

Leading Issues Journal July 2007

Global Issues

The State of the World's Children 2007

The State of the World's Children 2007 examines the discrimination and disempowerment women face throughout their lives – and outlines what must be done to eliminate gender discrimination and empower women and girls. It looks at the status of women today, discusses how gender equality will move all the Millennium Development Goals forward, and shows how investment in women's rights will ultimately produce a double dividend: advancing the rights of both women and children.

The report starts by examining the status of women now (chapter 1), then discusses equality in the household, in employment and in politics and government (chapters 2-4) before outlining how to accelerate progress and thus produce the double dividend of gender equality (chapter 5). The five chapters are available in separate PDFs. The website also features video and multimedia material.

Read the full text of [The state of the world's children 2007: women and children the double dividend of gender equality](http://www.unicef.org/sowc07/report/report.php) at <http://www.unicef.org/sowc07/report/report.php>

Source: Unicef

Child Labour in Agriculture





In June 2007 the International Labour Organization (ILO) joined forces with five key international agricultural organizations to launch a new landmark global partnership to tackle child labour in agriculture by 2016.

Members of the new partnership are: the ILO, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP) and International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations (IUF).

Worldwide, agriculture is the sector where by far the largest number of working children can be found – an estimated 70 per cent, of whom 132 million are girls and boys aged 5-14. These children are helping to produce the food and beverages we consume. Their labour is used for crops such as cereals, cocoa, coffee, fruit, sugar, palm oil, rice, tea, tobacco and vegetables. They also work in livestock raising and herding, and in the production of other agricultural materials such as cotton and cottonseed.

Exposed to the same hazards as adults in agriculture, the risks to children are even greater because their bodies and minds are still developing and they lack work experience. In some cases, work begins for children as young as five, and children under 10 years account for 20 per cent of child labour in some rural areas, according to estimates by the ILO-International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC).

Lack of, or poor education, reduces the children's hopes for a better future. The problem is exacerbated as many agricultural child labourers are from rural families who constitute two-thirds of the world's poorest people. Girls working in agriculture carry a special burden. Undertaking household chores prior to going to work in the fields as well as upon returning from them, the long hours of work can lead to physical and mental exhaustion, negatively impacting the health and well being of girl child labourers.

Key areas of cooperation for the new partnership are policies and activities to promote the application of laws on child labour in agriculture, especially to ensure that children do not carry out hazardous work in agriculture; improve rural livelihoods, and mainstream child labour issues into national agricultural policies and programme; reduce the urban, rural and gender gap in education; and promote youth employment opportunities in agriculture and rural areas.

The worst forms of child labour, which include hazardous work, commercial sexual exploitation, trafficking of children and all forms of slavery, among others, should be abolished as a priority.

IPEC has launched an education and social mobilization initiative, to help educators worldwide promote understanding and awareness of child labour among young people. "**SCREAM Stop Child Labour**" at <http://www.ilo.org/ipec/Campaignandadvocacy/Scream/WhatisSCREAM/lang--en/index.htm>

Source: International Labour Organisation (ILO) Geneva; Photos: ILO Child Labour Day June 07 Campaign Poster

Are Americans Ready to Elect a Female President?

Past Statewide Elections Suggest Gender Is Not an Obstacle -- at Least for Democratic Candidates

by Andrew Kohut, President, Pew Research Center
May 9, 2007

When evaluating Sen. Hillary Clinton's 2008 prospects, one question remains inescapable: Are voters ready to elect a female president? On one level, the question would appear to be settled. In February, Gallup found 88% saying they would vote for a well-qualified woman for president. Contrast this with public opinion in 1969, the year Clinton graduated from Wellesley College. At that time, just 53% said they would support a well-qualified female presidential candidate.

As to opinion of Clinton herself, surveys by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press and other national polling organizations show a consistent gender gap in her support. Recent *Newsweek* surveys show that in a hypothetical contest against Republican frontrunner Rudolph Giuliani, half of female voters, compared with just 44% of male voters, said they would vote for Sen. Clinton.

