NATIONAL PRO BONO RESOURCE CENTRE

ANNUAL REPORT 2011

Index

Chair's message 2

Director's report 3

Projects & activities 5

National Law Firm Pro Bono Survey 10

The National Pro Bono Aspirational Target 12

National Access to Justice and Pro Bono Conference Brisbane 2010 14

Staff & interns 18

Board & Advisory Council 19

Centre Media Mentions and Articles 21

Financial reports 22

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.***

Imminent Media Design Pty Ltd, Sydney, www.imminent.com.au

Cover: Welcome to Country by Uncle Eddie and Nunukul Yuggera Aboriginal Dancers, National Access to Justice and Pro Bono Conference, Brisbane 2010

Chair's message

Peter Stapleton

In the past year, parts of Australian society were hit with devastating natural disasters. The legal profession can play a significant role in emergency and disaster response. Endorsed by the Law Council of Australia, the Centre published *Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Planning for the Legal Profession in Australia* – a report that draws on the lessons learned from the Victorian bushfires, the Queensland floods and other recent disasters, and is designed to assist the legal profession in all States and Territories to prepare a disaster response plan in readiness for any disasters occurring in their jurisdiction. Pro bono activities at this time are welcome and can be of material assistance.

However, it is not just victims of disasters who need assistance. For many, the fallout from the global economic and financial crisis continues to have an impact through unemployment, financial hardship, homelessness and other problems. Pro bono legal assistance is increasingly important in assisting the poor, vulnerable and marginalised to achieve social justice. So the development and constructive growth of pro bono legal services continues to be important in our society.

Social justice is not just an ethical imperative; it is a foundation for prosperity and a just and equal sharing society. Ingrained social justice beliefs are what drive most pro bono legal service providers. However, how many of those persons have ever stopped and considered the roots of social justice? I admit I have not. So the Centre, as part of a series of 'occasional papers' has produced a paper which considers the tenets of 'social justice'. This paper, hopefully, will assist pro bono legal service providers to ground their activities out of a social justice base.

The Centre's policy and research activities, as outlined in John Corker's report, have continued to assist in the growth and development of pro bono legal services in Australia. The activities of the Centre play an important role in helping to bring social justice to marginalised and disadvantaged people.

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. Robin Banks (PIAC) and David Dixon (UNSW Law Faculty) retired as board members during the year– I thank them both for their contributions to the Centre.

September 2011

Director's report

John Corker

The 2010-2011 year was a productive one that saw many of the Centre's research and policy projects completed and systemic issues addressed through consultation and law reform. The results of the Centre's National Law Firms' Pro Bono Survey showed the legal profession's ever strong and growing commitment to pro bono work, despite the economic downturn. However, barriers still continue to exist for some lawyers to do pro bono work, and the Centre's efforts to remove these barriers continue.

I was proud to co-chair the third National Access to Justice and Pro Bono Conference, which was held in Brisbane in August 2010. The conference was attended by a record number of delegates and had an impressive list of international and domestic speakers, including Jeffrey Bleich, the US Ambassador to Australia, Esther Lardent, President and Chief Executive of the Pro Bono Institute in Washington DC, Mick Gooda, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, and the Hon Acting Justice Ronald Sackville AO. The real highlight of the conference, however, was the constructive atmosphere between lawyers from firms, large and small, legal aid, professional associations, the judiciary, the bar, community legal centres (CLCs), universities, as well as international visitors from many Asia Pacific countries and the US who shared the vision of improving access to justice particularly for the socially and disadvantaged members of the community.

This year the Centre conducted its second National Law Firms' Pro Bono Survey. The survey is conducted bi-annually in order to obtain a picture of pro bono work in Australia from the perspective of large and medium-sized law firms, and to elicit information about practice and policy issues. The survey sought information on the amount of pro bono work undertaken, budgets, targets and participation rates. It also contained questions regarding the coordination, publicisation and promotion of pro bono, as well as the areas of law where pro bono work is, and is not, provided, to name a few. Conducting the survey every two years allows the Centre to build a longitudinal picture of the pro bono work being done in Australia.

In response to recent natural disasters in Australia, and in recognition of the important role the legal profession has played in assisting the victims of those disasters, the Centre prepared and released its report *Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Planning for the Legal Profession in Australia*. The report draws on the experience of those who organised and delivered legal assistance in response to recent disasters. The report consists of a research paper and a practical guide to the preparation of a response plan, and makes several recommendations.

The Centre has also been involved in facilitating international pro bono work. In July 2010, the Centre was awarded a one-off grant of $100,000 from the Commonwealth to administer a disbursement assistance fund for international pro bono work. The fund was designed to assist law firms and barristers with the cost of disbursements when undertaking pro bono projects outside of Australia. The funds had been fully allocated by the end of 2010.

National Pro Bono Day was celebrated for the third time in May during Law Week. The Walk for Justice, which was held in Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Adelaide and in Townsville, was well attended in all States and highlighted the importance the profession places on access to justice.

State/Territory based activities

While several of the Centre's projects had a national scope, the Centre undertook the following state-based activities:

In Victoria, the Centre's staff attended and presented at the National Association of Community Legal Centres (NACLC) conference, as well as the Rural/Regional Law and Justice Conference in Warrnambool, and attended meetings with the Federation of Community Legal Centres, Public Interest Law Clearing House (PILCH) and the Law Institute of Victoria. The Centre also hosted the National Pro Bono Community Forum in Melbourne and held workshops jointly with the Centre for Social Impact on the evaluation of pro bono programs.

In Queensland, the Centre co-hosted the third National Access to Justice and Pro Bono Conference, and attended meetings with the Queensland Law Society, Queensland Public Interest Law Clearing House (QPILCH), and Caxton Legal Centre.

In the ACT, the Centre participated in the ACT Philanthropy Roundtable, and met with representatives of the ACT Law Society and its pro bono referral scheme. I also met with the Secretary-General of the Law Council of Australia.

In NSW the Centre staff met with representatives from Community Legal Centres NSW (CLCNSW), and the NSW Law Society. The Centre also hosted a workshop for pro bono coordinators in Sydney jointly with the Centre for Social Impact and separately met with pro bono coordinators from many law firms. We attended the Legal Information and Referral Forum hosted by the Law and Justice Foundation of NSW and again sponsored its Pro Bono Partnership award.

In Tasmania, I met with the President of the Law Society to discuss the recently established pro bono clearing house within the Law Society.

Engagement and advocacy

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

The Centre continues to advocate for changes to practising certificate regimes, both on a state level and through the National Legal Profession Reform process. The draft bill was amended as suggested in the Centre's joint submission with PILCH (Vic). We also prepared submissions to the Attorney-General's Access to Justice Taskforce on costs in public interest litigation, and to the Treasury on the possible role and function of a National Not-for-Profit Regulator.

The Centre has also focused on lifting the visibility of pro bono work and spreading the responsibility evenly across the profession. The release of the *Third Performance Report of the National Pro Bono Aspirational Target* (Target) has increased awareness of the Target and the number of signatories continues to increase. The Target now covers approximately 6,000 lawyers, or 11% of the Australian legal profession.

