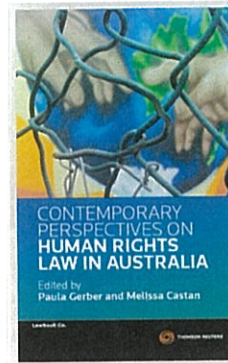


Contemporary Perspectives on Human Rights Law in Australia



**Paula Gerber,
Melissa Castan**

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With an excellent foreword by the Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG, this book includes 22 chapters which effectively canvas Australia's human rights landscape. It addresses the role of the High Court, Australia's engagement with the UN, marriage and gender equality, indigenous rights, the rights of "boat people", children's rights, abortion rights, and anti-discrimination law in Australia.

The book also has chapters on prisoners' rights, the need to balance religious freedoms with other human rights, counter-terrorism measures, Muslims in Australia, the right to a healthy environment, disability and mental health issues, and the protection and enjoyment of our economic, social and cultural rights.

Importantly, the final chapter is devoted to the very real need to include human rights education in the Australian school curriculum. The education of our nation's children lays the foundation for future generations and incorporating an awareness of human rights into that education is crucial if we are to ensure a fair, just, healthy, transparent and accountable Australian society. To this end, the writer argues that the Federal Government should adopt legislative and administrative measures and policies which mandate a compulsory human rights education within all Australian schools.

Gerber and Castan have done an excellent job in covering the human rights law field in Australia by securing well-written contributions from many of Australia's human rights illuminati — academics, political scientists, human rights advisers, lawyers, a social justice commissioner — and of course, Michael Kirby.

This book is highly recommended and is essential reading for any Australian lawyer with a social conscience.

Allison Ballard, Bradley Allen Love