NATIONAL PRO BONO RESOURCE CENTRE

ANNUAL REPORT 2010

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The Centre has adopted the following principles in relation to pro bono services:

- ***Pro bono should operate to complement and not be a substitute for properly funded government funded legal services.***
- ***The planning, design and provision of pro bono services should be determined by reference to the needs of socially and/or economically disadvantaged people.***
- ***Pro bono work should always be done to the same standards of attention, priority and professional performance as fee paying work.***
- ***Pro bono practice is a voluntary activity.***
- ***Government has a vital role in encouraging, supporting and facilitating pro bono initiatives.***

Front cover image: Walk for Justice on National Pro Bono Day in Adelaide. Photo by Lisa Catt, supplied by JusticeNet SA.

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Chair's message

Peter Stapleton

The strength and resiliency of the Australian economy, including its legal profession, was put in the spotlight during the past year due to the global financial crisis. Despite the economy weathering the downturn well and emerging relatively unscathed, many continue to experience disadvantage and marginalisation in our society today.

Australian lawyers and law firms continue to demonstrate an impressive commitment to delivering pro bono legal services. This is especially important when times are tough. Recent research conducted by the Centre shows that most large law firms remained committed to their pro bono programs even when their profit margins faltered. I wish to congratulate these firms and all lawyers who undertook pro bono work during the year and hope that you found the work fulfilling.

But there is still much work to be done. Coordination of pro bono service delivery has improved and the Centre has been actively involved in this, particularly in the States and Territories where five years ago no coordination system existed. It is now time for the Centre to seek to identify more closely unmet need in the community and assist pro bono providers to develop strategies to help meet this need.

Since its establishment, the Centre has facilitated the provision of pro bono services and assisted in matching legal service providers with community organisations providing services to those in need. These partnerships continue to be important because they match the resources and expertise of the private profession with the experience, awareness and expertise of community organisations. When these elements are combined, legal service providers are better able to help their clients. Moreover, approaches to meeting unmet legal need in the community become more diverse and creative.

The legal profession is facing regulatory change. The ongoing National Legal Profession Reform provides an opportunity for the government to remove barriers to the provision of pro bono work by implementing a practising certificate regime that allows lawyers to do pro bono work whenever and wherever, provided they have adequate insurance and supervision. The Centre has made a number of submissions, with others, to the National Legal Profession reform process and will continue to strongly advocate for the removal of barriers to pro bono work.

I wish to thank the Centre's director, John Corker, and all the staff and interns for their contribution to the Centre this year. I also wish to thank my fellow board members for their competence and commitment to the Centre and the Advisory Council members for their valuable input into the ongoing strategic planning processes of the Centre.

November 2010

"Without the pro bono work of the Bar, and the profession, the wheels of justice would slow down. Governments speak about court delays, they would be exacerbated without the generosity and commitment of pro bono work."

Excerpts from remarks of the Hon. Marilyn Warren AC, Chief Justice of Victoria, on the occasion of the Victorian Bar tenth anniversary pro bono celebration and awards ceremony, 18 May 2010, titled 'Propping up the System'.

Director's report

John Corker

"Obviously, using the law to effect positive change will help others, either individually or systemically. Importantly, it will also ensure the maintenance of public confidence in your chosen, and all too often unfairly maligned, profession. Most important of all, using the law to help others will give you great personal satisfaction and add meaning and purpose to your life."

The Honourable Justice Margaret A McMurdo AC, President, Queensland Court of Appeal
Opening Gala Dinner Speech, ALSA Conference Dinner
13 July 2009

This year was the first year in a new four year funding cycle with a new strategic plan.

Reflecting on what had been achieved over the past four years, notably the existence of a pro bono clearing house in each State and Territory of Australia and publication of a range of printed and online guides to assist people find pro bono service providers, the Centre sought to put more emphasis on reviewing and analysing unmet legal need in the community and identifying where pro bono legal services can best assist in meeting that need. A first step in doing this was to publish a Social Needs Research Report that listed and classified most major reports and submissions concerning social need published in Australia in the past four years.

The legal profession's commitment to pro bono work continued to grow, evidenced by the growing interest in the *National Pro Bono Aspirational Target* and the increased performance of its signatories confirmed by the results of the recent survey of law firms conducted by the Centre. Whilst the number of fee-earners in the top twelve firms decreased by
13.3 percent from July 2008-2010, the average pro bono hours per lawyer rose from 21 to 29 hours per lawyer, a remarkable increase in a time of economic downturn.

This was the first year's operation of the Centre's *National Pro Bono Public Indemnity Insurance Scheme* underwritten by insurer LawCover. Six pro bono projects were approved during the year, each facilitating a number of in-house counsel to get involved in pro bono work. A number of large corporations held back from developing projects, however, due to the continuing difficulties in Victoria for in-house counsel seeking to obtain an appropriate practising certificate.

Differences in practising certificate regimes continue to create barriers for lawyers (particularly in-house and retired lawyers) wishing to do pro bono work and the Centre worked with others to develop a comprehensive submission to the National Legal Profession Reform process to advocate for appropriate regulatory change. This followed on in part from the recommendations of the Centre's research report *Engaging Retired and Career Break Lawyers in Pro Bono* published February 2010 that provided recommendations on how to better facilitate over the coming years the involvement of retired and career break lawyers in pro bono legal work.

