

Book review

Disputes and dilemmas in health law

Freckleton I, Petersen K (eds)

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THIS BOOK COUPLES the contentious areas of health law and ethics related to health care. The book skilfully examines ethical frameworks that inform decision making, as well as the requirements of statutes from a number of jurisdictions in Australia, and relevant case law which has set the precedents in Australian civil jurisdictions.

With nationally and internationally acclaimed contributors, the editors of this book have put together a magnificent work which sets out a number of dilemmas in health law, examining such issues as:

- Ethical frameworks and dilemmas, with a refreshingly original examination of moral frameworks in health care, and, further, a pragmatic and helpful exposition on the difficult areas of advanced health directives, capacity, and assessment of competency in areas of paediatric and geriatric practice.
- Human rights and legal theory underpinning public health law, with an enlightening approach from the consumer perspective as well as outlining the rights and obligations of the health care practitioner and health care organisations.

Additionally, the book examines responsibilities and liabilities with respect to reproductive

health and technologies, and undertakes a very necessary examination of genetic research. While there have been numerous publications on end-of-life decision making and associated matters, various chapters in this book examine a number of surrounding, poignant issues in a pragmatic way.

A number of contemporary issues related to the changing area of medical malpractice liability and

the outcomes of the Ipp reforms are also discussed plainly and practically to assist health care practitioners and organisations in understanding the complicated outcomes that have emerged. Finally, the difficult and contentious areas of regulation of health care practitioners, quality and safety, privacy, and information security are all detailed sufficiently for robust examination, but described simply.

This book will be a valuable asset to any professional or personal library and contributes greatly to the body of knowledge that currently exists in this area of constantly changing law and emerging technologies and issues.

Reviewer rating: ★★★★★

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