

UNIVERSITY OF CANBERRA SCHOOL OF LAW

POTENTIAL HIGHER DEGREE BY RESEARCH (HDR) STUDENTS: DEVELOPING YOUR RESEARCH PROPOSAL

We welcome your interest in pursuing a Higher Degree by Research in the School of Law. So that we can properly assess your application, and our ability to link you with the necessary expert(s) within the School and the Division, your proposal should include:

- Your academic CV, and
- Details of the four main elements of your research proposal.
- These elements, which should be dealt with separately, are:

1. Developing your synopsis (indicative length 2,000 words)

Thesis: what is your argument going to be? What is the counter argument? Why is it a novel point worthy of an HDR? What might your conclusions include or involve at this very early stage?

2. Considering the sources of law and methodological tools (up to 2,000 words)

In terms of primary sources, what will be the main sources of law (cases, statute etc) that you will examine, and that will form part of your analysis? In terms of secondary sources, what are the main journal and refereed articles you will rely on?

If you are using cases, how do you propose to use them? For instance, you could engage in either qualitative or quantitative analysis of judgments - identifying, recording and analyzing key variables.

Does your hypothesis lend itself to empirical research such as variable analysis in cases, observation, surveys or interviews? If so, explain what methods you propose to use and provide a timetable for developing any instruments and submitting an application to the Committee for Ethics in Human Research (CEHR). See

<http://www.canberra.edu.au/research/ethics/human>

3. Starting a basic literature review (up to 2,000 words)

Summarise the main sources of law and discussion/scholarship in the intended field of research. A literature review demonstrates you have begun reading and analysing the main published work and sources, regarding your intended topic or research problem. Typically a full literature review will comprise part of your thesis.

4. Developing your bibliography (up to 2,000 words)

Who are the main authors/experts/scholars in the field?

List at least ten major reference pieces e.g. recent refereed journal articles, leading scholarly texts etc that touch on, or are relevant, to your proposed research.

Returning your proposal

Please e mail your completed proposal and your academic CV to:

**Associate Professor Andrew Clarke,
School of Law, HDR co-ordinator**

Andrew.d.clarke@canberra.edu.au

Thank you.

Andrew Clarke, 23 January 2007