

## CLA mounts special investigation into Drugs in Sport

The CLA team undertook a detailed analysis of claims made by the Australian Crime Commission in its dramatically staged Drugs in Sport report media conference.

ACC Commissioner John Lawler, abetted by Justice Minister Jason Clare and Sports Minister Kate Lundy, in just 55 minutes in Canberra destroyed the nation's reputation for being relatively clean over drugs.

Several individuals and sporting clubs are now assessing whether any of the actors, or the government bodies they represent, can be sued to recover compensation for the damage done to reputations of people, sporting codes and particular clubs.

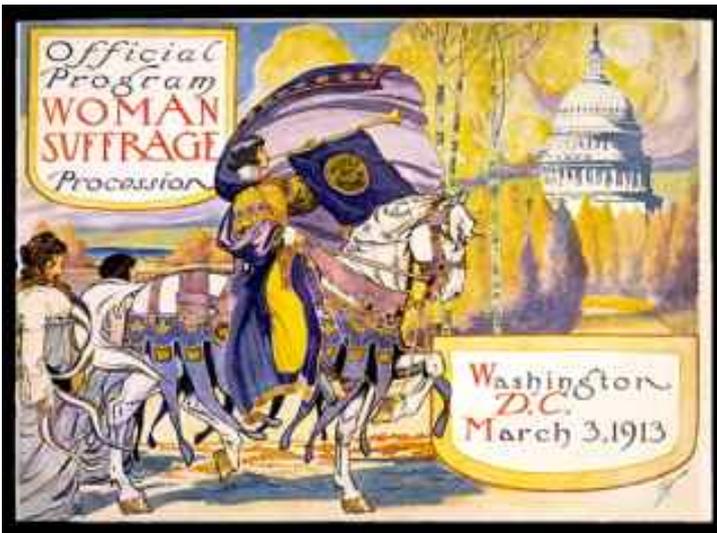
CLA has described the media event as “the dumbest media conference ever”. We have also analysed the only publicly available material provided by the ACC, and concluded that the ACC:

- got their analysis wrong;
- fudged figures, statistics and trends;
- used weasel words to appear to reveal matters of substance, but it was puffery; and
- stopped being a responsible government agency and acted more like a mafia organisation wishing to “put the frighteners on” people (as Mr Lawler himself said).

Read all about the Special CLA Investigation into the ACC at: <http://www.cla.asn.au/>

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## ODD SPOT – USA...and Australia:



### Looking back 100 years

In March 1913, American women were campaigning for the right to vote. It took another seven years, until 1920 when Congress passed the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution.

Before 1920, American women could not vote, and were also not protected by the US Bill of Rights, which applied to US white males only from 15 Dec 1791.

Australian women got the right to vote nationally in 1902, 18 years before American women. But Australian women still do not have the protection of a Bill of Rights. Nor do Australian men.

## CLA's voting period starts this month

CLA is about to go the electronic polls, from 11 March.

Electronic voting will take place from 11 March to 2 April, with postal voting open until close of business on 3 April. The poll will be declared on 5 April.

All members will be reminded by emails to their currently recorded email address about their right (and responsibility) to vote. Members who usually receive their newsletter by post will be sent postal ballot forms instead, with full instructions.

## **New law made more urgent by gene patent court ruling**

The Federal Court has ruled cancer test gene patents held by private firms are valid.

The ruling is a setback for a consortium of People For Genes, which includes CLA. The group was hoping that a favorable legal ruling would mean genes remained the property of each of us, and private firms would be unable to profit from nature.

However, in practical terms, the ruling simply ramps up the need for new federal law to protect our genes. A campaign to that effect was already under way in Australia: it has become more urgent.

Led by Director Tim Vines, CLA will have an active role in campaigning for new legislation. The in-House leader will now be Andrew Leigh (Labor, Fraser ACT), who takes over from Melissa Parke (Labor, Fremantle WA) after her promotion to Parliamentary Secretary. There is a crossbench group of MPs and Senators, including Senator Heffernan (Lib, NSW) who support the need for new laws.

## **Saving \$111,000 per prisoner...why would we not do it?**

"It's time for all governments to address more public health focused approaches to handling growth in Indigenous prison populations," according to the President of the Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA), parliamentarian Dr Mal Washer (Moore, WA).

"Alternatives have existed for years," Dr Washer said, "and we need to act on them without any further deliberation by committees, working groups or parliamentary inquiries."

Dr Washer was speaking after release of the report, *An Economic Analysis for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Offenders; Prisons vs Residential Treatment*, commissioned by the Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD) and the National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Committee (NIDAC). The report says greater investment in drug and alcohol treatment will reduce the ever-increasing number of Indigenous people in prisons.

"It's clearly wrong that the same group that makes up only 2.5 per cent of our people accounts for more than a quarter of Australia's adult prison population. We need rehabilitation programs to keep Indigenous people out of Australia's 115 correctional facilities – to prevent their getting caught up in the endless round of recidivism and attendant drug and health problems," Dr Washer said.

The report by Deloitte Access Economics identifies annual savings in excess of \$111,000 per prisoner if they can be diverted to rehabilitation programs rather than being incarcerated. That's in addition to more than \$92,000 per offender saved in the long term due to lower mortality and a better health regime.

CLA works actively with Dr Washer, a CLA member, on juvenile justice and health issues in WA.

## **UN body slams Australia over Manus detention**

The UN refugee agency has slammed the federal government's immigration detention centre in Papua New Guinea and has called for the transfer of children to be suspended.

The UN High Commission for Refugees says it has found significant shortcomings in how asylum seekers are transferred, treated and processed on PNG's Manus Island.

After a three-day visit to Manus in January, its report finds that the current regime is inconsistent with Australia's international obligations. Mandatory detention of 34 children and their families at the centre is particularly troubling, UNHCR regional representative Richard Towle said in a statement accompanying the report.

The report calls on the government to cease transferring children until all appropriate legal and administrative safeguards for their processing and treatment are in place. <http://tiny.cc/zdlxrw>

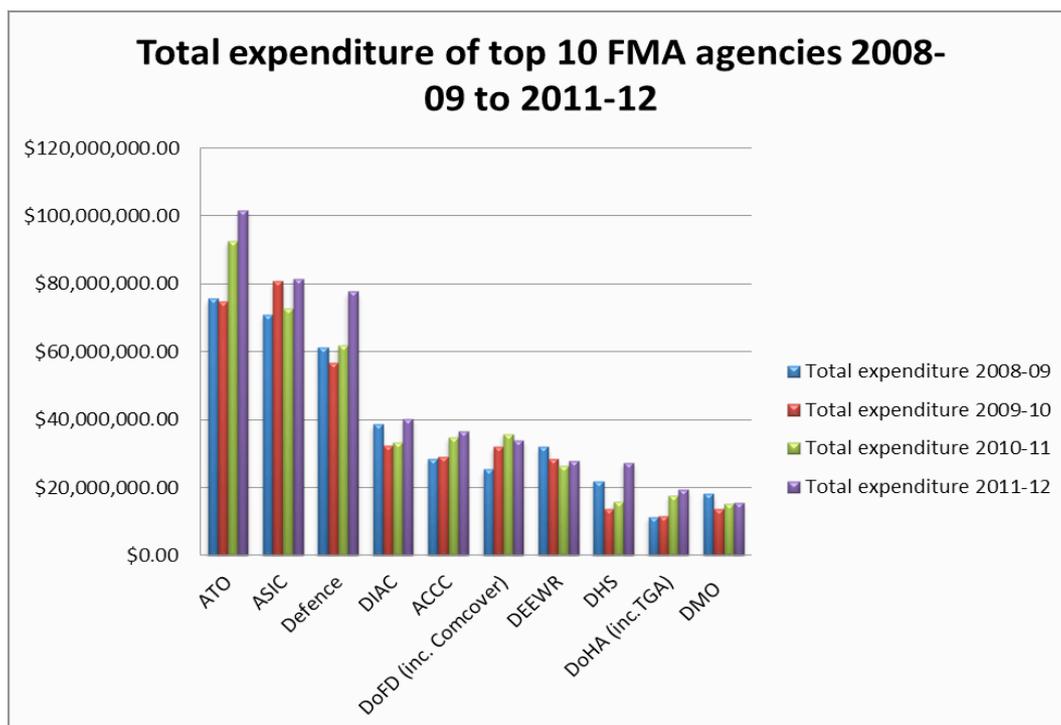
## Tax Office and Defence spending on lawyers goes through the roof

