



THE ASIA PACIFIC FORUM
OF NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS

...a partnership for human rights in our region

BRIEFING PAPER FROM

THE HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

11th Annual Meeting

Monday 31 July – Thursday 3 August 2006

Suva, Fiji Islands

**SUMMARY OF HREOC ACTIVITIES AND ISSUES
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SUMMARY OF HREOC ACTIVITIES & ISSUES

(AUGUST 2005 – JUNE 2006)

COMMISSION-WIDE

Anti-Terrorism laws

In September 2005, in response to the 'home-grown' terrorist attacks on London, the federal Government introduced a range of new powers, including:

- control orders and preventive detention orders;
- ministerial power to declare prescribed security zones and police powers to stop, search and question persons in relation to terrorist acts; and
- a new sedition offence.

Following the introduction of the *Anti-Terrorism Act (No.2) 2005*, the HREOC President said that it is vitally important that the federal Government adheres to human rights principles when developing new counter-terrorism laws.

The Commission made a written submission to the Senate Committee inquiry examining the anti-terrorism legislation and an oral submission on 17 November 2006. HREOC also held a series of public forums on the Bill and conducted a range of media interviews and opinion pieces to highlight issues with the Bill. The Bill was passed in 2006.

Bill of rights

A persistent feature of counter-terrorism legislation has been the expansion of executive power to make decisions which have the potential to infringe fundamental human rights *without* corresponding checks and balances.

In Canada, the United Kingdom, the United States and New Zealand questions about how to balance human rights and human security have been assessed in the framework of a domestic Bill of Rights. This has led to increased discussion on the need for a bill of rights in Australia and several states have introduced Human Rights Bills (ACT and Victoria).

The HREOC President said it is no longer acceptable for human rights considerations to be simply a chance incidental in the law making process. "What we need now is a debate about how to integrate human rights principles in the daily decision making of the legislature, and to ensure that human rights principles are reflected in powers which legislation gives

to the executive and, perhaps most contentiously, the courts or other reviewing tribunals.”

Death penalty

In November 2005, Australian citizen Nguyen Tuong Van was hanged in Singapore, the first Australian to be executed since Malaysia hanged Michael McAuliffe in 1993. There was considerable public debate about the use of the death penalty and the Australia Government’s position on this issue (although Australia has ratified the Second Optional Protocol, it has not yet been adopted into domestic law).

HREOC released a statement saying that there is no place for the death penalty in the 21st Century and that this was an issue where Australia could take a real leadership role and support the United Nations in its ongoing campaign to persuade countries with the death penalty to abolish its use in all circumstances.

WorkChoices legislation

HREOC’s Sex Discrimination Commissioner and staff provided oral evidence before the Senate Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Legislation Committee’s inquiry into the Workplace Relations Amendment (WorkChoices) Bill 2005 in Canberra on 17 November 2005. WorkChoices is the biggest reform to industrial relations laws in over a century, and the Commission expressed concern that the legislation may undermine the capacity of employees to balance their work and family responsibilities; does not contain sufficient mechanisms to advance pay equity or ensure equal remuneration for work of equal value; and may not adequately protect vulnerable employees.

The laws were introduced in March 2006.

With the introduction of the government’s *Work Choices* reforms, companies with fewer than 100 employees are exempt from unfair dismissal laws. HREOC has been running a campaign (‘Work out your rights’) to advise all businesses, regardless of their size, that they must still adhere to equal opportunity laws and affected employees (including casuals, contract workers, part-time and/or full-time) can still use unlawful termination legislation and make a complaint to HREOC.

RACE DISCRIMINATION

Cronulla riots

Over 5,000 people gathered at North Cronulla Beach in Sydney last December in response to a call to reclaim their beach from violent gangs responsible for attacking locals. Several people thought to be of Middle-Eastern background are violently attacked. Revenge attacks by Australians thought to be of Middle-Eastern background follow the riot at several Sydney beaches, including Cronulla.

The Race Discrimination Commissioner (RDC) and the Race Discrimination Unit (RDU) continues to attend a number of community meetings and forums, providing information to community groups and police, following the Cronulla riots. The RDC also made a presentation to a national symposium hosted by Griffith University entitled Responding to Cronulla: Rethink Multiculturalism.