In accordance with the Centre's plan to develop innovative programs, the Centre provided assistance and support to Parramatta City Council to establish a pro bono panel for social enterprises in the Parramatta Local Government Area consisting of national and local law firms and a specialist community legal centre. The first referrals to the panel were made at the end of the financial year.

To better understand need in RRR areas and to do something practical about meeting need, the Centre developed a relationship with Indigenous Consumer Assistance Network (ICAN), operating in far north Queensland, and was successful in brokering a partnership between ICAN and Blake Dawson. ICAN provides financial counselling and consumer advocacy services to Indigenous clients, and the partnership between ICAN and Blake Dawson will target assisting indigenous clients in remote communities who are victims of unconscionable and unfair conduct by traders.

Walk for Justice on National Pro Bono Day: walkers in The Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney.

Walk for Justice on National Pro Bono Day: the walkers in Victoria gather at the steps of Parliament House.

The Centre engaged with international pro bono for the first time this year, by taking part in the International Pro Bono Advisory Group convened by the Commonwealth Attorney-General, and accepted the invitation to apply for a one-off grant of $100,000 from the Grants to Australian Organisations Program (GAOP) for the purposes of administering a disbursement assistance fund for international pro bono work. The centre also provided a brief to the Commonwealth Secretariat of Law Ministers on international pro bono.

National Pro Bono Day was celebrated for the second time in May during National Law Week, and the Walk for Justice, which was held in Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney, was well attended in all states highlighting the importance that the profession places on access to justice.

State/Territory based activities

While many of the Centre's projects were of national scope, our particular focus this year was Tasmania especially on facilitating the development of pro bono structures and the mechanisms to better coordinate service delivery.

This year saw the establishment of the Tasmanian pro bono clearing house by the Tasmanian Law Society. I was proud to be involved in its development and I commend the Tasmanian legal profession for their initiative. All Australian jurisdictions now have their own pro bono referral schemes. The Centre will continue to provide support where necessary to these great programs.

Activities in Western Australia were aligned with WA Law Week, the National Association of Community Legal Centre's Conference and the Law Council's National Legal Convention in September. The Centre presented at the NACLC conference and attended meetings with the Law Society's pro bono referral scheme and the Legal Practice Board of Western Australia.

Activities in SA were focused on supporting JusticeNet in its first year's activity as a pro bono clearing house. The clearing house has made a significant difference for those seeking pro bono assistance in SA. Activities in Queensland involved supporting QPILCH and brokering a pro bono partnership between ICAN and Blake Dawson in Far North Queensland. Activities in the NT involved supporting the relatively new NT pro bono clearing house at the Law Society NT through providing advice on referrals. The Centre visited the ACT Law Society to discuss its pro bono clearing house and participated in the ACT Philanthropy Roundtable.

In NSW the Centre brokered the Parramatta Social Enterprise pro bono legal panel, and participated in the NSW Pro Bono Legal Services Committee meetings. The Centre continued to discuss with the three pro bono clearing houses ways to get one-stop shopping for persons seeking pro bono legal assistance in NSW.

Victoria continues to provide a best practice model for pro bono coordination and the Centre worked closely with PILCH (Vic) where senior policy officer Skye Rose was based for most of the year, and worked with a number of mid tier firms in Victoria to assist them to develop and enhance their pro bono programs.

"The commitment of Australian lawyers to pro bono services is outstanding."

The Hon Robert McClelland MP, Attorney-General of Australia
Speech to the Australian Lawyers Alliance National Conference
23 October 2009

Director's report

Engagement and advocacy

The Centre continued to work closely with all stakeholders in the legal profession to collect information on pro bono service provision, gaps in service delivery and legal need and to seek to affect policy.

The Centre successfully lobbied the Queensland Law Society to change its rules concerning practicing certificates and pro bono work and continued to advocate for change in other states, especially in Victoria.

The Centre also established an information sharing relationship with the Australian Legal Assistance Forum (ALAF) and all state-based LAF's in order to be better informed about developments in legal need.

The Centre has also focused on lifting the visibility of pro bono work in the community and spreading the responsibility more evenly across the profession. The release of the *Second Performance Report on the National Pro Bono Aspirational Target* (Target) following the changes made by the Commonwealth Government to its Legal Services Directions in September 2008 showed a significant increase in the number of Target signatories and the amount of pro bono work undertaken by signatory lawyers.

The Centre's website was regularly updated and continues to provide the front door to the Centre's database which contains many precedents and other resources for the use of the pro bono providers and seekers. The monthly enewsletter the *National Pro Bono News* continued to provide current information and a national perspective on pro bono service delivery. The Centre also managed and updated the *CLC Volunteers* website *(www.clcvounteers.net.au)* which continues to increase in traffic and play a valuable role in the sector.

Throughout the year the wonderful staff of the Centre attended many meetings, conferences, seminars and workshops where we chaired sessions, made presentations and participated to support and promote pro bono legal services in Australia. The information on the following pages explains in greater detail the range of activities for the year.