I attended and presented at the European Pro Bono Forum in Paris and attended many meetings and functions during the UK Pro Bono Week in London in November 2010. The Forum, which was organised for the second time by Public Interest Law Institute, was attended by over 300 delegates from all over the world. It was a privilege to share the Australian pro bono culture and experience with people from countries with developing pro bono cultures.

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 in which we have engaged in the past 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 like to thank all Board and Advisory Council members for their contribution during the year. 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 thank the Centre's Chair, Peter Stapleton for his leadership and support.

John Corker
Director

Top left: Bruce Doyle, President of Queensland Law Society, John Corker, Director, National Pro Bono Resource Centre, co-chairs of the National Access to Justice and Pro Bono Conference 2010 with speakers the Hon Acting Justice Ronald Sackville AO, Supreme Court of NSW and David Neal SC, from Victoria.

Top right: Jane Farnsworth, Pro Bono and Community Programs Manager, Mallesons Stephen Jaques, Les Hems, Director of Research, Centre for Social Impact and John Corker, Director, National Pro Bono Resource Centre organised evaluation workshops for law firms in December 2010.

Projects & activities 2010-11

Reports of 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 of the Law and Justice Foundation of NSW. This year, the award recognised a long-standing partnership between Blake Dawson and Lou's Place that provides legal assistance to women in the heart of the Kings Cross. Many of the women are homeless, live in local refuges and are often at crisis points in their lives. This partnership was the first pro bono model to recognise the need for a safe and trusted place for disadvantaged people to be able to utilise pro bono legal services.
- **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 6,000 legal professionals, being individual solicitors or barristers and law firms. The Third Performance Report on the Aspirational Target was published in September 2010. 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 hosted the third National Access to Justice and Pro Bono Conference in Brisbane in August 2010. The conference program contained a stream dedicated to pro bono and keynote speakers included Jeffrey Bleich, US Ambassador to the Commonwealth of Australia, Mick Gooda, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, and Esther Lardent, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Pro Bono Institute.
- **National Pro Bono Week UK and the European Pro Bono Forum** – The Director attended National Pro Bono Week in the UK and presented at the European Pro Bono Forum in Paris in November 2010. National Pro Bono Week UK celebrated the establishment of the UK's National Pro Bono Centre, which was opened on 19 October 2010. It brings together the profession's national clearing houses for legal pro bono delivered in England and Wales; the Bar Pro Bono Unit, LawWorks (the solicitors' pro bono group) and the ILEX Pro Bono Forum (the legal executives' pro bono group) under the one roof in a newly fitted out building at 48 Chancery Lane, London, only doors away from the Law Society of England and Wales.

  The 2nd European Pro Bono Forum, held in Paris, was organised by the Public Interest Law Institute (PILI) based in New York (with offices in Budapest, Moscow, and Beijing). In January 2011 PILI changed its name to PILnet: The Global Network for Public Interest Law "... to better reflect its strategy of bringing together networks of a global nature." The emphasis of the conference was on the development of pro bono culture in European countries. The Centre presented at a workshop on Pro Bono Clearing Houses, and shared the Australian experience with the 37 participants from 18 separate countries. The feedback received from the workshop was that information on the Australian experience was very useful to a number of participants in helping them deal with various issues. In contrast to Australia, pro bono work in continental Europe is almost exclusively done for non government organisations rather than individuals with a strong emphasis on public interest litigation. The conference had a strong attendance of lawyers from the European offices of US and UK based firms.
- **International Legal Ethics Conference** – The Centre attended and presented at the International Legal Ethics Conference at Stanford University in July 2010. Maria Twomey presented in a conference session on pro bono together with leading US pro bono academics Professor Deborah Rhode (Stanford) and Professor Robert Granfield (NY State University, Buffalo), introducing and discussing the different approaches Australian governments have taken to encouraging and requiring pro bono work through government tenders. The Centre also met with the manager of Stanford Law School's student pro bono program, as well as the Managing Attorney of the San Francisco Bar Association's Volunteer Legal Services Program.
- **National Pro Bono Day and Walk for Justice** – 16 May 2011 marked the first day of National Law Week and the third National Pro Bono Day, an initiative launched by the Centre. National Pro Bono Day provides an opportunity to celebrate the pro bono work done by the legal and other professions. The centrepiece of National Pro Bono Day was the Walk for Justice, held for the fourth time in Australia, simultaneously in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and Townsville. This year over 1,700 members of the legal community participated in the 5-kilometre event, up from 1,400 walkers last year. 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. Approximately $34,000 in funds was raised across Australia to support the work of the pro bono clearing houses.

Nicky Friedman, Allens Arthur Robinson, Amelia Davis, Blake Dawson, Tammy Taylor, Pro Bono Institute, Anne Cregan, Blake Dawson, Kathy Hope, Victoria Law Foundation, John Corker, National Pro Bono Resource Centre, Gregor Husper, PILCH (Vic), David Hillard, Clayton Utz, Joh Kirby, Victoria Law Foundation, Joanna Renkin, Lander & Rogers and Esther Lardent, Pro Bono Institute at the National Access to Justice and Pro Bono Conference 2010.

- **International Pro Bono** – The Centre participated in meetings of the Commonwealth Attorney-General's International Pro Bono Advisory Group, and provided the Group with a list of international pro bono brokers, which are now listed on the Group's website. The Centre also prepared a paper on international pro bono for the Commonwealth Secretariat of Law Ministers, and managed the International Pro Bono Disbursement Fund (for more information on the Fund, see page 7).
- **Law student and law school pro bono** – Throughout the year, the Centre continued to manage the Public Interest Internship Program (PIIP) for the UNSW Law Faculty. For the 2011 academic year, 79 students were accepted into the program, compared with 55 students in 2010 and 28 students in 2007/2008. Due to the success and growth of the program under the Centre's stewardship and the Faculty's appointment of a new Director of Experiential Learning, management of the internship program was handed back to the Law Faculty in April 2011. The Centre also updated its publication *Pro Bono in Australia – An introduction for Practical Legal Training students*, which is published in the Practice Papers of the College of Law. The Centre also attended the Sydney University Law School Social Justice Careers Fair in August 2010 to distribute the Pro Bono Practices Guide.
- **Social Justice Opportunities for Law Students and Young Lawyers** – The Centre, in collaboration with the Australian Law Students Association and in partnership with Young Lawyers' Committees of Law Societies around the country, prepared and produced *Social Justice Opportunities – A Career Guide for Law Students and New Lawyers*. A companion website (www.sjopps.net.au) was also created, listing current opportunities and providing information and resources. The Guide was published with funding from the NSW Law & Justice Foundation and Victoria Law Foundation. The purpose of the Guide is to provide law students and recent graduates with information on how to become involved in improving social justice through the law at every stage of their career, from starting a law degree to employment, thereby increasing capacity in this area. The Guide was launched by Geoffrey Robertson QC in August 2011. Ten thousand hard copies were produced and will be distributed at Law Career Fairs around the country over the next three years, as well as to Law Student Societies, Young Lawyers' Committees, Law School libraries and faculties, Practical Legal Training providers and other organisations for further distribution.
- **Other conferences and meetings** – Other Australian conferences and meetings in which the Centre participated include: the NACLC Conference in Melbourne in October 2010, where the Centre presented in a session on pro bono; and the National Rural/Regional Law and Justice Conference in Warrnambool in November, following which the Centre was invited to join the National Rural Law & Justice Alliance.
- The Centre also attended meetings with the NACLCs, Victorian Federation of Community Legal Centres, CLCNSW, NSW Legal Assistance Forum (NLAF), Victorian Legal Assistance Forum (VLAF), Australian Legal Assistance Forum (ALAF), Commonwealth Attorney-General's International Pro Bono Advisory Group, National Pro Bono Coordinators, Public Interest Law Clearing House NSW (PILCH NSW), Public Interest Law Clearing House (Vic) (PILCH), QPILCH, JusticeNet South Australia, Australian Corporate Lawyers' Association (ACLA), NSW Pro Bono Legal Services Committee, Victorian Pro Bono Secretariat, Legal Information and Referral Forum NSW, ACT Philanthropy Roundtable and Law Societies in Queensland, South Australia, New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia and Tasmania and several law firms nationally.