Ongoing issues related to terrorism, racism & Muslim vilification

The Commission, the President, the RDC and RDU have responded to ongoing issues related to: terrorism, newly proposed anti-terrorism laws and their affect on civil liberties, the current climate of fear and suspicion between Muslim and non-Muslim communities in Australia, a proposed National ID card, questioning of the policy of multiculturalism, Islamic bookstores in Sydney and Melbourne selling literature that promotes jihad and the adequacy of legal protection from discrimination and religious vilification.

Education and strong leadership at a national, state and local level were seen as the keys to long-term change in the way Muslims are viewed in Australia. The President and RDC recommended that political and community leaders encourage Australians to uphold the multicultural values of mutual tolerance and respect for cultural and religious diversity.

Voices of Australia project

To celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Race Discrimination Act the RDU produced '*Voices of Australia*' to encourage greater understanding and friendship between people of different backgrounds through sharing the stories of their experiences.

The Commission produced a CD, and colour magazine featuring a range of selected stories which were distributed to community groups, libraries,

local councils, religious groups, government agencies and other groups around the country.

Face the Facts resources

The RDU also launched the 2005 version of Face the Facts, which provides factual, easy-to-read information about refugees and asylum seekers, migration and multiculturalism and Indigenous people.

Sport and Racism project

The Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (DIMA) has funded the Commission to survey and compile a list of the existing strategies to combat racism within sport that have been adopted by selected national sporting organisations, codes, government and non-government sporting agencies and human rights institutions.

The project also aims to gather any available baseline data on the level of participation by culturally and linguistically diverse communities and individuals in sport and gather any information on any projects which aim to increase CALD participation.

'Unlocking Doors: Muslim Communities and Police confronting discrimination'

The Commission held a series of forums in NSW and Victoria in June/July 2006 titled '*Unlocking Doors: Muslim Communities and Police confronting discrimination*'. *Unlocking doors* invited Muslims and Police together to look at experiences of discrimination and focus on solutions.

ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SOCIAL JUSTICE

The Social Justice and Native Title reports

The annual Social Justice and Native Title reports were tabled in Parliament on 14 February 2006. A launch and press conference was held in Canberra on 16 February, followed by a round of media appearances and other promotional activities. The reports attracted widespread support from Parliamentarians, the media and the NGO/Indigenous sector.

Indigenous land tenure debate

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commissioner argued in the *Native Title Report 2005* that the Australian Government's proposal to encourage individual leases on Indigenous land will not necessarily lead to improved economic outcomes for Indigenous people.

The report assesses the issues and the potential impacts of the Indigenous land leasing proposal, as well as providing some alternative economic development strategies and initiatives.

Implementation of new arrangements for Indigenous affairs

The *Social Justice Report 2005* examined the implementation of the new arrangements for the administration of Indigenous affairs, in a post-ATSIC environment, and considered whether they ensure the effective participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in decision making that affects their daily lives.

An integral component of the new arrangements has been the negotiation of local level agreements within Indigenous communities, known as Shared Responsibility Agreements (SRAs), which are based on mutual obligation principles.

"The SRA process is clearly an evolving one. Presently the SRA process appears to lack some of the key elements necessary to ensure appropriate engagement of Indigenous communities. In particular, there are not transparent frameworks for government accountability, with an absence of sufficient benchmarking or targets in many agreements," the Social Justice Commissioner (SJC) said.

Indigenous health equality campaign

In this year's *Social Justice Report*, the SJC sets out a campaign for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health equality within our lifetime, which seeks to build on existing policy frameworks and to learn from current successes and failings.

The campaign recommends that governments commit to achieving equality of health status and life expectation between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous people within 25 years. This proceeds from governments committing to achieve equal access to primary health care and health infrastructure for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples within 10 years.

Customary law

The issue of customary law conflicting with Territory law was raised following a Northern Territory case (*The Queen v GJ*) where concerns were raised (by politicians and the media) whether the sentence fitted the crime and the role that customary law played in this outcome.