*{Are Americans Ready to Elect a Female President?
cont'd}*

Hillary's Gender Gap No Larger than Normal			
	Female voters	Male voters	Gender gap
<i>2008 election between...*</i>	%	%	
Hillary Clinton	50	44	+6
Rudy Giuliani	44	50	
Other/DK	6	6	
	100	100	
<i>In statewide races with...**</i>			
Female Democrat	55	47	+8
Male Republican	43	50	
Other/ Didn't vote	2	3	
	100	100	

* Combined data from Newsweek surveys in March and May, 2007.

** Average vote shares in 40 statewide races for Senate or Governor between 1998 and 2006 with available exit poll data.

A gender gap in opinions of Hillary Clinton is not new. It has been apparent since she rose to national prominence as one of the most politically involved first ladies in history. The pattern has been so consistent for such a long time, it raises the question of whether this is strictly a Clinton phenomenon, or whether it is characteristic of how American voters generally respond to female candidates.

Around the world, women are no strangers to contests for the top leadership position - France's Ségolène Royal being only the most recent, though unsuccessful, contestant. And women have been victorious in such elections in countries as varied as India (Indira Gandhi), Israel (Golda Meier), and Great Britain (Margaret Thatcher). But elections in other countries offer little or no guidance as to likely U.S. voter reactions to a female candidate among either men or women.

A better guide may be voting patterns in statewide elections. While these are not necessarily indicative of voters' willingness to support a woman in a nationwide presidential contest, they are probably the most relevant indication of the mindset of the current American electorate in this regard.

Female Democratic Candidates Fare Better than Males			
<i>When the Democrat running against a male Republican...</i>			
	Is a	Is a	
Average	woman	man	<i>Diff.</i>
election outcome	%	%	
Democrat	51	47	+4
Republican	46	50	
Other	3	3	
	100	100	
Female voters			
Voted Democratic	55	49	+6
Voted Republican	43	47	
Other/Didn't vote	2	4	
	100	100	
Male voters			
Voted Democratic	47	43	+4
Voted Republican	50	53	
Other/Didn't vote	3	4	
	100	100	
Number of races	40	55	
Overall results show average of actual election outcomes. Results for female and male voters from exit poll results.			

A new Pew analysis of voting patterns for female

Democratic candidates for U.S. senator and state governor in recent years suggests that the gender differences in support for Clinton at this early stage in the campaign are, on average, typical for Democratic women who run for statewide office. Pew examined exit polls from 40 senatorial and gubernatorial elections since 1998 in which a female Democratic candidate faced a male Republican. On average, the female Democratic candidates captured the votes of 55% of women compared with 47% of men; the average eight-point gender gap in these contests is identical to that in the match-up between Clinton and Giuliani in the Newsweek survey.

When the 40 races involving female Democrats are compared with a control sample of elections from the same regions involving male Democratic candidates, the Democratic women performed at least as well as the men. On average, Democratic female candidates for senator and governor won 51% of the vote in their elections; Democratic male candidates in the control group won 47% of the vote.

There are no signs that female Republican candidates receive a similar advantage. In the 15 races observed where a female Republican faced a male Democrat, the Republican women did no better than a comparable sample of male Republican candidates. More specifically, women voted for female Republican candidates about as often as they did for male Republicans.

Patterns of gender support in Senate and gubernatorial races suggest that the strong backing that Mrs. Clinton is getting from women is typical for female Democratic candidates for high office. Whether this will extend to the presidency remains an open question. When voters are asked to resolve the question, 13% said they would be more likely to support a female presidential candidate while 11% said they would

be less likely to vote for her. And there was the familiar gender gap in response even to this hypothetical question. By a margin of 19% to 7%, women said they would be more likely, rather than less likely to vote for a woman. Men split evenly on the question.