I would like to thank my staff for all the hard work, enthusiasm and dedication they have shown in the past year.

Board and Advisory Council

I would also like to thank all Board and Advisory Council members for their contribution The Centre's annual face-to-face Board and Advisory Council meeting is essential to review and keep relevant its work and adjust priority areas in accordance with the Centre's Strategic Plan.

I would also like to acknowledge the important support and guidance provided to me by the Centre's Chair, Peter Stapleton.

John Corker
Director

Projects & Activities 2009-10

Walk for Justice on national Pro Bono Day (from top to bottom): the Henry Davis York team in Sydney, Centre staff and interns walking for justice in Sydney, a team of walkers in Brisbane, DLA Phillips Fox team in Sydney.

Reports on the Centre's projects and activities are grouped according to the key objectives of the Centre, as detailed in its Strategic Plan.

1. Promoting pro bono work throughout the legal profession

- **Pro Bono Partnerships Award NSW** - The Centre again sponsored the *Pro Bono Partnerships Award* as part of the annual *Justice Awards* held by the Law and Justice Foundation of NSW. This year, the award went to the partnership of the Salvation Army, Auburn and Mills Oakley lawyers for their partnership aimed at providing free legal advice and representation for marginalised people in Western Sydney. Interestingly, solicitor Luke Geary from Mills Oakley has gone on to establish the new innovative Salvation Army legal service.
- **National Pro Bono Aspirational Target** - Launched in April 2007, the number of signatories has almost doubled since the end of the 2007-2008 financial year. The Target now covers approximately 5,900 legal professionals, including individual solicitors or barristers and law firms. The *Second Performance Report on the Aspirational Target* was published in September 2009. The Centre continues to promote the Target and reports on the performance of signatories annually.
- **National Access to Justice and Pro Bono Conference** - The Centre together with the Law Council of Australia prepared to host the third National Access to Justice and Pro Bono Conference held in Brisbane in August 2010. The conference program contained a stream dedicated to pro bono and keynote speakers included Jeffrey L Bleich, US Ambassador to the Commonwealth of Australia, Mick Gooda, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner and Esther F. Lardent, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Pro Bono Institute based in Washington DC.
- **National Pro Bono Day and Walk for Justice** – 17 May 2010 marked the first day of National Law Week and the second National Pro Bono Day, an initiative launched by the Centre to celebrate the pro bono work done by the legal and other professions. The Centrepiece for National Pro Bono Day was the third Walk for Justice, held simultaneously in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide. This year, over 1,400 members of the legal community participated in the 5-kilometre event, including more than 600 in Queensland alone. Walkers around the country included Attorneys-General, Members of Parliament, Judges, Magistrates, lawyers and staff from private firms, legal aid, pro bono clearing houses and community legal centres, law students and many others.

Projects & Activities 2009-10

Louisa Fitz-Gerald (Cancer Council of NSW), Kate Robertson (Ramsay Health) and John Corker at the launch of the Cancer Council Legal Referral Service in Sydney.

- **Law student and law school pro bono** – The Centre prepared and published *Pro Bono In Australia – An introduction to practical legal training students* in collaboration with the College of Law. The text is now included in the College of Law's practice papers for PLT students and LexisNexis provided the Centre with 220 hard copies of the publication, which were distributed to all PLT providers in Australia. The Centre also continues to manage the Public Interest Internship Program (PIIP) for the UNSW Law Faculty. For the 2010 academic year, 55 students were accepted into the program, compared with 28 students in 2007/08. Centre staff also presented to students at UNSW and UTS on access to justice and pro bono.
- **Other conferences and meetings** – Other Australian conferences and meetings in which the Centre participated include: the National Association of Community Legal Centres (NACLC) Conference in Perth in September 2009, where the Director presented in a session on pro bono, and the Australian Law Students Association (ALSA) conference in Brisbane where the Centre's publication *Pro Bono Practices Guide* was launched. After meeting with representatives of ICAN in Cairns, the Centre attended the Australian Financial Counselling & Credit Reform Association conference in Melbourne and participated and presented in conference sessions and workshops with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander financial counsellors from around the country.

  The Centre also attended meetings with the National Association of Community Legal Centres (NACLC), the Queensland Association of Independent Legal Services Inc (QAILS), Victorian Federation of Community Legal Centres, Community Legal Centres NSW, NSW Legal Assistance Forum (NLAF), Victorian Legal Assistance Forum (VLAF), the Cth A-G's International Pro Bono Advisory Committee, Large Firm Pro Bono Coordinators meeting, Australian Corporate Lawyers' Association (ACLA), NSW Pro Bono Legal Services Committee, Victorian Pro Bono Secretariat, Legal Information and Referral Forum NSW, the ACT Philanthropy Roundtable and Law Societies in Queensland, South Australia, New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory and numerous law firms.

