

# Melbourne's legal precinct

Teacher notes and classroom  
race around the legal precinct





# Melbourne's legal precinct **Contents**

About these materials	2
Curriculum links	2
How to use these materials	3
Activities for Years 9 and 10	3
Activities for VCE students	3
1. Activities for Years 9 and 10	5
Activity 1: Victoria Legal Aid	5
Activity 2: The rule of law	5
Activity 3: Courts and tribunals	6
Activity 4: What's news?	7
Activity 5: Classroom race around the legal precinct	8
Student challenge questions	9
2. Activities for VCE students	12
Activity 1: Civil versus criminal law	12
Activity 2: Torts	12
Activity 3: Hierarchy of courts	13
Activity 4: Law-making	14
Answers to challenge questions	16
Useful internet sites	17

# Melbourne's legal precinct **Teacher notes**

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## About these materials

These teacher notes are a resource designed to accompany the *Melbourne's legal precinct* map. These materials provide an introduction to Victoria's legal system for Years 9 and 10 and VCE students. The activities are designed to engage students and help them understand legal practice, law-making and the hierarchy of courts, which function at the centre of our justice system.

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## Curriculum links

### VCE Legal Studies

Unit 1, Areas of Study 1 and 2, Outcomes 1 and 2

### VELS Level 6

This material meets the aims of the Victorian Essential Learning Standards framework (VELS). Although suitable for use in all three strands, it is most appropriate for the Physical, Personal and Social Learning strand and the topic of Civics and Citizenship, incorporating civic knowledge and understanding, and community engagement.

*Melbourne's legal precinct* map, and accompanying notes and activities, will assist students to:

- increase their awareness of the key elements of democracy;
- investigate the institutional framework of the legal system in Australia;
- explore the roles and responsibilities of courts at state and federal levels; and
- understand the role of the courts in establishing and protecting the rights and responsibilities of Australian citizens.

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## How to use these materials

### Activities for Years 9 and 10

Some of these activities will require students to use their research skills to find the answers. They can consult their textbooks, classroom and library resources, and the internet, using the list supplied at the end of this resource.

#### Activity 1: Victoria Legal Aid

This two-part activity will help students to gain an understanding of the role of Victoria Legal Aid. Teachers will need to provide access to newspapers so that students can complete the second part of this activity.

#### Activity 2: The rule of law

Students are given the opportunity to discuss topics such as why we have laws, how they are made and why laws change. Students will also investigate barristers' chambers, the Victorian Bar, solicitors' offices and the Law Institute of Victoria. Teachers will need to provide materials such as poster paper and textas, or access to computers, to allow students to create a presentation summarising what they have learnt from this activity.

#### Activity 3: Courts and tribunals

This activity requires students to investigate the courts and tribunals in Victoria. Students will identify historic buildings and discuss the symbolism of the Lady of Justice.

#### Activity 4: What's news?

Students will explore the types of cases heard in the different courts and tribunals that are presented in the media. This activity can be done individually, in pairs or in small groups. Students will need access to a range of newspapers (either in print format or online) to complete this activity.

#### Activity 5: Classroom race around the legal precinct

This activity is a race around the legal precinct, which can be conducted in the classroom. Students solve clues in the student challenge questions to identify significant law-related institutions in Melbourne's legal precinct and find out information about them. This material is principally targeted at Year 9 and 10 students, but may be modified by schools for use with other year levels. All of the answers in this activity can be found on the *Melbourne's legal precinct* map, and are listed in the answers section of this document (pages 6 and 7).

### Activities for VCE students

Some of these activities will require students to use their research skills to find the answers. They can consult their textbooks, classroom and library resources, and the internet, using the list supplied at the end of this resource.

#### Activity 1: Civil versus criminal law

Students will compare and contrast civil and criminal law by completing a Venn diagram. This activity aims to give students an understanding of the similarities and differences between civil and criminal law. Students will need access to a range of newspapers (in print format or online) to complete the last part of this activity.

# Melbourne's legal precinct **Teacher notes**

## **Activity 2: Torts**

In this activity, students will investigate the torts of negligence, trespass, defamation and nuisance. They will represent their understanding of each tort by completing the diagram or by constructing a concept map. The concept map can be done on poster paper, provided by the teacher, or created using a computer software package such as Inspiration® or Rationale™. Students will also use Edward de Bono's six thinking hats to discuss a newspaper article about a tort.