Methodology

The analysis of statewide election results for male and female candidates combines election outcomes and exit poll results for all races in which one candidate was female in the election years 1998, 2000, 2004 and 2006 (2002 was omitted because of problems with the exit poll data that year). This resulted in 55 Senate or gubernatorial races, 15 with a female Republican vs. a male Democrat, 40 with a female Democrat vs. a male Republican. Races with two female candidates were separated from this analysis. Another 55 races with two male candidates were selected to serve as a control group for the analysis. To ensure comparability, states were stratified regionally, and male vs. male statewide races were randomly within each region in proportions that mirror the share of female vs. male statewide races from each region of the country.

An elected House of Lords?

British MPs have voted in favour of an entirely elected House of Lords. Though the vote was not binding, the strength of the backing for an entirely (or almost entirely) elected upper house has sent a clear message to government. The proposals were subsequently strongly rejected by the House of Lords.

Source: BBC

National Issues

Climate Institute of Australia

In what is believed to be world first, 16 Australian faith communities representing the world's great religious traditions have united to speak out on climate change.

The climate change debate has tended to be dominated by the language of science. The 2006 Stern Report from the UK began to extend the discussion to the economic effects of global warming.

But for most of us, the fate of the planet as a result of global warming is really a moral issue. Climate change is ultimately about what it means for people - especially children - and the whole creation. In what is believed to be a world first, 16 Australian faith communities representing the world's great religious traditions have united to speak out on climate change.

Read the full text of [Common belief: Australia's faith communities on climate change](#) (PDF file)

Australia off the track with Greenhouse Pollution

Australian governments are losing the fight against greenhouse pollution. Since 2004 energy emissions have increased by the equivalent of nearly 50% of all the cars on Australian roads according to new analysis by one of Australia's leading energy experts released by The Climate Institute today.

Based on data released 27 April 2007, the Climate Institute of Australia states that:

- Australia's energy consumption emissions have increased by 22.5 million tonnes. This is the equivalent of adding more than five million cars to Australia's roads, or nearly 50% of the national car fleet.
- Greenhouse pollution increases in 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 are above Australian Government projections over the same period indicating current government policies are not having the desired impact.
- Even with Government projected trends, total emissions in 2010 will be more than 110% of 1990 emissions and it is looking increasingly unlikely that Australia will meet its goal of meeting its Kyoto target of 108% of 1990 emissions.

Read the full text of [Australia off track - fact sheet](#) (PDF file) at <http://www.climateinstitute.org.au>

Australia's Uranium

With the release of the draft Switkowski report 'Uranium mining, processing and nuclear energy—opportunities for Australia?' and the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Industry and Resources report 'Australia's uranium - greenhouse friendly fuel for an energy hungry world' the use of nuclear power to reduce greenhouse gas emissions has taken greater prominence in debate.

In this context, Australia's large resources of uranium - the feedstock of nuclear power - will become more important. In addition, the growing gap between supply and demand for uranium is driving world prices higher, ultimately to the advantage of Australia's uranium miners.

This note examines the issues of Australia's uranium in the context of world supply and demand, shows why world prices are rising, and looks to the future of the uranium industry in the environmental debate over greenhouse gas emissions.

Read the full text of Australia's uranium (PDF file) at <http://www.aph.gov.au>

Women Entrepreneurs: 18 Inspiring Tales of Small Business Success

This 2007 publication captures the journey of a remarkable group of Australian businesswomen, including Goodfellow, as they have shrugged off floods, redundancy, health problems, family traumas and a myriad of other challenges to succeed in their chosen fields. They cover the gamut of business sectors: niche farmers in Tasmania, a shoemaker to the stars of Broadway, a rose-petal grower in Victoria, a store owner in the Gulf of Carpentaria, a renowned international chef and an innovative IT expert, among others.

The book highlights some of the key challenges that women, in particular, face in everyday business and, more importantly, how they have overcome adversity.

