

Here are some likely concerns in 2017

- **age** issues will be prominent. They will include elder abuse (see below), taxation concessions and rights for people to decide, with future certainty, the medical and hospital treatments they want or don't want, and their ultimate choice over living and way of death. These questions are particularly relevant for the "children", often themselves aged in their 40s, 50s and 60s.
- **the shape of our own democracy**, as the USA probably undergoes a fundamental self-examination over its electoral and executive systems, as does the UK. We'll have to think about how ours works.
- **genes and drugs**: we need to create formal safeguards around new genetic options and techniques, and how 'breakthrough' and other drugs should be equitably costed by pharmaceutical companies.
- **terrorism**, as the nature of ideology clashes change. Our fight will be against fear, the creating of which is the aim of terrorists and, sometimes, the plaything of police and politicians for their own purposes.
- an allied, emerging issue is whether the **never-ending increases in expenditure** on police and security services should be cut back, as finances tighten and priorities of hope, like education and new infrastructure, start to assume more importance than forecasts of fear.
- CLA's **campaign for better justice**, announced one year ago today and running for another nine years. If you're new, and would like a one-page summary of the campaign, please contact the CEO/ secretary at the above address and ask for a copy by email or post.

Call for input to elder abuse inquiry

Civil Liberties Australia is asking members for input about elder abuse, an issue which affects all ages.

If you would like to contribute paragraphs to a submission, or just make a one-line comment, please email the secretary by end-Jan 2017. As usual in making submissions, real-life experiences are most valued.

There are 43 new proposals on the table for law reform to stop elder abuse.

They cover powers of investigation for public advocates and public guardians, enduring powers of attorney and enduring guardianship, family agreements, banking, aged care and social security, including:

- an online national register for enduring documents, with tighter witnessing and reporting requirements;
- expanding the role of public advocates and public guardians in responding to elder abuse*;
- making banks be more proactive in preventing financial abuse;
- allowing tribunals to resolve disputes within families about assets-for-care arrangements;
- strengthening the compulsory reporting scheme for aged care: independent oversight of abuse complaints, better employment screening, and introducing an official visitors scheme; and
- creating new strategies to combat elder abuse beyond legal reforms.

The Australian Law Reform Commission last month released a discussion paper as part of its Elder Abuse Inquiry, [Elder Abuse \(DP 83\)](#). It wants comments and feedback on its law reform proposals by 27 Feb, before presenting its final report to Attorney-General George Brandis in May 2017.

Elder abuse, according to the ALRC, usually refers to abuse or neglect of older people by family, friends and carers. Psychological abuse includes name calling, bullying and harassment. Financial abuse includes taking an older person's money or belongings, forcing them to sell their home or hand over assets, moving into their home without permission, and incurring bills which the older person is left to pay. Physical assault and neglect are among other disturbing types of elder abuse.

More info on the ALRC inquiry is here: <https://www.alrc.gov.au/inquiries/elder-abuse>

Civil Liberties Annual General Meeting dates

CLA's AGM will take place electronically (and by mail for members without individual email addresses) over 5 Feb to 28 March 2017. Members who are up to date financially will be able to take part electronically. Members without a personal email address will be posted information and ballot papers. See 'CLA report' for formal notice of poll and key dates.

Melbourne terror raids: some points the police did NOT emphasise

Just before Christmas, some 400 police and security forces raided homes in Melbourne: that's 50 or more police and spooks per raided home. There's nothing like massed police in armour and black to look good on TV, hyping fear.

"The decision to arrest was made in the last five days after some of the suspects were alleged to have conducted surveillance operations near Federation Square, St Paul's Cathedral and Flinders Street Station," police told reporters.

If you take a train to go shopping in central Melbourne, it would be hard to not "surveil" those locations. They are the arrival station, and the heart, of the central Melbourne and shopping precinct.

Herald-Sun illustration: if you walk out of Flinders St Station, it's hard to not "surveil" the cathedral and Federation Square.

"It is believed counter-terror police used forensic psychologists to grade the risks of the suspects carrying out the proposed attacks," police leaks said.



These are the same forensic psychologists who will be used to keep "terrorists" – that is, Muslims – in jail after they have served full 15-year sentences, based on what these psych "experts" guess the Muslims might do on release.

"Six men and one woman, aged between 20 and 26 were arrested. Two men and the woman were later released without charge." the report said.

On their own numbers, psychologists and police got the raids 57% right (4 of 7 arrested people charged).

"Some of those arrested were on a police watch list of about 300 potential terror suspects," the report said.

That means we can look forward to another 23 raids of a similar nature: the remaining 293 "suspects", being subjected to 400-police raids, seven suspects at a time, when it suits police and political publicity.

"...none (of the 300) were deemed as prime risks until two weeks ago – they were seen as peripheral until then, one source said."

Forensic civil liberties analysis indicates the raids were a pre-emptive warning shot fired by police in Australia as a result of the truck attack in Germany on Christmas markets. Our analysis of police psychology and behaviour is at least as accurate as the analysis by the police forensic psychologists.

"One investigator described the suspects as "unsophisticated but potentially extremely dangerous".

'Unsophisticated' is police code for stupid boasters.

"(They) appeared in the Melbourne Magistrates Court and were taken into custody and will return in April (on 28 April)".

In other words, four young Australians are being locked up for four months before getting a proper day in court on police "suspicions". If police had firm evidence at the time of arrest, there would be a show trial early in the new year. Remand jail in Australia has now become punishment-as-warning, and as a police public relations tool. <http://tinyurl.com/hj4yuez>

"...suspected Christmas Day plotter Zakaria Dabboussi, was one of the three released without charge. His father, Youssef, described the search as 'a terror act, a cowardly act' and said police would have been welcomed into the home, even if the suspect was not home at the time. Instead, he says, another son, Mohamed, was assaulted, twin eight-year-old grandsons had a gun pointed at them, and another 12-year-old Mahmoud, was knocked in the head with the gun. <http://tinyurl.com/zx375cq>

Youssef Dabboussi's allegations that police themselves acted as "terrorists" and engaged in a "cowardly" act should be investigated equally as robustly as the activities of the four charged men.

It is to be hoped that one day, the media and responsible politicians will analyse staged raids such as this one critically, and not instantly respond like Pavlov's dogs to what may turn out to be a police-security beat-up aimed at manipulating the emotions of the press and the people of Australia.

We will be watching closely the outcome of the four charged men's re-appearance before the Melbourne Magistrates Court...after they have already served a third-of a year in jail, no doubt in maximum security.

Democracy is forged by protest; denigrating protest is undemocratic

It's unfortunate when a Prime Minister doesn't understand what democracy is: PM Malcolm Turnbull last month condemned pro-refugee protests at Parliament House as an affront to the Australian people.

About 40 protesters caused chaos and the suspension of Question Time, with some supergluing themselves to railings in the public gallery (CLA believes in the right to protest, but does not endorse the supergluing damage).

The next day, two protesters abseiled down the front of Parliament House to unfurl a banner while others placed red dye in the forecourt pond while holding signs demanding better treatment of refugees.