## **Activity 3: Hierarchy of courts**

Students will explore the court hierarchy in Victoria. The teacher will need to provide poster paper.

## **Activity 4: Law-making**

In this activity, students will investigate the two different kinds of law (statute and common) in Australia. Students will also investigate the role and responsibilities of statutory bodies, and the activities carried out in various significant buildings in Melbourne's legal precinct. Students will need access to a range of newspapers (in print format or online) to complete the last part of this activity in which they look at the strengths and weaknesses of the legal system.

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### Activity 1: Victoria Legal Aid

- 1 Complete the following questions about Victoria Legal Aid by referring to the Legal Aid website [www.legalaid.vic.gov.au](http://www.legalaid.vic.gov.au).
  - a What was the first formal legal aid organisation and when was it set up?
  - b Who was originally provided with assistance from this organisation?
  - c When was Victoria Legal Aid established?
  - d How does Victoria Legal Aid determine whether to help people?
  - e What type of work does Legal Aid do?
  - f Outline what Legal Aid provides.
  - g Where is Victoria Legal Aid located? Identify key landmarks near Victoria Legal Aid.
- 2 In pairs, conduct research to see if Victoria Legal Aid has featured in any newspaper articles. What types of issues were being reported on? Present this information to the class.

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### Activity 2: The rule of law

- 1 In small groups discuss the following:
  - a Why do we have laws?
  - b What would happen if we did not have laws?
  - c How are laws different from rules?
  - d Who makes laws?
  - e Why do laws change?Allow about five minutes of discussion for each question.
- 2 Come back together as a class and discuss each group's comments.
- 3 Form back into your original groups and create a role-play to outline why we have laws.
- 4 In your small groups, discuss three things that you have learnt from this activity. Each group is to present their findings as a poster, datashow presentation, newspaper report, cartoon strip or another presentation format approved by your teacher.
- 5 Refer to *Melbourne's legal precinct* map to identify which buildings house lawyers, and complete the following questions.
  - a When were the first barristers admitted to practise in Victoria?
  - b What is the role of a barrister?
  - c What are chambers?
  - d How are barristers different from solicitors?
  - e What is the role of clerks?
  - f When was the Victorian Bar established, and what is it?
  - g What is the role of the Victorian Bar?
  - h How many solicitors' offices are located in Melbourne's CBD?
  - i What role do solicitors undertake?
  - j What is the Victorian professional association for lawyers?
  - k What is the role of this association?

# 1

Melbourne's legal precinct: activities for years 9 and 10

- l** What does 'DPP' stand for?
  - m** Outline the role and responsibilities of the DPP.
  - n** Describe the role of Community Legal Centres.
  - o** Identify some specialist Community Legal Centres.
- 6** Refer to *Melbourne's legal precinct* map and conduct your own research to discuss the role of police in our justice system.

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### Activity 3: Courts and tribunals

- 1** In small groups, undertake a KWL (Know about, Want to know, Learnt about). Write down what you:
- a** Know about courts and tribunals in Victoria
  - b** Want to know about courts and tribunals – investigate the courts and tribunals in Victoria by selecting one court or tribunal, referring to *Melbourne's legal precinct* map.
  - c** What I have Learnt about courts and tribunals?
  - d** In your groups, construct a datashow presentation to illustrate what you have learnt about your selected court or tribunal. Present this information to the class.
- 2** After listening to each group's presentations, do a PMI (Pluses, Minuses, Interesting points) by identifying three pluses, three minuses and three interesting points about Victoria's court and tribunals.

Pluses	Minuses	Interesting Points



- 3 Individually, write a summary about how you contributed to the group presentation. Give yourself a rating out of ten.
- 4 Refer to *Melbourne's legal precinct* map and identify the Historic Buildings. Locate each building on the map. In pairs, select one building and design a poster outlining the key information about this building. Include information about its architecture. You could include a sketch of the building on your poster.
- 5 Refer to *Melbourne's legal precinct* map to compare the architecture of the Old Magistrates' Court with the Children's Court of Victoria.
  - a What are some obvious differences in architecture between these two courts?
  - b Provide reasons for these differences. Can you make links between the role of each court and its architecture?
- 6 The Lady of Justice is an image of a strong, mature female, devoid of details on her face, feet and arms; she is enveloped in robes. Can you find her on the *Melbourne's legal precinct* document?
  - a What do you think the Lady of Justice represents?
  - b This Lady of Justice is based on a sculpture by William Eicholtz, at the front entrance of the County Court. Outline the role of this court.

