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["New Zealand: Families, Children and Ethnicity"](#) 


(1992) 31 JFamL 357.

[Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper No. 42/2019](#)

[BILL ATKIN](#), Victoria University of Wellington - Faculty of Law


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The individual and the nuclear family group are the basis of the social structure in traditional western thinking. Māori culture does not have the same focus on the individual, rather greater focus is attracted to the whānau or wider family. The challenge of family law is for these concepts to coexist, and the Children, Young Persons, and Their Families Act 1989 was brought in to assist in this task. This article brings up the challenges and successes that this Act has had in regards to family decision-making and adoption, before reviewing the role of family decision-making in regards to medical treatment.

["New Zealand: 1992 Controversy Surrounds Policies on Children"](#) 
(1994) 32 JFamL 377.
[Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper No. 43/2019](#)


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1992 was a controversial year in the realm of family law. This article reflects on the key controversies, namely the Child Support Act 1991 and the corresponding judicial interpretation; the Mason Report into the Children, Young People and Their Families Act 1989; the Family Court's role in the Mental Health (Compulsory Assessment and Treatment) Act 1992; the law around life support; and the law around family beliefs conflicting with medical evidence.

["New Zealand: Children versus Families - Is There Any Conflict?"](#) 
(1988) 27 Journal of Family Law 231
[Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper No. 44/2019](#)


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This article provides a summary of the status of family law in New Zealand in 1987. The renaissance of Māori culture has created an interesting discussion around the conflict between the rights of whānau, and the paramountcy principle. This is in the context of the recommendations of the Working Party on the Children and Young Persons Bill. There is also developing case law around domestic violence, specifically around court orders. Finally, other family law issues, such as adoption, are summarised.

["A Blow for the Rights of the Child – Mrs Gillick in the House of Lords"](#) 
(1985) 1 FLB 35.
[Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper No. 45/2019](#)

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The House of Lords judgment in *Gillick v West Norfolk and Wisbech Area Health Authority* concerns the ability of medical authorities to issue contraceptives without parental knowledge. The influence of the judgment goes further than this, touching the issues of parental and child rights, as well as the ability for the child to act independently. This article analyses these issues in depth, both in the law set out by the House of Lords, and in the possible influence of the judgment in New Zealand, specifically with regards to the Guardianship Act 1968.

["Guardianship Amendments"](#) 
New Zealand Law Journal, Vol. 10, 1980
[Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper No. 46/2019](#)

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Guardianship amendments have been proposed in Parliament. The Family Proceedings Bill contains three principal amendments with varying focuses. The Guardianship Amendment Bill reforms the law around the enforcement of overseas custody orders. This article describes the suggested changes, particularly focusing around the existing and future law around overseas custody orders.

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Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Papers Series primarily contains scholarly papers by members of the [Faculty of Law at Victoria University of Wellington](#). Some issues collect a number of papers on a similar theme to form a suite of papers on a single topic. Others issues are general or distribute mainly recent work.

The Student/Alumni Series is a subseries of the Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper Series. The subseries started in 2015 and publishes papers by students and alumni of Victoria University of Wellington, comprising primarily work for honours and postgraduate courses. Papers are collected into thematic or general issues.

The Victoria University of Wellington was founded in 1899 to mark the Diamond Jubilee of the reign of Queen Victoria of Great Britain and of the then British Empire. Law teaching started in 1900. The Law Faculty was formally constituted in 1907. The first dean was Richard Maclaurin (1870-1920), an eminent scholar of both law and mathematics. Maclaurin went on to lead the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as President in its formative years. Early professors included Sir John Salmond (1862-1924), still one of the Common Law's leading scholars. His texts on jurisprudence and torts have gone through many editions and remain in print.

Alumni include Sir Robin Cooke (1926-2006), one of the leading judges of the British Commonwealth. As Baron Cooke of Thorndon, he sat on over 100 appeals to the Appellate Committee of the House of Lords, one of very few Commonwealth judges ever appointed to do so.

Since 1996 the Law School has occupied the Old Government Building in central Wellington. Designed by William Clayton and opened in 1876 to house New Zealand's then civil service, the building is a particularly fine example of Italianate neo-Renaissance style. Unusually among large colonial official buildings of the time it is constructed of wood, apart from chimneys and vaults.

The School is close to New Zealand's Parliament, courts, and the headquarters of government departments. Throughout Victoria's history, our law teachers have contributed actively to policy formation and to law reform. As a result, in addition to many scholarly articles and books, the Victoria SSRN pages include a number of official reports.

Victoria graduates approximately 230 LLB and LLB(Hons) students each year, and about 60 LLM students. The faculty has an increasing number of doctoral students. Ordinarily there are ten to twelve students engaged in PhD research.

Victoria University observes the British system of academic ranks. In North American terms, lecturers and senior lecturers are tenured doctrinal scholars, not legal writing teachers. A senior lecturer corresponds approximately to a North American associate professor in rank.

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