Goat farmer Lorraine Mance tells how she has defied medical diagnoses to set up as a multi-award-winning producer of goat and cow cheeses and yoghurts in Tasmania. Now in her late 60s, she has overcome polio and rheumatic fever as a child and ongoing adult ailments to achieve business success. Mance's only regret is that she did not start earlier: "One of the things that has sort of held me back has been other people saying 'you can't do that'. You have to be convinced that you can do it, despite all the predictions. If you believe in yourself ... then that is the way your business should go."

There are those stories and more.

The book is a combined project of the Australian Government's Office for Women in the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and the Office of Small Business in the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources.

Women Entrepreneurs provides some brilliant information for all businesses: pricing and cash-management advice, recruitment and retention tips, business planning and leadership strategies, staff management guidance and suggestions about tapping into government support services.

Read the full text of [Women Entrepreneurs](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/women/overview/Pages/default.aspx) (PDF file) at <http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/women/overview/Pages/default.aspx>

The 1967 Referendum—history and myths

John Gardiner-Garden / Research and Information Service, Parliamentary Library

The significance of the 1967 referendum has been obscured by popular myths. These include that it was whole-heartedly supported by both sides of politics, that it conferred the vote, equal wages and citizenship on Indigenous Australians and that it ended legal discrimination. None of this was the case explains John Gardiner-Garden.

Read the full text of The 1967 Referendum—history and myths (PDF file) at

<http://www.aph.gov.au/Library/pubs/RB/2006-07/07rb11.pdf>

Report of the Task Group on Emissions Trading at

<http://www.dpmc.gov.au/publications/emissions/index.cfm>

Task Group on Emissions Trading / Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet

This report outlines the state

of play in international cooperation on climate change and the possible development of emissions trading at the global level. Against this background, the report outlines a proposed Australian domestic emissions trading scheme, together with a set of complementary policies and measures.

Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2007 Indigenous Report at <http://www.pc.gov.au/gsp/reports/indigenous/keyindicators2007/index.html>

In April 2002, the Council of Australian Governments commissioned the Steering Committee to produce a regular report against key indicators of Indigenous disadvantage. This report has the long-term objective of informing Australian governments about whether policy programs and interventions are achieving positive outcomes for Indigenous people.

Community concern over Australia's anti-terror laws

National survey at

http://www.amnesty.org.au/data/assets/pdf_file/57359/Summary_of_local_survey_results.pdf

reveals low level of awareness and high level of concern about Australia's anti-terror laws.

In mid-2006 Amnesty International Australia commissioned Roy Morgan to survey the Australian public's knowledge of and attitudes towards the new anti-terror laws, which were introduced by the government in 2005.

- Results showed that most Australians consider that they have moderate knowledge (58%) about their human rights under Australian law. Overwhelmingly, Australians agree that they have the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty (95%) and the right to a lawyer of their choice (90%) under general criminal law. However, the majority of respondents were not aware that these rights may not be available under the new anti-terror laws.

Better conditions, better business:

A report on carer and family friendly provisions in Australian small and medium enterprises

looks at carer and family friendly provisions offered by small and medium enterprises, with positive results found for both employees and employers. It draws upon survey data from the Sensis® Business Index, which surveys 1,800 small and medium enterprise (SME) operators.

Read the full text of [Better conditions, better business: A report on carer and family friendly provisions in Australian small and medium enterprises](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/women/overview/Pages/default.aspx) (PDF file) at <http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/women/overview/Pages/default.aspx>

Give us more services, not just money bribes says national women's organisation

"Women will not go back to work because of small tax cuts and a slight rise in child care rebates," said WEL spokeswoman Eva Cox. "Funding and finding quality care are essential for mothers of preschool children to take up paid work and this budget

does nothing to assist either of these. Thank you for finally paying the 30% tax rebate just after the money is paid out rather than a year later but that is just redressing a previous policy blunder.

More affordable care doesn't help if you can't find what you need for your child. A \$5 tax cut doesn't cover the costs of going to work."