"What those demonstrators did in the House of Representatives' gallery, let alone the following day when they actually defaced the Parliament, was not democratic," Mr Turnbull told Adelaide's *5AA Radio*. "It was a denial of democracy and an affront to the Australians who elected the 226 senators and members".

The Coalition's junior Senator from Victoria, James McGrath, described the protesters as "absolute grubs" and "Kmart-Castros". Speaker of the House, Tony Smith, has promised a thorough inquiry into the protests amid wider security upgrades at Parliament House. <http://tinyurl.com/zw67cvt>

Democracy is when people have their say, and are listened to. The Coalition and Labor have been deaf for a decade on mistreatment of refugees. Australians may want the boats stopped, but we do not want people in desperate circumstance treated inhumanely. The government must find a better way to manage people, especially children, who survive as refugee claimants in a legal limbo of Australia's own creation.

Government data may be used in civil cases against individuals

Private phone and email records, harvested by government for security purposes, could be used against people in civil cases.

The federal government is considering relaxing data retention laws, holding a rushed "public consultation" announced the week before Christmas with a closing date of the day after Australia Day.

Critics say the proposal would pave the way for phone and email records to be mined for material to be used in legal action following marriage breakdowns and business disputes.

A link to the parliamentary committee report, and a consultation paper, are here: <http://tinyurl.com/zpfqdy5>

Thought police given foothold in Australia

Convicted terrorists can be kept in jail after their sentences expire, if they are deemed a risk to society.

The awful law passed the federal parliament in December.

Twelve months before a convicted terrorist's sentence expires, Attorney-General George Brandis can apply to a court to keep the person in jail, based solely on what the "authorities" and a government-chosen expert believes the person might do after being released.

The parliament has effectively allowed a system of thought police – anticipatory jailing – into Australia, CLA says. "We pointed out the dangers to MPs in a formal submission, but the parliament is devoid of people of principle who understand what a treacherous track they have now launched us down," President Dr Kristine Klugman said. <http://tinyurl.com/jsujfko>



Civil Liberties Australia A04043

Questioning whether police are the right answer to national 'drunk/drug' problems

Australia's police spend most of their time dealing with drunks and druggies, not "criminals" as most people think of them, according to the latest trend report of the Australian Institute of Criminology.

Police probably need more health than policing training, CLA observes, based on the findings of the co-authors of 'Trends & issues' 525, December 2016, Georgina Fuller and Susan Goldsmid (photo), who analyse the nature of the risk between police and intoxicated people.

Police spend between 8 and 25% of their time responding to alcohol and other drug-related (AOD) primary incidents, the authors say. Intoxication itself is not a criminal offence. AOD-

related police call-outs are incidents where AOD use was a causal factor or where intoxicated people are present, such as being drunk in a public place.

“Police who attend AOD-related incidents may be required to interact with, control and manage intoxicated people. Officers also have a responsibility to ensure the safety of intoxicated individuals and (the public).

“So common is this issue that 41% of adult police detainees interviewed by the Drug Use Monitoring in Australia program in 2013–14 reported consuming alcohol in the 48 hours prior to arrest, with an average consumption of 19 standard drinks (Coghlan et al. 2015)...46% of police detainees tested positive via urinalysis for cannabis, 37% for amphetamines, 24% for benzodiazepines and 8% for heroin.”

The research should be used to guide police training, CLA believes. It also should call into question whether traditional police are the best-suited to handle people made sick by one form of drug or another.

TPP twitches as last rites applied

The TPP is dying. Trumped.

Before rigor mortis sets in, the government is trying twice to pump life into the rotting corpse of a butchered deal that would have only ever advantaged rural interests, slightly, to the disadvantage of urban Aussies.

The government has lamented its demise once in the Treaties committee (JSCOT) report of 30 Nov 2016 and will do so again in the upcoming Feb 2017 report of another committee.

However, the Greens best summed up what Australia’s attitude to the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement should be, in their dissenting report to Treaties. The dissenting report, under the signature of Senator Sarah Hanson-Young (Greens, SA) said:

1. Don’t accept or ratify this TPP.
2. Change the Australian treaty-making process to be more transparent. Bring in independent analysis of proposed deals. Give the community more chance to comment. Only ratify after there has been a full vote in parliament on the individual paragraphs of text of any proposed agreement.

Hear! Hear! says anyone who wants Australia to be a sovereign nation empowered to make its own decisions through its own parliament, just like America can. <http://tinyurl.com/gntd8mo> See Report 165.

New trade deals may threaten liberties, rights

Detailed international trade negotiations on both ISDS* and medicine monopolies – which may impinge on Australians’ liberties and rights – will occur in Japan in Feb 2017 under a proposed RCEP** agreement.

Under ISDS, Australia loses sovereignty; a medicines deal would mean we pay more for drugs.

Leaked documents show Japan and Korea are the main proponents of TPP***-like proposals in these areas, Dr Pat Ranald says. She is monitoring the talks for the trade union movement in Australia. Japan as the host will be pushing the two proposals, but they are still being resisted by India and some of the ASEAN countries who are part of RCEP.

Australia's policy on these issues is not clear, although appearing to recognise that the TPP cannot simply be replicated in this context, Dr Ranald said last month. The next round of RCEP negotiations will be held in Kobe from 27 Feb – 3 March 2017. Media release 14 Dec 2016, AFTINET, <http://tinyurl.com/mzls7zz>

* Investor State Dispute Settlement: ad hoc tribunals which over-rule decisions of national courts.

** RCEP (10 ASEAN countries plus India, China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand); aim is to conclude the deal by the end 2017.

*** TPP: Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement: negotiated, but likely to be abandoned due to President-elect Trump’s opposition.

Here’s an anti-bureaucracy suggestion

A CLA member has a note to the Attorney-General’s Department, in relation to even more bureaucracy around what they say are money-laundering problems.

ANTI MONEY LAUNDERING EXTENSION HUMBAG: I note your proposals to inflict more useless bureaucracy upon me and I despise the hypocrisy.

If you are really interested in corruption and money laundering I suggest you investigate the Department of Immigration and find out many business migration visas have been bought with illegal funds and how much illegal money has ended up being poured into Sydney and Melbourne real estate by foreigners.

It would also be interesting to know how many Australian migration visas have been sold by locally-engaged staff as part of this process. You know something strange is going on when you get off a plane and find a person fumbling around at the Australian passport gate not able to speak a word of English, looking lost and then...he produces an Australian passport!

If you people can't keep your own house in order don't expect me to do so. I am not interested in becoming a police informer, whether paid or unpaid. I refuse to go through the rest of my life being some sort of Stasi informer.

I consider my morals and those of my clients superior to those of many politicians and bureaucrats seeking to inflict this nonsense upon us.

Cyber Security leaves ASIO in the lurch

Australia's cyber security agency is leaving the 'Glass Mahal' – ASIO's HQ building – for lower security premises, two years after moving in to the custom-designed horizontal 'tower' named after Ben Chifley.

