



LABOUR LAW SEMINAR

The Review of the *Equal Opportunity Act 1995* – proposed new directions

Equal opportunity legislation in Victoria dates back to 1977. It has been successful in raising awareness and preventing some forms of discrimination. However understanding of equality and discrimination has advanced since it was adopted, and the *Equal Opportunity Act 1995* (like its predecessors) was not designed to address systemic barriers to equal opportunity. In 2007, the Victorian Attorney-General initiated an independent review of the Act. The Review was conducted by **Julian Gardner**, and examined the definitions of discrimination and other concepts, complaints and enforcement, and governance of the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission. Its report was released in July 2008.

In this seminar, **Julian Gardner** will speak about the recommendations of the Review, their rationale and aims, and the changes they would bring to anti-discrimination law and practice if adopted. **Associate Professor Beth Gaze**, who was a member of the Advisory Committee to the Review, will provide a comment.

Julian Gardner has been involved for over 30 years with human rights and social justice. He was involved in establishing Australia's first community legal centre – the Fitzroy Legal Service, was the first Director of Legal Aid in Victoria, and has been the CEO of three tribunals, namely the Victorian WorkCare Appeals Board, the National Social Security Appeals Tribunal and the Victorian Mental Health Review Board. As the Public Advocate for Victoria from 2000-07, his work was to promote and protect the rights of people with disabilities, particularly those with cognitive disabilities.

Julian conducted the Review of the Equal Opportunity Act as a consultant to the Victorian Attorney-General. His current work includes chairing an Expert Advisory Group and the community consultation to assist the Victorian Minister for Mental Health in a review of the Mental Health Act.

DATE: Wednesday, 10 December 2008
TIME: 1:00 pm
PLACE: Room 920 (Level Nine)
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[A light lunch will be served](#)