2. Providing assistance and support to existing and potential service providers

- **Resources and advice for establishing pro bono clearing houses** – The Centre participated in consultations and provided precedents and advice leading to the launch of the Tasmanian Pro Bono Clearing House in April 2010. The Centre also assisted Justicenet SA, the South Australian clearing house established in 2009 with a number of 'start-up' issues and provided letters of support for funding applications. The Centre also assisted with the establishment of a stand-alone Cancer Council Legal Referral Service in NSW by providing advice and support.
- **Insurance for in-house lawyers** – On 15 May 2009, National Pro Bono Day, the Centre announced the *National Pro Bono PI Insurance Scheme* (the Scheme') commencing 1 July 2009 to encourage lawyers that work in corporations and government to undertake pro bono legal work. The Scheme removes one of the key constraints to pro bono - the need for in-house lawyers to have professional indemnity ("PI") insurance to cover them for any civil claims arising from their pro bono legal work. The Policy is underwritten by LawCover and is held and administered by the Centre. The Policy insures lawyers and paralegals who do pro bono legal work on projects approved by the Centre.

  During the year, the Centre approved six pro bono projects under the Scheme. Each facilitated a number of in-house counsel to get involved in pro bono work. Unfortunately, due to restrictions placed on practicing certificates in Victoria, some in-house legal teams were unable to take advantage of the Scheme in their pro bono work. The Centre will continue to raise awareness about the Scheme and to advocate for changes to practicing certificate regimes where necessary.

Luke Edney and Anne Cregan (Blake Dawson), Drew Danger (ICAN) and John Corker at ICAN offices in Yarrabah, Far North Queensland.

- **Brokering and match-making between pro bono service providers and community based organisations** – the Centre brokered a relationship between the Indigenous Consumer Advocacy Network (ICAN) and Blake Dawson in order to assist Indigenous consumers in remote communities who have fallen victim to traders guilty of unfair or unconscionable conduct. The Centre also assisted in the establishment of the *Parramatta City Council Social Enterprise Pro Bono Panel*, which consists of three national firms, two local Parramatta firms and a specialist community legal centre. The panel provides legal assistance to social enterprises operating in the Parramatta Local Government Area assisting newly arrived immigrant communities and people with barriers to employment. The Centre will continue to provide support to the Parramatta City Council in its social enterprise activities and will conduct an evaluation of the project at the end of the new financial year.

3. Making available information and resources to assist pro bono service providers

- **Social Needs Research Project** – as part of the Centre's research program the Centre published a *Social Needs Report* that identified social and legal needs research conducted in Australia in the past four years with a view to better identifying and informing pro bono service providers about unmet need where they may be able to make a difference and to assist them to more easily find reports and submissions relevant to their pro bono practice. The Report was distributed to key stakeholders in draft form, and received positive and constructive feedback. It is planned to publish this report annually.
- **Retired and career-break lawyers research project** – the Centre published its report *Engaging retired and career-break lawyers in pro bono work* in February 2010. The report was the product of over 12 months of research and almost 50 consultations with key stakeholders in the legal profession as well as retired and career-break lawyers. The research aimed to identify if, and how, retired and career-break lawyers could be encouraged to become involved in pro bono legal work, how these lawyers could be supported and best matched with appropriate opportunities, and how any constraints could be overcome. The report made a number of recommendations some directed to professional associations and others for law reform. The Centre sought to advance the recommendations concerning the cost and availability of practising certificates and professional indemnity insurance through submissions made to the COAG Taskforce on national reform of the legal profession, and at a state level through meetings with legal professional associations in Victoria, Queensland, New South Wales and Western Australia.
- **Pro Bono Practices Guide** – The Centre prepared and published the *Pro Bono Practices Guide - A national guide to the pro bono practices of 30 Australian law firms* in conjunction with NSW Young Lawyers. The Guide was launched at the Australian Law Students Association (ALSA) Conference in Brisbane in July 2009. One thousand hard copies of the Guide were printed, and the Guide was distributed electronically to all Law Students' Associations in Australian Law Schools, as well as to all legal ethics lecturers in all universities. The Guide has been very well received, and has generated interest amongst law students, graduates, community organisations, the media and government.
- **Centre's website** – The Centre continued to promote its website, which was launched in April 2008. The website contains resources including information for the public on how to find legal help, information for pro bono lawyers (including the law firm directory, the *Australian Pro Bono Manual* and the National Pro Bono Aspirational Target), information for CLCs, Legal Aid and ATSILs, information for law students, publications and reports, eNewsletters, valuable links, and a discussion board. The website receives about 120,000 hits per month.
- **Aboriginal Legal Service Pro Bono Guide** – The Centre launched the *ATSILS Pro Bono Guide* at the second annual conference for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services (ATSILS) in Canberra on 15 October 2009. The Guide provides information on how to obtain pro bono assistance, the main organisations that provide pro bono services and the range of services that might be available. It also provides information for firms about ATSILS.

Projects & Activities 2009-10

"I hope that you will also acknowledge the goal of public service which underpins your new professionalism, and be astute to the plight of the under privileged within our community: the professional associations, and many of the firms, run active and well-developed pro bono schemes which should be of interest to you."

The Hon Paul de Jersey AC, Chief Justice of Queensland
Admissions Ceremony, Supreme Court of Queensland
1 February 2010

It aims to help ATSILS make well-targeted pro bono referrals to the most appropriate law firm or pro bono referral scheme. This guide builds on the Aboriginal Legal Service Pro Bono Guide (NSW/ACT) which was published in 2008 and evaluated in 2009, and identifies opportunities for ATSILS to obtain pro bono assistance in civil law as well as non-legal assistance.

