

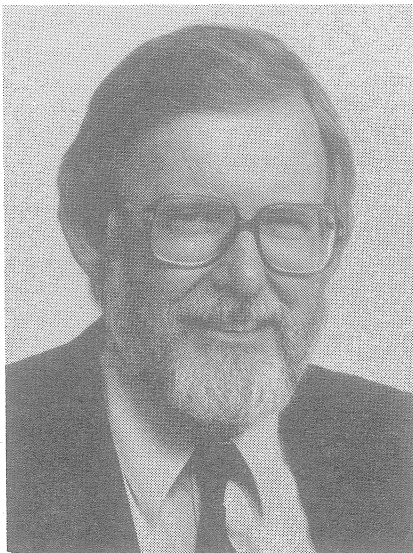
# NEWSLETTER

## Bioethics Research Centre

University of Otago  
Te Whare Wānanga o Otago

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### Editorial



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1993 promises to be a productive and interesting year for the Bioethics Centre and for bioethics in New Zealand as a whole. So far as the Centre is concerned, we have been delighted by the recognition of Grant Gillett's international reputation in his promotion to Associate Professor in Medical Ethics. Grant's recent sabbatical in the UK and Europe is described later in the *Newsletter*. The Centre will continue to expand, with a new appointment at lecturer level (see advertisement in this issue) and with planning underway for a new undergraduate course and for a wider range of postgraduate opportunities. In addition to all of this the Centre looks forward to hosting a major residential conference next November, combining it with a meeting of the Board of Directors of the newly formed International Association of Bioethics.

On the political scene the year promises to be as diverse and challenging as last year. The changes to the New Zealand Health Service continue at a rapid pace, with the new structures taking over in July. In the very near future we expect the Health Commissioner Bill in its final form and a position paper on the arrangements for Ethics Committees in the new system. We shall discuss these as soon as they are publicly available. Our Case Conference and our Readers' Views continue the debate we began in the September 1992 issue and we are delighted to have Dr David Seedhouse, the newly appointed Senior Lecturer in Medical Ethics in Auckland Medical School as one of our case commentators.

It is a special pleasure to welcome a whole new group of readers to the *Newsletter*. After I was interviewed by Sharon Crosbie on National Radio, a large number of members of the general public wrote expressing interest in our work and have enrolled as subscribers to the *Newsletter*. We hope that this issue will appeal to all our new readers. A vital part of our role is to involve everyone in an informed consideration of the issues researched and taught in the Bioethics Centre. Let us know if we are communicating well!

Our new readers may be especially interested in a comment by Ron Paterson, in this issue's *Law Notes*:

"...it is unfortunate that the first New Zealand decision on life support withdrawal contains not even a passing reference to what the patient would have wanted"

The philosophy of our approach to Bioethics is the same as that of William F. May's *The Patient's Ordeal*, which is reviewed in this issue. We believe that the patient's perspective comes first, though expert opinion is also vital. How can we *ensure* that the patient's voice is heard?

Alastair Campbell,  
Director.