

## Law Council reaffirms opposition to death penalty

***The following statement can be attributed to Mr Duncan McConnel, President, Law Council of Australia:***

- The Law Council of Australia has reaffirmed its opposition to the death penalty in the wake of the recent execution of foreign citizens in Indonesia and confirmation that death sentences will be imposed on Australian citizens, Mr Andrew Chan and Mr Myuran Sukimaran.
- While the Law Council of Australia respects the Indonesian laws and its sovereignty, the Law Council has a long-standing policy opposing the imposition or execution of the death penalty.
- It is the position of the Law Council that no person should be subjected to the death penalty irrespective of their nationality, the nature of the crime they are alleged to have committed or the time and place of its alleged commission.
- From an Australian perspective, where young Australian lives are lost by the imposition of the death penalty it brings home the futility of the death penalty as a form of criminal punishment.
- Drug importation and trafficking are serious crimes but they are prevalent throughout the world. Overwhelmingly, nation states recognise that a sentence of imprisonment is a proportionate response to such crimes.
- The Law Council applauds the Australian lawyers who are working to support Mr Chan and Mr Sukimaran and the work of the Australian Government at a diplomatic level.
- While the Law Council respects the Indonesian courts' ruling, we hope mercy will prevail.
- A copy of the Law Council's Death Penalty Policy Statement is available [online](#).

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**Vanessa Kleinschmidt, Director, Government and Corporate Affairs**

P. 02 6246 3716 // M. 0408 014 110

E. [vanessa.kleinschmidt@lawcouncil.asn.au](mailto:vanessa.kleinschmidt@lawcouncil.asn.au) // [www.lawcouncil.asn.au](http://www.lawcouncil.asn.au)