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#### Activity 4: What's news?

- 1 You will need access to a selection of newspapers. In pairs, read through some newspapers and identify articles that relate to the courts.
  - a Identify each of the courts or tribunals from the articles.
  - b What cases or issues are being highlighted in the articles?
  - c Is there a relationship between the types of cases being reported on and the type of court or tribunal? If a court or tribunal is not listed, make a decision based on your knowledge of the court hierarchy.
  - d Are there any differences between what is reported in the various newspapers?
  - e Make a list of all the courts and tribunals identified and locate them on the map.
  - f Summarise the key points about each court and tribunal.
  - g Referring to *Melbourne's legal precinct* map, identify any courts or tribunals not reported on in the newspaper articles. Why do you think this is so?
- 2 In small groups, share your findings. One student in each group is to be scribe and report back to the class. Individually, summarise the key points from the activity using a table, poster or concept map.

# 1

Melbourne's legal precinct: activities for years 9 and 10

## Activity 5: Classroom race around the legal precinct

To carry out this activity you will need:

- one copy per team/student of the *Melbourne's legal precinct* map;
- one copy per team/student of the student challenge questions, which are based on information contained in the *Melbourne's legal precinct* map or information readily found at each of the sites visited;
- one copy of the answers to the student challenge questions for the teacher.

### Rules of the classroom race around the legal precinct

Teams are not to share with other teams

Teams must find all their answers from the material provided

Teams must attempt to answer all of the student challenge questions

The team's finishing time is clocked at the time of handing in the answer sheet

#### Race Scoring

The winning team will be determined by:

- the number of points scored for the challenges answered on the Race
- the time taken for the team to complete the Race
- consideration of the teams' adherence to the rules

#### Race Time

The team's times will be ranked in order from the shortest to the longest time taken to complete the Race, as follows:

1st	30 points
2nd	25 points
3rd	15 points
4th	10 points
5th	5 points
6th +	0 points

#### Earning Points

Most challenge answers will be worth 10 points, with some scoring more, for a total of 230 points

#### Losing Points

Teams will lose 20 points each time they copy another team's answer or fail to answer a question.

## Student challenge questions

Student/Team Name			
Start Time		Finish Time	

**The starting line** The start of the Race – a place where local democracy is in action.

### Challenge Question 1

1 What is the name of the elected body which calls this building 'home'?

/10

2 What is the main role of this elected body?

/10

**Find...** the highest court in Victoria. You may be able to appeal if you consider this an unfair trial.

### Challenge Question 2

1 Which court is this and when did this building become its home?

/10

2 This court has Trial and Appeal divisions. What kinds of cases does each division hear?

/10

**Find...** a court opposite the one in Challenge 2 – opposite corner, opposite architectural style.

### Challenge Question 3

1 Which court is this?

/10

2 In what way is this the busiest court in Victoria?

/10

# 1

Melbourne's legal precinct: activities for years 9 and 10

3 What appeals can be heard by this court?

/10

**Find...** the court that deals with a wide range of matters, including committal hearings.

#### Challenge Question 4

1 What kinds of cases does this court hear?

/10

2 What happens at the committal hearings heard by this court?

/10

**Find...** the building that houses four different courts.

#### Challenge Question 5

Name the four courts to be found in this modern building.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

/10

**Find...** the building where a life ended and a legend began. The souls of 136 people may be under lock and key.

#### Challenge Question 6

1 How did some soldiers get to spend unwelcome time here?

/10

2 Who was the most famous person hanged at this Gaol?

/10

**Find...** the building where you may get the support you need – only if you have a union working for you.

<b>Challenge Question 7</b>	
1 What is the name of this building?	/10
2 The first building on this site was a monument to what particular achievement?	/10
<b>Find...</b> the first World Heritage listed building in Australia	
<b>Challenge Question 8</b>	
1 What is the significance of this building for law-making in Australia?	/10
<b>Find the finish line! ...</b> the building where State democracy is at work.	
<b>Challenge Question 9</b>	
1 What is the name of the democratic body that meets here?	/10
2 Which other important democratic body met here for about 28 years?	/10

