

# **TEACHING ABOUT THE NEXUS BETWEEN LAW AND SOCIETY: FROM PEDAGOGY TO ANDRAGOGY**

PATRICIA EASTEAL, PHD\*

## **Abstract**

This practice article describes a learner-centred approach to legal education that has proven effective in engaging law students with a critical and contextual analysis of the legal system. The model is based on an action-learning cycle in which implementation is continuously improved following feedback and reflection. The aims of the approach are to provide students with an understanding of the interplay between the law and the broader society in which it is practised, and the confidence and skills to engage in independent, critical and creative thought. Three elements have emerged as essential to achieving these aims: a supportive social environment, a format that integrates small group discussions with formal presentations around specific topics, and an assessment scheme based on 'learning chronicles'.

---

\* Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Canberra. Recipient of a 2008 Australian Award for University Teaching-Award for Teaching Excellence.