

Guest Editor's Introduction

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The contents of this issue have been selected from the papers delivered at the Seventh Annual Conference of the Australian Association of Professional and Applied Ethics (AAPAE), held at St John's College at the University of Queensland, July 7-9th, 2000.

These papers testify that the AAPAE—developed from a conference on Teaching Applied Ethics held in Sydney in 1992—continues to provide a vital forum for productive exchanges and synergies for academics and professionals from many different disciplines and backgrounds who are often divided by traditional disciplinary boundaries.

Society is challenged by a variety of novel ethical dilemmas, many of them generated by technologically-driven social changes. These challenges provide a significant source of ethical perplexity and generate the need to examine and reflect upon values and their relation to conceptual, social and cultural issues. These concerns are expressed in a variety of ways by the contributors to this issue.

The AAPAE shares interests with counterpart organisations overseas, and like them is concerned about ethical failures in public and professional life, and about the need for continuing vigilance and scrutiny of standards in the private and public sectors. The need for vigorous and searching criticism of ethical issues, codes and standards continues unabated.

The AAPAE 2000 Conference attracted more than fifty papers covering a broad and eclectic range of topics in professional and applied ethics.

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