

ANZELA

1. Australia New Zealand Education Law Association Ltd

ANZELA QLD CHAPTER

REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

21 APRIL 2016

Chapter Committee for 2015

<i>Chair</i>	Mike Wilkinson
<i>Deputy Chair</i>	Lisa Walker
<i>Secretary</i>	Andrew Knott
<i>Treasurer</i>	Kathy Sawtell
<i>Committee Members</i>	Elizabeth Dickson Joy Cumming, John O'Brien, Lisa Oldham, Annie Smeaton and Ross McSwan

It gives me great pleasure to present this report of the activities of the ANZELA Queensland Chapter for the period ending 31 December 2015.

Over the last twelve months, the Chapter has addressed the objectives of ANZELA quite comprehensively.

Undoubtedly the highlight of 2015 was the hosting of the ANZELA Annual National Conference in Brisbane which was undertaken at shorter than usual notice. Despite the later commencement of planning, the Queensland Chapter Committee enthusiastically and very competently embraced the role of Annual Conference Planning Committee and produced a conference which conference delegates declared to be highly successful and one of the best on record.

The conference featured a number of significant presenters but the delivery of the *Dr Anne Shorten Memorial Address* by the Hon Kate Ellis MP on behalf of the Federal Opposition Leader the Hon Bill Shorten, was a great moment.

Similarly, for the first time, a Chinese delegation from Beijing accepted our invitation to attend the conference. We were delighted to receive a presentation from Professor Suping Shen of Renmin University of China outlining the work in education law being undertaken by herself and her colleagues Assistant Professors Xiang Zhou and Yangong Ye. Now we are proud to have them as registered members of ANZELA Queensland Chapter.

Such was the enthusiasm generated by the conference that a small subcommittee of members proposed the revival of the Chapter newsletter but in a very sophisticated digital format. This has been accomplished and the first edition was published in March 2016.

The provision of high quality professional development on education law issues at reasonable cost to members and other clients continues to be our highest priority and in 2016 this included:

- A presentation at the 2015 AGM held at St Laurence's College, South Brisbane on Monday 16 March. Magistrate Jacqui Payne initially addressed the topic *Justice Reinvestment* and this was followed by a wide ranging discussion on some related issues.

- Once again the Chapter sponsored the Queensland Legal Studies Teachers Conference which was held in the *Undumb Room* of the State Parliamentary Annexe in Alice Street Brisbane on Friday 8 May. Newly elected Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland, the Hon Peter Wellington MP officially opened the conference and participants enthusiastically participated in a wide range of presentations and discussions. Presentations included:
 - *Perceived inconsistencies in sentencing* (The Honourable Tim Carmody - Chief Justice Supreme Court of Queensland)
 - *Family Law* (Michael Anglin - Salvos Legal Humanitarian Partner)
 - *Assange WikiLeaks and the liability of wiki providers for third party content* (Dr Richard Copp, Barrister and Corporate Advisory Specialist, Business Law Group, Griffith Business School)
 - *Native Title in Australia – Controversy, Success, Failures and Progress* (Professor Michael Weir, Faculty of Law, Bond University)
 - *Criminal Law/Human Rights* (Nick Clark, Chief Executive Officer, Rule of Law Institute of Australia and Jackie Charles, Education Co-ordinator, Rule of Law Institute of Australia)
- In collaboration with Catholic Education – Diocese of Rockhampton, ANZELA Qld Chapter continued its outreach to regional Queensland on Saturday 20 June 2015 with a one-day seminar in Rockhampton. Dr Elizabeth Dickson addressed the topic *Disability Standards for Education: the obligation to make reasonable adjustment and ramifications for schools* and Andrew Knott drew upon his considerable legal experience to present *Counselling Students – Legal Implications*.
- Because of the greatly increased workload arising from national conference organisation, the annual one-day conference *Updating Current Education Law Issues* was deferred until 2016.

We have continued our support for the Queensland Parliament's Annual Youth Secondary School Youth Parliament Program and the *Indigenous Parliament* Program.

Once again the Queensland Chapter has been ably supported by *Office Logistics* in national conference organisation and communicating our professional development activities via email and the website.

Financially we are in a sound position and we are indebted to our Chapter Treasurer, Kathy Sawtell, for her very efficient and effective management of our finances.

Looking further ahead into 2016, will be sponsoring the Legal Studies Teachers' Conference being held at Parliament House, Friday 29 April and we are hoping to revisit Cairns for a regional one-day seminar.

We are planning a twilight seminar in May at the Sunshine Coast and in August we will conduct our annual one-day conference which will focus on *Education Law in the Digital Age*.

At the recent Annual General Meeting of the national board of ANZELA last October in Brisbane, Andrew Knott and I were re-elected as directors.

In closing, I would like to thank all members of our Chapter Committee, especially Deputy Chair Lisa Walker, our Secretary Andrew Knott who has maintained our records very well and provided excellent support before and during the national conference and Kathy Sawtell our hard working Treasurer.

2015 was a very good year for the Queensland Chapter and we look forward optimistically to greater success in 2016.

Mike Wilkinson
Chair