

SOUTH WEST

# Inala solicitor wins prize for legal ideas on self-driving cars

**A group of Queensland's top lawyers and doctors have chosen an essay by an Inala juvenile justice solicitor for a prestigious annual award**

Julie Sanderson, South-West Satellite

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Inala lawyer John Shanahan has won a prestigious essay award for his ideas on self-driving cars.

Inala solicitor John Shanahan has won a prestigious award for an essay on the legal, medical and ethical issues surrounding self-driving cars.

Mr Shanahan won the Medico-Legal Society of Queensland annual Lawrence-Brennan Essay Prize for his work, which he says reflects a long-term project.

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"There are a lot of issues around self-driving cars, but I think there is about half-a-century's worth of work to do in developing both the cars and the ethical/legal framework," he said.

Mr Shanahan works in the fields of mental health law, juvenile justice, child protection and family law at Hub Community Legal service at Inala.

The essay prize is made in honour of Dr Joan Lawrence, an eminent Queensland psychiatrist, and the former Chief Justice of the High Court, the Honourable Gerard Brennan QC.

The essay prize is open to legal and medical practitioners with less than five years professional experience.

Before becoming a solicitor, Mr Shanahan was a pharmacist and says this generated his interest in issues that cross the medical/legal divide.

It also was how he met his pharmacist wife, Melissa, who will share his \$1000 essay prize for being the paper's editor.

"I bought a new bike with my half," Mr Shanahan said.