

2nd World Congress on Adult Guardianship

Guardianship and the United Nations Disabilities Convention:
Australian and International Perspectives



Melbourne, Australia: 15-16 October 2012

Hilton on the Park Hotel, Melbourne
(with optional workshops on 17 October)

Congress website: <http://agac2012.conorg.com.au>

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

**DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF ABSTRACTS
29 February, 2012**

Hosted by:

AGAC
Australian Guardianship and
Administration Council

In association with:

 **International
Guardianship Network**

Bringing together Australian and International experts in the ageing, disability and guardianship fields, this congress will consider the effect of the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* on national and international guardianship laws and practices.

The congress will provide an opportunity to assess the impact of the Convention in reforming Australian and International guardianship laws and practices six years after its adoption by the UN General Assembly and four years after ratification by Australia.

Your hosts will be the Australian Guardianship and Administration Council (AGAC), whose members are the key state and territory guardianship authorities and institutions (members include public advocates, public and adult guardians, public and state trustees, and boards and tribunals with guardianship jurisdictions). The congress is being developed in association with the International Guardianship Network (IGN).



Anita Smith (Convenor)
Chair, Australian Guardianship and Administration Council;
President, Guardianship and Administration Board, Tasmania

Congress Committee:

John Chesterman
Manager Policy and Education,
Office of Public Advocate, Victoria

Anne Coghlan
Deputy President, Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal

Tony Fitzgerald
Managing Director, State Trustees Ltd

Colleen Pearce
Public Advocate, Victoria

Keynote Speakers



Michael Kirby

When he retired in February 2009 as a Justice of the High Court of Australia, Michael Kirby was Australia's longest serving judge. His service began in 1975 and concluded with 13 years on Australia's highest appellate and constitutional court.

During the course of his judicial service, Michael Kirby dealt on several occasions with issues concerning guardianship and disability.

For many years he has been involved in human rights questions both in Australia and in the world. He served as President of the International Commission of Jurists (1995-8) and currently serves as a Commissioner of the UNDP Global Commission on HIV and the Law.

In 2010, Michael Kirby was named laureate of the Gruber Justice Prize, conferred in Washington DC.



Oliver Lewis

Oliver Lewis is Executive Director of the Mental Disability Advocacy Center, an international human rights organisation based in Budapest, Hungary.

An LSE law graduate, he undertook post-graduate studies in medical law and ethics before qualifying as a barrister and working as a research assistant on mental health law reform at the UK's Department of Health. As a non-practising barrister, Oliver is an associate member of the human rights barristers set Doughty Street Chambers, London. He is recurrent Visiting Professor in Law at the Central European University in Budapest, and is a faculty member of the International Diploma on Mental Health Law and Human Rights, run by the Indian Law Society in Pune, India.

Oliver has published papers on the interface of human rights law, public policy and disability. He serves on the editorial board of the European Yearbook on European Disability Law.



Denzil Lush

Denzil Lush has been the Senior Judge of the Court of Protection, based in London, since 1 October 2007, when the Mental Capacity Act 2005 came into force.

He qualified as a solicitor in 1978 and worked in private practice for 18 years before being appointed as a chairman of Social Security Appeals Tribunals in 1994 and Master of the former Court of Protection in April 1996.

He has written several books - *Elderly Clients: A Precedent Manual* (1996; 3rd edition 2010), *Cohabitation: Law Practice and Precedents* (1993; 4th edition 2009) and *Cretney & Lush on Lasting and Enduring Powers of Attorney* (6th edition, 2009) - and has contributed chapters to various medical and legal reference books.

He is a judicial member of STEP (the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners) and a patron of Solicitors for the Elderly.



Bernadette McSherry

Bernadette McSherry is an Australian Research Council Federation Fellow, a Professor of Law at Monash University, and the Director of the Centre for the Advancement of Law and Mental Health. She has honours degrees in Arts and Law and a Masters of Law from the University of Melbourne, a PhD from York University, Canada, and a Graduate Diploma in Psychology from Monash University. She is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Social Sciences and a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law.