In 2011–12, the total legal services expenditure of Financial Management and Accountability Act 1999 agencies (FMA agencies) was \$649.05m. Call it \$650m in round terms.

This was an increase of 8.4% on the 2010-11 amount of \$598.9m. Call it \$600m in round terms.

The extraordinary figures are contained in the Legal Services Expenditure Report 2011-2012, put out by the Attorney-General's Department. In graphical form, it shows how the ATO and Defence, along with ASIC and Immigration (DIAC), have accounted for a large part of the recent increase.

The report gives no indication of why these agencies have had to spend such large sums on lawyers.



For FMA\* agencies, there was an increase in expenditure on internal legal services (12.7%), external legal services (4.7%) and disbursements (26.4%) and a slight increase in expenditure on Counsel (2%).

There has been an increase in overall expenditure in agencies such as the Australian Taxation Office, the Australian Securities and Investment Commission, the Department of Defence and the Department of Immigration and Citizenship.

There has also been a huge increase in the number of direct briefs to counsel, that is, barristers (28.6%). <http://www.ag.gov.au/Publications/Pages/CommonwealthLegalServicesExpenditure.aspx>

The entire area of government use of lawyers needs external investigation...and not by lawyers only.

CLA has long contended that government agencies abuse their power by not following the Legal Service Principles and by not acting like a model litigant. We suspect some, at the very least, of the massive spending on external lawyers is so the LSPs can be 'sidestepped' by government obligations not being passed on to lawyers acting for the government.

It is a legal rort, we believe, which impacts on 'little' Australians and small businesses particularly.

\*FMA: Financial Management Act, departments and agencies which operate under this act.

## **Your tax information at risk after ‘break in’ hits ATO**

Australian taxpayers' information appears to be highly at risk after four tax agents' account details were illegally used by third parties.

Professional bodies warned tax agents throughout Australia last month, urging them to log-in to the Tax Agent Portal to see if criminals had signed up for their own log-in under the agent's business name. The Australian Tax Office website did not post the note, Ben Grubb reported in the *SMH*.

With an agent's log-in, a criminal can access an agent's existing clients, and also potentially access every Australian taxpayer's details if they knew four pieces of information about a person.

Tax agents have warned that a criminal could potentially lodge a fake tax return on behalf of someone else and claim the money themselves, or use the information to steal someone's identity.

The ATO has denied that all Australians' tax information was put at risk, but has not disputed the agents' claims. "The personal identity of a small number of tax agents has been stolen to create unauthorised AUSkeys," the ATO told agents. AUSkeys allow access to "the Tax Agent Portal and taxpayer information," it said. <http://tiny.cc/a1e9rw> <http://www.icb.org.au/news/1825>

## **Hot off the press! It's called a leak. You shouldn't be censoring debate**

Parliamentary Committees are becoming controversial, because they have a high opinion of their elevated status which makes them literally a law unto themselves.

*The West Australian's* Federal Political Editor Andrew Probyn is facing demands from the Standing Committee on Regional Australia (SCRA, or the 'SCRAGgies), to reveal his sources.

Last month he wrote, before the committee's official report was released, that the analysis of fly-in, fly-out work practices would recommend scrutiny of fringe benefits tax exemptions and liken FIFO practices to cancer in the way they hurt rural and remote communities. Both matters were in the report when it was made public.

A bureaucratic letter (of dubious phrasing) from the committee, chaired by NSW Independent Tony Windsor, alleges "an unauthorised disclosure of the internal proceedings of the Committee".

"The Committee has asked me to write to you to seek you to reveal your source of information regarding the Committee's confidential report. The Committee may resolve to pursue the matter further following your response by inviting you to appear before it to answer questions on this matter," the letter threatens. "Once the Committee has completed its investigation, it will determine whether to report back to the House recommending that further action be taken."

Probyn has been given until 8 March to reveal his source to the committee. <http://tiny.cc/xj4ksw>

Civil Liberties Australia can tell the 'SCRAGgies' what happened: it's called a leak. It has been the job of journalists to break news for centuries. Mr Probyn broke news.

He should be congratulated. If only more Parliament House journalists would source actual, honest-to-goodness (and accurate, as in this case) news, by way of leaks, we would have better reporting on Parliament than who is next to challenge, and who is putting the slipper in.

CLA has a formal appeal in to the Privileges Committee because of the way another Parliamentary Committee believes it can censor the public's right to know matters of major public importance. In CLA's case, the Committee censored public reporting of Hansard-based statements by the man who went on, 16 weeks later, last month, to trash Australia's sporting reputation. We warned that he and his organisation could 'shop' people, ruining reputations, without formal proof.

Parliamentary Committees are in danger of getting a bit big for their Windsor Smith boots.

## **Privacy chair lambasts committee, AGD and the nation's website**

The chair of the Australian Privacy Foundation, Prof Roger Clarke, has delivered a broadside about the state of committee democracy in our federal parliament and the 'tin ear' of a major national department...as well as the quality of the Parliament House website.

“A media release issued on 8 February indicates that the Attorney-General’s Department (AGD) has published a whitewash, as requested by the spook agencies, and endorsed by the limp but ever-hopeful backbenchers who populate Parliamentary Committees.

“Do these people actually think such exercises have a shred of credibility? Apart from the ‘audit’ being conducted by a directly-involved party, public involvement in the process appears to have been at best muted, and possibly entirely precluded.

“And the AGD doesn’t appear to have published the document on the day of the media release, despite the Committee wanting it published...even though the Parliamentary Committee had published it on their website, and said it should be public.

“The AGD appears to have a policy of not publishing things unless they’re the subject of an FOI request – in flagrant breach of what we understood to be government policy. But the AGD is about the sacred cow of national security, not justice, so they believe they can play to their own rules.

“The parliamentary media release includes the extraordinary statement that ‘The Committee considers that the audit document and accompanying table of existing oversight mechanisms and previous reports and reviews should be in the public domain’.

“As if any consideration should ever have been given to suppressing it!” Prof Clarke thundered.



Prof Clarke (left), a professor in the law faculty at UNSW and computer science faculty at ANU, said that the media release pointed towards a copy, “but the URL provided is just the Committee home-page within the Australian Parliament House’s utterly dysfunctional and frequently broken web-site”.