- **Australian Pro Bono Manual** – The Centre continued to update and promote its flagship publication, the *Australian Pro Bono Manual*. The Manual is available in hard copy and a digital version is maintained and updated on the Centre's website. Web visits to the Manual were fairly constant throughout the year and the precedent letters and policies were regularly downloaded. The Centre is looking into producing a second edition of the Guide in the next two years. This year, copies of this Manual were requested and supplied to New Zealand and Singapore legal professional associations and government agencies.
- **The National Pro Bono News** - The Centre published 11 editions of National Pro Bono News to approximately 650 subscribers during the year. The newsletter is a key instrument that informs the pro bono community about a range of national and international activities and programs.

4. Promoting pro bono law to community organisations and the general public

- **Raising the profile of pro bono** – The Second National Pro Bono Day, the launch of the *Second Performance Report on the National Pro Bono Aspirational Target* in September 2009, as well as the launch of the *National Pro Bono Practices Guide* and the *ATSILS Pro Bono Referral Guide* raised awareness and generated discussion in the community and the media about pro bono services during the year. Centre staff also attended state and national CLC conferences, assisted with training initiatives and relationship-building events at home and interstate. This has resulted in some new productive pro bono relationships being formed.
- **Raising awareness about pro bono legal services** – The Centre continued to raise awareness of pro bono legal services by publishing Guides and writing articles for several publications. The Centre has also contributed information to the National CLC Directory on pro bono services, and continues to participate in many cross sector networks including CLCs, legal aid and Indigenous Legal Organisations (ILOs) to raise awareness about pro bono issues and services. See Centre Media Mentions in this report for more detail.
- **Participating in the policy development process** – Reform of the legal profession was a significant priority in the Centre's policy work this year. The National Legal Profession Project represents a significant opportunity to introduce a nationally consistent legislative framework for the regulation of the legal profession that facilitates access to justice by encouraging participation in pro bono legal work to the fullest extent possible. In October 2009, the Centre made a submission to the COAG Task Force in conjunction with the Australian Corporate Lawyers Association, DLA Phillips Fox, PILCH (Vic), QPILCH and JusticeNet SA. The submission outlined the barriers faced by lawyers wanting to provide pro bono legal assistance, particularly in relation to practising certificates and professional indemnity insurance, and identified ways to overcome these barriers. The consultation draft of the Legal Profession National Law, released on 14 May 2010, removed barriers faced by some lawyers in providing pro bono legal assistance by providing free or low cost volunteer practising certificates to authorise lawyers to volunteer at community legal services. It did however miss the opportunity to remove the constraint that confronts many in-house lawyers who want to organise a pro bono project for their corporate legal team. The Centre, again in conjunction with key stakeholders prepared a further submission to advocate for additional reform to enable lawyers to undertake pro bono legal work other than as a volunteer at a community legal service.

Staff & interns

Peter Stapleton, Amanda Lennestaal with baby Miriam, John Corker, Maria Twomey, Daniel Jacobs and Tolga Gencturk at the Walk for Justice in Sydney.

John Corker had a diverse legal career as judge's associate, barrister, Aboriginal Legal Aid lawyer, General Counsel for the Australian Broadcasting Authority and senior associate with Clayton Utz before joining the Centre as Director in 2004. His broad experience across the profession equips him to lead the Centre into its ninth year of operation.

Skye Rose joined the Centre as the Senior Policy and Project Manager in November 2007. Skye previously worked as a lawyer at Minter Ellison and as a pro bono lawyer with the Homeless Person's Legal Service. Skye has been a major contributor to many of the Centre's policy initiatives, projects, and publications, including the *Aboriginal Legal Service Pro Bono Guide*. Skye spent three months on an internship in early 2010 with LICAHDO, a Cambodian Human Rights NGO, and left the Centre to take up a position as a senior lawyer with the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission in August 2010. The Centre thanks Skye for her significant contribution.

Maria Twomey joined the Centre as a Policy and Research Officer in March 2008 having worked as a lawyer in Helsinki and London for six years. Maria has been responsible for completing the Centre's national pro bono survey of the legal profession and has been a major contributor to many of the Centre's key projects and policy initiatives and publications, including the national edition of the Pro Bono Practices Guide.

Amanda Lennestaal was the Centre's administrator from July 2007 until September 2008 when she left Australia to live in Sweden. After a year in Sweden Amanda came briefly back to the Centre before having a beautiful baby girl. She now works part-time as coordinator of the UNSW Public Interest Internship Program on behalf of the Centre.

Sophie Grieve joined the Centre in October 2008 as Research Officer (contract) after having worked as a lawyer at Ebsworth & Ebsworth and as a pro bono lawyer at Kingsford Legal Centre. Sophie was in charge of the research project into engaging retired and career break lawyers in pro bono work. After finishing her contract with the Centre, Sophie moved on to work for the UNSW Law Faculty. The Centre wishes her well in her future career.