The above problems are mirrored in many other areas where money is given rather than funding for services. The Treasurer claims he is fixing education 'by giving money to parents, students and teachers', but not to schools, universities or TAFE. An auction for top dollar gains for voters through tax cuts, and user-pays subsidies, fails to acknowledge that better education, children's services and skills training require the funding of institutions. But universities, TAFEs and other collective services don't vote, individuals do, so the government offers top dollars to people, not institutions.

Like any marketing measure, it targets consumers, not citizens. The extra funding is plentiful: money to parents for tutoring illiterate children but not for their schools; cash bonuses for teachers who do summer courses or prizes for schools who raise standards but no ongoing funding support; payments that reduce child care costs (slightly) but do nothing about quality costs and distribution of services. Not much is on offer for ongoing funds for any forms of collective delivery of services through schools, universities, community or health facilities.

WEL thought there may have been some programs to support women with children to move into paid work. Tax cuts and training bribes don't create better work life balance or ensure access to quality care services. There is nothing extra for sole parents and others dependent on government payments.

There is no money for family time stresses, new child care or other support services. This was the year to fund the long overdue national paid maternity leave scheme but the opportunity has been squandered. The 'dividend of success' is paid to those individuals who are most likely to count the costs of switching votes. 'Women, as underpaid workers in and users of, community services have nothing to celebrate' said WEL spokeswoman Eva Cox .

Gender and the Australian Parliament

Mary Crawford / Brisbane Institute

While there has been an increase in the number of women in parliaments around the country over the last few decades, Mary Crawford finds that the Australian Parliament continues to be a male-dominated institution that shows little signs of changing.

Despite increasing numbers of women entering federal politics, female MPs have failed to drive an agenda of social change in the Australian Parliament. This conclusion has been reached through a study of 13 male and 15 female current federal MPs, whose views were sought on their own experiences in parliament, and

the way in which the institution operates and impacts on their lives. This was part of a research project which sought an explanation for the paucity of women MPs and Ministers in the Australian Parliament after white Australian women have had more than one hundred years of universal franchise and the right to stand for political office.

What the research discovered was that although more women are gracing its corridors the Australian Parliament remains a male-dominated institution, geared towards men with women still unable to gain access to key policy making areas or be seen as an integral part of the parliamentary process.

Source: http://apo.org.au/apo_search/results/content_type%3Aresearch

What Women Want - WorkChoices Report by NFAW

A report released by the National Foundation for Australian Women shows that, under the WorkChoices industrial relations system, women's pay compared with men has deteriorated since WorkChoices was introduced. This is so whatever their occupation or education status, and includes professional and managerial women as well as those in lower paid, less skilled work.

The National Foundation for Australian Women (NFAW) conducted Australia wide consultations with over 60 women's organisations from December 2006 through May 2007. These round table forums have shown that Australian women, whatever their occupation and income status, are skeptical about the claims made for a better workplace for women under WorkChoices as it is now operating.

What Women Want, the Report from the NFAW, based on these consultations, was launched in Melbourne on June 2, 07.

WWW provides evidence that individual workplace agreements result in a growth in the gender wage gap.

In WA , which has been to the forefront of current political debate about the value of Australian Workplace Agreements (AWAs), women there now earn \$.75 for every \$1 earned by men in comparable occupations.

The gender wage gap is worse in casual and part time employment, where wage levels have stagnated in sectors such as retail and hospitality where women predominate. WA women in professional and managerial occupations also are doing less well than their male counterparts.

Professor Alison Preston from Curtin University who conducted research for NFAW, Women's Electoral Lobby and the Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commission (HREOC) showing the gender gap in wages, has passed it onto the Australian Fair Pay Commission established by the Government under WorkChoices .

But there has been no response from the Commission or the Government on how to rectify this situation.

“Even though the Commonwealth has now decided to strengthen the ‘safety net’ for workers earning less than \$75,000 p.a., there’s no evidence of any Government recognition of the issue, nor of plans to deal with the growing gender gap in wages,” Marie Coleman of NFAW said at the launch of the Report.