Gaining clearance to work in or even visit the highly-classified Australian Cyber Security Centre hindered recruitment and collaborative goals, a Department of Defence submission to the parliamentary committee evaluating the proposal said.

Instead, the ACSC will relocate to leased buildings near Canberra Airport at a cost of \$39m. The new cyber-only HQ will have many security clearance levels, classified, unclassified and public meeting rooms, and space for a major expansion of its workforce to about 650. <http://tinyurl.com/gn28v4j>



Chief Justice calls for more equitable laws, end to 'three strike' provisions

The Chief Justice of WA, Wayne Martin (photo), has severely criticised biased laws which affect some West Australians more than others, and has effectively called for an end to mandatory sentencing.

"The significance of laws which do not, by their terms, discriminate against Aboriginal people but which have a disproportionate effect upon Aboriginal people should not be overlooked in this context***.

"Examples of such laws include the laws of Western Australia relating to the service of 'move-on' notices which, if not obeyed, constitute an offence, three strikes laws relating to mandatory sentencing, and traffic laws which are entirely reasonable when applied to the residents of metropolitan Perth but which operate unfairly and ineffectively in remote parts of Western Australia.

"If we are serious about returning Aboriginal people from the periphery of our community, attention must be directed to laws which apply equally to all Western Australians not only as a matter of form, but also as a matter of substance," CJ Martin said.

*** "...the continuing grossly disproportionate over-representation of Aboriginal people in the courts and prisons of Western Australia." He was speaking at the 35th annual A&NZ Law and History Society conference at Curtin Law School on 5 Dec 2016.

CLA members Les Brennan proposes a target of reducing Aboriginal detention, in say WA and/or NT, by 1% a year for a decade. It's an achievable target, CLA believes, which the two governments should adopt.

Police to forego lock-up for prison

WA Police will not in future keep people in police lock-up for unpaid fines, instead taking them to prison, following the death in custody of Aboriginal woman, Ms Dhu, over \$3622 of fines

Ms Dhu died while spending three days locked up at South Hedland Police Station in August 2014.

Police Commissioner Karl O'Callaghan announced the changes last month just hours after the State Coroner labelled the police treatment of Ms Dhu while she was in custody as "inhumane". <http://tinyurl.com/zlf3wwe>

Remote groups happy to avoid increased rates

Remote Aboriginal communities in north-west WA have knocked back millions in funding to improve infrastructure because they do not want to pay any more for water.

The WA government is planning to pump \$52m into 10 remote communities for upgrades to power and water infrastructure. Work will start in 2018 to put in better water tanks and power grids, trying to boost service to standards of other Australian towns.

Some communities don't want the upgrade if it will cost them more in water and power rates, and they are asking why three of the five biggest communities in the N-W of the state have been excluded.

WA has 274 remote communities. <http://tinyurl.com/hbao89o>

New jail appears to offer 'horn of plenty': more prisoners, lower costs

Private operator Sodexo is running WA's new women's prison, opened last month, and will receive a \$15,000 bonus for every inmate who stays out of jail for two years after being released.

Prisoners moved into the 254-bed Melaleuca Women's Remand and Reintegration Facility, co-located with the men's Hakea Prison in Canning Vale, last week. The new women's prison eases pressure on Bandyup Women's Prison.

Sodexo has been awarded a five-year contract with two extension options of five years each by the WA government to manage and operate Melaleuca.

Corrective Services Minister Joe Francis said the new jail would help rising numbers of inmates, and would also save the government \$35m. – , Sodexo media release 160719, AAP and <http://tinyurl.com/jyjf3dy>

CLA asks why a \$15,000 bonus cannot be shared among government corrective services employees for each similar success they achieve.

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Front : Andrew Reaper Sodexo Justice Director, Nick O'Callaghan Country President, James McMahon, Commissioner, Corrective Services WA and Anita John, Assistant Director, Corrective Services WA. Back: Audrey Park, the first Superintendent for Melaleuca (Sodexo prison Director from Scotland) and Tony Hassell, Deputy Commissioner, Corrective Services WA at the contract signing ceremony in July 2016.



Judge rules woman can't wear face covering while giving evidence

NSW District Court judge Audrey Balla has declined a request from a Muslim woman to wear a niqab while giving evidence in a damages claim against police.

She alleges officers assaulted her during a raid on her home where the target was her husband, who was later convicted of helping to recruit people to fight in Syria.

Judge Balla ruled on a request from Moutia Elzahed to wear her niqab while giving evidence to the court.

The judge offered her a number of alternatives, including that the court be closed to the public or that she give evidence in a remote room, but she declined to accept the alternatives because there would still be male legal representatives in the room. <http://tinyurl.com/z7jkj4g>

She may also be charged for refusing to stand in court. NSW introduced a law on 1 September 2016 about disrespectful behaviour in court, which carries a maximum penalty of \$1100 or 14 days jail.

Moutia Elzahed, one of the two wives of terrorist recruiter Hamdi Alqudsi, refused to stand for District Court Judge Audrey Balla last month. Her barrister Clive Evatt, said her refusal was "to do with a religious belief – she won't stand for anyone except Allah". <http://tinyurl.com/znl4vdp>

Governments cut benefits to crack down on the wrong wrongdoers

NSW plans a police and PR crackdown on animal rights activists who target farmer cruelty...and Deputy PM Barnaby Joyce may assist by revoking the tax-benefit status of the charitable protestors.

The animal industry "heavies", including the RSPCA – whose own tax status should be called into question under the proposal – met secretly in Sydney just over a year ago to devise a plan to counter the activists' trespassing on farmland.

The activists were committing the sin of using drones to shoot photos and videos of farmers allegedly doing the wrong thing...then publicising the misdeeds widely on TV and in news and social media.

Instead of addressing the possible farmer wrongdoing, the authorities – including the RSPCA – plotted to defeat the protestors. The secret meeting only came to light after an FOI request from NSW Greens MP Mehreen Faruqi.

The NSW government has introduced a range of measures to combat environmental protest groups over the past few years, particularly for animal rights groups, *The Guardian's* Paul Farrell reported. They introduced what are known as "ag gag" laws to increase penalties and outlaw undercover activities.

Cutting taxable benefits is a federal government trick to silence public criticism, threatened across a number of sectors, including in similar fashion to legal aid bodies, CLA says. <http://tinyurl.com/z95olo2>

Same-sex couples to get same marriage recognition

A new law in the ACT will automatically register overseas partnerships, including those of same-sex pairs, making the rules the same as for heterosexual marriages and unions that took place in other jurisdictions.

ACT Attorney-General Gordon Ramsay said the new laws aimed to cut red tape for same-sex couples.

"The amendments to the Civil Unions Act will mean same-sex couples who were married, or entered into a civil union, outside the ACT will automatically have their relationship recognised under ACT law," he said.