Mary-Anne Cartwright Mary-Anne Cartwright joined the Centre briefly as Office Manager after Amanda. Mary-Anne has a long career in office administration and has worked for both the public and private sector. Mary-Anne brought strong organisational skills to the job, and we wish her well in her future endeavours.

Daniel Jacobs took over the job of Office Manager in March 2010. Dan has many years experience working as the Administrator of the Victorian Bar Pro Bono Scheme at PILCH Victoria before moving to Sydney to work for the Centre. In addition to running the office, Dan is in charge of all things related to IT, publishes the Centres monthly e-newsletter and maintains the CLC Volunteers website.

Interns

The Centre has again been fortunate to have assistance from several interns through its association with the UNSW Law Faculty Social Justice Internship Program. Students make significant contributions to the work of the Centre, and in turn are able to gain practical experience in research, writing and advocacy issues affecting social justice. Thank you to students who assisted during the 2009-2010 year:

Semester 2 (2009): Amy Zhou and Sophie Parker

Summer semester: Clement Lui and David Glanz

Semester 1 (2010): Naomi Fryer and Tolga Gencturk

Board & Advisory Council

Board members

Chair: Peter Stapleton

Peter is a Pro Bono Expert on the Board, has been a Board Member since 2004 and was appointed Chair in June 2006. He was instrumental in establishing Blake Dawson Waldron's (now Blake Dawson's) national pro bono practice, a firm he joined in 1983. He was chair of Redfern Legal Centre for many years in the 1980s and is now a director of Aboriginal Legal Services (NSW/ACT) and Redfern Legal Centre.

Professor Michael Adams

Michael is the nominee of the Council of Australian Law Deans (CALD) on the Board, and was appointed in April 2007. Michael is a Professor of Law and Head of the School of Law at the University of Western Sydney where he is a strong advocate for the Pro Bono Students Australia program being run at UWS. Previously, he was a Professor of Corporate Law in the Faculty of Law at the University of Technology, Sydney. Michael has been teaching corporate law in the UK, Australia and USA for over 17 years.

Robin Banks

Robin was the Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC) nominee, and was appointed to the Board in February 2006 but retired in July 2010 to take up the position of Anti-Discrimination Commissioner in Tasmania. Robin was previously the Chief Executive Officer of PIAC. Robin has also worked at the Canadian Human Rights Commission, in Darwin on a coronial inquest in the death of an Aboriginal boy in detention, as coordinator of the NSW Disability Discrimination Legal Centre and as an advocate for people with disabilities.

David Bulloch

David Bulloch is a nominee of ACOSS and has been the Managing Lawyer at Westside Community Lawyers since 1993. Westside Community Lawyers is a community legal centre, with 4 office locations in Adelaide and Port Pirie. David is a graduate of the University of Qld and worked in 2 legal centres in Brisbane in the 80s. He has served on the Legal Services Commission SA (Legal Aid) as a nominee of the A-G of SA, was a member of the National Legal Aid Advisory Committee in the early 90s and more recently was a founding committee member of JusticeNet SA.

Professor David Dixon

David is University of New South Wales (UNSW) nominee, and was appointed to the Board in October 2006. David has been Dean of the UNSW Law faculty since January 2007. Previously he was Senior Associate Dean and Director or Associate Dean (Research) from 1995 to 2005. He has acted as adviser to the Home Office (England & Wales), the (then) Criminal Justice Commission (Queensland), the NSW Police, and the Royal Commission into the NSW Police Service (NSW).

Michelle Hannon

Michelle was nominated by the Sydney based pro bono coordinators and joined the Board in May 2004 and was reappointed in December 2007. Michelle is the Pro Bono Partner at Gilbert+Tobin. She has conducted a number of human rights and discrimination cases and was an executive member of Australian Lawyers for Human Rights for a number of years. She became the founding principal solicitor at the NSW Disability Discrimination Legal Centre, undertaking test case and public interest litigation, as well as policy work and community legal education in the area of disability discrimination.

Kristen Hilton

Kristen was the nominee of PILCH (VIC), PILCH (NSW), and QPILCH and was appointed to the Board in August 2007. She resigned in November 2009 when taking up a senior position with Victoria Legal Aid. She was the Executive Director of PILCH (Vic) and previously a lawyer at Blake Dawson.

Jane Hutchison

Jane is the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS) nominee and was reappointed to the Board in March 2008 but retired in August 2009 due to reaching the six year maximum term. Jane is Manager of the Hobart Community Legal Service Inc and Coordinator of the Tasmanian Association of Community Legal Centres. She has been involved with community legal centres for over 17 years. She was a Board member of the Financial Services Consumer Policy Centre from the mid 90s (helping to establish the Centre) until 2003 and was previously Chair of the Australian Financial Counsellors and Credit Reform Association. Jane was appointed chair of the Centre's Advisory Council in May 2010.

Maxina Martellotta
Maxina is the Western Australia Law Society nominee and was appointed to the Board in May 2008 and is the Executive Director of Community Services at the Council of the Law Society of Western Australia. She has previously worked as a solicitor and consultant with various Community Legal Centres in Western Australia and Victoria. She currently sits as a part time member of the Social Security Appeals Tribunal.

