

MEET THE TEAM

CMA President - Professor Elizabeth Handsley



Elizabeth Handsley has worked as a legal academic over some 35 years at universities in Sydney, Perth and Adelaide. In the course of her career she has published widely on torts, feminist legal theory, judicial power and independence, the appointment and training of judges, contempt and defamation. For the last 20 years her research has concentrated mainly on children's media law, including advertising regulation (especially food advertising) and classification of films and games.

She has held research grants from state, national and international agencies, and collaborated extensively with scholars from law and other disciplines.

Elizabeth has been a member of CMA since 1999, and the President since 2010. As well as contributing to the strategic direction of the organisation she has

coauthored dozens of submissions to reviews and inquiries on its behalf, and given numerous media interviews on issues within its purview. In June 2023 she launched [Outside the Screen](#), a podcast she co-hosts with Dr Kim Le that demystifies research and policy developments for parents and families.

Having stepped away from paid work in 2022, Elizabeth continues to contribute to legal academia as an Adjunct Professor at La Trobe University and Western Sydney University. She also now has time to make music shows for Radio Adelaide and to volunteer as a French teacher at the University of the Third Age.

Why is Lizzie passionate about CMA?

I'm very proud of what CMA has been able to achieve, as a constant voice and presence for children's rights as media users. Parents and families need the information we provide, which is research-based and independent - not moralistic or commercially driven like so much else out there. The work I do with CMA is endlessly fascinating and intellectually challenging, as we are constantly grappling with new issues, yet we always come back to the fundamentals of children's developmental needs and families' right to be supported in making the best decisions about how children use screens and technology.

Key Publications

Elizabeth Handsley, Michael Rich and Colin MacDougall (eds), *Children's Wellbeing in the Media Age: Multidisciplinary Conversations from the Harvard-Australia Symposium* (Federation Press, 2015) ISBN 978-1-76002-028-6

John Tobin and **Elizabeth Handsley**, 'Article 17' in John Tobin and Philip Alston (eds), *Commentary on the Convention on the Rights of the Child* (Oxford University Press, 2019) ISBN 9780198262657

Elizabeth Handsley, 'There oughta be a law: The (potential) role of law and regulation in calming down and slowing down' in Wayne Warburton and Danya Braunstein (eds), *Growing Up Fast & Furious* (Federation Press, 2012) ISBN 9781862878235, 175-96

Elizabeth Handsley, 'What's in it for children? – Dedicated channels and the effectiveness of regulation' in Andrew Kenyon (ed), *TV Futures* (Melbourne University Press, 2007) ISBN 978-0-522-85440-4

Elizabeth Handsley and Wayne Warburton, '"Material likely to harm or disturb them": Testing the alignment between classification decisions and psychological research evidence' (2021) 29 *Psychiatry, Psychology and Law* 68-92 <https://doi.org/10.1080/13218719.2021.1904446>

Elizabeth Handsley and Arlen Duke, 'Protecting the child consumer from misleading advertising: A comparison of media regulation and consumer protection approaches' (2019) 26 *Competition & Consumer Law Journal* 1-25

Elizabeth Handsley and Belinda Reeve, 'Holding Food Companies Responsible for Unhealthy Food Marketing to Children: Can International Human Rights Instruments Provide a New Approach?' (2018) 41(2) *UNSW Law Journal* 449-87

Kaye Mehta, John Coveney, Paul Ward and **Elizabeth Handsley**, 'Parents' and children's perceptions of the ethics of marketing energy-dense nutrient-poor foods on the Internet: implications for policy to restrict children's exposure' (2014) 7 *Public Health Ethics* 21-34 <https://doi.org/10.1093/phe/phu002>

Elizabeth Handsley, Christopher Nehmy, Kaye Mehta & John Coveney, 'A Children's Rights Perspective on Food Advertising to Children' (2014) 22 *International Journal of Children's Rights* 93-134

Kaye Mehta, Clare Phillips, Paul Ward, John Coveney, **Elizabeth Handsley** & Patricia Carter 'Marketing foods to children through product packaging: prolific, unhealthy and misleading' (2012) 15 *Public Health Nutrition* 1763-70 doi:10.1017/S1368980012001231

Elizabeth Handsley and Clare Hughes, 'Volunteer Codes No Real Protection for Kids' (2011) 7 *Viewpoint* 32-37

Elizabeth Handsley and Wayne Warburton, 'The R18+ Games Debate: A Critical Analysis of the Arguments' (2010) 4 *Viewpoint* 44-49

Elizabeth Handsley, John Coveney, Kaye Mehta and Christopher Nehmy, 'Regulatory Axes on Food Advertising to Children' (2009) 6:1 *Australia and New Zealand Health Policy* <http://www.anzhealthpolicy.com/content/6/1/1>

Elizabeth Handsley, Christopher Nehmy, Kaye Mehta and John Coveney, 'Media, public health and law: A lawyer's primer on the food advertising debate' (2007) 12 *Media and Arts Law Review* 87-106

Key Achievements

Admitted to NSW Bar (1989)

BA, LLB (UNSW) (1987)

LLM (Northwestern) (1991)

Carrick Citation for Excellence in Teaching (2007)

Finalist, National Children's Law Awards (2014)

Fellow, Australian Academy of Law (2015)