Chapter Committee for 2011

President         Mike Wilkinson
Deputy President  Elizabeth Dickson
Secretary         Andrew Knott
Treasurer         Kathy Sawtell
Committee Members Joy Cumming, Nadia Taylor and Lisa Walker

It gives me great pleasure to present this report of the activities of the ANZELA Queensland Chapter for the period ending 30 September 2011.

The foundation for a very successful year was based on our annual planning day held in August 2010.

Once again the Queensland Chapter has addressed the objectives of ANZELA over the last twelve months quite comprehensively. Providing high quality professional development on education law issues at reasonable cost to members and other clients continues to be our highest priority.

- Our first professional development activity for the year was a twilight seminar presented by Donna Cooper of QUT and, Gary Couper and Kyle Perkins of Couper Geysen Lawyers at the Chapter AGM held Thursday 10 March. The topic Family Law: What schools should know was well received and generated some enthusiastic discussion.

- We have completed our role as a partner in an ARC funded research project on cyberbullying conducted by Queensland University of Technology (QUT) and have undertaken partnership in a follow-up research project to be conducted by QUT.

- A highlight of 2011 was our support of the Queensland Parliament’s Annual Youth Secondary School Youth Parliament Program in March, a regional Youth Parliament in Mackay in May and the Indigenous Youth Parliament in June. In all, ANZELA Queensland Chapter presented twelve book vouchers for the awards in various categories of the Youth Parliament activities. A letter of appreciation was received from the Speaker of the Legislative assembly.

- The Chapter also conducted a very successful one-day conference titled Updating Current Education Law Issues held at Queensland University of Technology (QUT) on Friday 12 August. The program included topics such as Negligence, the Law and Queensland Schools; Recent Developments in Family Law; Teacher Registration in the New Qld Civil and Administrative Tribunal Environment; Legal Issues in Certification Testing for New and Existing Teachers; and Anti-Discrimination Issues in the Provision of Educational Services with Particular Reference to School Enrolment Contracts and Exclusion.

Once again the QUT Law School was a sponsoring partner and the QUT conference facility proved to be a very beneficial venue from many points of view.

- In another successful venture on 26 July, we co-hosted with Griffith University a twilight seminar on the topic Teachers’ Responsibilities as Role Models and Out of School Activities: US and Queensland Experiences. Co-presenters were Prof Ralph Mawdsley of Cleveland State University USA and our Chapter Secretary, Mr Andrew Knott of Macrossans Lawyers.

- Following the success of our outreach to conduct professional development activities in regional Queensland in 2010, we collaborated with Catholic Education Office in Rockhampton for Elizabeth Dickson to present a seminar on Disability Standards for Education in April. Elizabeth backed up again in May at a half-day seminar in Cairns conducted in a partnership arrangement between ANZELA Queensland Chapter and Cairns Catholic Education Services. Her presentation on Negligence – The Law and Queensland Schools
together with a presentation by Dr Ben Matthews and Kerryann Walsh of QUT on their research into teachers’ reporting of sexual abuse drew a very appreciative audience.

Our links with the Queensland Independent Education Union and the Queensland Teachers Union have been very helpful in arranging seminars outside Brisbane.

➢ It is to the credit of our Chapter Committee members, Joy Cumming and Elizabeth Dickson, that they not only contribute significantly to Queensland based activities but also find a considerable amount of time to perform the role of editors of the ANZELA International Journal.

Once again the Queensland Chapter has been ably supported by Office Logistics in communicating our professional development activities via email and the website to our members and other stakeholders.

Financially we have managed break-even or better on each event and we are indebted to our Chapter Treasurer, Kathy Sawtell, for managing the books so efficiently to ensure that we are in a sound financial position.

This evening we begin our professional development activities for 2012 with the traditional AGM presentation to follow this meeting.

This evening we are looking forward to hearing Joy Cumming, Lisa walker and Geoff Newton speaking on the topic “Teacher Quality Standards: Legal Issues”.

Looking further ahead into 2012, plans are underway to conduct seminars in Toowoomba and Cairns and ANZELA Queensland Chapter will be sponsoring the Legal Studies Teachers’ Conference being held at Parliament House, Friday 27 April.

On 10 August 2012 we will conduct our annual one-day conference Updating Current Education Law Issues. Topics currently being considered include:

➢ Updates on Amendments to the Federal Age and Sex Discrimination Legislation.
➢ Implications of the Queensland Education and Training Legislation Amendment Bill 2011 which is designed to strengthen child protection measures in Queensland.
➢ Counselling and Confidentiality.
➢ The High Court decision on School Chaplaincy.
➢ Human Rights Education.
➢ Updates on the Legal Aspects of Cybersafety Education.
➢ Legal Questions to be Addressed Prior to the Establishment of the Qld Education Standards Authority (QESA)

We have a commitment to Catholic education Services in Cairns for a professional development day in May focussing on “Schools and Family Law” and an update on the revision of the Disability Discrimination Act.

At the Annual General Meeting of the national board of ANZELA last October, I was re-elected and I am pleased to advise that our Qld Chapter Secretary, Andrew Knott, was also elected to the board. Andrew has been a part of ANZELA from its beginnings twenty years ago and it is very fitting that he celebrates that anniversary by his reinvolveoment with ANZELA at national level.

In closing I would like to thank all members of our Chapter Committee especially our Secretary Andrew Knott who not only maintains our records very well but also provides the venue for our committee meetings at Macrossans Lawyers.

2011 was a year of steady growth for the Queensland Chapter and we look forward with confidence to 2012.

Mike Wilkinson
President
Queensland Chapter
Australia & New Zealand Education Law Association (ANZELA)