The Report is at [What Women Want, the Report:](http://www.nfaw.org/social/www/what-women-want.pdf)

<http://www.nfaw.org/social/www/what-women-want.pdf>

The NFAW website has additional information on how women are being treated in the workplace under WorkChoices:

- the WA research – Women’s Employment Status Key Indicators (WESKI).
- The papers given to the roundtable forums in each state and territory

Unfair Shores Campaign Kit

Amnesty International Australia has developed the Unfair Shores Campaign Kit to provide information and resources on its Refugees' Human Rights campaign. We encourage interested people to find out more about the campaign and how they can help through the kit.

What is in the kit?

- Fact sheets and information to explain the policies and issues affecting refugees and asylum seekers looking for Australia’s protection.
- The stories of real people. All took great risks to come to Australia and all are refugees. These tell the reality of Australia’s policies.
- Hints and tips for your next event and stall.
 - For further information and how to download the Kit see:
[Unfair Shoes Campaign Kit](#)

Australian RIRDC Rural Women’s Award 2007 Winner

The 2007 winner of the Australian RIRDC Rural Women’s Award is Victoria’s Deborah Bain, a woolgrower from the state’s Western District; and South Australia’s Abi Spehr, a rural facilitator and mediator from the Limestone Coast, has been named the 2007 Australian Rural Women’s Award Runner-Up.

The announcement was made last night at the Australian RIRDC Rural Women’s Award 2007 Dinner at Parliament House in Canberra, proudly presented by the Australian Women’s Weekly.

The RIRDC Rural Women’s Award recognises the vital contribution women make to agriculture and rural Australia and encourages their greater capacity by providing them with the support and resources to further develop their skills and abilities.

Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) Managing Director Dr Peter O'Brien said that the winner and runner-up for the national award are innovative and tenacious, just like Australia's rural sector.

"Deb and Abi were selected from the state winners on merit, for their inspiring visions for rural industries and for their capacity to make a real and lasting contribution to rural Australia and its people," he said.

National winner Deborah Bain and her husband David run a wool-growing property in western Victoria, but her passion is for promoting the importance of agriculture to urban Australians.

She pioneered the highly successful concept of Farm Day, giving city families the chance to be hosted by a farm family for the day, as a simple but effective way to promote agriculture.

Deborah will use the Award to help develop her business and governance skills, which will be critical to supporting the project after Farm Day's national debut next weekend.

Runner-up Abi Spehr is partner in a fourth-generation mixed grazing and cropping property on South Australia's Limestone Coast, and a successful rural facilitator and Regional Farmbis Coordinator.

She believes that social factors are important in sustainable and prosperous agriculture, with family relationships critical to the long term stability of family farm businesses. Her particular interest is the relationship between the mother and the daughter-in-law in family farm situations, and she plans to research and publish a book, and develop an education program, dealing with these issues.

"Deb and Abi are both positive about the long term future of rural Australia and are committed and determined to ensure its long term sustainability and its human resource base," he said.

"Deborah and Abi have a busy and exciting year ahead of them, in raising the profile of the contribution women make to agriculture and to rural Australia in the national arena. The Award will also raise their profile and open up exciting new opportunities for personal development and exposure to new ideas and people."

The Award provides a Bursary of \$10,000 for each of the seven State and Territory winners, to help them achieve their vision for their industry and enhance their skills and capacity to contribute to agriculture, natural resource management and rural Australia.

The Award also offers all State and Territory Winners and Runner-up a chance to attend the Australian Institute of Company Directors' course.

The Award is an initiative of the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation in partnership with the state government agencies for agriculture and primary industries.

Group of Eight outlines a new vision for Australian higher education

The Chair of the Group of Eight, Professor Glyn Davis, in June 2007 outlined a new vision for higher education and university research in Australia. In a National Press Club address entitled 'Seizing the opportunities', Professor Davis called for bipartisan political support to modernise Australia's higher education system. The speech coincided with the release of a Go8 policy discussion paper which proposes measures to reform current policy, widen student choice, promote diversity and underpin Australia's international competitiveness.