For five days in 2013 same-sex marriages were legislated for in the ACT, before a High Court challenge ruled the laws invalid. <http://tinyurl.com/hm27lgz>

Ex-Tassie 'tiger' to preside over costly Eastman case

Murray Kellam will be an acting judge of the ACT Supreme Court from 2017 to preside over a possible new trial in July for David Eastman's alleged 1989 shooting murder of AFP deputy chief Colin Winchester.

The trial will proceed only if Mr Eastman loses his bid to avoid being tried a second time by a jury.

In a discretionary decision, the ACT Office of the DPP decided to re-try Eastman after an inquiry and a supreme court appeal bench both found he should never have been convicted in the first place because he was not given a fair trial.

Eastman is appealing the DPP's subsequent decision to re-try him. Many in the ACT community, including Civil Liberties Australia, question the appropriateness of the DPP's decision: Eastman had already served 19 years before he was found to have been wrongfully convicted; the Eastman 'affair' has cost the ACT probably \$15-20m so far; a further \$5m has been set aside just for the costs of the case to the end of 2016-17.

With a July 2017 start date, any trial would be likely to extend into 2018, and even more money would probably be needed: not to mention the ongoing costs of five years of likely appeals by him if Eastman were to be found guilty a second time.

If found guilty, he would be eligible for parole the day he re-entered jail, given time served already.

Justice Kellam (photo) was a judge in the Victorian County Court before he was appointed to the Supreme Court in 1998. He retired from the Victorian Court of Appeal in 2009 and spent five years as Tasmania's chief integrity commissioner, a position in which he failed to distinguish the organisation he headed as anything other than a toothless tiger.



State plans 3000 more police

Victoria plans to spend \$2 billion recruiting nearly 3000 extra police over four years and upgrading and replacing police stations.

Victorian Police Minister Lisa Neville said last month the extra police were needed for other strategies to work. "We can not just police our way out of this ... this is part of a broader strategy," she said.

The Attorney-General Martin Pakula then announced a proposed new 'Fagin's' law that would see adults go to jail for 10 years if they encouraged children to steal. "We know, in some instances, where young people are stealing in particular, they're doing so at the behest of older criminals," Mr Pakula said.

The Melbourne-based Human Rights Law Centre's Hugh de Kretser told *ABC Melbourne* that, while funding police was important, the money could be better spent on early intervention programs. "Time and time again what we see is governments over-investing in police at the expense of listening to what criminologists tell us actually works to drive crime down," he said. "A \$2 billion investment in police over the next couple of years in Victoria will deny other programs vital resources they need to address the root causes of crimes."

He said funds would be better directed to prisoner rehabilitation programs and child protection agencies. The Victorian government used to be sensible, CLA says. Looks like something has got into the drinking water in the executive suite at Parliament House, or maybe they're getting their water from the not-yet-tested state desalination plant. <http://tinyurl.com/hngdeso>

VCAT overturns ban on Nembutal doctor

High-profile euthanasia advocate Dr Rodney Syme has successfully appealed a ban imposed on him by the Medical Board of Australia which barred him from providing advice to terminally ill patients.

The board banned Dr Syme from providing care and advice to help patients end their lives after an *Australian Story* episode detailed the experience of 71-year-old cancer sufferer Bernard Erica. The board said Dr Syme posed "a serious risk to persons generally and Mr Erica in particular" and ordered him to stop providing medical care related to helping people end their lives.

But the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) last month overturned the ban on appeal. "The tribunal is satisfied that the holistic approach adopted by Dr Syme is entirely focused upon supporting the patient in life rather than pre-empting the patient's death," it said.

Dr Syme told *Australian Story* he had spoken with Mr Erica and offered to provide him with the drug Nembutal, which would provide pain relief and cause his death. Mr Erica gave a statement to the tribunal which said: "I certainly am not at any risk from Dr Syme – in fact, quite the contrary."

The Victorian Government recently announced that in 2017 it will consider legalising assisted dying for the terminally ill. <http://tinyurl.com/ja2ol8j>

New abortion laws for territory

The NT plans to modernise abortion laws in 2017.

Under current legislation termination must be performed in a public hospital, and women under 14 weeks' pregnant have to be examined by two doctors, including a specialist obstetrician and gynaecologist.

Health Minister Natasha Fyles said consultation on the draft legislation will close on 31 Jan 2017.

"The Northern Territory is the only jurisdiction in Australia where all termination of pregnancy procedures must take place in a public hospital," she said. "Northern Territory women should have the same access to RU486 as women living in other jurisdictions."

The proposed changes include:

- allowing procedures in other than public hospitals, including day surgeries and specialist clinics
- permitting early medical termination of pregnancy using drugs such as RU486;
- permitting qualified doctors other than obstetricians and gynaecologists to terminate under 14 weeks;
- ensuring doctors and health staff, who conscientiously object, refer women to a terminating doctor;
- providing safe access zones around premises where termination of pregnancy services are provided, to prevent women being harassed when attending and to protect people working there; and
- changing criminal offence provisions under the *Criminal Code Act*. – *media release, NT Health Minister, 9 Dec 2016*.

'Sexiest' cops in Australia?

Sexual harassment, ranging from unwanted sexual comments to rape, is widespread in the South Australian Police Force, a report has revealed.

The Equal Opportunity Commission report, titled *Sex Discrimination, Sexual Harassment and Predatory Behaviour in the SA Police Force*, has found there is a harmful "boys' club" culture within the force. The commission was told it was common for male officers to rate the attractiveness of victims or witnesses, and on at least one occasion pornography was watched on a conference room screen.

It heard from nearly 2000 online respondents and considered 58 one-on-one interviews or written submissions — about 30% of SAPOL. Of those respondents, 61% perceived sexual harassment and predatory behaviour occurred in the organisation, while 36% had personally experienced sexual harassment and 45% of respondents had personally experienced sex discrimination, with 1% having been sexually assaulted. <http://tinyurl.com/z8jvpv9>

Australian briefs

Suite of foods banned: ACT bureaucrats are being forced to swap Freddo Frogs for fruit under an announced ban on fundraiser chocolates in the public service. The ACTPS healthy food and drink choices policy dictates that “red food” items, including chocolates, soft drinks and deep-fried food, must not be supplied in catering, giveaways or fundraisers. The move is ostensibly to tackle physical obesity: there are apparently no new rules tackling thick-headed thinking. <http://tinyurl.com/hmswj89>

NT Children Detention RC extended: The Australia and NT governments have agreed to a request from the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the NT to extend the reporting date by four months, to 1 August 2017. The extension will not cost any more money, and the RC will deliver an interim report by 31 March 2017. – media release, NT Chief Minister, 16 Dec 2016.