Fiona McLeay
Fiona is a nominee of PILCH (VIC), PILCH (NSW), QPILCH and JusticeNet SA. She has been the Executive Director of PILCH (Vic) since February 2010 when she first joined the Centre's Board. Before taking on her current role, Fiona practiced with DLA Phillips Fox and then Clayton Utz, where she created and was appointed to the position of Pro Bono Coordinator as part of the firm's National Pro Bono Scheme in 2000. Fiona moved to World Vision in 2006 to serve as its first General Counsel.

Caitlin Perry
Caitlin is the National Association of Community Legal Centres (NACLC) nominee and was appointed to the Board in April 2005. Caitlin is the coordinator of the Darwin Community Legal Service and a member of the NT Law Society's legal aid and pro bono committee. Caitlin has a Bachelor of Economics from Sydney University and was previously Coordinator of Redfern Legal Centre.

Robert Reed
Robert was appointed to the Board in February 2007 as a Pro Bono Expert. Robert is a senior associate with Minter Ellison in their Brisbane office, where he has worked in the insurance litigation group, and more recently, the employment law group. Robert formulated Minter Ellison's Community Benefits Program in Brisbane and currently coordinates all of the office's community work, including pro bono legal assistance, donations & sponsorships and staff volunteering.

Mark Woods
Mark Woods is a nominee of the Law Council of Australia. He is a Barrister and Solicitor and an accredited specialist in family law and criminal law. The former President of the Law Institute of Victoria (1995-96), Mark is very passionate about improving access to the justice system for all Australians. Mark serves as chairman of the Access to Justice Committee of the Law Council of Australia, and sits also on the Community Committee for Victoria Legal Aid.

Advisory Council members

Ms Jane Hutchison (Chair) – appointed May 2010
Manager, Hobart Community Legal Service

Ms Deej Eszenyi (Chair) – retired October 2009
Partner, Camatta Lempens Solicitors, Adelaide
(Immediate Past President of the Law Society of SA)

Mr Chris Gabelish
Coordinator, Geraldton Resource Centre

Mr Frank Guivarra
Executive Officer, Aboriginal Legal Service (Melbourne)

Mr Ian Govey – retired March 2010
Deputy Secretary, Civil Justice and Legal Services Group
Attorney General's Department

Ms Elizabeth Kelly – appointed April 2010
Deputy Secretary, Civil Justice and Legal Services Group
Attorney General's Department

Ms Julie Hamblin
Partner, HWL Ebsworth

Mr Dennis Nelthorpe
Consumer Consultant, Melbourne

Ms Trish Price
Office Director, Queensland Legal Aid Commission

Ms Alexandra Richards QC
Barrister, Victorian Bar

Professor David Weisbrot
President, Australian Law Reform Commission

Mr Tony Woodyatt
Executive Director, QPILCH

Centre Media Mentions and Articles

Pro bono target

$46m of lawyers' services for free

Chris Merritt
Legal affairs editor

THE nation's lawyers have provided free legal services worth at least $45.9 million to those in need.

The national Pro Bono Resource Centre released figures today showing that lawyers who have signed up to the centre's aspirational target for pro bono

Arnold Bloch Leibler's pro bono effort was more than 150 indigenous, ... ish, environment ... not-for-profit ca... sations.

The Resource Centre's report shows that the ... covered by the ... agreement has grown from 2900 ... last year to 5700 this year.

As a result ...

'Pro bono opportunities grow for in-house lawyers', **Law Society Journal**, July 2009

'International pro bono group launched', **Lawyers Weekly**, 1 July 2009

'Investing in the public good', **Lawyers Weekly**, 10 July 2009

'Minter Ellison wins second prize in National Pro Bono Short Film competition', **South Australia In-Business**, 17 July 2009

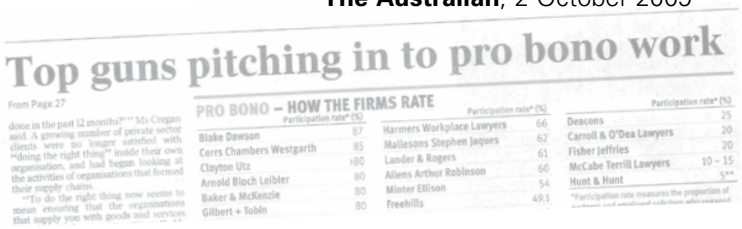
'Market's working', **The Australian**, 14 August 2009

'Top guns pitching into pro bono work', **The Australian**, 14 August 2009

'Refining pro bono policy and targets', **Law Society Journal**, September 2009

'Giving will come to the fore in law', **Lawyers Weekly**, 18 September 2009

'$46m of lawyers' services for free', **The Australian**, 2 October 2009


Top guns pitching in to pro bono work

From Page 27

done in the past 12 months?'" Ms Cregan said. A growing number of private sector clients were no longer satisfied with "doing the right thing" inside their own organisation, and had begun looking at the activities of organisations that formed their supply chains.