"The old system of centrally-allocated university places cannot keep up with rapid shifts in labour market needs," Professor Davis said.

"We find ourselves at an unusual juncture – though the major parties still disagree on many policy details, there is consensus on the big picture about the need for a new regulatory approach.

"So the Group of Eight has decided to make a policy contribution today, in the fervent hope this inspires others with a stake in higher education to set forth their vision of the future. In an election year, in a time higher education has found some political salience, now is the moment to promote new ideas."

Under the Go8's proposed new higher education policy architecture, key recommendations include:

- the establishment of a new independent regulator for the tertiary education sector
- portable student scholarships
- mission-based block funding of universities
- enhanced national investment in university research
- performance-based block funding for research
- a dual system of assistance for research students
- improved student income support.

"This 70 page policy discussion paper, released today under the signatures of eight vice-chancellors, offers a detailed blueprint for improved policy design and targeted additional funding. We call this approach to teaching, student finances and research 'balanced incentives' – the right combination of private choice and public support to sustain and build all Australia's great universities and colleagues, and so sustain a system that must now face unprecedented competition," Professor Davis concluded.

Professor Davis's speech and Go8 policy paper and summary document are available at www.go8.edu.au

The Australian Bar Association
presents Honorary Membership for Major Dan Mori

The Australian Bar Association will present Major Michael D Mori USMC with Honorary Membership at its Conference dinner on 29 June 2007.

The award of honorary membership made for exceptional service to justice and the rule of law is due recognition of Major Mori's passionate and fearless advocacy for Guantanamo Bay detainee David Hicks, an Australian convicted of providing material support for terrorism.

Stephen Estcourt QC, President of the Australian Bar Association, said: "This award of honorary membership recognises the work done by Dan Mori in consistently seeking to have his client dealt with fairly and in accordance with the rule of law. It is the time-honoured role for an advocate to stand between the state and an individual. Major Mori did that and did it in the best tradition of an advocate."

Michael Dante Mori (born October 4, 1965) is a major in the United States Marine Corps. He spent four years in the enlisted ranks, reporting for training at the USMC Recruit Depot at Parris Island, South Carolina. After attending Norwich University, a military college, he became an officer in the Marine Corps. In 1994 he graduated from the Western New England College School of Law in Springfield, Massachusetts, before being admitted to the Bar in Massachusetts. He is married and has twin boys. A sister lives in Australia.

Mori was appointed by the United States Department of Defence to represent Hicks in November 2003, and continued to handle Hicks's case until May 2007. Mori has been featured on numerous occasions in the Australian media in relation to developments in Hicks's case, and he frequently expressed concern over Hicks's extended interrogations and the delays in bringing his client to trial. Major Mori has defended his client in the public and political sphere both in Australia and the USA. He was one of the 2005 recipients of the American Civil Liberties Union's Roger N. Baldwin Medal of Liberty Award, which was presented "to the five military defence lawyers who represented the first round of defendants at the Guantánamo Bay tribunals and challenged the entire military commission system."

On November 10, 2006 Mori attended the signing of the Fremantle Declaration by the Attorneys-General of the States and Territories of Australia. The declaration urges judicial fairness to protect the legal rights of Australians at home and abroad. Mori said "It's disheartening that federal ministers won't fight for an Australian citizen to have the same rights as an American."

On February 15, 2004, during an interview for one of Australia's leading current affairs television programs, Mori summarized his passionate belief in justice and the

rule of law: "America's always had a proud tradition of ensuring fairness and due process. Now's not the time to sacrifice those values." Following Hicks's departure from Guantanamo Bay to complete his sentence in Yatala Prison, South Australia in mid May 2007 - Mori was re-assigned as a staff judge advocate, or legal adviser, to the commanders of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar in San Diego.