Current Awareness

Compiled by Katherine Read and Laura Griffiths at the Institute of Advanced Legal **Studies**

This Current Awareness column, and previous Current Awareness columns, are fully searchable in the caLIM database (Current Awareness for Legal Information Managers). The caLIM database is available on the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies website at: http://ials. sas.ac.uk/library/caware/caware.htm

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Book Reviews

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HOYANO, L. and KEENAN, C. Child Abuse: Law and Policy Across Boundaries. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007. ISBN 978-0-19-829946-2. £95.00. 1002, xxix p.

This is an extremely welcome and important contribution to the law relating to child abuse. The physical weight of the book demonstrates that this is going to be a serious analysis of an area of law that is often neglected, and the book adopts a comparative approach to the law relating to child abuse.

The book is not divided into jurisdictional areas, which is a key strength since it would have made it significantly more difficult to identify the differences between

jurisdictions. Instead it is organised into a series of key themes, including the framework for adjudicating allegations; liability in criminal law; liability in tort and human rights law; the inquiry process; and the adjudication of the allegation.

In each theme, the key issues pertaining to the theme are examined within different jurisdictions, most usually England & Wales (occasionally Scotland), Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the United States of America. These jurisdictions obviously share a commonlaw history but have, in recent years, diverged into separate systems which, as the book shows, have substantially different ways of trying to tackle this problem. The authors do not attempt to suggest that any one jurisdiction is 'better' than another, but rather demonstrate what the key strengths and weaknesses of the systems are.