Projects & activities 2010-11

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

- **Brokering and match-making between pro bono service providers and community based organisations** – The Centre facilitated 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. In its first year of operation, six matters have been referred to panel firms who assisted social enterprises with corporate governance, tax and incorporation issues.

- **National Pro Bono Community Forum** – During the year, the Centre hosted the National Pro Bono Community Forum in May 2011 in Melbourne. The forum provides for the exchange of information and discussion about a broad range of policy issues that affect the pro bono legal community. The forum attracted 29 attendees from 14 firms including representatives from PILCH (Vic), VIC Legal Aid, Federation of CLCs Victoria and the NSW Law Society pro bono scheme. The forum focused on the unmet legal need of asylum seekers and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services. The content of the forum arose from the Centre's role to identify unmet legal need and bring it to the attention of pro bono service providers to see how they might be able to help to meet that need and if appropriate help coordinate a response. The guest speakers were David Manne, Coordinator of the Refugee and Immigration Legal Centre (VIC), Stuart Webb from Victoria Legal Aid and Shane Duffy, CEO of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (Qld) Ltd (ATSILS), Chair of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service forum (NATSILS), and current Chair of the Australian Legal Assistance Forum (ALAF).

- **Evaluation Workshops** – in cooperation with the Centre for Social Impact, the Centre hosted two Evaluation Workshops for pro bono coordinators in Sydney and Melbourne in December 2010. The workshops focussed on measuring social impact and evaluation methodology, and were designed to assist pro bono coordinators assess and evaluate both their pro bono programs and the impact of the pro bono work their firms have provided.

- **International Pro Bono Disbursement Fund** – The International Pro Bono Disbursement Fund was established via a grant to the Centre from the Grants to Australian Organisations Program of the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department. This one-off grant of $100,000 was intended to assist law firms and barristers with the costs of their disbursements (i.e. travel, accommodation and the like) when undertaking pro bono projects outside Australia. Reimbursement of costs incurred was not to exceed $20,000 per project and had to be for work undertaken after 1 July 2010. The application process was administrated by the Centre. All funds were allocated by September 2010 to the following approved projects: two applications from the Australian Bar Association on behalf of barristers from Qld, one for Intensive Trial Advocacy Workshops (five barristers) and another for UNICEF Children's Rights Workshops in Bangladesh (nine barristers); an application to support the defence of a Nigerian man on death row in Bali; an application from DLA Phillips Fox (now DLA Piper Australia) for secondment of a lawyer to the Government of Timor Leste, to assist the Minister of Finance in his capacity as Chair of the G7+ group of fragile nations, with the establishment of an Anti Corruption Commission and the implementation of human rights treaties; an application from the Australian Government Solicitor for two lawyers to provide legal training for Papua New Guinea government lawyers.; and an application from Mallesons Stephen Jaques to produce a legal resource kit and provide a train-the-trainer program to civil society organisations in Papua New Guinea identified by CARE Australia on legal rights and obligations, in conjunction with a PNG law firm.

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

- **Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Planning for the Legal Profession in Australia** - The Centre released its report *Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Planning for the Legal Profession in Australia* in June 2011, which was endorsed by the Law Council of Australia in July 2011 and formally launched in August 2011. The report was prepared to assist legal communities in planning to be ready to respond efficiently in the event of any further large scale emergencies or disasters, drawing on the experience of those who organised and delivered legal assistance in response to the 2009 Victorian bushfires, the more recent flood and cyclone

The Hon Robert McClelland MP, Commonwealth Attorney-General, at the PILCH NSW Sydney Walk for Justice 2011.

Geoffrey Robertson Q.C., Weller Zheng from ALSA, Leanne Ho, Daniel Jacobs and John Corker from the Centre, Lauren Dragicevich and Natalie Wong from Macquarie University Students for Community Legal Engagement, Clancy King from University of NSW and Alex Jackson from University of Technology Sydney, at the launch of the Social Justice Opportunities Guide in Sydney.

emergencies in Queensland and the Northern Territory, the fires in Western Australia, and some United States disasters. It consists of a research paper and a practical guide to the preparation of a response plan, and makes several recommendations.

- **National Law Firm Pro Bono Survey** – The Centre conducted the National Law Firm Pro Bono Survey for the second time and published a report of its findings in December 2010. The Survey targeted all 39 Australian law firms with more than 50 full time equivalent lawyers, of which 29 responded. The survey sample included nine of the 10 largest Australian law firms by fee-earner size. The survey was conducted to obtain a picture of pro bono work in Australia from the perspective of large and mid-size law firms and to elicit information about practice and policy issues. The survey is conducted every two years in order to provide a longitudinal picture of the pro bono work done by law firms in Australia. For key findings, see page 11 of this Report.
- **Social Needs Research Project** – The Centre produced a Social Needs Report as part of its research program, published in July 2010 and circulated to key stakeholders for feedback. The objective of the report is to provide information to assist community and pro bono legal service providers to identify (possible) new areas of unmet legal need. The Centre received positive and constructive feedback on this initiative, and will now develop the paper into a regularly updated online resource.
- **Professional Indemnity Insurance for In-house Lawyers** – The Centre continued to approve applications for professional indemnity insurance under its National Pro Bono PI Insurance Scheme (the Scheme) with a total of 13 projects approved as at 30 June 2011. The Scheme facilitates the involvement of in-house counsel in pro bono work by insuring lawyers and paralegals who do pro bono legal work on projects approved by the Centre. The Scheme removes one of the key constraints to pro bono – the need for in-house lawyers to have professional indemnity insurance to cover them for any civil claims arising from such work. The policy is underwritten by LawCover and held and administered by the Centre. Details of the projects covered by the Scheme can be found on the Centre's website.
- **Centre's website** – The Centre continued to promote and enhance its website. The website contains current pro bono news and resources such as 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 and many publications and reports. During the financial year, the website had 33,415 unique visitors, an increase of 8.8% from the previous year (30,712).
- **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 an electronic version is maintained and updated on the Centre's website. Web visits to the Manual were constant throughout the year and the precedent letters and policies were regularly downloaded. The Centre is looking into producing a second edition of the Manual in the next two years.
- **National Pro Bono News** – The Centre assembled and published a range of materials on its website and in the Centre's e-newsletter, *National Pro Bono News,* to make information available to the profession on pro bono practice in Australia and overseas. During the year, seven editions of *National Pro Bono News* were distributed to approximately 700 subscribers.