‘Big brother’ police keep watch: SA police have more than 250 people under secret surveillance as potential firebugs during the 2016-17 fire season. They have warned fines or jail would be the result of reckless or suspicious behaviour that led to a fire. “Police will be monitoring about 82 people who pose a high or significant risk during the summer months, and there are a further 170 who are of a lower risk,” Assistant Commissioner Noel Bamford said. <http://tinyurl.com/hhk54x8>

New ‘sidekick’ for AG: Dr Stephen Donaghue QC will become solicitor-general, Australia’s second law officer behind the Attorney-General, on 16 January 2017, for five years. He replaces Justin Gleeson who resigned after a blue with AG Senator George Brandis over independence of the role. Dr Donaghue has frequently appeared as senior counsel before the High Court, for the government. <http://tinyurl.com/jazvzta>

ODD SPOT: Jesus and file sharing: Students ... have obviously never read the story about Jesus' miraculous copying of the loaves and fishes ("Students hear the word and hand in their CDs", Herald, May 26, 2005 – year is correct). That story shows Jesus copying and distributing stuff for free, without concern for any possible impact on those in the bread and fish industries. Jesus would naturally be a file-sharer. – Colin Beck, Rushcutters Bay, NSW. <http://tinyurl.com/zbmug9j>

No more chair restraints for youth: The NT government has stopped using restraint chairs in the youth justice system after passing a law against the practice last month. Now only handcuffs, ankle cuffs and waist-restraining belts can be used to restrain youth detainees, and the restraints must only be used as a last resort. – media release, Dale Wakefield, Minister for Territory Families, 1 Dec 2016.



New chief and offside: From 29 January Susan Kiefel becomes Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia, and young (43 on assuming office) James Edelman (photo) fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Chief Justice Robert French.

Give people choice based on performance measures: Public hospital patients could benefit from doctors and health services publicly reporting their performance, the Productivity Commission says in a report exploring radical changes to government services, including social housing, end-of-life care services, public dental services, services in remote Indigenous communities and government-commissioned family and community services. Commissioner Dr Stephen King said that, in the UK, patients were making better choices and seeing better health outcomes as a result of information available about how well specialists have performed in the past with hospitals they operate in, what the waiting lists are like, and so on. CLA

looks forward to when similar comparisons are available in the area of publicly-provided legal services, such as by the Offices of the Director of Public Prosecutions and state and federal courts, starting with magistrate courts. <http://tinyurl.com/jubt7x7>

Mossop gets upped a rung: David Mossop, long-serving master–associate judge (the title was changed in 2015) and reputedly the hardest worker in the building, has been appointed a judge of the ACT Supreme Court. He will replace Richard Refshauge, known for the length of time he has taken to write judgements, who will spend the time between New Year and his May retirement date ensuring his current list of judgements is completed. Justice Michael Elakim boosted the court’s numbers to five judges when he joined the court in July 2015. <http://tinyurl.com/gqaw2ju>

Refugee dies after Manus fall: A 27-year-old Sudanese refugee held on Manus Island has died following “a fall and seizure” inside the Australian detention centre. The man, Faysal Ishak Ahmed, had reportedly been unwell for several months, but suffered head injuries when he collapsed just before Christmas. He was evacuated to Royal Brisbane and Women’s hospital, where he died a day later. *The Guardian* reported he was born in Khartoum in June 1989 and had been held on Manus since October 2013. <http://tinyurl.com/z6kxteg>

CLA report – key activities for December 2016

The lead-up to the Christmas break meant a quiet period for CLA directors. The president and secretary used the time to continue editing and proof-reading the chapters of the history of civil liberties groups in Australia.

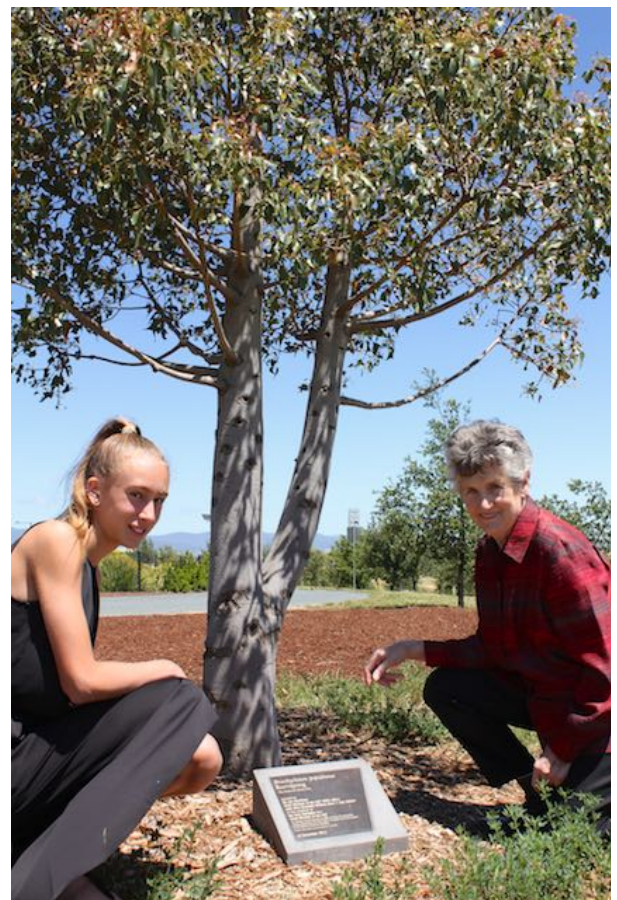
The Board thanks all CLA members for your support during 2016 and wish you a peaceful year in 2017, devoid of the nasty surprises of 2016! We continue to hope that justice will finally prevail and that Sue Neill-Fraser will be released from Risdon prison in Tasmania. We will continue to pursue our Better Justice strategy and with your help, make gains in civil liberties in 2017.

On UN Human Rights Day, 10 December, the President marked the 5th anniversary of the planting of the Liberty Tree, a Kurrajong (*brachychiton populneus*) at the National Arboretum by visiting it and taking a photo with the now much taller Charlotte Withers (photo right), who was born on the day that the first human rights act was introduced in Australia, 1 July 2004. Charlie, the ACT Chief Minister who introduced Australia’s first Human Rights Act, Jon Stanhope, and the President planted it on 10 Dec 2011, and it is flourishing.

Confirming the key dates for the 2017 electronic Annual General Meeting, as endorsed by the Board:

The **AGM of Civil Liberties Australia Inc** will be held electronically and by mail as below. CLA elects a Board every two years: an election will be held in 2017 in conjunction with the AGM. Details:

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 6 January | Notice of eAGM sent electronically (and given in Dec 2016 and here, in Jan 2017, CLArions) |
| 5-18 Jan | Call for any notices of motions from members |
| 19 Feb | Board considers any motions, for endorsement or adaptation; |
| 20 Feb-6 Mar | Call for nominations for vacancies; online discussion if needed (closes 5pm 6 Mar) |
| 8 Mar | Board confirms eligibility of potential candidates, and final wording of any motions |
| 10-24 Mar | Voting period (voting closes 5pm by email and at CLA’s postal box). |
| 28 Mar | Declaration of results, posted on website, and in CLArion newsletter dated 1 April. |



President Dr Kristine Klugman spoke out last month at a forum on water pricing in the ACT. "We believe that access to clean water is a human right, and fair and reasonable pricing is a civil liberty in Australia, but no-one in governments anywhere is being held accountable for the constant rise in water costs. In the ACT, the Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission (ICRC) says it is following its legislation. The government says it is the responsibility of Icon Water, who says it is the ICRC which sets the rates. Round and round," she said.