“Do I sound disheartened by the condition of democratic processes in this country? I certainly feel that way.”

CLA endorses the erudite, technobrite professor’s outrage at the performance of “limp” parliamentary committees and the intransigence of AGD, and at how poor the Parliament House website is. Media release is on PH website - good luck: <http://tiny.cc/r9f9rw>

## **‘Public’ and ‘servant’ means serving the people, not polities or PS heads**

Recommendations on possible changes to FOI laws are being drawn up by former senior public servant Allan Hawke who will deliver his report to the government by the end of April.

In submissions, many government departments have complained there has been a dramatic rise in FOI requests since 2010 reforms, which also abolished the \$30 application fee. They say they are overwhelmed, and that applications from people like politicians, journalists, non-profit organisations, students and lawyers are “less welcome” (according to the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism’s acting chief lawyer, Michael Sassella).

The departmental whingers miss the point of the 2010 reforms: the information is merely held on trust by public servants - it is information owned by the people, and it should be available to the people.

In fact, if it were posted online, the poor public servants would be far less bothered by ‘unwelcome’ requests. There appears to be, among some in the public service, a misunderstanding of two words: public, in their case, means ‘for or on behalf of the people’ and servant means they do what the people want...not the other way around, CLA says.

Public servants do not work for parliament, politicians or departmental secretaries: they work for the Australian people. If they don’t understand that core point, then a massive re-education program is needed. <http://tiny.cc/z6m1sw>

## **WA ELECTION: 9 March**

### **Govt to ‘bribe’ police into regions, bidding war at 550**

Suspects will be forced to undergo arbitrary blood tests if police believe they have bitten or spat on an officer under a Liberal Party policy unveiled for the WA election on 9 March.

Meanwhile a bidding war – literally – has broken out about police numbers and, as well, police have been promised ‘bribes’ to serve outside Perth.

Current Police Minister Liza Harvey has announced \$10.5 million in cash incentives over four years to reward police for serving certain regional locations.

In a bidding war for numbers, the Police Association demanded 800 more officers. After the Liberals offered 200, Labor offered 500. The final counter bid so far is the Liberals’ 550.

Under the Liberal promise, new police would get \$2000 each for all regional postings. This would rise to \$4000 for Australind (130km from Perth, 1.5 hours), Bunbury (175km, 2 hours), Esperance, Geraldton and Hopetoun.

Non-coastal locations with fully subsidised housing would offer what the Liberals call a \$4000 ‘attraction payment’ plus \$6000 retention incentive.

Non-coastal locations without fully subsidised housing would offer a \$7000 bribe plus \$12,250 retention incentive.

Under existing regional incentives, police are already rewarded for serving in the Pilbara and Kimberley, but other regional areas struggle to attract officers. <http://tiny.cc/1x1ksw>

The incumbent Liberal Party has also promised minimum jail terms of 7 1/2 years for offenders who seriously assault someone while breaking into their house.

Offenders who add sexual assault to a break-in would face a 15 year sentence, while juveniles 16 and over would get a minimum three years for either offence. <http://tiny.cc/hd2ksw>

Both main parties plan to tag offenders, and Labor will add a device to warn people if someone tagged goes too close to where she or he is not allowed.

## **Judge says mandatory sentencing does not deter**

Mandatory sentencing removes judicial discretion and does not deter violent offenders, a former West Australian Supreme Court judge says.

Justice Michael Murray, with 22 years as a judge, was recently appointed the parliamentary inspector of the state’s Corruption and Crime Commission (CCC), responsible for investigating allegations of misconduct.

Justice Murray said mandatory sentencing removed the “guided exercise of discretion” by an experienced judicial officer such as a magistrate or a judge.

"Any sentencing exercise involves a considerable difficulty in exercising discretionary judgment by mixing a very complicated web of relevant factors concerned with the seriousness of the crime and the nature of the offender that you're dealing with," he told ABC radio.

Justice Murray said he did not believe mandatory sentencing was a deterrent for criminals and the laws were merely a political reaction to crime.

WA has mandatory jail terms for assaults against police, ambulance officers, transit guards, court security officers, prison officers and drivers who kill or injure anyone while fleeing police.

In the lead-up to the March 9 election, the Liberals have proposed broader mandatory sentencing so that burglars who physically or sexually assault residents will be jailed for minimum terms from three to 15 years. <http://tiny.cc/65nqsw>

## **Lawyers welcome two initiatives**

WA lawyers have welcomed Labor’s two-pronged justice policy, saying the idea of establishing an independent sentencing council has merit.

They also say a proposed judicial commission will hold judges accountable for their decisions.

The State Opposition has announced if it wins the March election it will establish a sentencing council, made up of judges, lawyers and members of the public.

The Opposition Leader Mark McGowan says it would be chaired by the Chief Justice, and would give the community a direct say in WA’s sentencing regime.

The Criminal Law Association's Linda Black (right) says the idea has promise.

"Exactly how this works, whether it fits within our constitution, whether it can be done are important questions but in theory it's a very good idea," she said.

Labor has also promised to introduce a Judicial Commission that would have the power to receive complaints and recommend the dismissal of a judge.

In a statement, the Attorney-General Michael Mischin said the concepts are flawed.

"Once again, Labor's solution to a problem it can't deal with is to create, and hand over responsibility to, a taxpayer-funded statutory board," he said.  
<http://tiny.cc/ezqsw>



## **Taxpayers fund high-profile murder defence**

Taxpayers funded at least part of former Perth barrister Lloyd Rayney's multi-million dollar legal battle against allegations he murdered his wife.

Mr Rayney was found not guilty in a judge-only trial in November 2012. Corryn Rayney was last seen alive on 7 August 2007. A week later, her body was found buried, head-first in a shallow bush grave in Kings Park on the fringe of the Perth CBD.

The revelation that Mr Rayney received a grant of legal aid to help pay the costs of a top-tier defence at trial comes more than three months after he was acquitted of the high-profile murder.

Like all applicants for legal aid, Mr Rayney was required to satisfy strict guidelines which, among other things, require that an applicant for aid exhausts all available means of funding his or her own lawyer. If Mr Rayney's financial situation changes he may have to repay the costs.

Meanwhile, the prosecution cost WA taxpayers more than \$2.3 million and appears set to continue through 2013 with a shock appeal against the acquittal lodged late last year.

Due to the fact that the Rayneys' both had senior positions within the WA legal fraternity, the trial's prosecution costs included funds for seconding retired NT Supreme Court Justice Brian Martin and NSW prosecutor John Agius to WA for three months.

About \$1.8 million was paid to the NSW Director of Public Prosecutions for conducting the trial. A further \$544,000 was spent on court costs, which included \$286,618 to cover the salaries of Justice Martin and his staff. A further \$51,243 was spent on their travel and accommodation.

The state's costs will rise during an appeal, and Mr Rayney appears set to resume a defamation case against the WA Police, which if successful could see him awarded millions in damages.

The identity of Mrs Rayney's killer(s) remains as elusive as ever. <http://tiny.cc/sxyhsw>

## **ENDS WA election**

## **Journos given no shield by court**

The NSW Court of Appeal has upheld orders from February 2012 that three Fairfax Media journalists divulge their sources for a story published in February 2010 alleging that a Chinese businesswoman, Helen Liu, had paid bribes to the Labor MP Joel Fitzgibbon.