Projects & activities 2010-11

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

- **Raising the profile of pro bono** – The Third National Pro Bono Day, the launch of the *Third Performance Report on the National Pro Bono Aspirational Target* in September 2010, as well as the publication of the results of the National Law Firm Pro Bono Survey lifted community awareness and generated discussion in the media on pro bono services during the year. Centre staff also attended state and national CLC conferences, and assisted with training initiatives and relationship-building events in NSW and interstate. This has resulted in new productive pro bono networks being formed.

- **Raising awareness about pro bono legal services** – The Centre continued to raise awareness of pro bono legal services by updating its Guides and Directories and by writing articles for several publications. The Centre has also contributed information to the *Australia and New Zealand 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.

- **CLC Volunteers** – The Centre, in collaboration with the NACLC, continues to maintain and update the CLC Volunteers website (located at www.clcvolunteers.net.au). This site provides information on the volunteering opportunities available at 227 community legal centres and other legal services around the country. The number of unique visitors has increased by 26.6% in the past year, from 15,345 to 19,428. The Centre has increased promotion of the website to the community legal sector over the past year, including by directly mailing each Centre a copy of its profile for editing. Over 60% of CLCs have requested an update to their profile since this mailout. The Centre provides a 5-day service guarantee for any requested updates.

- **Addressing systemic constraints and participating in policy development** – Reform of the legal profession continued to be a priority in the Centre's policy work this year. The National Legal Profession Reform 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. Following the publication of the consultation draft of the Legal Profession National Law, the Centre prepared a third submission to the National Legal Profession Taskforce in August 2010. The submission focused on how the consultation draft addressed concerns the Centre had raised regarding structural barriers that exist in relation to facilitating Australian legal practitioners to undertake pro bono legal work. The submission was endorsed by the Australian Corporate Lawyers Association (ACLA), PILCH (Vic), JusticeNet SA, QPILCH, NACLC, Cancer Council of Australia, Consumer Action, and DLA Phillips Fox (now DLA Piper Australia).

  The Centre also prepared a submission to Treasury on the Scoping Study for a National Not-For-Profit Regulator in February 2011. The submission supported reforms to simplify the regulation of not-for-profit organisations (NFP), on the basis that it would free up significant pro bono legal assistance resources which are currently directed towards assisting NFPs with matters such as their applications for deductible gift recipient status. The Centre submitted that these resources could be redirected to address other unmet legal needs.

- **Pro bono conditions in government tender for legal services** – The Centre continued to promote the role of government in supporting and encouraging the provision of pro bono legal services through the use of pro bono conditions in government tender schemes for legal services. Based on comments from the Centre's National Law Firm Pro Bono Survey, as well as on comments some firms made to the Attorney-General's Department and the Centre in relation to the Commonwealth's Legal Services Expenditure Report 2010, the Centre made representations to the Attorney-General and his Department regarding the reporting requirements of firms who have entered Deeds of Standing offer in the common form with Commonwealth Government Departments. The Centre recommended that the reporting template be reviewed, and in particular should not allow firms to assign an arbitrary value to non-legal community work – the concern expressed by many firms. As a result the Office of Legal Services Coordination (OLSC) changed its reporting template asking firms to only report on the pro bono legal work they have done and whether the firm is a signatory to the National Pro Bono Aspirational Target. The Centre also provided a paper to the NSW pro bono legal services committee and made a submission to the NSW Attorney-General suggesting the introduction of pro bono conditions to the Government's purchasing of legal services.

National Law Firm Pro Bono Survey

In July 2010, the Centre conducted the second National Law Firm Pro Bono Survey. The first survey was conducted in 2008, and reported on the pro bono work of 25 large Australian law firms. The survey questionnaire was developed by the Centre to obtain a picture of pro bono work in Australia from the perspective of large and mid-size law firms and to elicit information on practice and policy issues. The survey is conducted every two years to provide a longitudinal picture of the pro bono work done by law firms in Australia.

This year, the survey targeted all 39 Australian law firms with more than 50 full time equivalent (FTE) lawyers, of which 29 responded. The respondents include nine out of 10 of the largest Australian law firms by fee-earner size, and six mid-sized firms, according to the Australian Financial Review Survey of Australian law firms at the end of the 2010 financial year. Altogether, the respondent firms had 10,227.3 FTE lawyers in Australia, representing approximately 18% of the legal profession.[1]

The survey sought information on the amount of pro bono work done, budgets, targets and participation rates. It also contained questions regarding the coordination, publicisation and promotion of pro bono work, as well as the areas of law where pro bono work is, and is not, provided. The respondents were also asked questions regarding barriers to pro bono, the National Pro Bono Aspirational Target, Legal Aid work, disbursements, the Commonwealth Legal Services Directions, and about pro bono work done with an international and/or regional, rural or remote focus.

The Centre conducted a comprehensive analysis of all the data collected in the survey, and published the final report on the survey in December 2010.