International

Policemen gets life in jail over stun gun death of handcuffed prisoner

A former Georgia policeman, Marcus Eberhart, was sentenced to life in jail for murder last month after the death of Gregory Towns, 24, who was shocked repeatedly with a stun gun while in handcuffs.

Eberhart's co-defendant, former officer Howard Weems, was given five years jail for involuntary manslaughter and reckless conduct, *Reuters* reported.

Eberhart and Weems shocked Towns with stun guns more than a dozen times when he refused to walk to a patrol car as he was being taken into custody after a reported domestic dispute, prosecutors said.

Fulton County Superior Court Judge Henry Newkirk said: "There is only one sentence allowable under the law. I sentence you to life."

An autopsy found the direct cause of death was "electric stimulation" but also said Towns suffered from hypertensive cardiovascular disease. Expert witnesses for the defence contended Towns was in ill health from an enlarged heart and high blood pressure.

Weems' defence attorney, William McKenney, said no policeman had ever been sentenced to life in jail in such circumstances. "This is unprecedented and we will appeal," he said.

Towns and the two policemen charged were black. <http://tinyurl.com/h2sr9um>

Scots explore ways to help NI women seeking abortions

Scotland's First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, has announced that the Scottish government is exploring how to allow Northern Irish women to obtain free access to abortions in Scotland's National Health Service hospitals.

She said the result may be that women from Northern Ireland can have terminations for free on the health service. About 2000 NI women a year have abortions.

Across the UK, the NHS has so far refused to pay for abortions for women from NI who travel to Britain.

The procedure is only available in NI's hospitals when the pregnancy poses a direct threat to the mother's life. It is illegal in all other cases. <http://tinyurl.com/hffmjxf>

Polish PM looks set to place curbs on rights NGOs



The Polish prime minister, Beata Szydło, has angered human rights campaigners by announcing plans for a new department of civil society to centralise state funding and "bring order to the whole sphere of NGOs".

The move could allow Poland's right-wing Law and Justice party government to put pressure on NGOs who have criticised ministers over human rights issues. Law and Justice has been accused of turning accepted notions of human rights upside down by portraying advocates of minority rights and anti-discrimination legislation as a threat to the rights and freedoms of Poland's Catholic majority.

Activists fear that Poland is going the way of Hungary and Russia, with NGOs having to register with the government as 'foreign agents'. <http://tinyurl.com/hg4phz6>

Germans plan fines blitz on fake news

Germany's coalition government is threatening new laws early this year that could see Facebook and other social media fined up to \$720,000 for "publishing" fake news.

"Market dominating platforms like Facebook will be legally required to build a legal protection office in Germany that is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year," parliamentary chair of the Social Democratic Party, Thomas Oppermann, told *Der Spiegel*.

"If, after appropriate examination, Facebook does not delete the offending message within 24 hours, it should expect individual fines of up to 500,000 euros," Oppermann said.

He also said that the subject of a fake news story would be able to demand a correction published with similar prominence. <http://tinyurl.com/glwznxp>

Obama puts roadblock in Trump's way over Muslim registry

The Obama administration is dismantling a discriminatory surveillance system that was used after 9/11 to keep tabs on Arabs and Muslims across the US, in a move that will make it more difficult for president-elect Donald Trump to introduce a Muslim registry.

The Administration is ending the National Security Entry-Exit Registration System (Nseers), so putting a roadblock in the way of Mr Trump's threat to prevent non-citizen Muslims from entering the US and to keep them under surveillance once inside the country.

Nseers was one of the most contentious and hated elements of the Bush administration's anti-terror policies. More than 80,000 people from 25 listed countries, 24 of which had majority Muslim or Arab populations, were forced on to the scheme in which they were required to provide fingerprints and a photograph and periodically present themselves for in-person interviews with DHS officers.

About 14,000 of those individuals were placed into deportation proceedings. Yet not a single individual was found to have any links to terrorist or violent activities. <http://tinyurl.com/j4xd8qy>

ODD SPOT: Rebel without a clause

Interesting commentary last month on President-elect Trump and his relationship with the US Constitution: here is the link: <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/12/05/opinion/trumps-threat-to-the-constitution.html>

As usual, 'comments' on the article were even more interesting than the article. Here's one:

Tulsa December 5, 2016: The Constitution is boring and is written in a peculiar font. It puts me to sleep and is, basically, a disaster. There isn't a single mention of making America great again. Many, many people are telling me we need to replace it with an amazing document expressed in bullet points of no more than 140 characters. I am proposing a rule: for every new amendment, get rid of two old ones.

US immigration courts face clogging to a standstill

With a backlog of more than 520,000 cases, US immigration courts are foundering, increasingly failing to deliver timely, fair decisions to people fighting deportation or asking for refuge, according to lawyers, judges and government officials.

With too few judges, overworked clerks and antiquated listings based on stacks of paper files, many of the 56 courts nationwide are crippled by delays and bureaucratic breakdowns, Julia Preston of the *NY Times* wrote in her last article before retiring.

"The immigration court system is a major obstacle for President-elect Donald Trump and his plans to deport as many as three million immigrants he says have criminal records. Many of those deportations — at least hundreds of thousands — would have to be approved by immigration judges," she wrote.

"Mr Trump has also said he intends to freeze federal hiring, which would prevent the courts from bringing on new judges and clerks, who are federal employees. Without significant new resources, the courts would probably slow deportations to a stall." <http://tinyurl.com/jcppnt2>

US liberties and rights face hostile Sessions

Donald Trump's pick for US Attorney General has a record of hostility toward the federal government's role in curtailing discrimination on the basis of race, sexuality, and immigration status, *The Atlantic* says.

Senator Jefferson Beauregard Sessions III (photo), a man whose views on race once led a Senate committee to deem him unfit for a federal judgeship, is the president-elect's choice to head the federal agency that enforces the nation's civil rights laws.

In his 1986 confirmation hearing, witnesses testified that Sessions referred to a black attorney as "boy," described the Voting Rights Act as "intrusive," attacked the NAACP and ACLU as "un-American" for "forcing civil rights down the throats of people," joked that he thought the



Ku Klux Klan was ok until he found out they smoked marijuana, and referred to a white attorney who took on voting-rights cases as a “traitor to his race.”

Samuel Bagenstos, a law professor at the University of Michigan and a former high-ranking official in the civil-rights division under President Obama, said simply, “I don't think Americans can have confidence that civil rights will be safe in the hands of a Sessions' Department of Justice.” <http://tinyurl.com/zrwad9e>

Pfizer-Flynn marketing ploy ups drug's price 2600%

The pharmaceutical company Pfizer has been fined a record \$142m by the UK's competition regulator after the price charged to the National Health Service for an anti-epilepsy drug was increased by up to 2600%.

The Competition and Markets Authority, issuing its biggest fine, said the “extraordinary price rises have cost the NHS and the taxpayer tens of millions of pounds”.