Fitzgibbon and Liu strongly contest the allegation and both have commenced defamation proceedings. Among the defendants in Liu's defamation case are three John Does – unknown sources she contends leaked the damaging information.

Liu has also been seeking from journalists Richard Baker, Philip Dorling and Nick McKenzie the identity of the source or sources for the story. They now face contempt of court proceedings and terms of imprisonment should they continue to refuse to reveal their sources.

The journalists' code of conduct says that where confidences are accepted, journalists are to respect them "in all circumstances". <http://tiny.cc/wz0vsw>

### **CLA comments on the 'Obeid-Macdonald affair'**

We have been asked for our views on the inquiry being undertaken by ICAC into the issue of mining licences in NSW in 2007 and 2008.

ICAC has heard of alleged insider dealing, donations to a political party in return for expected favours, and corruptions of government tender processes, among other claims.

We make no comment yet on the Ian Macdonald and Eddie Obeid relationship or dealings.

However, CLA believes that possible criminal attitudes, practices and customs within the NSW Government in the 1990s and 2000s are unlikely to be confined to one or two portfolio(s).

What is emerging may have been Standard Operating Procedure across wide areas of the government.

Anyone who believes the government dealings they had during that period – in any portfolio – were possibly corrupted or wrongly influenced should write to ICAC: it may be that individually no criminal action is apparent, but collectively a pattern could emerge.

The operation of strongly-bonded cliques and cartels, now revealed as occurring during that time, would suggest that bad practices may have been endemic, rather than isolated.

ICAC: Independent Commission Against Corruption

### **Judge criticises police misconduct: how widespread is it?**

A Supreme Court judge has criticised police misconduct in an investigation into the theft of more than \$80,000 in cash and cheques from a Tasmanian car dealer.

Kathryn Anne Woodberry, 39, was found guilty in November of stealing the money from her Devonport employer, Gowans Motors, and jailed for nine months.

In a pre-trial hearing, Supreme Court Justice Alan Blow ruled critical evidence to be inadmissible because investigating officers had broken the law. He found the sergeant conducting the investigation failed to inform Woodberry she was under arrest, did not allow her to phone a lawyer and unlawfully compelled her to submit to a search of her home. The judge also found the officer obtained evidence unlawfully by questioning her at work without making a video recording.

He was so unimpressed by some of the evidence given by the officer he said he was unable to place any reliance on it and said that it did not reflect well on the officer's credibility or that of another officer who testified in the case. <http://tiny.cc/1h70sw>

### **High Court muffles the word of godly**

Street preachers in Rundle Mall, Adelaide CBD's main pedestrian thoroughfare – and throughout Australia possibly – have been silenced by the High Court.

In a decision which limits freedom of speech, a majority ruled Adelaide City Council had the right to make bylaws over the proper use of roadways, including requiring people to seek permits to preach. The High Court said the bylaws were a "valid use" of the council's powers "for the convenience, comfort and safety" of citizens, and rejected claims the bylaw was constitutionally invalid because it affected freedom of speech.

It held the bylaw "effectively burdened" political communication but did not infringe upon the implied right to freedom of speech within the Australian Constitution.

The SA Government, the Commonwealth, NSW, Victoria, Queensland and the WA governments all joined Adelaide City Council in backing the appeal to the High Court, which means all jurisdictions are likely to impose similar restrictions.

The case severely tested Civil Liberties Australia's mettle: having been blasted aurally by the preachers on visits to Rundle Mall, several atheist CLA Board Members were nevertheless prepared to spend funds to fight in the High Court for their right to preach. Fortunately, local Adelaide groups stepped in to fund the preachers' case.

While the decision will please most Adelaide CBD shoppers, it undoubtedly puts another strand of barbed wire around the right to free speech in Australia. <http://tiny.cc/hsc5sw>

## **Tweets may report 'live' from courts...in some states**

SA is considering live texting or tweeting coverage of some courts, starting possibly this year.

A committee proposal for changes to court reporting rules will be presented to Chief Justice Chris Kourakis this month. If judges agree, real-time online and social media reporting on proceedings could operate from magistrates', youth and coroners' courts.

Only journalists, not the public, would be permitted to text or tweet live from the courts, as they can in NSW. Rules barring photography and live video are unlikely to change.

CLA says there should be commonality throughout Australian on this: surely it's the type of policy the Standing Committee on Law and Justice could agree to in the time it takes to send one tweet.

## **Barrister argues for right to silence**



President of the NSW Bar Association, Phillip Boulten (left), says a proposal to water down a person's right to silence when they are arrested will not work.

The change, part of the State Government's response to bkie violence, means that a jury could draw negative inferences if a defendant refused to answer police questions when arrested.

Mr Boulten says it will not work on uncooperative witnesses. "The law will only operate if someone is already charged and has to face a trial," he said.

Mr Boulten says the new laws are based on the English system, where a lawyer is based at every police station giving free advice.

He says the NSW Government wants to provide a telephone hotline instead.

"The Legal Aid Commission has made it clear they cannot afford to staff such a hotline," he said. "It will be the English system without the safeguards and the English have found it to be extraordinarily expensive, extraordinarily complex, it raises a whole lot of very important issues that are fought out commonly in the courts."

Mr Boulten says a fundamental right is being stripped away for no real benefit. <http://tiny.cc/itbdsw>

## **Legislative Assembly may soon 'grow up'**

An important governance change is involved in the Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Amendment Bill 2013, tabled in the Commonwealth Parliament last month.

The new Bill gives the ACT Legislative Assembly the power to determine the number of MLAs. Previously the number was dictated by the federal parliament.

The ACT Government has appointed an Expert Reference Group to review the size issue.

Members of the Expert Reference Group are:

- Mr Phillip Green, ACT Electoral Commissioner (chair)
- Ms Anne Cahill Lambert, AM
- Emeritus Professor Meredith Edwards, AM
- Mr John Hindmarsh, AM
- Ms Louise Taylor

Submissions to the group close today (1 March).

The ACT currently has 17 members, representing about 246,000 federal electors.

The NT Legislative Assembly has 25 members, for a federal voting population of about 120,000 electors, and there are local government councils as well.

Tasmania – with 355,000-odd voters – has 25 in its Legislative Assembly, plus 15 in the Legislative Council, for a total of 40: it is considering a move to restore the Assembly to 35 members.

### **Battle likely over ‘privatising’ jails**

Queensland Attorney-General Jarrod Bleijie says the government is examining its management options for jails, with a report due by the mid-year.

Mr Bleijie says the private sector can offer value for money. "It does produce a good and a more efficient service and therefore it does have an impact on the budget because it's a cheaper service," he said.

The union representing prison workers says privatising the state's jails would devastate the regional communities they support. Union spokesman Norm Jacobson says it would also lead to job losses.

Queensland currently has two privatised jails – the Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre in Brisbane and the South East Queensland Correctional Centre at Gatton. <http://tiny.cc/8biysw>

### **NT Govt gets even tougher on crime, including mandatory sentences**

Five new pieces of legislation were put before the NT Parliament last month.

They include:

- amendments to the Criminal Code Act so that if you assault someone while they are working or volunteering and injure them, you will go to gaol
- minimum mandatory sentencing for serious assaults
- amendments to provide more financial assistance for victims of crime
- changes to the Bail Act and the Domestic and Family Violence Act so courts can order drug and alcohol tests for people on bail or under an order.

