

**'Education and regulation of lawyers: longer term influences on developing appropriate attitudes to access to justice.'**

Two major positive impacts on lawyers' willingness to improve access to justice are as follows:

1. Strengthening the moral base of legal education through clinical experience. Please see Best Practices Australian Clinical Legal Education

<http://www.olt.gov.au/project-strengthening-australian-legal-ed-clinical-experiences-monash-2010>

Briefly put, clinical experience helps law students identify themselves as able to play a role in improving access to justice and strengthens their determination to ensure that ordinary Australians have that right of access.

2. Access to justice is progressively impeded as law students are cultured over several years to accept that they are entitled on graduation to have access to very significant incomes, regardless of the inaccessibility of their products and services to many in the community. 6 minute billing sums up this view. Traditional efforts to moderate this expectation focus on a compulsory legal ethics subject in law school, but this subject is often flawed, in that its emphasis is on compliance with professional conduct rules as rules, rather than on the underlying morality of actions or inaction.

In fact, serious legal and general ethics education of lawyers is always ignored until there is a Royal Commission or other major enquiry, eg, HIH Insurance, Cole on James Hardie, AWB, and perhaps, during 2014, into the RBA.

There is little general morality or even general legal ethics education during law school and certainly none post law school in the PLT phase of legal education.

There is accordingly, a need for ethics awareness and assessment, from law school to grave. See Adrian Evans and Helen Forgasz, 'Framing Lawyers' Choices: Factor Analysis of a Psychological Scale to Self-Assess Lawyers' Ethical Preferences' (2013) 16(1) Legal Ethics 134.

In summary, serious investments on clinical methodology and underlying ethical assessment are likely to positively address and support future lawyers' attitudes to access to justice, so that more lawyers value such access at least as much as they do their opportunity to earn an income.'

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