Professor McSherry is a legal member of the Mental Health Review Board of Victoria and has acted as a consultant to government on criminal law, sentencing and mental health law issues. Currently, she is directing a team of 18 researchers working on a five year Federation Fellowship project entitled Rethinking Mental Health Laws examining legal frameworks for detention and treatment across common law countries. She is also part of an interdisciplinary research team analysing preventive detention regimes in Australia, Scotland and the USA.

Melbourne Australia

Regarded by many as the cultural capital of Australia, Melbourne is the perfect setting for our congress. A friendly, multicultural city located on the banks of the Yarra River, Melbourne offers excellent shopping, world class cultural events, and spectacular food and wine from over 3000 restaurants. You'll find endless rows of cafes and boutiques along the riverside at Southgate, in the lanes and streets of the city centre and inner-city bohemian neighbourhoods like Carlton, Fitzroy, St Kilda and South Yarra. Outside Melbourne, you'll find a host of regional attractions, from the Fairy Penguins to the spectacular Great Ocean Road.

For more information about Melbourne, check the following websites:
www.melbourne.citysearch.com.au www.melbourne.vic.gov.au www.visitvictoria.com.au

Congress Venue

Hilton on the Park Hotel, 192 Wellington Parade, East Melbourne.

Situated next to the beautiful Fitzroy Gardens and directly opposite the Melbourne Cricket Ground, Rod Laver Arena and Melbourne Park, Hilton on the Park Hotel is just a five minute walk from the city's downtown shopping and commercial district.



Yarra River, Melbourne



12 Apostles - Great Ocean Road



Fairy Penguins



Webb Bridge, Melbourne Docklands

International Guardianship Network (IGN)

www.international-guardianship.com

- IGN is a non-profit and non-government organisation.
- The missions of IGN are to provide support, information and networking opportunities for guardians worldwide and to put the legal proceedings of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities into practice. We initiate innovative projects and conferences. IGN is independent of political and religious ideologies.

Australian Guardianship and Administration Council (AGAC)

www.agac.org.au

- AGAC member organisations have a role in protecting adults in Australia who have a disability that impairs their capacity to make decisions.
- AGAC is comprised of:
 - Public Advocates
 - Public and Adult Guardians
 - Boards and Tribunals *and*
 - Public and State Trustees or their equivalents throughout Australia.

Invitation to attend

If you wish to be included in the mailing list to receive the advance program and registration brochure, please email us at: info@conorg.com.au (with "IGN" in the subject line and your postal address in the body of the email), or complete the following and return to:

The Conference Organiser
146 Leicester Street
Carlton, Victoria 3053,
AUSTRALIA

Name:

Address:

..... Post Code:

Email:

FIRST AND FINAL CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF ABSTRACTS: 29 FEBRUARY, 2012

Proposals are invited for the following:

- Papers (30 minutes including 10 minutes for questions/discussion)
- Papers (20 minutes including 5 minutes for questions/discussion)
- Symposia (90 minutes including 3 or 4 related papers)
- Posters
- Workshops (90 minute sessions)

Abstracts may include a consideration of:

- The operation or observance of the UNCRPD in guardianship and financial management, impact of human rights legislation on guardianship practice
- Fiduciary relationships, financial literacy and financial abuse, compliance by attorneys and financial managers/administrators (financial guardians)
- Duties upon guardians and administrators (financial managers) to report neglect and abuse, responses to abuse of people with disabilities
- Assessment of incapacity and legal responses to incapacity
- Supported decision making
- Consent to medical treatment for incapacitated persons
- The future of 'informal arrangements' in guardianship and financial management
- Personal appointments, enduring instruments

Please note:

Presentation of accepted abstracts is contingent on registration for the congress; persons whose abstracts are accepted will be required to register at least 6 weeks prior to the congress in order for their presentation to appear on the final program.

The template for abstracts can be downloaded from the congress website:

<http://agac2012.conorg.com.au>

Please forward abstracts, using the template, by email to:
info@conorg.com.au

or send on a CD to:

The Conference Organiser
146 Leicester Street
Carlton, Victoria 3053,
AUSTRALIA

Confirmation of receipt of abstracts will be emailed within 48 hours; if you do not receive this confirmation, please contact us.

Information

For further details regarding the congress and accommodation options, please see the congress website:

<http://agac2012.conorg.com.au>

or contact:

The Conference Organiser
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Carlton, Victoria 3053
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