Key findings

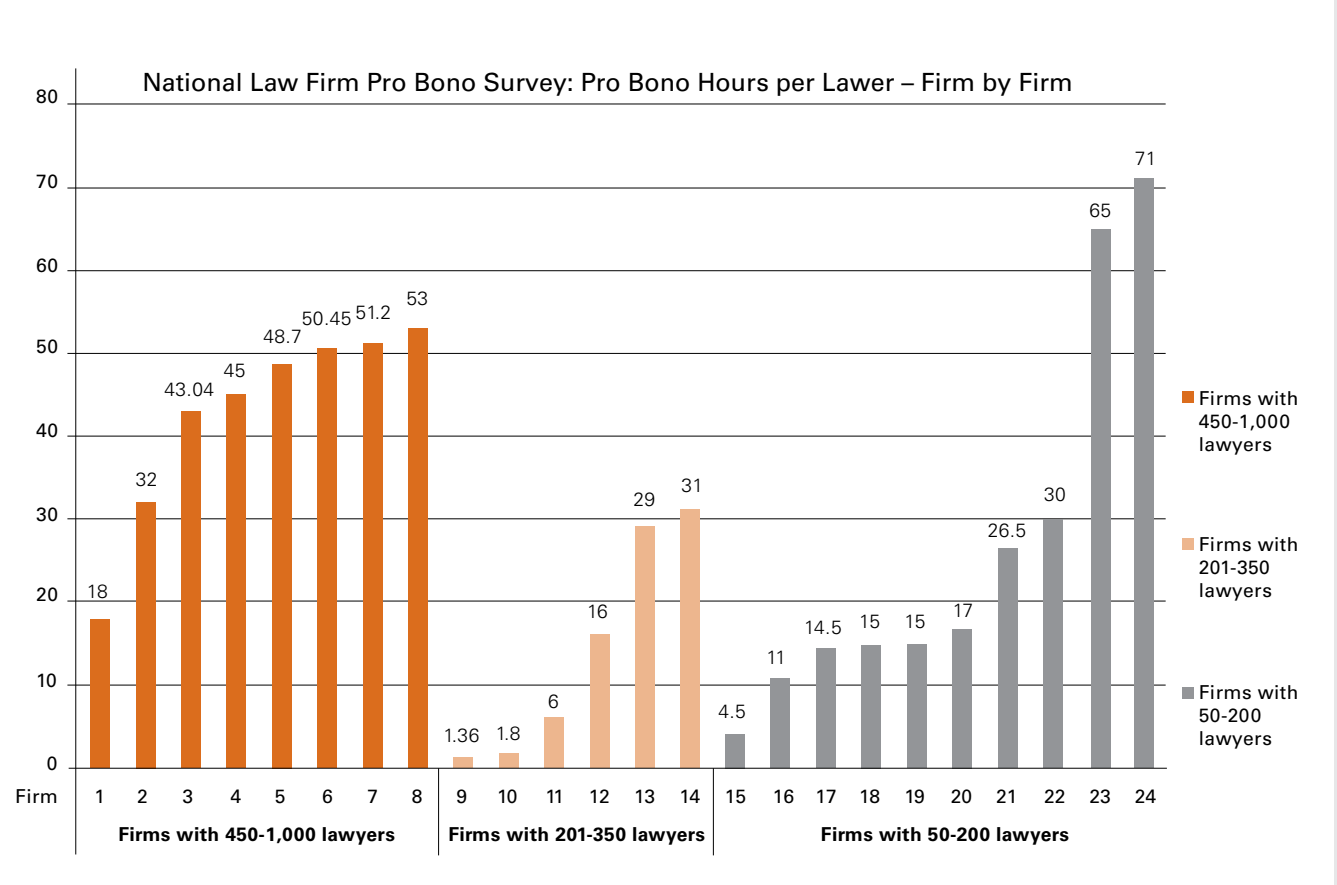
- All of the 29 respondents firms had done pro bono legal work in the previous 12 months. Twenty-four firms (83%) were able to provide either estimates or exact figures on the amount of pro bono work undertaken in that time period. Together these law firms provided 322,343 hours of pro bono legal work, the equivalent of 179 lawyers doing pro bono work full-time throughout the year.[2]
- The average number of hours of pro bono legal work undertaken per lawyer per year across all firms was 29 hours. The median number of hours per lawyer per year was 27.6, which is significantly higher than the median number of hours per lawyer reported by respondents in the 2008 survey (21).
- Twenty-five out of 29 firms (86%) provided the percentage of lawyers participating in (doing at least one hour of) pro bono legal work. Participation rates varied greatly among respondents from 10% to 90%. The average participation rate across all firms was 59%.
- The range of pro bono work represented as a percentage of total practice income (gross billables) varied from 0.15% to 3.47%, with the average and median both being 2%. Only 13 out of 29 firms (49%) provided this data.

1 As at May 2010, there were approximately 56,000 legal practitioners in Australia: see speech given by Glenn Ferguson, President, Law Council of Australia, at the 5th Annual IBA Leaders' Conference, Copenhagen (27 May 2010)

2 This figure is calculated based on a 37.5 hour working week for 48 weeks per year.

National Law Firm Pro Bono Survey

- Thirteen respondent firms (45%) were signatories to the National Pro Bono Aspirational Target ('Target'). Of the 13 signatories, seven firms (54%) met the Target in the 2009-2010 financial year. On average, signatories to the Target reported higher hours per lawyer and higher participation rates than non-signatory firms, suggesting that generally signatory firms have a stronger pro bono culture evidenced by significantly higher participation rates (66% v 42%) and pro bono hours per lawyer (37.8 hrs v 18.6 hrs).
- The main constraints to pro bono work were firm capacity (66%), followed by conflict of interest with fee paying clients (55%), insufficient expertise in relevant areas of the law (51%) and lack of partner support within the firm (34%).
- Twelve firms (41%) reported doing international pro bono work in the 2009-2010 financial year. Much of this work was actually carried out in Australia. Thirteen firms (45%) reported doing pro bono work for clients in regional, rural and remote (RRR) areas. The percentage of the firms' overall pro bono work (measured in hours) focussed on RRR clients, varied greatly from 5% to 60%, with the median being 15%. Much of this work was done in the firms' offices, not in RRR areas.



The National Pro Bono Aspirational Target

The Centre launched the National Pro Bono Aspirational Target ("the Target") on 26 April 2007. The Target is contained in a Statement of Principles (see below) and is a voluntary one of at least 35 hours of pro bono legal work per lawyer per year. It represents a minimum number of hours of pro bono legal work that all signatories aspire to undertake. Key aims of introducing the Target were to raise the profile of a lawyer's professional responsibility to enhance access to justice for those who would not otherwise access legal assistance, to highlight the shared nature of that responsibility across the legal profession, and to provide a benchmark for conduct of pro bono work.

The figure of 35 hours per lawyer was based on consultations with members of the profession and the Centre's 2007 national survey findings, and reflects what many lawyers are already doing. It represents a minimum number of hours of pro bono legal work that all lawyers should aspire to undertake. The Centre reports annually on the performance of Target signatories by 30 September.

Since the release of the first Performance Report on the Target, the number of lawyers covered by the Target has more than doubled. As at 30 June 2011, the Target covered over 6,000 legal professionals, as either individual solicitors, barristers or employees of a signatory law firm.

For more information on the Target and how to sign up, go to www.nationalprobono.org.au

Statement of Principles

Law Firm*

MINDFUL of the professional responsibility of all lawyers to provide pro bono legal services to address the unmet legal needs of the poor and disadvantaged in the communities in which we live, and

RECOGNISING that pro bono is not a substitute for the proper funding by government of Legal Aid agencies, Community Legal Centres and other government funded legal services.

OUR FIRM is pleased to join with other firms across the country in subscribing to the following statement of principles and in pledging our best efforts to achieve the voluntary target described below.

- Our firm recognises its professional obligation to provide pro bono legal services.
- In furtherance of that obligation, our firm agrees to encourage and support the provision of pro bono legal services by all its lawyers.
- We agree to use our best efforts to ensure that, by no later than 30 June in each year, our firm's lawyers will undertake an average of a minimum of 35 hours of pro bono legal services each year per lawyer.