<b>Points</b>	
Student challenge questions Total	+
Rank Order	+
Deductions for breaches of the rules	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>=</b>

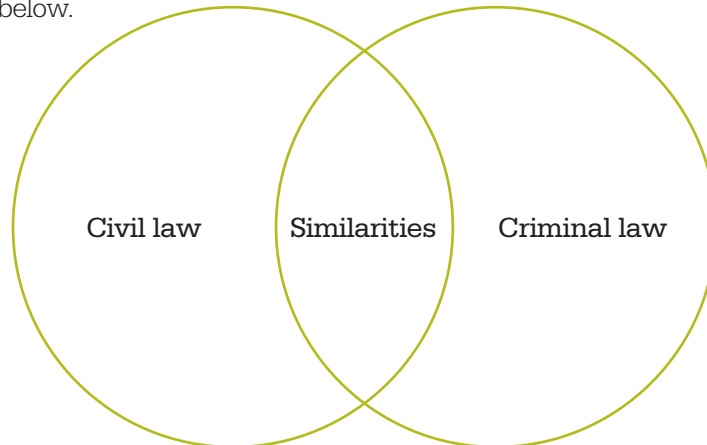
# 2

## Melbourne's legal precinct Activities for VCE students

### Activity 1: Civil versus criminal law

Court cases involve either civil law or criminal law.

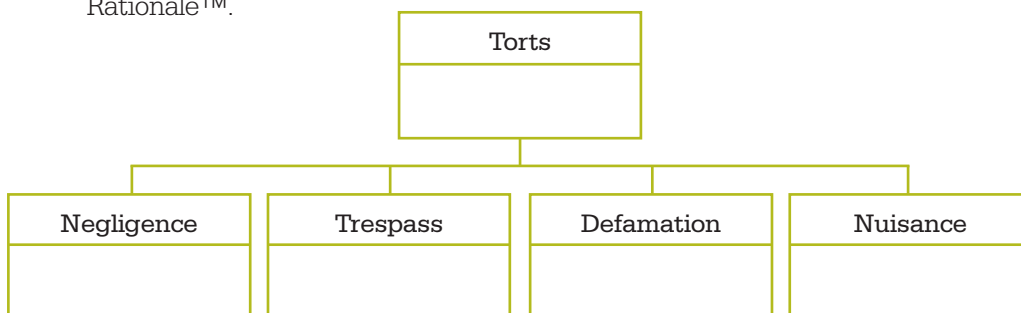
- 1 Compare and contrast civil and criminal law by completing the Venn diagram below.



- 2 Referring to *Melbourne's legal precinct* map, identify which courts and tribunals would hear civil law issues and which courts and tribunals would hear criminal law issues.
- 3 Explain the criminal and civil jurisdiction of the Magistrates' Court in Melbourne.
- 4 Look at a selection of newspapers or refer to an online newspaper to locate a range of articles on both civil and criminal law cases. Identify the common features of the criminal law cases. Which courts are identified? Can you locate them on the *Melbourne's legal precinct* map?
- 5 Identify the common features of the civil law cases. Which courts are identified? Can you locate them on the *Melbourne's legal precinct* map?
- 6 What did other students find out? Share your thoughts on the differences between civil and criminal law in a class discussion.

### Activity 2: Torts

- 1 Civil wrongs are referred to as torts. They can be divided into the torts of negligence, trespass, defamation and nuisance. Complete the diagram below to explain the differences between the torts. Alternatively, you could construct a concept map using a software package such as Inspiration® or Rationale™.



- 2 Find an example of one tort in the media (e.g. newspaper, current affair show, radio). In small groups, refer to the media item to answer the following questions using Edward de Bono's 'six thinking hats'. (For an introduction to this technique, see [www.debonogroup.com/six\\_thinking\\_hats.php](http://www.debonogroup.com/six_thinking_hats.php).) One person will be allocated the task of being facilitator for the discussion. This person will have the blue hat on and will manage the thinking processes within the group by guiding the discussion and drawing conclusions and summaries to present to the rest of the class. Poster paper will be supplied to record information.
  - a What facts are presented in the article? (*de Bono's white thinking hat*)
  - b Outline the positive issues raised. (*de Bono's yellow thinking hat*)
  - c Identify your concerns after reading the article. (*de Bono's black thinking hat*)
  - d How did you feel after reading this article? Express your emotions and feelings using words, colour, symbols or any creative medium. (*de Bono's red thinking hat*)
  - e What are other alternatives or new ideas that you can think of that are not identified in the article? (*de Bono's green thinking hat*)
- 3 Refer to *Melbourne's legal precinct* map and identify which courts or tribunals hear torts. Summarise the role of each of these courts.