The SJC said "Aboriginal customary law does not condone family violence and abuse, and cannot be relied upon to excuse such behaviour. Perpetrators of violence and abuse do not respect customary law and are not behaving in accordance with it. Aboriginal customary law must be applied consistently with human rights standards. At no stage does customary law override the rights of women and children to be safe and to live free from violence".

Indigenous violence and abuse of women and children

Media reports on violence and rape against women and children in Indigenous communities created responses from federal and state Ministers, including a forum to discuss proposed solutions (which the SJC attended).

At another forum hosted by HREOC and Reconciliation Australia to discuss Indigenous violence, the SJC said that governments need to work with communities and families to identify solutions to the socio-economic factors that impact on violence in communities, such as improved housing and living conditions, creating meaningful employment, recreation facilities and general community health education programs.

The Commission released an overview paper of research and findings by the Commission on this important issue in June 2006. The paper provides a summary of the key challenges in addressing family violence and abuse in Indigenous communities which have been identified and reported by the Commission from 2001 to 2006.

SEX DISCRIMINATION

Women, men, work and family

Work and family balance has continued to remain a hotly debated issue in politics and society. The Sex Discrimination Commissioner has continued to do a range of speeches, media interviews and opinion pieces on the topic and is seen as a national leader in the debate.

The SDC and members of the Sex Discrimination Unit (SDU) have completed their nationwide consultations following the launch of the discussion paper *'Striking the Balance: Women, men, work and family'* in June 2005. The paper explores men's and women's choices for balancing their competing work and family responsibilities.

A total of 37 consultations and focus groups have been held, consisting of 28 consultations with employer groups, unions and community representatives, and 9 focus groups with various groups of people. The SDU has received 181 written submissions from the public. The final report is near completion and will be launched later this year.

Trafficking in women

The SDU continues to monitor the situation in relation to trafficking of women in Australia, and has regular contact with NGOs, academics and government agencies. In December 2005, the SDC and the Director of the SDU met with the Thai Human Rights Commission in Bangkok. The Thai Commission has expressed interest in conducting some joint project work with HREOC in the near future.

Research on Gender, Pay and Conditions

The SDU, along with the National Foundation of Australian Women and Women's Electoral Lobby has commissioned research about the current position of Australian women in the workforce. The aim is to ensure that clear and current data about women's pay and conditions are available to assist researchers and policy makers to benchmark and monitor the effects of changes to workplace relations regulation for women. The research is expected to be completed later this year.

Australian Research Council linkage projects

The SDU, on behalf of HREOC, is participating as an industry partner in three Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage projects: 'Parental leave in Australia: Access, utilization and efficacy'; 'Impact of Parents' Employment on Children's Well-being: The influence of employment quality, time and activities with children'; and 'Research into Trafficking in People'.

AGE DISCRIMINATION

Since the introduction of the Age Discrimination Act in 2004, The Commissioner responsible for Age Discrimination has continued to present a range of speeches on issues surrounding age discrimination and alerting groups and organisations to the new legislation.

The Commission has also produced a range of resources and brochures to advise people of the new laws.

The Commission is also developing a public awareness campaign aimed at older people to raise awareness about age discrimination and what can be done about it.

DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION

Mental Health and Human Rights

The move away from placing people with a mental illness in institutions to one where they are cared for in the community was seen as a positive step in the treatment of mental illness more than a decade ago. However, the failure of successive governments to provide adequate community support prompted a crisis in caring for those with a mental illness.

The Commission, in conjunction with the Mental Health Council of Australia and the Brain and Mind Research Institute, conducted a series of consultations on mental health care, culminating in the ground breaking report *Not for Service: Experiences of injustice and despair in mental health care in Australia*. In response, the Council of Australian Governments agreed to tackle the problems highlighted by the report, announcing additional funding for mental health care of \$1.8 billion over 5 years. The National Action Plan which details exactly where that money will be spent was agreed on 14 July.

Employment and Disability National Inquiry

People with disability represent 16.6 per cent of Australia's working population but they participate in the workforce at much lower rates, they are less likely to be employed when they seek work and can expect to earn less if they get a job. The Commission conducted a National Inquiry into Employment and Disability and the final report was tabled in Federal parliament in February 2006.

The Inquiry found that more was needed to provide support, services and incentives to employers and to people with disability to ensure equality of opportunity.