In furtherance of these principles, our firm also agrees:

- To provide training and supervision as required to enable our lawyers to meet the need for pro bono legal services in the community in matters undertaken by our firm and
- To monitor the firm's progress towards the targets established in this statement and to report its progress annually to the partners and staff of the firm and to the National Pro Bono Resource Centre.
- We acknowledge that when a lawyer provides pro bono legal services, he or she owes the pro bono client the same professional and ethical obligations that are owed to any paying client and accordingly the lawyer must give that work the same priority, attention and care as would apply to paid work.

** Similar Statements of Principles apply to barristers and individual lawyers.*

These Statements were developed by the Australian National Pro Bono Resource Centre in 2006 and incorporate, in part, language developed by the US. Pro Bono Institute and utilised in its Law Firm Pro Bono Challenge SM. That language is used with the specific permission of the Institute and cannot be further utilized, copied, disseminated, or adapted, in whole or in part, without prior written permission from the Institute. To request permission please contact the Institute at probono@probonoinst.org.

The National Pro Bono Aspirational Target

As at 30 June 2011 the Target had the following signatories:

Law Firm Signatories

Allens Arthur Robinson*
Allen & Overy**
Allygroup**
Aneesa Parker Pty Ltd
Arnold Bloch Leibler*
Australian Government Solicitor
Blake Dawson*
Brock Partners*
Bruce Thomas Lawyers**
Clayton Utz*
Corrs Chambers Westgarth
DLA Phillips Fox (DLA Piper Australia)
FoodLegal
G & D Lawyers Pty Ltd
Gelin Murdoch Spinks
Gilbert+Tobin*
Henry Davis York
HHG Legal Group
Human Rights Law Resource Centre
Lander & Rogers
Logical Legal Solicitors*
Marsh and Maher
McCullough Robertson
McDonnell Schroder Solicitors*
McInnes Wilson Lawyers
McMillan Boylson*
McPhee Lawyers*
Meyer Vandenberg
Minter Ellison
Moulis Legal
Rostron Carlyle
Russell Kennedy**
Ryan Lawyers*
Sharah & Associates*
Siracusa Legal
Slattery Thompson*
Stella Stuthridge & Associates
Talbot Olivier**
Winn Legal*
Zeeman & Zeeman

Individual signatories

Alexandra Rose**
Alexandra Wolfsohn
Anthony Jucha*
Ashok Kumar
Craig McIntosh*
Daniel Matta
Fiona McLeod S.C.**
F.J. Purnell S.C.
Graham Jones*
Helen McGowan
Julia Lonergan*
Michael Tucak
Nerida Wallace
Nicholas Linke
Nick Eastman
Noeline Rudland*
Paul Kerr
Philip Greenwood
Richard Clarke
Richard Thomas*
Robert Cook**
Simon Freitag*
Stephen Rees*
Terence O'Riain**

* indicates Foundation Signatories

** indicates those signatories that signed up between 1 July 2010 and 30 June 2011

National Access to Justice and Pro Bono Conference, Brisbane 2010

Top left: Welcome to Country by Uncle Eddie and Nunukul Yuggera Aboriginal Dancers.

Top right: Hon Paul de Jersey AC, Chief Justice of Queensland delivering the Opening Address.

Bottom left: Ambassador Jeffrey Bleich, US Ambassador in Australia.

Bottom right: The Hon Justice Margaret McMurdo AC, President of the Queensland Court of Appeal, Peter Eardley, former president of the Queensland Law Society, Ambassador Jeffrey Bleich, US Ambassador in Australia, Bruce Doyle, President of Queensland Law Society and Glenn Ferguson, former President of the Law Council of Australia.

National Access to Justice and Pro Bono Conference, Brisbane 2010

Top Left: Michelle Hannon, Pro Bono Partner, Gilbert + Tobin.

Top middle: Jane Farnsworth, Special Counsel, Pro Bono & Community, Mallesons Stephen Jaques.

Top right: Esther Lardent, President & CEO, Pro Bono Institute.

Bottom left: David Hillard, Pro Bono Partner, Clayton Utz.

Bottom middle: Nicolas Patrick, Head of Pro Bono, DLA Piper.

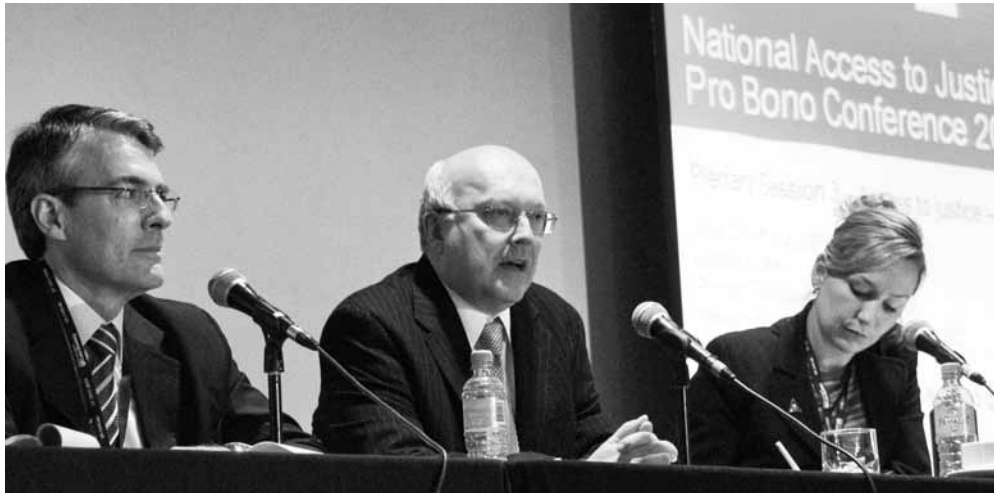
Bottom right: Annette Bain, Pro Bono Counsel, Freehills and Executive Director, Freehills Foundation

Top left: Michael Brennan, PriceWaterhouseCoopers, Prof Frank Brennan AO, Australian Catholic University and Dr John Falzon, St Vincent de Paul Society National Council spoke on 'The Case for Funding'.

Top right: Victorian Bushfire Legal Help speakers Mark Woods, Law Council of Australia, Bill Mitchell, Townsville Community Legal Service, David Hillard, Clayton Utz, Anna Serry, PILCH Victoria, Bevan Warner, Victoria Legal Aid and Denis Nelthorpe, West Heidelberg Community Legal Centre.

Bottom left: The Hon Mark Dreyfus QC MP, Member for Isaacs, Senator the Hon George Brandis SC, Shadow Attorney-General and Senator the Hon Larissa Waters, Senator for Queensland.

Bottom right: Alan Kirkland, CEO, Legal Aid NSW and Michelle Hannon, Pro Bono Partner, Gilbert + Tobin.