### Activity 3: Hierarchy of courts

- 1 Refer to *Melbourne's legal precinct* map to gather information and graphically represent the court hierarchy structure on a sheet of poster paper. For each court:
  - a outline its jurisdiction
  - b explain the role of its court personnel
  - c identify where it is located
  - d include any other key points about the court.

Courts	Jurisdictions	Personnel	Location	Other comments

# 2

## Activity 4: Law-making

- 1 There are two kinds of law in Australia: statute and common. Distinguish between these two types of law by completing the table below.

Type of law	Made by	Known as	Example	Explanation
Statute				
Common				

- 2 The various parliaments throughout Australia often pass specific powers on to delegated bodies. These delegated bodies are known as subordinate authorities and include statutory authorities, executive councils, local councils and government departments. Refer to *Melbourne's legal precinct* map to investigate the statutory bodies located in Melbourne, and complete the following questions.
- a What does an ombudsman do?
  - b Why was the Legal Services Board established?
  - c What is the role of the Chief Executive Officer of the Legal Services Board?
  - d Outline the role of the Leo Cussen Institute.
  - e Why was Privacy Victoria established?
  - f Describe the type of complaints dealt with by the Equal Opportunity Commission.
  - g Outline the role of the Victoria Law Reform Commission.
  - h Describe the role of the Victoria Law Foundation.
- 3 Using the map, identify where each of the subordinate authorities are located in Melbourne.
- 4 Refer to *Melbourne's legal precinct* map to complete the following questions about Parliament House.
- a Where is Parliament House located?
  - b Who designed Parliament House and when was it opened?
  - c What occurred from 1901 to 1927?
  - d What occurs at Parliament House today?
  - e Who does Parliament House accommodate?
  - f Can you research what state laws or regulations have recently been created?



- 5 Refer to *Melbourne's legal precinct* map to identify the Commonwealth Law Courts. List the four courts that are housed in this building, and outline the role of each court. This information could be presented as a concept map.
- 6 Refer to *Melbourne's legal precinct* map and identify where the Old Treasury Building, Melbourne Town Hall and Department of Justice are located, and complete the following questions.
  - a Why was the Old Treasury Building built?
  - b Outline the uses of the Old Treasury Building today.
  - c What is significant about the Melbourne Town Hall?
  - d What is the Melbourne Town Hall used for today?
  - e In the past, how was the Melbourne Town Hall used?
  - f Outline the role of the Department of Justice.
- 7 Look through newspaper articles to find articles criticising Australia's legal system. As a class, discuss the strengths and weaknesses of Australia's legal system, and individually summarise the key issues discussed. Make sure you discuss the strengths and weaknesses of:
  - a parliament as a law-maker
  - b law-making by courts.

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## Answers to challenge questions

### Challenge 1: Town Hall

- 1 Melbourne City Council.
- 2 To make regulations and by-laws for the inner city.

### Challenge 2: Supreme Court – William St Entrance

- 1 Supreme Court of Victoria; 1884.
- 2 The Trial Division hears serious criminal charges, such as murder and treason, major civil cases and appeals from the lower courts and tribunals; the Court of Appeal hears criminal and civil appeals from the Supreme Court, the County Court and Victorian tribunals.

### Challenge 3: County Court

- 1 County Court.
- 2 It is the busiest jury trial court.
- 3 From the Magistrates' Court.

### Challenge 4: Magistrates' Court

- 1 Criminal offences such as theft, burglary and traffic/drink drive offences and disputes over money or property worth up to \$100,000.
- 2 The Magistrate decides whether there is enough evidence for more serious criminal charges to be tried in the Supreme or County Court.

### Challenge 5: Commonwealth Law Courts

- 1 Federal Magistrates' Court.
- 2 Family Court.
- 3 Federal Court.
- 4 High Court of Australia.

