

FORUM

INTERNET CONTENT CONTROL: PERSPECTIVES ON THE BROADCASTING SERVICES AMENDMENT (ONLINE SERVICES) ACT 1999 (CTH)

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FOREWORD

The object of *Forum* is to encourage thoughtful and intelligent debate on issues relevant to the law. Vigorous argument and analysis of current affairs is often impossible in the general media, and it is hoped that the provision of a separate arena, such as *Forum*, devoted to discussion of legal matters by the legal community, will promote better awareness and understanding of such issues within academic, professional, judicial and other circles.

This *Forum* presents a variety of perspectives on the recently enacted *Broadcasting Services Amendment (Online Services) Act 1999* (Cth). The legislation, and its expected impact, is particularly worthy of our consideration because it represents the first attempt by an Australian government to regulate Internet content, and it is among the first of its kind in the world. Further, government regulation of Internet content raises important issues relating to (among other things) freedom of speech, censorship, globalisation, protection of children and e-commerce. The diversity of viewpoints contained in this issue of *Forum* is testimony to the new and contentious nature of the subject matter.

I am grateful to Professor Michael Chesterman and Julie Eisenberg for their advice at this project's inception. I would also like to thank Leonie Draper for her technical assistance and the members of the Editorial Board for their enthusiasm and support.

Forum epitomises the goal of this Journal to be topical, incisive and useful. I sincerely hope that this edition of *Forum* succeeds in each of these respects and that the reader enjoys the debate and discussion it contains.

* Editor, General Issue 23(1) and *Forum*.