National Access to Justice and Pro Bono Conference, Brisbane 2010

Top left: Mary Anne Noone, Associate Professor, La Trobe University, Robyn Ayres, Executive Director, Arts Law Centre of Australia, Richard Funston, Executive Director, Planning, Policy and Grants, Legal Aid NSW, David Weisbrot AM, Professor of Law and Governance, Macquarie University and Suzie Forell, Senior Researcher, Law and Justice Foundation spoke on 'Innovative Collaboration to Meet Legal Need'.

Top right: John McKenzie, Principal Officer, Aboriginal Legal Service NSW, Alison Vivian, Senior Researcher, Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning, University of Technology Sydney, Chris Cunneen, Professor of Criminology, The Cairns Institute, James Cook University, Fiona Vaughan, Law and Justice Advocacy Development Solicitor, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Legal Service Qld and Mick Gooda, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, Australian Human Rights Commission spoke on 'Closing the Gap on Access to Justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples'.

Bottom left: Law Council of Australia's Access to Justice Committee 2010.

Bottom right: Ross Ray, former President of the Law Council of Australia, Dorsami Naidu, President, Fiji Law Society, Mirriam Lidimani, Solomon Islands Bar Association, Sir Kina Bona, Papua New Guinea, Alex Ward, President of the Law Council of Australia, Rodney Kingmele, President, Solomon Islands Bar Association and Raymond Schuster, President, Samoa Law Society.

Staff & interns

Daniel Jacobs, Leanne Ho and John Corker from the Centre with interns Clancy King, Judy Poon and Julian Laurens and Gordon Renouf, President of PILCH NSW at the Sydney Walk for Justice 2011.

John Corker has had a diverse legal career as a 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 tenth year of operation.

Leanne Ho joined the Centre as Senior Policy Officer and Project Manager in November 2010. Leanne previously worked as a legal advisor to the United Nations Mission in Liberia, and as a legal officer of the Human Rights Advisory Panel and Department of Justice, United Nations Mission in Kosovo. Prior to working at the United Nations, Leanne worked at the Welfare Rights Centre in Sydney as a community education officer and caseworker, and managed publishing projects at legal publisher, Lexis Nexis. Leanne has been a major contributor to many of the Centre's key projects, policy initiatives and publications, including Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Planning for the Legal Profession in Australia.

Maria Twomey joined the Centre as a Policy and Research Officer in March 2008 having worked as a corporate lawyer and pro bono coordinator in her native Finland. During the financial year, Maria was on leave for six months which she spent in Finland teaching at a local university and snowboarding. Maria has been responsible for reviewing, designing and conducting 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 and Pro Bono in Australia – an Introduction to Practical Legal Training Students.

Amanda Lennestaal was the Centre's administrator from July 2007 until September 2008 when she left Australia to live in Sweden. After a year-long bout in Sweden Amanda came back to the Centre briefly before having a beautiful baby girl, and joined the Centre again as a part-time internship coordinator in late 2009. Amanda continued to work in this role until April 2011, when the management of the internship program was handed over to the UNSW Law Faculty. The Centre thanks Amanda for her many years of service, congratulates her on the recent birth of her second child and wishes her well in her future endeavours.

Daniel Jacobs

Dan Jacobs took over the job of Office Manager in March 2010. Dan has many years experience working in government in Melbourne and as Administrator of the Victorian Bar Pro Bono Scheme at PILCH Victoria. In addition to running the office, Dan is in charge of IT, publishes the Centre's monthly e-newsletter and maintains the CLC Volunteers website. He also acted as project manager for the creation and distribution of Social Justice Opportunities.

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, as well as dedicated volunteers from several universities. Students make significant contributions to the work of the centres, 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 2010-2011 year:

Semester 2 (2010): Siew Cooper, Codie Loh and Katherine Flynn (Interns)

Semester 1 (2011): Julian Laurens and Clancy King (interns) and Judy Poon and Alex Jackson (volunteers)

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).

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. 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 is the Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC) nominee, and was appointed to the Board in February 2006. Robin is the Chief Executive Officer of PIAC and former Director of the Public Interest Law Clearing House (PILCH). Robin retired from the board in July 2010, when she was appointed to be the new Anti-Discrimination Commissioner of Tasmania.

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 (Qld), the NSW Police, and the Royal Commission into the NSW Police Service. David retired as director in February 2011 and was replaced by Michael Legg.

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.

David Bulloch

David Bulloch is the ACOSS nominee on the board and has been the Managing Lawyer at Westside Community Lawyers since 1993. Westside Community Lawyers is a community legal centre, with four office locations in Adelaide and Port Pirie. David is a graduate of the University of Queensland and worked in two community legal centres in Brisbane in the 1980s. He has served on the Legal Services Commission SA (Legal Aid) as a nominee of the Attorney-General of South Australia, and was a member of the National Legal Aid Advisory Committee in the early 1990s and more recently was a founding committee member of JusticeNet SA.

Michael Legg

Michael is the University of New South Wales nominee, and was appointed to the board in February 2011. Michael joined the UNSW Law Faculty as a Senior Lecturer in 2009, after more than 10 years in practice in leading Australian and US law firms. Michael is an expert in Civil Procedure, Regulatory Litigation, Corporate and Securities Law, the US Legal System and Comparative Civil Procedure, and has represented a number of ASX200 companies in Australia and Fortune 500 companies in the US in compliance, liability, patent and bankruptcy matters.

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 Justice Net 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 Special Counsel 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 and sponsorships, and staff volunteering.

Ed Santow
Ed Santow is the PIAC nominee and was appointed to the Board in January 2011. Prior to his appointment as the Chief Executive Officer of PIAC, Ed was an academic at UNSW Law School and the Gilbert + Tobin Centre of Public Law. He has also worked at the Australian Law Reform Commission and as a solicitor in private practice.

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 chair 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)
Manager, Hobart Community Legal Service Inc and Coordinator of the Tasmanian Association of CLCs

