection. This includes the current regime of offshore processing. Lawyers who have been involved in such strategic litigation will discuss the direction that the High Court is taking in this area, and the challenges this poses for refugee protection in Australia.

This session will include presentations from;
Daniel Webb Director of Legal Advocacy, Human Rights Law Centre
David Manne Executive Director, Refugee Legal

Concurrent session B

**Disability and the Criminal justice system
Imprisonment and indefinite detention of people with a cognitive impairment and its particular disproportionate impact on Indigenous Australians**

People with cognitive impairment and particularly, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are significantly overrepresented in Australian prisons. Research has shown that some people with cognitive impairments to be detained in maximum security prisons without conviction and incarcerated for longer periods than they would have been if they were found guilty of a crime. Other people are detained indefinitely. The treatment of people with cognitive impairments in Australian prisons and their indefinite detention is a violation of their human rights. This session will provide the audience with insights into not only the size of the issue facing people with cognitive impairments, especially Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people but also the horrific treatment they are exposed to in prisons. Panelists:

Professor Eileen Baldry Professor of Criminology, UNSW
Patrick McGee Coordinator, Aboriginal Disability Justice Campaign

10:30 – 11:00

Morning tea

11:00 – 12:30

Concurrent session A

Australia's refugee policy: what is the best way forward?

The problems associated with Australia's current approach to asylum and refugee matters are well known. In this session, a panel of experts from a variety of backgrounds will discuss the best and most realistic way forward, given the current political climate. They will address not only steps that the Australian Government should take, but also how the legal profession and the wider community can constructively contribute to the debate.

This panel will include:
Mohammad Al-Khafaji CEO Welcome to Australia

Concurrent session B

11:00 - 11:45 Refugees with Disabilities, Human Rights and Identification: A six country study

Professor Mary Crock, Emeritus Professor Ron McCallum AO, Ms Laura Smith-Kahn and Professor Ben Saul have conducted groundbreaking research into refugees and asylum-seekers with disabilities across six countries. Until very recently, refugees with disabilities were a forgotten group and their needs hardly recognised. This presentation will discuss the findings of that research, considering the experiences of refugees with disabilities in Malaysia, Indonesia, Pakistan, Uganda, Jordan and Turkey.

Speaker: **Professor Mary Crock**
Professor of Public Law, University of Sydney

	<p>Erika Feller Vice-Chancellor's Fellow, University of Melbourne, and former UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Protection</p> <p>Lucy Morgan Specialist Immigration Advisor, Australian Human Rights Commission</p>	<p>11:45 - 12:30pm The Right of Deaf Persons to Sit on Juries: The UN CRPD Committee and the High Court of Australia</p> <p>The UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has heard three complaints against Australia, all relating to the right of deaf and of hard of hearing persons to sit on juries. However, in the recent decision of <i>Lyon v State of Queensland</i>, the High Court of Australia held as a matter of statutory interpretation that deaf persons could not serve on juries, at least in Queensland. There was no discussion of citizenship or of human rights.</p> <p>Speaker: Emeritus Professor Ron McCallum AO University of Sydney and Chair, UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities</p>
<p>12:30 – 13:30</p>	<p>Lunch</p>	
<p>13:30 – 15:30</p>	<p>Conference Panel: Freedom of Speech: International Human Rights and the Current Australian Dialogue</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Dr Tim Soutphommasane, Race Discrimination Commissioner, Australian Human Rights Commission</p> <p>Tasneem Chopra, Cross-cultural Consultant</p> <p>Timothy Goodwin, Barrister</p>	
<p>15:30 – 16:00</p>	<p>Afternoon tea</p>	
<p>16:00 – 17:20</p>	<p><i>Concurrent session A</i></p> <p>Business and Human Rights - Current Challenges and Future Potential</p> <p>A consideration of current Business and Human Rights challenges and potential opportunities for future action.</p> <p>In this session we will hear from our three panelists, each an expert in the business and rights field, on what they consider to be critical current issues in the field of business and human rights, including both present challenges and future opportunities.</p> <p>Facilitated by ALHR's Business and Human Rights Chair, Amy Sinclair.</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Kate Eastman SC Renowned Australian Barrister specialising in human rights and Founding President of ALHR</p> <p>Professor David Kinley Chair in International Human Rights Law, University of Sydney</p> <p>Associate Professor Justine Nolan Associate Professor, Law Faculty, University of New South Wales and Deputy Director, Australian Human Rights Centre</p>	<p><i>Concurrent session B</i></p> <p>Ending violence against women in Australia and beyond: measures, reform, and advocacy.</p> <p>Both in Australia and globally, violence against women and girls continues to occur at epidemic levels. It is estimated that one in three Australian women has experienced physical violence in their lifetime and one in five Australian women has experienced sexual violence. Drawing on the recently-concluded Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence and the recently-initiated Australian Human Rights Commission inquiry into sexual assault and harassment of university students, this panel will examine pathways and strategies for the way forward to reduce, prevent and ultimately eliminate violence against women and girls.</p> <p>Speaker: Professor Hilary Charlesworth Melbourne Laureate Professor at Melbourne Law School and Distinguished Professor at the Australian National University</p> <p>Matt Hall, Special Advisor at the Australian Human Rights Commission</p> <p>Karen Willis OAM, Executive Director of Rape and Domestic Violence Services Australia</p>
<p>17:20 -1930</p>	<p>Cocktails and headline Keynote presentation</p> <p>Keynote Speaker: Elaine Pearson, Australia Director at Human Rights Watch</p>	

Saturday 18 February 2017

08:30 – 09:00 **Registration open**

09:00 – 09:30 **Conference welcome**

09:30 – 10:30 **Aboriginal recognition: treaties and colonial constitutions, ‘...we have been here forever...’**
Speaker: **Professor Irene Watson**, Pro Vice Chancellor Aboriginal Leadership & Strategy and Professor of Law, University of South Australia.

10:30 - 11:00 **Morning tea**

11:00 – 12:30 **Engaging with UN treaty bodies and human rights monitoring mechanisms?**
Speaker: **Anna Talbot** Legal and Policy Adviser, Australian Lawyers Alliance

12:30 - 13:30 **Lunch**

13:30 – 14:30 **Current Human Rights challenges in Victoria**
Speakers: **Dan Nicholson**, Executive Director of the Civil Justice Program at Victoria Legal Aid.
Helen Fatouros, Executive Director of Criminal Law Services at Victoria Legal Aid.

14:30 - 15:00 **Afternoon tea**

15:00 – 16:00 Keynote speaker:
Julian Burnside AO QC Renowned Australian barrister, human rights advocate and author

16:00 **Conference close**