

Centre Sponsors Launch of New Trafficking Report

The Castan Centre recently sponsored the launch of a new report on human trafficking, *Collateral Damage: The Impact of Anti-Trafficking Measures on Human Rights Around the World*.

The report, commissioned by the Global Alliance Against Trafficking in Women (GAATW), looked at the response of and anti-trafficking measures taken by eight countries: Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, India, Nigeria, Thailand, the United Kingdom and the United States. Because it tied in with the Castan Centre's current research project on human trafficking, it was natural that the centre should be involved in the Melbourne launch.

A number of speakers addressed the Friday morning gathering in Melbourne. Eleanor Taylor-Nicholson from GAATW spoke about the need for a human rights approach to trafficking which eschewed the current focus on law enforcement at the ex-

pense of trafficking victims.

Elaine Pearson, author of the report's Australia chapter, stated that Australia itself had failed trafficking victims.

Ms Pearson said that all victims of trafficking should receive temporary residence visas and that the provision of services should be transparent and victim-centred. Currently, assistance to victims is unhealthily tied to whether the victim is willing or able to provide assistance to police. Although the crime of trafficking must be punished, Ms Pearson said, the victims must also be protected.

Jenny Stanger, coordinator of the Anti-Slavery Project at the University of Technology Sydney, spoke on the situation in the United States, where she founded the Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Torture. She said that the US government had set a higher benchmark by interacting with community groups and taking their advice

when setting policy on trafficking. A collective effort is needed in order to really get to the heart of the problem.

Susu Thatun of World Vision, which also sponsored the event and Castan Centre Deputy Director Julie Debeljak introduced the event. The report received coverage in Australian and Thai newspapers and Professor Susan Kneebone of the Castan Centre was interviewed about the report and the wider issue of trafficking on ABC radio.

See page 14 for a report on the ongoing research project of three Castan Centre academics entitled "Australia's Response to Trafficking in Women: Towards A Model For the Regulation of Forced Migration in the Asia-Pacific Region". A copy of the report, *Collateral Damage*, can be found on GAATW's website at www.gaatw.net

Castan Centre Deputy Director Awarded his PhD

If you have ever wondered whether completing a PhD is difficult, just ask Castan Centre Deputy Director Adam McBeth. He was racing against the clock to finish his thesis before his first child, Jamie, was born in June. He ultimately achieved that goal, but saw some similarities in the two experiences. "The PhD had a much longer gestation than the baby and was just as painful in the final stages - they don't give epidurals for thesis completion after all - but both experiences have been extremely rewarding", said Adam.

Adam's thesis, entitled "Global Rules for Global Players: International Economic Actors and Human Rights" looked at the application of international human rights law to entities other than states operating in the international economic arena. This included multinational corporations, as

well as intergovernmental organisations such as the World Trade Organization, and financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

The basic argument was that international law should be approached as a holistic system, rather than compartmentalising it. Trade law, financial "rescue packages", development projects, foreign investment and so on should therefore be conducted within a cohesive international framework, which includes human rights.

It took Adam, who was supervised by Castan Centre Director Sarah Joseph, 5 years to complete the thesis while teaching and undertaking Castan Centre projects at the same time.



Adam speaking at a Monash Law event earlier this year.