

AUSTLII MEDIA RELEASE



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Australasian Legal Information Institute

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AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS HERALD AUSTLII'S THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

AustLII's Founding Co-Director, Professor Andrew Mowbray, and current Managing Director, Professor Philip Chung, have been appointed Members of the Order of Australia (AM) in the recent Australia Day announcement of awards. They have been recognised for their significant services to the law, particularly their contributions to public access to legal information, and to tertiary education. They join their colleague, Founding Co-Director Honorary Professor Graham Greenleaf, who was similarly honoured with an AM in 2010.

Founding Directors Greenleaf and Mowbray established the Australasian Legal Information Institute (AustLII – <http://www.austlii.edu.au>) in 1995 with the goal of providing the Australian public with free access to essential legal information necessary for the rule of law and democracy to function effectively. They were joined shortly thereafter by Philip Chung, who was appointed Executive Director in 1999 and later also became Managing Director in 2009. Graham Greenleaf retired as a Co-Director in 2016, but remains involved with AustLII as a Senior Researcher and has recently accepted a position as an Honorary Professor at Macquarie University.

Andrew Mowbray is Professor of Law and Information Technology at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) Faculty of Law. Andrew joined UTS (then NSWIT) in 1986. He is one of the Co-Founders and Co-Directors of the Australasian Legal Information Institute (AustLII) and is an Executive Director of AustLII Foundation Limited. He holds a Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Science (majoring in Computing Science) from UNSW and a Master of Science (by research) from UTS. Andrew is the author of much of the systems level software behind the AustLII system including the Sino search engine, the automated markup software, the LawCite citator and the yscript language which forms the basis of the DataLex applications development system. In 2014, he was awarded the NSW Law and Justice Foundation's Justice Medal for his 25-year commitment to making legal information available online.

Philip Chung is a Professor of Law at Macquarie University and the Managing Director of AustLII Foundation Limited, where he oversees personnel, resources, and the technical and policy development of initiatives promoting free access to law both in Australia and globally. He holds a Bachelor of Laws, a Bachelor of Economics with first-class honours in Computer Science and Operations Research from the University of Sydney, and a PhD in Law from UNSW. Philip's expertise lies at the intersection of law and technology, with his research focusing on applying information technology to the legal domain—particularly in enhancing access to justice and addressing the challenges of providing free legal information. His work contributes to the development of innovative legal research tools and infrastructure.

Since 1995 AustLII has provided national legal research infrastructure that is fundamental to the operation of the legal system in Australia. AustLII provides a comprehensive and integrated national collection of legal information, enabling effective free and anonymous access to all Australian law. It receives over 800,000 page accesses ('hits') per day. As a global leader in the provision of free access to legal information, AustLII also has an international role in supporting the rule of law and free access globally. It has assisted the development of free access to law facilities in many countries and was one of the founders of the Free Access to Law Movement (FALM) in 2002.

AustLII has added a new database to its collection on average every 10 days since its inception in mid-1995. They include databases of: legislation and related material; case law decisions and judgments; treaties and related international instruments; journal articles and scholarship; as well as other legal and quasi-legal resources including law reform, royal commissions and boards of inquiry, coronial findings, and indigenous legal resources from Australia and New Zealand. AustLII's broad public policy agenda is to improve access to justice through better access to information. Last year, the Chief Justice of Australia, the Honourable Stephen Gageler AC, launched the 1,000th database on AustLII, marking a significant achievement in its history.

In 2025, AustLII celebrates its 30th anniversary of providing free access to law in Australasia. This major milestone will be commemorated with a formal event mid-year. To conclude the year, AustLII will host the international FALM *Law via Internet* (LVI) Conference from 12-14 November, bringing together global leaders of the Free Access to Law Movement.

AustLII is hosted by the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) and is operated by AustLII Foundation Limited, a company limited by guarantee that operates as a charity with deductible gift recipient status. AustLII relies on donations to fund its operations and welcomes all contributions, which may be made at <https://secure.austlii.edu.au/cgi-egate/contribute.cgi>

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