These are in addition to the ‘One Punch’ (changes to the Criminal Code) legislation which was passed in November 2012.

Leader of Government Business and Attorney-General, John Elferink, said the NT Government was “tough on crime and makes no apologies for that stance”. – AG Elferink media release, 11 Feb 2013. CLA repeats its stance: mandatory sentences are stupid – they involve politicians who have not heard the details of a particular court case imposing a sentence, when that task should be done by a judge or magistrate who has heard all the evidence and is aware of all issues.

### **Prisoners earn in real jobs**

Prisoners have been sent to work in real jobs, for real money as part of the Sentenced to a Job Program in the NT.

The trial program is designed to get people job ready, and into jobs before they leave prison. It has seen 30 people released from custody daily to work in jobs from white collar to unskilled. The program is only available for prisoners who have been classified low security. Sex offenders are not eligible.

Minister for Correctional Services John Elferink said the trial program has been successful beyond expectations and will be expanded.

“Businesses have been very happy with the prisoners they have been employing. In fact, one prisoner has completed his sentence, been released and continues to work in that job. The business has now employed a second prisoner with the first acting as a mentor.

“These are real jobs that need to be filled; this program is not about creating token jobs for people. This program links the prison system with businesses that need workers and benefits both parties. The cost to the taxpayer for this program is \$0.

“The prisoners are paid award wages for the work they do. Five per cent of this income goes to the Victims Assistance Fund and a further \$125 is used to pay board. A small amount is given to the prisoner to use inside the gaol and the rest is placed in a trust fund for when they are released – AG media release, 14 Feb 2013

## Australian briefs

**Et Tu, Julian?** Julian Assange believes that being an Australian senator would shield him from criminal prosecution in the USA and Britain. Asylumed at the Ecuadorian embassy in London since June to avoid extradition to Sweden on sex crime allegations, the WikiLeaks founder apparently believes the US Justice Department would drop its less-than-secret espionage investigation into him rather than risk a diplomatic row. The British government would follow suit, he believes. Assange is enrolled in Victoria. Senate nominations are likely to close on 22 August. If he wins, he would be a Senator from 1 July 2014. <http://tiny.cc/2hpgqsw>

**Surveillance society spreads, unnoticed:** About 15,000 people have had images of their faces captured on an Australian Federal Police database in its first year, igniting fears that the rise of facial recognition systems will lead to CCTV cameras being installed on every street corner, the *SMH* reports. The database includes pictures of alleged criminals who may not know their images are on file. The AFP say facial recognition may eventually be considered as credible as fingerprints, but images on their database are not being shared with state police forces. Sharing images on a national database could be possible by 2015. <http://tiny.cc/ld6asw>

**Percy says blight on both their houses:** High profile Perth barrister Tom Percy (right) has declared he has no faith in either the Liberals or Labor to manage law and justice in WA. Politicians were taking “the pathetic and lazy option” to increase penalties,” which he says would not reduce crime. They should instead find the root causes. The State president of the Australian Lawyers’ Alliance denounced the Liberal election promise to introduce mandatory sentencing for people who commit violent crimes during home burglaries. But he also criticised WA Labor leader Mark McGowan and shadow AG John Quigley for refusing to oppose the Liberal crime policy despite crying “blue murder” over mandatory sentencing four years ago.



**Did police plant smokes packet?** The shadow WA Attorney-General, John Quigley, has described allegations of misconduct against WA Police over a murder conviction in 2007 as 'a very serious perversion of justice'. The Corruption and Crime Commission (CCC) is investigating possible evidence tampering at the scene of a 2007 murder. Scott Douglas Austic was sentenced to 25 years in jail for the wilful murder of Stacey Thorne after she died of multiple stab wounds at her Boddington home. Mr Quigley says the CCC is investigating claims a cigarette packet stained with Ms Thorne's blood is visible in later crime scene photos but not the originals. <http://tiny.cc/zm3ksw> <http://tiny.cc/3o8zrw>

**ODD SPOT: This is crazy – only mentally ill barred from smoking:** ACT Health says five patients have chosen to leave the Canberra Hospital's new psychiatric facility because of a smoking ban. The adult mental health unit opened in 2012 with designated outdoor smoking areas, but from 1 January 2013 a smoking ban was introduced. The entire hospital campus is not smoke-free, just the mental health facility. <http://tiny.cc/920vsw>

**Has Malaysia become a fly-by?** Malaysia's instant deportation of arriving Australian federal Senator Nick Xenophon (SA) will have long-term ramifications for the relationship between the two countries, and will also highlight the strange ‘democracy’ practised there. The other three MPs who planned to join him – Liberal Mal Washer (WA), Nationals Senator John Williams (NSW) and ALP MP Steve Georganas (SA) – refused to fly when Xenophon was rejected. They were to have met

opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim, as well as Malaysia's minister in charge of parliamentary affairs, Mohammed Nazri, and members of the group Bersih, the Coalition for Clean and Fair Elections. Australians can now more easily choose to avoid a Kuala Lumpur stopover on the way north, with more options available in the Middle East. <http://tiny.cc/i38msw>

**Elferink puts the boot in:** The NT Minister for Correctional Services John Elferink plans trials of two models of youth boot camps, one aimed at young people at risk of offending, and the other at young offenders with entrenched offending behaviours. "The camps will focus on structure, discipline and physical activity; allow for personal development and building self esteem; address offending behaviour; and provide ongoing support for the young people and their families," he said. The trial boot camps will start in May 2013. – Elferink media release, 19 Feb 2013.

**NSW station silence proves costly:** Railcorp must pay Australia's Disability Discrimination Commissioner \$10,000 for failing to provide regular and audible announcements on trains. Graeme Innes, who is blind, took Railcorp to court in a personal capacity alleging failure to provide appropriate announcements breached federal disability discrimination laws. Railcorp – in an extraordinary defence – argued that a failure rate of around 15% for announcements did not equate to discrimination. Presumably, they claim it was just incompetence! <http://tiny.cc/8rnurw>

**Statistics show drinker register did not lower violence:** NT Attorney-General John Elferink said alcohol-fuelled assaults dropped by 5.9% in the December 2012 quarter (no Banned Drinkers Register), compared to the December 2011 quarter (BDR). "These are the first statistics that accurately show the effect of the BDR. The system was in full swing in the December 2011 quarter and scrapped before the start of the December 2012 quarter. The time period is the same. The climate is the same. The population makeup is the same. The BDR failed – it didn't stop violence." –media release, 22 Feb 2013.

## STUDENTS

### CLA seeks students for twitterific job

Would you like to be on the CLA social media team?

We are forming a small group of 3-4 people who will manage our social media interactions.

If interested, email [secretary@cla.asn.au](mailto:secretary@cla.asn.au) and we'll put you in touch with the CLA member running the project.

**ASIA PACIFIC WEEK 2013:** High-achieving later year undergraduate, masters and PhD students with a strong interest in the Asia Pacific, of all disciplines from all around the world, required.

The Asia Pacific Week conference mixes leading experts with 100 student delegates to explore the theme of 'Pushing Boundaries' in the Asia Pacific.