Possible International Convention on human rights and disability

The Commission continues to take an active role in discussions about a possible international convention through its membership of the Australian Government delegation to a working group of the United Nations General Assembly.

Commissioner Innes will take part in the August 2006 session at which it is hoped a draft will be finalised for transmission to the General Assembly.

Access for People with Disability

The Commission is working in a range of areas to improve access for people with disability including:

- Following up from its July 2005 report on the progress of banks in making financial services accessible for people with disability
 - Working with industry and disability community organisations to increase the use of captioning at cinemas
 - Making recommendations to the Federal Attorney-General on amendments to the Copyright Act so more material can be produced in accessible formats for people with disabilities
 - Writing to relevant Ministers to seek a trial of electronic voting to make secret ballots a reality for people with a vision impairment
 - Working with the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and disability advocacy groups to increase the use of height-adjustable examination beds
 - Assisting in the development of a code to standardise information about features on telecommunications equipment
 - Working with the Australian Building Codes Board and others to promote improved access to buildings
 - Assisting in the development of the Disability Standards for Education which came into effect in August 2005
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HUMAN RIGHTS

Same Sex: Same Entitlements

In April this year, the Commission launched a National Inquiry into the discrimination faced by same sex couples in relation to financial and work-related entitlements. A discussion paper was released and by the end of June more than 340 submissions were received. Public hearings on the issue will be held around Australia between July and October.

The Inquiry will conduct an audit of State, Territory and Commonwealth laws that exclude gay and lesbian couples from financial and work-related benefits available to heterosexual couples. It will document the personal stories of people affected by those laws and make recommendations to Parliament for amendments to the laws to eliminate the discrimination. The Commission hopes to report its findings to the Federal Parliament via the Federal Attorney-General by early next year.

Migration Laws

The Commission has actively and consistently opposed planned changes to migration laws that would force all unauthorised arrivals to be deported from Australia to another country to have their claims for refugee status processed.

In addition to making a submission to a senate committee examining the laws, President John von Doussa and Human Rights Commissioner Graeme Innes have called on the Federal Government to not pass the laws and have issued media statements, written an opinion piece for a major Australian newspaper and taken part in media interviews on the issue.

Criminal record and Discrimination in Employment

Complaints received by the Commission over a number of years suggested that there was a lot of misunderstanding about the circumstances in which an employer could refuse to employ some-one with a criminal record.

The Commission developed guidelines to help employers – outlining the rights and responsibilities under the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission Act – and an information brochure for people with a criminal record. The guidelines were launched in November 2005.

Rights of Passage: Young People and Human Rights

Former Human Rights Commissioner Sev Ozdowski conducted a research project on what young people know about human rights. The project included a national survey of more than 1000 young people in schools and youth centres across Australia, focus group research with young people, an independent research project and a national human rights art and essay competition.

The resulting report "Rights of passage", released in late 2005, showed the need for specifically targeted human rights education programs and for greater guidance in navigating the wealth of information on human rights related topics.

National art and essay competition

Human Rights Commissioner Graeme Innes is conducting a national art and essay competition to assist young people to engage with human rights topics. The competition began in 2005 and is being run again this year with support from the Australian Red Cross.

EDUCATION

The Commission continues to promote its program for human rights education in Australian schools.

Early this year the Federal Attorney-General Philip Ruddock and Commission President John von Doussa launched the Commission's new webpage for secondary school students.

(http://www.humanrights.gov.au/info_for_students/index.html)

The online education resource aims to help students gain an awareness and understanding of human rights; their origin and history, the development of international human rights norms and contemporary human rights issues in Australia.

MONITORING

Monitoring human rights in Australia is one of the Commission's key functions. The Commission does this through the work of individual Commissioners and their policy units (see above) and via submissions to parliamentary committees, assessment of proposed enactments and other processes.

In addition to their primary purpose, the submissions and other papers are also used by lawyers as resource material; politicians and advocacy groups in public debate and to influence the political process and by students and other individuals with an interest in human rights.

In this way, the Commission monitors potential breaches of human rights and seeks to influence the political process to ensure that human rights protection is a paramount consideration.

