

CENTRE FOR COMPARATIVE AND PUBLIC LAW
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ASIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL LAW
FACULTY OF LAW, THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Seminar

**The Tangled Web We Weave: Complexity
in the Australian Consumer Law**

Professor Mark Lunney

University of New England, Armidale, Australia

Wednesday, 6 November 2013, 12:30 - 1:30 pm
Academic Conference Room, 11/F Cheng Yu Tung Tower
The University of Hong Kong

The paper will explore some of the complexities that have been added to the consumer protection regime in Australia by the passage of the Australian Consumer Law (‘the ACL’). In particular, it will look at the new scheme of consumer guarantees introduced by the legislation and how these guarantees interact with other parts of the ACL such as the strict liability that attaches to defective products. While some of these difficulties existed under previous versions of consumer protection legislation, the ACL has done little to eliminate or reduce these difficulties. The result is that consumer law in Australia remains complex even after a major reform designed to simplify this area of the law.

Mark Lunney is a Professor in the School of Law at the University of New England, Armidale, Australia. He trained as a solicitor in Brisbane before obtaining an LLM from the University of Cambridge. Between 1991-2003 he was lecturer, senior lecturer and reader at the School of Law, King's College London. He was an Associate Professor in the School of Law at the University of New England between 2003-2011 and from 2011-2012 he was Professor and Director of Research in the ANU College of Law. His research interests are the law of tort, and the history of the common law and legal profession. He currently holds an Australian Research Council Discovery Grant for his project on ‘The history of tort law in Australia 1901-1945’, and he has published extensively on the law of torts in both Australia and the United Kingdom (see, for example, Barker, Cane, Lunney & Trindade, *The Law of Torts in Australia* (5th edn, 2012) and Lunney & Oliphant, *Tort Law: Text and Materials* (5th edn, 2013). He is also a contributing editor to the practitioners’ reference work *Tort Law* (2nd edn, 2007, Butterworths Common Law Series). He is the inaugural Australian member of the World Tort Law Society.

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