The conference runs 30 June – 5 July 2013 at the Australian National University in Canberra. Accommodation and meals will be provided to delegates free. Selected applicants will also get funding help, where necessary. Applications close 5pm 4 March 2013 (AEST). Details: [asiapacificweek@anu.edu.au](mailto:asiapacificweek@anu.edu.au).

## CLA report – covering February 2012

### Meetings

- Anthony Williamson re DPP issues nationwide
- Humphrey McQueen and Peter Curtis re Anzac project
- Bill Stefaniak re Administrative Tribunals' procedures

### Networking meetings/contacts

- Friends and Family Drug Law Reform lecture

- NSW Council for Civil Liberties re 50-year ASIO project: CLA supportive
- Robbie Swan offer to distribute 10,000 copies of CLArion to Eros members/friends.

### Board meeting 17 Feb 2013

WA Board member Rex Widerstrom in far north WA, sent written report

**Building** contacts in key areas (finance, sport, etc) before issue arises – focus on specific journalists, commentators and influencers; gene patents; asset forfeiture/unexplained wealth; anti-bikie laws; state laws re individuals – ‘known’ arsonists and/or prisoners considered dangerous but having served their time.

**Accepted** new communications strategy. More activity on social media planned, including a ‘U1A Team’ (younger people) to manage social media speedily.

**eAGM:** Under way, details on CLA website. eAGM voting opens 11 March, closes 2 April, postal voting closes 4 April.

**Decided** to raise membership fees, beginning in 2014. Fees have remained the same since 2003: with Board plans for more marketing and promotional activity to boost influence and numbers, more funds needed. In future, more donations will be encouraged and can be tied to particular campaigns.

**Expanding** promotion in 2013: video promotions and radio ads to be developed, with development funded from existing resources and/or donations.

#### Media Director - National Spokesperson report:

Significant increase in media interviews and issue pick-up in 2013 c.f. 2012, particularly on gene patents and anti-discrimination legislation. Number of articles up. January and early February 2013 particularly busy. Rex Widerstrom active in WA. Richard Griggs (right) to take over as media person in Tasmania.



**Considering:** Tim Vines drafting proposal for possible campaign tied to 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of formal end of death penalty in Australia (18 Sept, 4 days after proposed election).

**Planning** letters to federal election candidates on civil liberties issue, and media promotion.

**State/Territory development:** President/CEO to hold meetings in Tasmania in April 2013 to boost numbers and activity. WA visit on hold, possibly to coincide with award to CLA member.

#### Other business:

- Report on major activity, Drugs in Sport and special analysis of Australian Crime Commission.
- Gene Patents: Tim Vines to liaise with Andrew Leigh MP, now handling Melissa Parke’s role.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Protesters win death over life

Bangladesh's parliament has amended a law allowing the state to appeal against the life sentence given to an opposition leader for his role in mass killings and rape during the 1971 war for independence.

Tens of thousands of demonstrators in central Shahbag Square cheered as the assembly approved the changes on Sunday.

Protesters have gathered in central Dhaka for the past 13 days demanding the death penalty for Abdul Quader Mollah, an assistant secretary general of the Jamaat-e-Islami party, for war crimes.

The prominent Islamist was given a life sentence by a tribunal last month, stunning many Bangladeshis.

The amendment will "empower the tribunals to try to punish any organisations, including Jamaat-e-Islami, for committing crimes during the country's liberation war in 1971", the law minister, Shafique Ahmed, said. <http://tiny.cc/5ecpsw>

### **Prisoner Taylor fights on: refuses to run out of puff**

The NZ prisoner who won the right to smoke in jail is going back to court to have it enforced.

The NZ High Court agreed with Arthur Taylor in December 2012 that the NZ Corrections Department had unlawfully violated the rights of more than 6000 prisoners since 1 July 2011. But Corrections has failed to honour the court ruling, which was not stayed, and instead has passed an amendment to regulations purporting to make tobacco an unauthorised item in prisons.

Taylor will be heard again in the High Court on 7 March, arguing that Corrections is not following the rule of law, in that its new regulations are subservient to Acts of Parliament on the smoking issue – media release, from Taylor supporters

### **People should be protected from “guilt by media exposure”**

People accused of sex crimes should have their identities protected until they are convicted, a senior British lawyer says.

Now people who claim they have been the victims of sexual offences automatically receive anonymity, but suspects do not. Maura McGowan, chairwoman of the Bar Council, believes the law should be changed because allegations of a sexual nature "carry such a stigma".

"Until they have been proven to have done something as awful as this – I think there is a strong argument, because they carry such stigma with them, to maintain the defendant's anonymity, until he is convicted," she told BBC Radio 5. "But once the defendant is convicted then of course everything should be open to scrutiny and to the public. <http://tiny.cc/w49nsw>

### **British Home Sec will leave extradition to the courts**

The British Home Secretary, Theresa May, is changing the law to close the door on future campaigns by people facing extradition such as that waged by computer hacker Gary McKinnon. Government amendments to the Crime and Courts bill will transfer to the High Court the Home Secretary's current powers to consider late representations on human rights grounds against being sent abroad to stand trial.

Other amendments introduce a "forum bar", which will allow British courts to block an extradition request if they believe it is in the interests of justice for the person to stand trial in the UK.

May was widely praised for her decision, after a 10-year legal battle, not to send McKinnon, who has been diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome, a form of autism, to stand trial in America for allegedly hacking into US military computer systems. <http://tiny.cc/mh32rw>

### **Senior cop jailed for tipping off newspaper for cash**

London Metropolitan police's Detective Chief Inspector April Casburn, 53, has been sentenced to 15 months jail for trying to sell information about the police phone-hacking inquiry to the now-defunct News of the World newspaper.

She was found guilty last month of misconduct in public office, after making a phone call in September 2010 to tip them off about Scotland Yard's decision to launch a new investigation into phone hacking.

Mr Justice Fulford said "the sentence would have been three years", but he had taken into account the fact that a "vulnerable child" which Casburn and her husband were in the process of adopting would be left without her mother while she served her sentence.

Casburn's barrister, Patrick Gibbs, argued that the call was made out of frustration about resources being diverted from counter terrorism to phone hacking and that in addition she had been bullied at work and was going through a divorce and an adoption process. <http://tiny.cc/nwttrw>

## Spending on social programs aims to curb drug use

Mexico, in its new drugs strategy, plans to spend \$10 billion in 2013 on social programs to keep young people from joining criminal organisations in the 251 most violent towns and neighbourhoods.

The government will flood those areas with spending on programs ranging from road building to increasing school hours, President Enrique Peña Nieto and Miguel Ángel Osorio Chong, the interior secretary, told an audience in the central state of Aguascalientes.

"It's clear that we must put special emphasis on prevention, because we can't only keep employing more sophisticated weapons, better equipment, more police, a higher presence of the armed forces in the country as the only form of combating organised crime," Peña Nieto said.

The rhetoric of the announcement was a forceful rejection of his predecessor, Felipe Calderón, who deployed thousands of troops to battle cartel gunmen and frequently boasted of the number of drug-gang leaders arrested and killed on his watch. <http://tiny.cc/zj3fsw>

## 'Land of the Free' internally rimmed by stop-search zone for its own citizens

Government agents should not have the right to stop and question Americans anywhere without suspicion 160km inside the US the border, the American Civil Liberties Union argues.

The little known power allows the US Government to set up immigration checkpoints far from the nation's boundaries. The government can search people entering and exiting the USA without need to say why: it is known as the border search exception of the Fourth Amendment.