"To do the right thing now seems to mean ensuring that the organisations that supply you with goods and services

PRO BONO – HOW THE FIRMS RATE

	Participation rate* (%)
Blake Dawson	87
Corrs Chambers Westgarth	85
Clayton Utz	>80
Arnold Bloch Leibler	80
Baker & McKenzie	80
Gilbert + Tobin	80
Harmers Workplace Lawyers	66
Mallesons Stephen Jaques	62
Lander & Rogers	61
Allens Arthur Robinson	60
Minter Ellison	54
Freehills	49.1
Deacons	25
Carroll & O'Dea Lawyers	20
Fisher Jeffries	20
McCabe Terrill Lawyers	10 – 15
Hunt & Hunt	5**

*Participation rate measures the proportion of

Pro bono aspirations met – and exceeded

Pro bono hours are on the increase, with lawyers now exceeding expectations on what ... dered an "aspirational" target

... the National Pro Bono Resource Centre (NPBRC) introduced the idea of an "Aspirational Target" ... plan seemed extremely ambitious.

... to the Target would need to ensure that their lawyers on av-

erage achieved at least 35 hours of pro bono work per year.

... last financial year lawyers cov-ered by the Target have exceeded this ambition. Lawyers who have signed up to the Target achieved an average of 41.9 hours of pro bono work over the last financial year, up from the average 39.8 hours of the year before.

However, only 41 of the 66 signatories (62 per

Corker says the seven of the nine large main law firms that exceeded the Target averaged 45.2 hours of pro bono work per lawyer over the period – jointly providing almost 180,000 hours.

Also impressive is the fact that, with the addition of some prominent firms as signatories to the Target, the number of lawyers covered has almost doubled since the last financial year. This increase could also be attributed to a commitment by the Commonwealth Government, which in July 2008 required all government agencies to take into consideration whether a firm was a signatory to the Target when procuring legal services.

'Pro bono aspirations met - and exceeded', **Lawyers Weekly**, 9 October 2009

'2009 in review: Key trends in the legal profession', **Lawyers Weekly**, 11 December 2009

'Senators call Canberra on aid shortfall', **Australian Financial Review**, 11 December 2009

'Goodwill props up local legal aid', **The Australian**, 11 December 2009

'Pro pro bono', **The New Lawyer,** 25 February 2010

'Aid in plain site', **Law Institute Journal,** May 2010

'New pro bono guide for PLT students', **Lawyers Weekly**, 3 May 2010

'Pro Bono Day kicks off Law Week 2010', **Lawyers Weekly**, 16 May 2010

'National reform puts in-house pro bono work under threat', **Lawyers Weekly**, 11 June 2010

PRO BONO OPPORTUNIES grow for in-house lawyers

By NICOLAS PATRICK

Pro Bono Day kicks off Law Week 2010

MONDAY'S NATIONAL Pro Bono Day marked the beginning of Law Week 2010, which started off with a Walk for Justice across the country by

justice is improved, the burden of doing so must be shared between both the public and private sectors.

Financial reports

Income Statement for the year ended 30 June 2010

	2010	2009
	$	$
Revenue from ordinary activities	465,012	381,937
Expenses from ordinary activities		
Printing	12,867	12,275
Employee benefits expense	350,769	424,565
Depreciation expense	4,202	4,615
Audit fee	3,600	2,996
Insurance	9,924	1,825
Computer and Communications	10,179	4,267
Subscriptions	369	6,960
Travel and accommodation	16,312	29,396
Loss on sale of assets	–	132
Other expenses from ordinary activities	36,433	21,560
Surplus/(Deficit) From Ordinary Activities	**20,357**	**(126,654)**
Income tax expense relating to ordinary activities	–	–
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	**20,357**	**(126,654)**
Other comprehensive income	–	–
Total comprehensive income	**20,357**	**(126,654)**

Balance Sheet for the year ended 30 June 2010

	2010	2009
	$	$
Current Assets		
Cash assets	250,325	117,361
Receivables	200	11,111
Total Current Assets	250,525	128,472
Non-Current Assets		
Property, plant and equipment	4,363	6,300
Total Non-Current Assets	4,363	6,300
Total Assets	254,888	134,772
Current Liabilities		
Payables	74,090	22,142
Provisions	10,225	24,756
Other	100,000	40,000
Total Current Liabilities	184,315	86,898
Non-Current Liabilities		
Provisions	14,152	11,810
Total Non-Current Liabilities	14,152	11,810
Total Liabilities	198,467	98,708
Net Assets	56,421	36,064
Equity		
Retained Earnings	56,421	36,064
Total Equity	56,421	36,064

The Centre's financial statements were audited by Pitcher Partners, Sydney who opined on 10 September 2010 that the Financial Report of the National Pro Bono Resource Centre is in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001,* including: (a) giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and (b) complying with the Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the *Corporations Regulations 2001.*

NATIONAL PRO BONO RESOURCE CENTRE

The National Pro Bono Resource Centre is an independent, non-profit organisation that supports and promotes pro bono legal services.

The Centre receives financial assistance from the Federal Attorney-General's Department and from the Departments of the Attorney-General in the States and Territories. Accommodation and other support is generously provided by the Faculty of Law at the University of New South Wales.

Further information about the Centre including details of the Centre's publications, current activities and projects in development is available at www.nationalprobono.org.au

You can subscribe to the Centre's eNewsletter at http://www.nationalprobono.org.au/subscribe.asp

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