Issues on which the Commission has made submissions over the past year include:

- Submission to a senate committee on criminal law relating to the use of video evidence – re: potential bias in taking video evidence, impairment of the right to a fair trial and inadequate safeguards against the use of evidence procured by torture or other cruel and inhumane treatment
- Submission to a senate committee on the Migration Amendment (Designated Unauthorised Arrivals) Bill – expressing concerns about breaches to CROC and undermining of obligations under ICCPR and “the Refugee Convention”
- Submission to a senate committee on the administration and operation of the Migration Act 1958 – re: discretionary power of Minister to grant asylum, health care and related services in detention, outsourcing of detention services and other amendments to the Act
- Submission to the Victorian (State) Human Rights Consultation Committee on a proposed Charter of Rights – what rights it should embody, application to the legislature and executive, scrutiny of legislation for human rights compliance and enforceable remedies for breaches
- Submission to the (federal) Attorney-General's Department on the importance of human rights safeguards in the review of Australia's extradition law and practice
- Submission to a senate committee on the Anti-Terrorism Bill (No.2) 2005 – re: its human rights implications
- Submission to the Security Legislation Review Committee in relation to terrorism offences under laws enacted in 2002 and 2003
- Submission to a senate committee about the Australian Citizenship Bill – and its impact on stateless persons, children and same sex partners of citizens
- Submission to a senate committee on a new defence law that allows the Australian defence force to protect States and Territories against domestic violence and to protect Commonwealth interest –

- expressing concerns that the Bill may not adequately safeguard the right to life
 - Submission to a senate committee about changes to electoral laws – expressing concerns about the disenfranchisement of voters who may already be marginalised e.g. prisoners, indigenous people, young people
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LEGAL AND LITIGATION ACTIVITIES

Interventions in court proceedings

HREOC has a statutory function whereby it can seek leave to intervene in court proceedings that raise human rights issues. During 2005-06, the Commission considered 12 potential intervention matters: seven of these matters came before the Commission at the request of a party to proceedings or a third party; and five were considered by the Commission's own motion. The Commission resolved to intervene in six matters and was granted leave to intervene in five of those matters.

In 2005-2006, the matters that HREOC intervened in included:

- a case before the Full Federal Court where it was alleged that the payment of wages from 1975 to 1986 to Indigenous people that were below those paid to other persons employed by the Queensland government who performed similar work was contrary to the *Racial Discrimination Act 1975* (Cth);
- a case heard by the Full Federal Court where it was established that requiring a profoundly deaf child to receive his secondary education in spoken English was contrary to the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (Cth);
- a coronial inquest into the suicide a prisoner with paranoid schizophrenia who was kept in segregated detention for almost two years rather than in the prison's psychiatric unit;
- ongoing proceedings before the Family Court concerning the application from parents for an order that they may lawfully authorise the medical treatment of their teenager relating to the condition of transsexualism.

Amicus curiae proceedings

Each of HREOC's Commissioners has a statutory function whereby they can with leave of the court intervene in proceedings before the Federal Court and Federal Magistrates Court that arose out of complaints of unlawful discrimination. During 2005-06, Commissioners have been granted leave to be amicus in three cases. These cases included:

- a case before the Federal Court relating to an application from a post-operative male to female transsexual that the state act that prevents her from changing her sex on her birth registration because she is married (which occurred before gender reassignment surgery) is discrimination under the *Sex Discrimination Act 1984* on the basis of marital status discrimination; and
- a case that considers the meaning of "assistance animals" in the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (Cth).

Reports to the Attorney-General of breaches of human rights

The Legal Section has also prepared on behalf of the Commission reports to Parliament relating to breaches of human rights or discrimination in employment that include:

- a finding that Federal prisoners' rights to freedom of expression were breached by the relevant authorities banning the distribution of a publication within prisons written by a prisoner action group;
- discrimination on the basis of criminal record against a job applicant whose application was rejected because she had a conviction for drink driving;
- a finding that the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade breached the right of a Falun Dafa activist to freedom of expression by withdrawing his invitation to attend a meeting at a government office when the Falun Dafa held a demonstration outside the government office.

