



NEWSLETTER

Bioethics Research Centre

University of Otago
Te Whare Wananga o Otago

Volume 2 Number 3 September 1993

Editorial

Preparations for the forthcoming International Seminar on Bioethics are well in hand. Travel plans for the many overseas contributors are confirmed and registrations are beginning to flow in. More details about the programme are included elsewhere in the *Newsletter* and we hope many of our readers will be able to attend. The Conference has been designed to enable participants to attend all or part of the week, and to select those areas which are of particular concern to them. The Centre is pleased to be hosting an event which reflects so much of the variety and richness of Bioethics.

That same variety is apparent in the content of this issue of the *Newsletter*. Professor Skegg's article looks at "living wills". Many people feel some anxiety about losing control of their treatment options if they become unable to make or communicate decisions for themselves, and wish to know what action they can take to protect their interests in such an eventuality. "Living wills and New Zealand Law" addresses some of the present possibilities, and indicates some possible changes that would make the situation more satisfactory for both doctors and patients.

Much of the medical ethics literature has emerged from a doctor's perspective, and in response to the particular dilemmas they face. Belinda Hodge highlights some of the additional perspectives which nurses bring to the ethics conversation; the centrality of care; the importance of context and of acknowledging the vulnerability of both the patient and the professional; and the place of story.

In the wider political context, the conversations continue about the new health system. Alastair Campbell discusses the recent publications from



the Core Services Committee and the continuing discussions about priorities, justice and the core. New Zealand is not the only country grappling with these issues, but it is good to be aware of the distinctive features of the New Zealand debate.

Regular columns of *Case Commentary*, *Readers' Views*, and *At the Centre* continue. In *News and Notes* we help our readers to keep up to date with some of the initiatives and changes happening in Bioethics. Contributions to this column and to *Readers' Views* are always welcome.

Barbara Nicholas

Bioethics Research Centre

UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO

15 OCT 1999

MEDICAL LIBRARY

IN THIS ISSUE

Living Wills and New Zealand Law	page 2
Readers' Views	page 3
Case Conference	page 4
Practising within an Ethic of Care	page 6
Priorities, Justice and the Core	page 9