The CMA also fined the drugs distributor Flynn Pharma \$8,75m for charging excessive and unfair prices in the UK for phenytoin sodium capsules, used by an estimated 48,000 epilepsy patients in the UK to prevent and control seizures. The watchdog has ordered both companies to drop their prices.

US-based Pfizer rejected the CMA's findings. Both companies said they would appeal.

The fines follow an overnight price increase for the drug of up to 2600%, after it was deliberately de-branded, the CMA said. Pfizer makes the drug: it used to sell it directly to the NHS, but it changed its marketing structure and sold the drug to Flynn, which in turn sold it to the NHS. The changed marketing structure meant the drug no longer came under strict price controls.

The CMA has four other ongoing investigations into the pharmaceutical industry, with at least one of those focused on excessive pricing. <http://tinyurl.com/j299hzt>

Another firm has been accused of marking up a tablet by more than 12,000%. The CMA accused another multinational, Actavis, of ramping up prices for life-saving hydrocortisone tablets by 12,500% in eight years, from \$1.20 a pack as of April 2008 to \$150 a pack by March 2016. <http://tinyurl.com/jhqd5qt>

See also: 20 states file civil complaint – <http://tinyurl.com/zgobass>

USA cracks down on pharma rip-offs

The US Justice Department has charged former executives of a pharmaceutical firm with fixing generic drug prices, rigging bids, and conspiring to manipulate customers.

The charges were filed last month against two ex-Heritage Pharmaceuticals executives in the US District Court. It is the first time the DOJ has ever gone after a generic drug maker.

The charges are the first fruits of an ongoing and sweeping investigation into generic drug price-fixing by the Department, *Ars Technica* reported. The investigation involves about two dozen drugs and more than a dozen pharmaceutical companies, including Impax, Teva, and Mylan, the infamous maker of EpiPens.

Those defendants are Jeffrey Glazer, the former CEO of Heritage, and Jason Malek, the company's ex-president. Both were fired in August for allegedly setting up dummy corporations that siphoned off tens of millions of dollars from the company in the course of seven years, according to a civil lawsuit filed by the company last month.

In the criminal cases filed this week, the DOJ alleges Glazer and Malek conspired to fix the price, rig bids, and divvy up customers of the antibiotic doxycycline hyclate between 2013 and 2015. The pair also allegedly fixed the price and divvied up customers of the diabetes drug glyburide between 2014 and 2015.

The US Government Accountability Office has recently revealed that about a fifth of long-standing generic drugs (more than 300 of 1441) saw their prices jump by 100% or more between 2010 and 2015. <http://tinyurl.com/jdd6rcd>

Medical journal questions ‘war on drugs’

The *British Medical Journal* has joined authorities worldwide in calling for an end to the ‘war on drugs’. “People have always consumed psychoactive substances, risking harm,” the BJ says. “A quarter of a billion adults—one in 20 worldwide—took an illegal drug such as cannabis, cocaine, or heroin in 2014. A quarter of UK 15 year olds are estimated to have ever taken an illegal preparation of unknown quality and potency, and most street sex work and much acquisitive crime funds drug taking.”

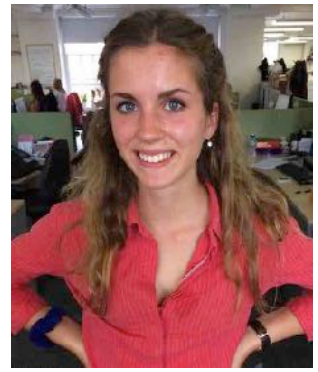
“Three UN treaties, the oldest from 1961, seek to ‘advance the health and welfare of mankind’ by prohibiting the non-medical use of some drugs. To this end, countries criminalise producers, traffickers, dealers, and users at an annual cost of at least \$130bn.

“But the effectiveness of prohibition laws, colloquially known as the ‘war on drugs’, must be judged on outcomes.

“And too often the war on drugs plays out as a war on the millions of people who use drugs, and disproportionately on people who are poor or from ethnic minorities and on women,” the *BMJ* editorial says.

It was written by editor in chief Fiona Godlee (photo) and features/debates editor Richard Hurley.

“Prohibition and stigma encourage less safe drug consumption and push people away from health services. Sharing of injection equipment has led to huge epidemics of bloodborne infection, including HIV and hepatitis C. And just one in every six of the 29 million people worldwide with a drug use disorder received treatment in 2014,” they say. Ref: *BMJ* 2016;355:i6067 doi: [10.1136/bmj.i6067](https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.i6067)



...and then there were 50

The USA last month sent a Yemeni detainee from the wartime prison at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, to Cape Verde, the island nation off the west coast of Africa.

President Obama has for eight years tried to close Gbay. President-elect Trump plans to re-populate it.

The man, Shawki Awad Balzuhair, had been imprisoned without trial for more than 14 years. He was captured in a guest house with five other people, described as a “cell” by Pakistani forces and US “intelligence” – it appears a decade and a half later they were simply six separate overnight guests.

His departure reduced the Gbay detainee population to 59, of whom 20 are recommended for transfer: 8 are expected to be released by early Jan 2017. <http://tinyurl.com/j9jgbzb>

Spooks’ retaining emails is illegal, EU court rules

“General and indiscriminate retention” of emails and electronic communications by governments is illegal, the EU’s highest court has ruled, in a judgment that could trigger challenges against the UK’s new Investigatory Powers Act – the so-called snoopers’ charter.

The Guardian’s Owen Bowcott reported that only targeted interception of traffic and location data in order to combat serious crime was justified, according to a decision last month by the European Court of Justice. The finding came in response to a legal challenge initially brought by the UK Brexit secretary, David Davis, when he was a backbench MP, and Tom Watson, Labour’s deputy leader, over the legality of British spy agency GCHQ’s bulk interception of call records and online messages.

Davis and Watson, who were supported by Liberty, the Law Society, the Open Rights Group and Privacy International, had already won a high court victory on the issue, but the government appealed and the case was referred by judges to the ECJ, leading to the latest decision. <http://tinyurl.com/hvnqetr>

New execution court aims to expedite verdicts

Dubai is establishing an independent Execution Court to improve the efficiency of the judicial system.

Dubai Judicial Council has appointed Judge Abdullah Ahmad Ali Al Kaitoob as head of the new court which serves, which will sit alongside existing specialised courts like the Civil, Labour, Real Estate, Commercial, Criminal and Personal Status courts.

The move comes in response to the growing need for an independent court to address the increasing number of execution cases, *Gulf News* reported, without giving figures.

