

**AUSTRALIA'S FIFTH REPORT UNDER  
THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC,  
SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS (ICESCR)  
2010-2014**

**Appendix 9  
Human Rights Education - Additional Information**

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# I. INTRODUCTION

## *Purpose of this Appendix*

1. The Australian Government is pleased to present this Appendix to Australia's fifth report under articles 16 and 17 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).
2. The information in this Appendix is intended to supplement the material provided in Australia's fifth report under ICESCR. Specifically, this Appendix provides further information on Human Rights Education and should be read alongside the Australia's response to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights' Concluding Observation 34 of 12 June 2009 (E/C.12/AUS/CO/4).

## II. HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

### *Australian Universities' Human Rights Centres and Institutes*

3. A number of Australian universities have human rights centres and institutes which support Human Rights Education nationally, these include:

- Monash University's *Castan Centre for Human Rights Law*
- the *Australian Human Rights Centre* at the University of New South Wales
- the Australian National University's *Centre for International Governance and Justice*, and
- Curtin University's *Centre for Human Rights Education*.

#### **Castan Centre for Human Rights Law<sup>1</sup>**

4. The Castan Centre for Human Rights Law at Monash University promotes and protects human rights by generating and disseminating information on international and domestic human rights law.

5. In pursuit of this mission, the Centre works in the key areas of research, teaching, public education, policy and student programs. The Centre is a trusted voice on human rights. It actively participates in public debates and mentors many of the human rights leaders of tomorrow.

6. The centre is named after Ron Castan AM QC (1939-1999), who was a passionate advocate for the recognition and protection of human rights and a distinguished member of the Victorian Bar.

7. The current Director of the Castan Centre for Human Rights Law is Professor Sarah Joseph.<sup>2</sup>

#### **Australian Human Rights Centre at the University of New South Wales<sup>3</sup>**

8. The Australian Human Rights Centre at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) promotes public awareness and academic scholarship on domestic and international human rights standards, laws and procedures through research projects, education programs and publications.

9. The Centre brings together practitioners, research fellows and student interns from Australia and internationally to research, teach and debate contemporary human rights issues.

10. The Centre's research topics include:

- Business and human rights
- Civil society and international criminal tribunals
- Cultural heritage and human rights
- Digital media and human rights
- Disability and human rights
- Gender and the right to social security
- Health, sexual orientation and human rights
- Human rights, international law and security, and
- Trade, development and human rights.

11. The Centre also publishes the *Australian Journal of Human Rights*<sup>4</sup> and the *Human Rights Defender*<sup>5</sup> and hosts a number of seminars and events each year.

<sup>1</sup> Further information is available at: <http://www.monash.edu/law/centres/castancentre>

<sup>2</sup> Further information is available at: <https://monash.edu/research/people/profiles/profile.html?sid=1387&pid=2945>

<sup>3</sup> Further information is available at: <http://www.ahrcentre.org/>

12. The current Chair of the Australian Human Rights Centre's Steering Committee is Professor Andrew Byrnes.<sup>6</sup>

### **Australian National University Centre for International Governance and Justice<sup>7</sup>**

13. The Australian National University's Centre for International Governance and Justice (GIGJ) is dedicated to theoretical and practical issues in international governance, human rights and social justice.

14. CIGJ's research topics include peacebuilding, international law and human rights.

15. Established in 2005, the current Director of CIGJ is Professor Hilary Charlesworth.<sup>8</sup> CIGJ is also home to Professor John Braithwaite.<sup>9</sup>

### **Curtin University's Centre for Human Rights Education<sup>10</sup>**

16. Curtin University's Centre for Human Rights Education is committed to achieving, protecting and promoting human rights. The Centre for Human Rights Education provides a focal point for research, teaching and scholarly activity in the area of human rights education.

17. The Centre for Human Rights Education at Curtin University of Technology was established in January 2003 following the appointment of Professor Jim Ife as inaugural Haruhisa Handa Professor of Human Rights Education.

18. The Centre is multi-disciplinary. Unlike other human rights centres, it is not located within a Law Faculty, but within the Humanities Faculty of the University. It draws on scholarship, research and expertise from a variety of disciplines and professions, including philosophy, political science, sociology, education, health sciences, social work, law, international relations, psychology, anthropology, business and media studies.

19. The Centre also seeks to bridge the gap between scholarship and practice. The gap between the human rights scholar and the human rights practitioner/activist has too often inhibited the effectiveness of both, and a major focus of the centre is to develop a sound theoretical and conceptual base for human rights practice and education, while at the same time undertaking research and scholarship that is grounded in the reality of practice and of people's day-to-day experience of human rights.

20. The Centre also seeks to promote cross-cultural dialogue about human rights, and is based on the premise that ideas of human rights are not unique to western cultures and political/legal systems, but are present in all major religious, cultural and political traditions, as expressions of the essence of our common humanity. Dialogue across these different traditions can only increase and enrich our understanding of the human experience and of what is needed if we are to live in harmony and at peace in the world.

21. The current Director of the Centre for Human Rights Education is Professor Baden Offord.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Further information is available at: <http://www.ahrcentre.org/publications/ajhr>

<sup>5</sup> Further information is available at: <http://www.ahrcentre.org/publications/hrd>

<sup>6</sup> Further information is available at: <http://www.ahrcentre.org/staff/andrew-byrnes>

<sup>7</sup> Further information is available at: <http://regnet.anu.edu.au/research/centres/centre-international-governance-and-justice-cigj>

<sup>8</sup> Further information is available at: <http://regnet.anu.edu.au/our-people/academic/hilary-charlesworth>

<sup>9</sup> Further information is available at: <http://regnet.anu.edu.au/our-people/academic/john-braithwaite>

<sup>10</sup> Further information is available at: <http://info.humanrights.curtin.edu.au/>

<sup>11</sup> Further information is available at: <http://humanities.curtin.edu.au/about/humstaff/research.cfm/Baden.Offord>