

## NSW Chapter Report 2022

It is my great pleasure to present you the 2022 ANZELA NSW Chapter President's Report.

At the NSW Chapter AGM on 09 December 2021, Dr Tryon Francis was elected as the NSW Chapter president and presented his Doctor of Philosophy findings on Procedural Fairness Requirements in Decision-Making: Legal Issues and Challenges for Government Secondary School Principals in New South Wales. Approximately 20 people attended the online AGM and presentation.

The NSW Chapter has had 4 meetings this calendar year all via Zoom, and hosted one face-to-face seminar in May where the essay competition winners presented their papers and received their cash prizes of \$2,500 and \$1,000 respectfully. Approximately 25 people attended the seminar on Thursday 05 May 2022 at the NSW Teachers Federation, it was our first face-to-face education law seminar since the NSW lockdown in September 2021.

The topics and authors were:

- Vicki Geraghty – The dangers of an absence of policy regarding transgender and gender diverse sport in Australian schools;
- Michaela Melinz – Cyberbullying and duty of care; and
- Leah Anderson - Discrimination in the public educational learning and working environment and how it has gradually become a more poignant legal topic over time.

The seminar resulted in fruitful discussions where the authors actively engaged with ANZELA NSW Chapter members to discuss their research and ideas. All participants left with knowledge of current trends in facets of managing risks – gender diverse thought, cyberbullying and discrimination in schools.

Thanks to Lucy York, the NSW Chapter released its first newsletter which consisted of information on the essay competition winners, scholarship information, ANZELA National Conference, a summary of recent education law cases (special thanks to Jacquie Seemann), and a proposed online education law course to be offered free of charge in 2023 to all ANZELA members. The newsletter was sent to other chapter presidents for dissemination to their members. There has been some interest in the education law course from ANZELA members who have contacted Dr Tryon Francis directly.

The NSW Chapter co-hosted with the ANZELA National Board the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Australian and New Zealand Education Law Association conference at the NSW Teachers Federation building in Sydney. Katharine O'Donnell and Dr Tryon Francis were co-conveners.

The NSW Chapter funded 3 x individuals who have an interest in education law under the NSW Chapter Grants to attend the National ANZELA Conference in Sydney to the value of \$1,200 per recipient. The recipients were:

- Vicki Geraghty
- Thomas McCarthy
- Jason Bulfon

There was no winner of the Robert Horton Memorial Scholarship in 2022.

The following ANZELA NSW Chapter Committee Members were awarded certificates of appreciation by the ANZELA National Board:

- Jacquie Seeman
- Carol Howard
- John Boesenberg

The Dr Ann Shorten Doctoral Award for the best thesis in education law research was awarded to Dr Tryon Francis, ANZELA NSW Chapter President for his thesis entitled 'Procedural fairness requirements in decision-making: Legal issues and challenges for government secondary school principals in New South Wales.'

The chapter is in a sound financial position with one Business Transaction Account held at the Commonwealth Bank, and thanks goes to John Boesenberg for his hard work and dedication in the role of treasurer.

The Chapter could not proceed without the commitment shown by our dedicated committee:

- Joanna Ernenwein – Vice President
- Jacquie Seemann – Vice President
- Carol Howard – Secretary
- John Boesenberg – Treasurer
- Margaret Baker – Committee Member
- Angela Catallo – Committee Member
- Stephanie McLuckie – Committee Member
- Paul Robson – Committee Member
- Lucy York – Committee Member

A special thank you must go to Carol Howard who is the NSW Chapter secretary who coordinates the chapter meetings and diligently prepares the minutes.

It is with mixed emotions that I step down as president and a member of the NSW Chapter as I have moved back home to Perth. I will however continue to be involved with ANZELA as the Vice-President of the National Board in 2023. I wish the new committee all the best.

*Tryon Francis*

Dr Tryon Francis  
President, ANZELA NSW (including ACT) Chapter  
20 Oct 2022