

Snippets

CES v Superclinics

In the last issue of the Update, Catherine Henry reviewed the legal history of abortion in Australia leading up to and including the CES case.

On 15 April, the application for special leave to appeal to the High Court was heard. Leave was granted and it is expected that the case will be heard in September - October of this year.

Conference on Sexual Exploitation by Health Professionals and Clergy

On the weekend of 12-14 April 1996, Sydney University was host to an International Conference on Sexual Exploitation by Health Professionals and Clergy with speakers from the USA, Canada, New Zealand and various states of Australia participating.

A very diverse range of papers were given over the three days with particularly valuable and practically useful contributions given by practitioners from the U.S. where this form of litigation is significantly more established than it is in Australia.

Anyone who is interested in receiving the material from that Conference or discussing the Australian situation generally can contact the NSW President, Catherine Henry on (02) 564 6487.

Liquor Store Liability Resources

The Alcohol & Drug Council of Australia (ADCA) has an interest in civil litigation against liquor outlets which supply alcohol irresponsibly. Its interests and that of APLA coincide in this area.

The ADCA has notified APLA of its free public lending service which includes works on the civil liability issue. In particular, the work of an eminent Canadian academic, Professor Robert Solomon, is included in the library.

ADCA hosted a visit to Australia by Professor Solomon last year. His major study which has just been published includes an examination of liability theories, litigation to date on the subject and prospects for this kind of litigation under Australian law.

Any APLA members who are interested may contact ADCA on:

P O Box 269, WODEN ACT 2606

Tel: (06) 281 0686 Fax: (06) 281 0995

Technology for Plaintiff Lawyers

Bill Madden, APLA Member, NSW

It is often said that the adoption of technology by firms practising on behalf of defendants/insurers is well in advance of plaintiff firms and practitioners.

Enclosed with this edition of the APLA Newsletter is a short survey designed to give some indication of the level of technology usage by APLA members.

Members responding to the survey or to me directly will assist in further articles or seminars on this topic.

During 1995 there has been an enormous growth of interest in, and usage of, communications technology both for electronic mail and access to information.

The NSW Law Foundation has greatly assisted, firstly through establishment of a bulletin board/electronic mail service known as "First Class Law". The First Class Law service is still in operation and has about 700 active users.

The service provides electronic mail, public and private discussion groups and access to resources such as the NSW Supreme and District Court lists and High Court judgments.

Late last year the Law Foundation in co-operation with the Australasian Legal Information Institute established an internet home page known as "Foundation Law".

The Foundation Law site provide links to other sites and most importantly access to a very substantial volume of legal information such as the Commonwealth Statutes, Rules and Regulations, Federal Court cases and the like. The site is already very popular with use during October 1995 averaging 600 enquiries per day.

No doubt practitioners and firms who obtain internet accounts in order to access the Foundation Law and other materials will also pursue more frequent use of electronic mail. Some firms have already registered their firm names for Email purposes and indeed established their own home pages.

I would be most interested to hear from members regarding their own experiences, good or bad, in this area.

My Email address is WJM@bj.com.au

You can also contact me by fax on (02) 221 5692.

NB: This article has been repeated from the last edition of the APLA Update as some members did not receive the enclosed survey form.