

## ANZELA Annual General Meeting 2021

### IJLE Editor's Report

I offered to edit the 2021 volume of the IJLE in July this year after the previous editors, Joan and Tryon, were unfortunately unable to continue in that role. After some time familiarising myself with the lay of the land, I have managed to make some progress towards publishing Vol 24.

I have created an email address that should be used for the IJLE, and can be passed on to future editors: [journal@anzela.edu.au](mailto:journal@anzela.edu.au). This also comes with cloud storage, which allows a **repository to be created for future use**. I have created an online peer review processes, so as to reduce timeframes and ensure anonymity. Reviewers are provided the manuscript in an online document; I can monitor when comments are made etc. I can also forward that completed document to the author without any of the reviewer's metadata existing there. The Reviewer fills out a confidential review form online.

I received 3 manuscripts that were already on hand. I had contacted these authors to see if they still wished to proceed with publication; 2 affirmed that they did, and 1 has not replied. Throughout the year, I received another 4 manuscripts; 1 was rejected while the other 3 proceeded to peer review.

As suggested by the previous editors, and determined by the board, the Journal was to move to a rolling online publication, whereby approved articles would be electronically available promptly to members. At the completion of the year, a compiled edition of all articles will also be made. Using this approach, 2 articles have already been sent out. I anticipate that another 3 will follow later this year or in January next year.

At this point, I would like to acknowledge the assistance of my QUT colleague, Dr Elizabeth Dickson, herself a long-time former Editor of this journal. I asked her to act as the Editor for the purposes of an article which I had submitted for consideration; she managed the peer review process for me, so that anonymity could be maintained throughout.

I would also like to thank those ANZELA members (and external persons) who have provided peer reviews. This work is essential to maintain the rigour of the IJLE.

I have contacted Austlii to have the 2019 and 2020 volumes uploaded there. I have also contacted the journal database AGIS (Attorney-General's Information Service) which is run through infoRMIT – the old ANZJLE has a presence there, but only in Education databases. There are some outstanding issues for consideration here (see end).

My intention in taking on the role was that it was to be a short-term solution. **Hence, I open the position up to expressions of interest to be made to the board.** If someone was interested, I am happy for you to take it on. Alternatively if someone wished to share the role, I would consider remaining on.

**John O'Brien**

**Acting General Editor**

**International Journal of Law and Education**

## **Business to be considered:**

### **1. Open-access?**

Currently the journal is provided to ANZELA members first. It is embargoed for a period (possibly 12 months, although I am not certain), before being published online for anyone to access.

It has been suggested that the journal should become completely open-access. A positive to this is that it would make articles more widely-accessible in a timelier fashion. (However, keep in mind that authors have always had the right to self-publish the 'final approved draft' – ie without JLE typesetting & pagination etc – on their own institutional repositories, which are also open-access. This is consistent with most academic journals.)

A potential negative is whether removing preferential access to the journal has (or should have) a flow-on effect to membership – are there sufficient benefits of membership if the journal is not one, especially as hard-copies are no longer produced?

Options for consideration

- (a) Status quo: publish journal first to members only, then on the internet after a period of:
  - i. 3 months
  - ii. 6 months
  - iii. 12 months

Authors may continue to self-publish the works which they retain copyright over.

- (b) Open access: journal is on our website, Austlii, AGIS etc, for all to see. There are other journals that publish this way, particularly those not controlled by for-profit companies, or with large subscription base.
- (c) Return to hard-copy journals for members; and either option (a) or (b) for non-members.
- (d) Something else.