COMPLAINT HANDLING SECTION

The President of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission is responsible for the Commission's complaint handling function. The President is assisted in investigating and conciliating complaints lodged under federal anti-discrimination and human rights law by staff of the Complaint Handling Section (CHS). Complaints can be accepted under the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission Act 1986 alleging a breach of human rights or alleging discrimination in employment under ILO 111 or alleging a breach of the *Racial Discrimination Act 1975*, *Sex Discrimination Act 1984*, *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and *Age Discrimination Act 2004*. Details of complaints received and finalised under each Act are below.

Complaints statistics 2005-06¹

	Received	Finalised
Racial Discrimination Act	259	196
Sex Discrimination Act	347	310
Disability Discrimination Act	561	512
Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission Act	124	104
Age Discrimination Act	106	80
Total	1397	1202

In 2006 HREOC conciliated 39% of the total complaints it received and 98% of complaints were finalised in under 12 months. The average time to handle a complaint was 6 months.

The CHS also manages the Complaint Information Service. In 2006 the service responded to 11330 enquiries from all over Australia. People can contact the Complaint Information Service either by telephone, TTY, post, e-mail or in person to obtain information about the law the Commission administers and the complaint process. As many enquirers are unsure which organisation can best assist them, the work of Complaint Information Service staff frequently involves providing contact details for organisations that can more appropriately deal with the enquirer's concerns. If the enquirer's concern is one that the Commission can deal with, the enquirer is provided with information on how to lodge a complaint and is either provided with the necessary forms or directed to the Commission's website and 'on-line' complaint lodgement facility

Community education & training

The CHS contributes to the Commission's function of promoting an understanding and acceptance of human rights through its community education activities. CHS staff undertake community liaison visits nationally and provide information about the law and the complaint process to wide range of individuals and organisations including business, education providers, state and commonwealth government agencies, advocacy groups, community organisation and legal services etc. In 2006 staff visited over 100 organisations.

¹ Provisional statistics as at 20 July 2006

Internal training

The Commission has two specialized training programs which provide knowledge and skills in statutory investigation and conciliation. All complaint handling staff are required to undertake these courses. The CHS also provides training in investigation and conciliation for other organizations.

During 2005-06 two investigation training courses and two conciliation training courses were held for Commission staff. The conciliation training course held in June 2006 was also attended by staff from anti-discrimination agencies in New South Wales, Tasmania, Northern Territory, Queensland and South Australia.

External training

In July 2005 a three day conciliation training course was developed and provided for staff of government agencies in the Northern Territory.

In May 2006 a three day course on investigating and resolving discrimination complaints was held in Melbourne for staff and management from a large private educational institution.

For the fifth year, the Commission has worked in partnership with the Australian Public Service Commission to provide a two-day investigation training course for federal public servants. This course, which is a variation of the Commission's standard statutory investigation training program, provides theory and skills that can be applied to the investigation of internal complaints and breaches of the Australian Public Service Code of Conduct. In the past year, seven courses have been delivered in various locations around Australia including Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra and Brisbane.

Research

The CHS regularly undertakes research with a view to better understand and improve the Commission's complaint handling work. During 2005-06 the CHS published a paper *"Five Years on: An Update of the Complaint Handling Work of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission"*. This paper outlined the findings of two research projects undertaken in 2004-05. The first project provided a follow up to previous research which considered the impact on HREOC's complaint function of the move in April 2000 to a court determination process for complaints. The second part of the report summarizes findings of a conciliator survey which provides current and detailed information about the CHS's conciliation process. The report can be found at http://www.humanrights.gov.au/complaints_information/publications/five_years_on.html

Papers and presentations

- *Conciliation in the Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination: Law Context: Possibilities,*

Parameters and Practice, National Community Legal Centre Conference in October 2006

- *Unlawful Workplace Behaviour?: Harassment & Bullying in Federal Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Law* Queensland Safety Forum Brisbane June 2006.

- *Alternative Dispute Resolution in the Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Law Context:*

Reflections on Theory, Practice and Skills Asia Pacific Mediation Forum in Fiji June 2006

International work

In 2006 the Commission's CHS was awarded a tender by the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions to provide training for staff of the National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia. This project involved the development and presentation of a three-day training course and was conducted in March 2006.