### Challenge 6: Old Melbourne Gaol

- 1 It was a temporary military prison during World War II.
- 2 Ned Kelly.

### Challenge 7: Trades Hall

- 1 Trades Hall.
- 2 Eight-hour day: 8 hours work, 8 hours recreation, 8 hours rest.

### Challenge 8: Royal Exhibition Building

- 1 It was the site of the opening of the first Commonwealth Parliament of Australia on 9 May 1901.

### Challenge 9: Parliament House

- 1 Parliament of Victoria.
- 2 Parliament of Australia.

## Melbourne's legal precinct

### Useful internet sites

#### **Victorian Courts and Tribunals**

[www.courts.vic.gov.au](http://www.courts.vic.gov.au)

This website provides links to all Victorian courts and tribunals.

#### **Victorian Department of Justice**

[www.justice.vic.gov.au](http://www.justice.vic.gov.au)

This website contains information about all aspects of the justice system in Victoria.

#### **Victoria Law Foundation**

[www.victorialawfoundation.org.au](http://www.victorialawfoundation.org.au)

This website provides access to a wide range of teacher and student resources for VCE Legal Studies and VELS Civics and Citizenship, and lists all of the Foundation's publications.

#### **Victorian Commercial Teachers Association**

[www.vcta.asn.au](http://www.vcta.asn.au)

This website provides information on resources, programs and support services provided by the VCTA to Legal Studies teachers and to teachers of other 'commercial' subjects.

*Melbourne's legal precinct* map lists many other internet links, including those for most of the organisations listed on the map.

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## Contributors

### **About Victoria Law Foundation**

Victoria Law Foundation helps Victorians understand the law and their legal system. We are a not-for-profit organisation funded by the Legal Services Board Public Purpose Fund. The Foundation funds and generates innovative projects, including plain-language publications that promote community understanding of the law and the legal system. Wherever possible, publications are made available at no cost to schools and community organisations.

The Foundation also organises the annual Law Week in May, which features a number of activities for schools. For more information visit [www.victorialawfoundation.org.au/law-week](http://www.victorialawfoundation.org.au/law-week)

### **About the authors**

Curriculum Corporation is a partnership of all Australian Education Ministers. It undertakes activities that are in the national interest and that support and augment the work of states and territories in providing educational experiences for all students.

Prior to completing her law degree in 1997, Jenny Draddy worked as a nurse, midwife and then organiser for the Australian Nurses Federation. While completing her law degree she was the Women's Officer for the Victorian Trades Hall Council. As a solicitor she has had extensive litigation experience and now intends to pursue a career at the Bar.

Lois Erickson is Community and Education Consultant at the Victoria Law Foundation. She was a teacher of VCE legal studies, economics and accounting and is now a legal practitioner.

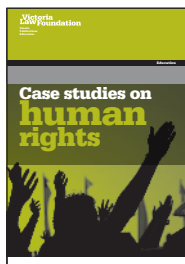
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## Other education titles from Victoria Law Foundation

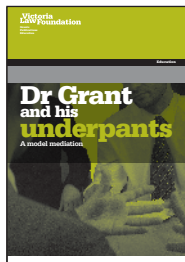


### **Danielle come to judgment**

A model criminal hearing in the Magistrates' Court

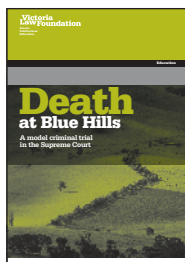


### **Case studies on human rights**



### **Dr Grant and his underpants**

A model mediation



### **Death at Blue Hills**



### **We the Jury**

DVD and teacher notes

To view, order or download our publications visit  
[www.victorialawfoundation.org.au](http://www.victorialawfoundation.org.au)

**“Victoria Law Foundation is very much the first port of call for teachers of legal studies to get access to comprehensive educational resources for their classrooms.”**

**David Thomson**

Teacher-in-Residence  
Victoria Law Foundation  
and Teacher  
Caulfield Grammar



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All activities were prepared for the Victoria Law Foundation by Curriculum Corporation with the exception of Activity 5, which was prepared by Jenny Draddy and Lois Erickson.

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First published 2005  
Second edition 2007  
ISBN 978 1 876045 88 3

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