After 9/11, Congress gave the Department of Homeland Security the right to use some of its powers deeper within the country, and now DHS has set up at least 33 internal checkpoints where they stop people, question them and ask them to prove citizenship, according to the ACLU.

"It is a classic example of law enforcement powers expanding far beyond their proper boundaries – in this case, literally," said Caroline Fredrickson, who heads the ACLU's Washington, D.C., Legislative Office.

ACLU wants Congress to investigate and roll back the buffer zone. About 190 million citizens live within what the ACLU dubs the "Constitution-free Zone". <http://tiny.cc/w1phsw> [www.cla.asn.au](http://www.cla.asn.au)



## Japanese PM wants nation to be able to declare aggressive war

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe plans to lower the bar for constitutional change, then revert Japan to the potential status of an aggressive military power again.

Mr Abe wants to alter the definition of Japan's armed forces contained in the constitution. The Japanese have powerful "Self-Defence Forces" (SDF), limited by the US-imposed constitution, immediately after WW2, to defence of the nation: the constitution's war-renouncing Article Nine is held dear by many Japanese.

Mr Abe's plan to make the SDF a fully-fledged military able to act aggressively - possibly without warning – sets alarm bells ringing in Asian countries subject to Japan's sometimes-brutal

occupation in the first half of the 20th century. The Japanese PM is a third-generation politician whose grandfather was a World War II Cabinet member and a post-war PM.

Constitutional amendments require a 2/3 majority of politicians in both houses, and must be ratified by a referendum, where they can pass with a simple majority of those voting. <http://tiny.cc/6rmurw>

## **Jailed for wanting to end official US torture**

Former CIA agent John Kiriakou, who was prosecuted for leaks after he went public with allegations of torture of suspects, has now been jailed.

Critics are pointing out that, while no one has been prosecuted for US torture, a man who sought to end the practice is behind bars.

Jesselyn Radack, a director of the Government Accountability Project, which helps to defend whistleblowers, said using the 1917 Espionage Act was a strategy designed to intimidate those exposing government wrongdoing.

"They are being labelled enemies of the state," she said. <http://tinyurl.com/agfk7at>

## **Police will have to sign up to surveillance**

UK police who use discreet car surveillance camera systems will have to put up warning signs on major routes.

Home Office ministers are to introduce a code of practice to ensure that police and local authority camera systems comply with 12 guiding principles they call "surveillance by consent".

Both Conservatives and Liberal Democrats promised before the 2010 general election to take action to regulate the proliferation of closed circuit television systems and to "roll back the surveillance state".

The draft code published by the crime and security minister, James Brokenshire, last month aims to protect people from excessive or irresponsible use of CCTV or automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) systems.

There is a long-running debate over the number and scale of CCTV systems in use by public authorities in Britain. The Association of Chief Police Officers estimated in March 2011 that there were 1.8m cameras in use (roughly 1 for every 35 people - ed). <http://tiny.cc/p4s6rw>

## **Obama failing on human rights**

US President Barack Obama's hardline national security policy is more extreme and conservative than that of his predecessor, George W Bush, critics say.

For example, Obama's nominee to be the next head of the CIA, current White House adviser John Brennan, has faced a grilling from the Senate intelligence committee over his enthusiastic support for using unmanned drones to strike suspected militants throughout the world.

In a court hearing in New York, numerous liberal activists and journalists argued that a new Obama law – the National Defence Authorisation Act (NDAA) – has dealt a serious blow to civil liberties by allowing American citizens to be detained indefinitely without trial.

Both developments also add to liberal frustration with an Obama administration that has ruthlessly cracked down on whistleblowers, especially on matters of national security, and failed to implement a promise to close down the Guantánamo Bay prison camp. <http://tiny.cc/5pnhsrw>

## **Police numbers continue decline as crime drops**

The number of police officers in England and Wales has fallen by a further 4,000 over the past year to 132,235 in September 2012, the lowest level for 11 years.

Police numbers have now dropped by 11,500 since just before the Coalition Government came to power. The continuing decline comes when the fall in crime appears to be accelerating with an 8% drop reported by the latest crime survey for England and Wales over the same period.

It's hard to compare forces but, roughly, there is about 1 policeman to every 478 residents in the UK and about 1 to 405 in Australia, meaning local police forces are relatively overstaffed by British standards. Crime is dropping throughout the world. <http://tiny.cc/o50rrw>

## Never mind the religion, feel the repression

In the Middle East, women's oppression transcends borders and cultures, Ruby Hamad writes, commenting that some people say the biggest threat to Israel comes not from without but within. Early this year, Israeli news website, Ynet, reported that a 17-year-old girl had been attacked by a gang of Haredi (ultra-orthodox Jewish) youths, who threw rocks at her at a bus stop outside their Yeshiva (religious school).



According to the girl, she was targeted because of her short hair, "They were yelling 'lesbian' and 'is it a boy or a girl?'... They were judging me based on my appearance."

Far from an isolated incident, attacks on women are motivated by an ideology that, despite Israel's reputation for liberalism, mirrors that of its most hardline neighbours.

One of the fastest growing groups in Israel, the Haredi make up 10% of the population. By 2025, they will be at 25%. Like other conservative monotheistic (i.e. patriarchal) faiths, Jewish ultra-orthodox have strict beliefs regarding the role and status of women who are valued above all else for their 'modesty.' Although 'modesty' can have several interpretations, the Haredi version, much like the Saudi-Arabian led Wahhabi strain of Islam, seems centred on making women as invisible as possible. <http://tiny.cc/p9jrww>

*Photo: Women in Beit Shemesh, Israel's Jerusalem District.*

## International briefs

**Raytheon can see right through your movements:** Multinational security firm Raytheon, the world's fifth largest defence contractors, has secretly developed software that can track people's movements and predict future behaviour by mining data from social networking websites, the Guardian said last month. An "extreme-scale analytics" can gather vast amounts of information about people from websites including Facebook, Twitter and Foursquare. Raytheon says it has not sold the software – named Riot, or Rapid Information Overlay Technology – to any clients. But the Massachusetts-based company has shared the technology with the US government and industry as part of a joint research and development effort, in 2010, to help build a national security system capable of analysing "trillions of entities" from cyberspace. <http://tiny.cc/vkdcsw>

**French get gay over marriage:** France's lower house of parliament has approved a bill to legalise gay marriage and allow same-sex couples to adopt children. President François Hollande's Socialists pushed the measure through the national assembly, carrying a vote by 329 to 229. The assembly has been debating the bill and voting on individual articles in recent weeks. The bill now goes to the senate, which is also controlled by the Socialists and their allies. <http://tiny.cc/e4vhsw>

**Guns don't suicide, people do:** Far more Americans die by turning guns on themselves than being shot by someone else. Nearly 20,000 of the 30,000 deaths from guns in the USA in 2010 were suicides, according to the most recent figures from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The US suicide rate has climbed by 12% since 2003, and suicide is the third-leading cause of death for teenagers. Guns are particularly lethal. Suicidal acts with guns are fatal in 85% of cases, while those with pills are fatal in just 2% of cases, according to the Harvard Injury Control Research Center. <http://tiny.cc/q3xhsw>