Dubai believes the court will expedite verdicts on such cases. <http://tinyurl.com/j8bwww2>



International briefs

Journalists killed at rate of about one a week: To 15 December, there had been 48 journalists killed worldwide in 2016, with 259 imprisoned. A further 27 deaths of journalists are under investigation by the Committee to Protect Journalists to assess whether they died in work-related incidents. <https://cpj.org/>

USA kills fewer criminals: In 2016, 20 prisoners were judicially killed in the USA, down from 28 in 2015, and well under the 98 executions in 1999 during the urban crime and the crack epidemic. Some 30 new prisoners joined death row in 2016, fewer than at any time since the death penalty was temporarily halted in 1972 and another big drop since the 1996 peak of 315. There were 2984 prisoners on death row at the start of the year and 2905 at its end. <http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/YearEnd2016>

Police detention drives people to suicide: The UK human rights watchdog has called for the National Health Service to take over the healthcare of people detained in police stations after it found that 400 people had killed themselves shortly after being released from custody in England and Wales in the past seven years. The Equality and Human Rights Commission said it had unearthed “serious gaps” in the care of people who had been in custody. Almost all the deaths happened within 48 hours of release: around a third involved people who had been arrested over allegations of sexual abuse: more than 80 of the suicides occurred when people were facing criminal damage or driving offences. <http://tinyurl.com/hg6w25p>

NZ gets new set of ‘privates’: The Privacy Foundation of NZ has been formed. Driving force behind the group is Marie Shroff (photo), NZ Privacy Commissioner 2003-14, who before that was NZ Cabinet Secretary. She has a strong team with her, including consultant Katrine Evans, leading academic Tim McBride, and recent Asia privacy scholars’ conference chair, Gehan Gunasekara. They’re in the process of incorporating, and establishing a website – report from CLA member and former APF chair, Prof Roger Clarke, 161214.



Anwar appeal fails – 15 months still to serve: Malaysia’s Federal Court has rejected jailed opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim's final bid to set aside his sodomy conviction and five-year jail term. A five-member panel of judges last month ruled unanimously there was no merit in Anwar's application for a review of his 2014 conviction, his final legal option for an acquittal. He will have to serve out the remaining 15 months of his prison term. <http://tinyurl.com/zftn4qk>

Funding down, guns a worry: PNG is trying to halve the cost of holding national elections next year and reduce the number of illegal guns in the community before polling starts. The government has budgeted \$164m to run the 2017 elections, about half what the last national elections cost in 2012. Chief Secretary Isaac Lupari said costs would be reduced by centralising procurement and payments, and other initiatives. PNG’s Police Commissioner Gari Baki has announced an amnesty for unlicensed firearms in a bid to cut their numbers before campaigning heats up. <http://tinyurl.com/h5tervc>

Hackoo-athon: Yahoo has previously admitted the accounts of 500m of its users were hacked in 2014. Last month, it disclosed that 1 billion of its accounts were compromised in 2013. The 2013 attack involved names, telephone numbers, dates of birth, encrypted passwords and unencrypted security questions that could be used to reset a password. Yahoo said it was forcing all affected users to change passwords and it is invalidating unencrypted security questions. <http://tinyurl.com/zdg4758>

Centenarian goes to jail: A 101-year-old paedophile has been jailed for 13 years in the UK for committing a string of sex offences against young children in the 1970s and 1980s. Ralph Clarke was charged with 17 offences of indecent assault, 11 of indecency with a child and two attempted serious sexual assaults. The man believed to be the oldest person convicted by a jury in Britain pleaded guilty to nine offences relating to a male victim part-way through a two-week trial at Birmingham crown court last month. <http://tinyurl.com/h4mdhjb>

Britain OKs 3P babies: Britain is the first country to formally license an in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) treatment designed to create babies from three people. Britain's Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority has approved mitochondrial transfer, which could help prevent incurable inherited diseases. The treatment is known as "three-parent" IVF because the babies, born from genetically modified embryos, would have DNA from a mother, a father and from a female donor whose “good” mitochondria replaces the mother’s “bad” version. <http://tinyurl.com/hv2oa9a>

Guardian questions prison 'management': When a private company runs prisons, why is it not held to the same standards as other government contractors? The UK questions have resonance in Australia.
<http://tinyurl.com/gwc29ez>

DATES

3 Jan, Sydney: *The Fiction of Memory*, Prof Elizabeth Loftus, Prof of Psychology, Social Behavior and Law, School of Law, Uni of California – Irvine, USA, Eastern Ave Auditorium, U. Sydney 6-7.30pm: <http://tinyurl.com/jfn6g2m>

16 February, Sydney: 'Sir Owen Dixon Today', by Prof William Gummow, the 2017 George Winterton Memorial Lecture. Banco Cout, 184 Phillip St Sydney. 6.15-7.45pm. To register: <http://tinyurl.com/zzghacx>

4-5 March, Canberra: *Brave New Worlds: Challenges for Evidence in the 21st C.* National Judicial College of Australia and ANU College of Law annual conference, John Curtin School of Medical Research, ANU. Details: <http://tinyurl.com/hfxqdwX>

11 March, Western Australia: STATE ELECTION

20-24 March, Melbourne: 20th Commonwealth Law Conference, 20-24 March, 2017, with the Law Institute of Victoria: 'Building on the Rule of Law'. <http://tinyurl.com/jzc972o>

23-25 March, Adelaide: National Access to Justice and Pro Bono Conference, Law Society of SA. Info: <http://www.lawsocietysa.asn.au/na2jpb2017>

27-28 March, Melbourne: Excellence and Innovation in Courts conference. Joint: Vic Supreme Court and A'sian Inst. Judicial Admin. Info: <http://tinyurl.com/jrkldu5>

6-8 April, Sydney: A'sian Inst of Judicial Admin's *2nd International Conference on Non-Adversarial Justice: Integrating Theory and Practice*, at Darling Harbour. Details: mail@conferencedesign.com.au or 03 6231 2999 Register: <http://www.naj2017.com/>

20-21 April, Darwin: 17th international conference on knowledge, culture and change in organisations. Casuarina campus, Charles Darwin Uni. Details Alison Chin on 08 8946 6830 or lebaadmin@cdu.edu.au

24-30 June, Bali, Indonesia: 'Justice on the Sniff of an Oily Rag', the 16th biennial Criminal Lawyers Assn of the NT, conference. Info: russell.goldflam@ntlac.nt.gov.au

9-13 July, Brisbane: International Association of Genocide Scholars 13th conference – Justice and The Prevention of Genocide – at TC Beirne School of Law, U. of Queensland. Details: <http://tinyurl.com/zwzufbv>

17-21 Sept, Cairns: 2017 International Women & Law Enforcement Conference. Details: 1800 807 730 or info@destinationcairns.com.au

2018:

17 March, SOUTH AUSTRALIA: state election

24 Nov, VICTORIA: state election

26 May, on or before: – TASMANIA state election

in or before 2018: QUEENSLAND state election (after that election, fixed four-year terms)

AUSTRALIA: except for a double dissolution, an election must be held between August 2018 and May 2019 for HALF of the state senators; an election must be held before 2 November 2019 for the House of Representatives and the territory senators.

2019:

23 March: NSW: state election

2020:

probably 22 August: NT election

17 Oct, ACT election

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:

[Secretary\(at\)cla.asn.au](mailto:Secretary(at)cla.asn.au)

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