

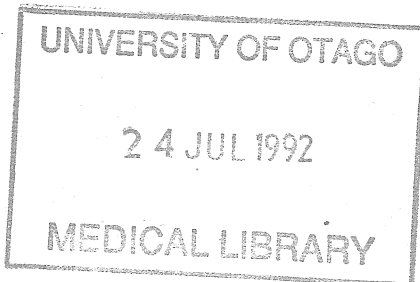


# NEWSLETTER

## Bioethics Research Centre

University of Otago  
Te Whare Wananga o Otago

Winter Term 1992



### Editorial

Welcome to our new look Newsletter! With the steady expansion of the activities of the Bioethics Centre, it seems an appropriate time to provide a more extensive coverage of topics than was possible in our simple one page format. We do not plan to add excessively to the volume of paper now produced about Bioethics in all its myriad forms, but we hope the slightly increased size will enable us to include a greater variety of items which will be of interest to our readers who are dispersed throughout New Zealand and in many countries overseas. We are introducing at the same time the category of "Friends of the Centre", which will enable individuals and institutions to use us as a specialised information service, as well as receiving the Newsletter on a subscription basis. These developments in our work are being facilitated by Barbara Nicholas, who joined the Centre staff this year in the combined roles of research assistant and doctoral candidate. Barbara will greatly welcome comments (directed to her at Centre's postal address or fax number) regarding desirable future developments of our publication and information services.

In this issue we are expanding our *Book Review* coverage - we shall keep a focus on New Zealand publications, which will be of interest to overseas as well as local readers. New Zealand has always put a major emphasis on exports, and we are happy to extend this to include ideas in bioethics! A second new feature is a *Case Conference* series, which will concentrate on cases encountered in the course of our consultancy or educational work in the Centre. Thirdly, a *Law Notes* column will appear from time to time, as legislation or legal cases

of international note come to our attention. In this issue we deal with changes to New Zealand's widely discussed no fault compensation scheme (the ACC legislation) as it affects the medical profession. We shall return to this in a later issue in terms of its effect on patients and on participants in health research.

In the next issue of the Newsletter (to be published in September) we shall have a major feature on the radical changes to health care delivery New Zealand, with various assessments of its positive and negative features. World wide attention has been paid to the State of Oregon's efforts to prioritise health care interventions: it is at least arguable that our Health Minister's commitment to a Core Health Services list is of equal international significance.

The regular features of our old Newsletter will continue in the new format. *At the Centre* will give an update of our research, public meetings and staff activities. *Travels Abroad* will describe the continuing international contacts of those associated with our work. And from time to time, *From my Bookshelf* will be used to introduce readers to standard texts in a specific topic area.

Finally, we will be pleased to use our expanded space to publish readers' views - though we would ask for brevity, to save us too much use of editorial discretion! We look forward to hearing from you about matters of concern in your perspective on bioethics.

Alastair Campbell  
Director

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Where does the Doctor's Responsibility lie?

The New Accident Compensation Act

"Medical Law in New Zealand" - a review