**New twist on going 'Duch':** Prince Charles is embroiled in the UK parliamentary crusade against tax avoidance after the powerful Public Accounts Committee demanded the government justify tax

exemptions enjoyed by his \$1.1 billion hereditary estate. Margaret Hodge, who chairs the House of Commons committee that last year investigated tax avoidance by Google and Amazon and accused Starbucks of "immoral" behaviour, has asked ministers if they can still defend an arrangement that allows the Duchy of Cornwall not to pay corporation tax or capital gains tax on trading that last year provided Prince Charles with a \$27.5m private income. The duchy owns 53,000 hectares of land in 23 counties, and is exempt from capital gains tax. <http://tiny.cc/2cnlsw>



**Iceland wants 'hot' spots censored:** The Iceland government is drafting plans to ban pornography, in print and online, in an attempt to protect children from violent sexual imagery. The proposal by the Interior Minister, Ogmundur Jonasson, has caused uproar. Opponents say the move will censor the web, encourage authoritarian regimes and undermine Iceland's reputation as a Scandinavian bastion of free speech. Advocates say it is a sensible measure that will shelter children from serious harm. <http://tiny.cc/2ya2sw>

**Three executed:** Japan has carried out three executions – the first since the country's conservative Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe, was elected in December 2012, and a sign that Tokyo will defy international pressure to abolish the death penalty. One of the condemned men, Kaoru Kobayashi, had been sentenced to death for the abduction, sexual assault and murder of a seven-year-old schoolgirl in 2004. He sent a photograph of the murdered girl to her mother. The executions, the first since September 2012, could signal a return to more regular hangings under the current Justice Minister, Sadakazu Tanigaki. <http://tiny.cc/osxusw>

**Free speech OK for visitors, not locals:** Foreign visitors to North Korea are today able to browse the Internet and make calls from mobile phones. Pyongyang's new internet service was supposed to start on 1 March, provided by Koryolink which is a joint venture between Korea Post and Telecommunications Corporation and Egypt's Orascom Telecom. Only visitors will be able to use the service: citizens of the country are still barred from making international calls and accessing the Internet. <http://tiny.cc/mwd0sw>

**Drones get new base in Niger:** President Obama announced last month that about 100 American troops had been sent to Niger in West Africa to set up a new base flying unarmed Predator aircraft to conduct surveillance in the region. The base in the capital, Niamey, is an indication of the priority Africa has become for American anti-terrorism. The US military has a limited presence in Africa, with only one permanent base, in Djibouti, more than 3,000 miles from Mali, where insurgents had taken over half the country until repelled by a French-led force recently. <http://tiny.cc/czhysw>

## DATES

**4 Mar, Canberra:** *Blind justice:* Prof Des Manderson seminar on the history, emergence, and modern debates around the rule of law through images. Cultural Inquiry conf. room, AD Hope bldg 14 ANU, 5-6pm. Details: [http://billboard.anu.edu.au/event\\_view.asp?id=98851](http://billboard.anu.edu.au/event_view.asp?id=98851)

**5 Mar, Canberra:** Global shell games: A field experiment in impersonating terrorist financiers and money launderers. Prof Jason Sharman of Griffith U., Acton Theatre, bldg 132 12.30-1.30pm. [http://billboard.anu.edu.au/event\\_view.asp?id=97437](http://billboard.anu.edu.au/event_view.asp?id=97437)

**6 Mar, Sydney:** Rally against police brutality towards Indigenous people, part of National Day of Action for Justice for Rex Bellotti in Perth WA (run over by police car on 6 March 2009). Venue: outside the Police Integrity Commission NSW, St James Court, 111 Elizabeth St, Sydney. Info: Ray Jackson 0450 651 063, Raul Bassi 0403 037 376.

**12-14 Mar, Brisbane:** NatStats Conference, "A better informed Australia: the role of statistics in building the nation". <http://blog.abs.gov.au/Blog/natstats.NSF/>

**16-17 March, Sydney:** Public Defenders Criminal Law Conference 2013, Taronga Zoo, Sydney: details <http://tiny.cc/r9j3sw>

**27 March, Brisbane:** The Role of the Constitutional Court in Securing Constitutional Government in Indonesia, Faiz Wijaya, PhD candidate, TC Beirne School of Law. 12-1pm, U. Qld, Sir Samuel Griffith room 1-W341, Forgan Smith Building.

**28 Mar, Canberra:** War, law and the future: Dr Will Boothby, Geneva Centre for Security Policy, fmr Dep Dir Legal Service RAF: Library Law School, 5.30-6.30pm, [http://billboard.anu.edu.au/event\\_view.asp?id=99212](http://billboard.anu.edu.au/event_view.asp?id=99212)

**4-5 April, Geelong:** Leadership for the Next Generation in PNG. Details: <http://www.deakin.edu.au/alfred-deakin-research-institute/png/>

**12 April, Brisbane:** Criminalising competition law in the UK, Prof Mark Furse, U. Glasgow. 12-1pm, U. Qld, Sir Samuel Griffith room 1-W341, Forgan Smith Building.

**17 April, Perth:** *Probation worker responses to turbulent conditions*, Anne Worrall, Prof Criminology, Keele U. UK. 6pm, Social Sciences Lecture Theatre, UWA. Details: <http://www.ias.uwa.edu.au/lectures/worrall>



**16-18 April, Canberra:** The Centre for Excellence in Police and Security (CEPS) at Griffith U. will hold a three-day Human Rights and Policing Conference on the 50th anniversary of the UN Seminar on the Role of Police in the Protection of Human Rights, in Canberra in 1963. Curators are Simon Bronitt (left) and Melanie O'Brien (right). CLA will speak at a plenary session of the conference. Details: [humanrights2013@griffith.edu.au](mailto:humanrights2013@griffith.edu.au)



**30-31 May, Sydney:** Biometrics Institute Asia-Pacific conference 2013. Details: <http://tiny.cc/l66eow>

**5-7 June, Canberra (TBC):** Sorcery and Witchcraft-related Killings in Melanesia: Culture, Law and Human Rights Perspectives conference, ANU. Info: [richard.eves@anu.edu.au](mailto:richard.eves@anu.edu.au) College of Asia and the Pacific. Scholarship applications from potential Melanesian speakers by 15 Feb 2013.

**25-28 August, Adelaide:** 8th Australian Women and Policing Conference. Deadline for abstracts/biogs is 25 Feb 2013 to [conference@acwap.com.au](mailto:conference@acwap.com.au) Info: <http://www.acwap.com.au>

**11-13 Dec, Parramatta, Sydney:** Trans-Tasman Domestic Violence Conference, Rydges Parramatta Hotel, website: <http://www.gcadv.net/2013dvconference.htm> Call for papers (first closing 30 Oct 2012) or details and registration form, email: [chairman@gcadv.net](mailto:chairman@gcadv.net)

## 2015:

**June, England:** 800th anniversary of Magna Carta

**Date, Place TBC:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Domestic Violence Conference

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*CLArion* is the monthly e-newsletter of Civil Liberties Australia A04043, Box 7438 FISHER ACT 2611 Australia. Responsibility for election comment in *CLArion* is taken by CLA's Public Officer, Bill Rowlings, of Fisher, ACT. Please feel free to report or pass on items in *CLArion*, crediting CLA and/or the original source. We welcome contributions for the next issue: please send to: [mailto:secretary\[at\]cla.asn.au](mailto:secretary[at]cla.asn.au)

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