# ABOUT THE UNIT

Following its very successful inaugural launch last year, this unit examines the major current issues in consumer law and policy, including: the 2007/8 national review of Australian consumer policy; new laws prohibiting unfair contract terms; how we make laws and the role of interest groups; alternative dispute resolution and developments in misleading, deceptive and unconscionable conduct.

The unit is co-ordinated by UWA academic Eileen Webb. The unit will also feature an extended guest presentation from the developer of the unit, Chris Field, Western Australian Ombudsman, Adjunct Professor, University of Western Australia and Chair in Consumer Law, La Trobe University.

Additionally, several leading Western Australians will make guest presentations.

Classes will be held at The University of Western Australia. The Law School welcomes students from other LLM programs, practitioners wishing to extend their professional development and others wishing to participate in the unit.

Morning and afternoon refreshments will be provided.

University luncheon venues available; lunch is not included in the registration fee. Please register early to secure your place.
Day 1
Monday, 30th June

- Who are consumers and what are consumer interests?
- What is consumer law and how is it made?
- The role of government, regulators, consumer affairs departments and interest groups.
- An introduction to law and economics
- Theories of regulation and the role of interest groups, including consumer advocacy.
- Case Studies.
- Economic Theory, Public Policy, Interest Groups, Regulation and Consumers

Day 2
Tuesday, 1st July

- An overview of the legal framework regulating Australian consumer markets.
- An overview of the law of unconscionability.

Day 3
Wednesday, 2nd July

- The introduction of unfair contract terms in Australia.
- Group exercise: examining the terms of a consumer contract.
- Group exercise: should Australia introduce laws prohibiting unfair contract terms?

Day 4
Thursday, 3rd July

- Reviewing Australian consumer law and policy: an introduction
- Reviewing Australian consumer law and policy: the key issues.
- Reviewing Australian consumer law and policy: the key issues (continued).
- Reviewing Australian consumer law and policy.

Day 5
Friday, 4th July

- Alternative Dispute Resolution: Theory and Practice
- Consumer dispute resolution and access to justice, including a law and economics analysis
- Self-regulation, including industry codes of practice
- Industry dispute resolution and Industry Ombudsman schemes.