Mr Chris Gabelish
Coordinator, Geraldton Resource Centre

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

Ms Julie Hamblin
Partner, HWL Ebsworth

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

Mr Dennis Nelthorpe
Consumer Consultant, Melbourne

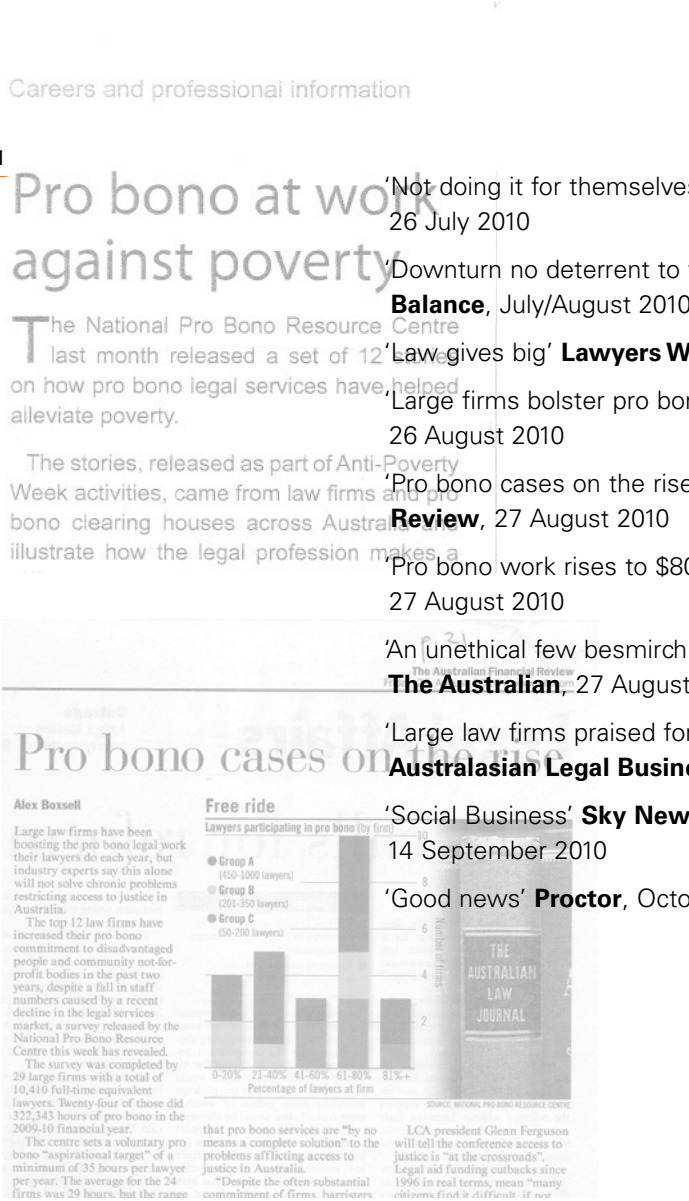
Ms Trish Price
Office Director, Queensland Legal Aid Commission

Ms Alexandra Richards QC
Barrister, Victorian Bar

Professor David Weisbrot
Professor of Law and Governance, Macquarie University Law School

Mr Tony Woodyatt
Executive Director, QPILCH

Centre Media Mentions and Articles


Careers and professional information

Pro bono at work against poverty

The National Pro Bono Resource Centre last month released a set of 12 ... on how pro bono legal services have helped alleviate poverty.

The stories, released as part of Anti-Poverty Week activities, came from law firms and pro bono clearing houses across Australia ... illustrate how the legal profession makes a

Pro bono cases on the rise

Alex Boxsell

Free ride

Lawyers participating in pro bono (by firm)

Group A (450-1000 lawyers)
Group B (201-350 lawyers)
Group C (50-200 lawyers)

Number of firms

Percentage of lawyers at firm

0-20% 21-40% 41-60% 61-80% 81%+

SOURCE: NATIONAL PRO BONO RESOURCE CENTRE

Large law firms have been boosting the pro bono legal work their lawyers do each year, but industry experts say this alone will not solve chronic problems restricting access to justice in Australia.

The top 12 law firms have increased their pro bono commitment to disadvantaged people and community not-for-profit bodies in the past two years, despite a fall in staff numbers caused by a recent decline in the legal services market, a survey released by the National Pro Bono Resource Centre this week has revealed.

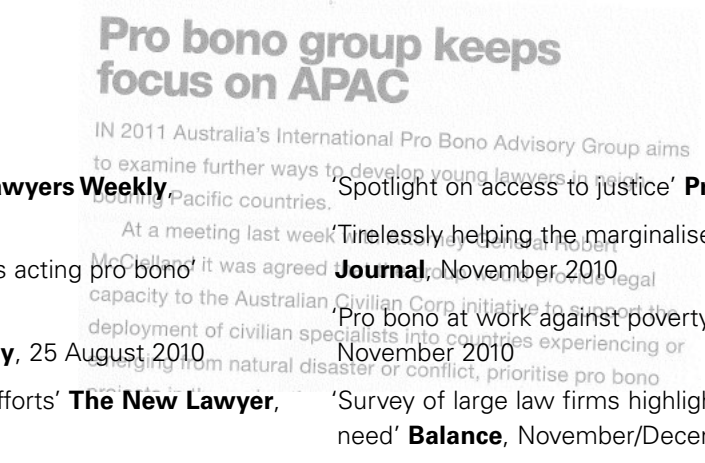
The survey was completed by 29 large firms with a total of 10,410 full-time equivalent lawyers. Twenty-four of those did 322,343 hours of pro bono in the 2009-10 financial year.

The centre sets a voluntary pro bono "aspirational target" of a minimum of 35 hours per lawyer per year. The average for the 24 firms was 29 hours, but the range

that pro bono services are "by no means a complete solution" to the problems afflicting access to justice in Australia.

"Despite the often substantial commitment of firms, barristers

LCA president Glenn Ferguson will tell the conference access to justice is "at the crossroads". Legal aid funding cutbacks since 1996 in real terms, mean "many citizens find it difficult, if not


Pro bono group keeps focus on APAC

IN 2011 Australia's International Pro Bono Advisory Group aims to examine further ways to develop young lawyers in ... Pacific countries.

At a meeting last week ... it was agreed ... provide legal capacity to the Australian Civilian Corp initiative to support the deployment of civilian specialists into countries experiencing or ... from natural disaster or conflict, prioritise pro bono

LARGE LAW GAVE BIG DESPITE DOWNTURN

AUSTRALIA'S LARGE law firms are still committed to providing pro bono legal work, despite significant pressures associated with the economic downturn.

According to the Interim Report on the National Law Firm Pro Bono Survey launched last week by the National Pro Bono Resource Centre, large firms who are signatories to the National Pro Bono Aspirational Target completed more pro bono work than those

'Not doing it for themselves' **Lawyers Weekly**, 26 July 2010

'Downturn no deterrent to firms acting pro bono' **Balance**, July/August 2010

'Law gives big' **Lawyers Weekly**, 25 August 2010

'Large firms bolster pro bono efforts' **The New Lawyer**, 26 August 2010

'Pro bono cases on the rise' **Australian Financial Review**, 27 August 2010

'Pro bono work rises to $80m: charity' **The Australian**, 27 August 2010

'An unethical few besmirch the pro bono accolade' **The Australian**, 27 August 2010

'Large law firms praised for GFC pro bono work' **Australasian Legal Business**, 27 August 2010

'Social Business' **Sky News Business**, 14 September 2010

'Good news' **Proctor**, October 2010

'Spotlight on access to justice' **Proctor**, October 2010

'Tirelessly helping the marginalised' **Law Institute Journal**, November 2010

'Pro bono at work against poverty' **Proctor**, November 2010

'Survey of large law firms highlights areas of unmet legal need' **Balance**, November/December 2010

'Pro bono imbalance' **Law Institute Journal**, January/February 2011

'Floods highlight what it is to be a lawyer' **Lawyers Weekly**, 28 January 2011

'SA lawyers stack up the pro bono hours' **Lawyers Weekly**, 26 February 2010

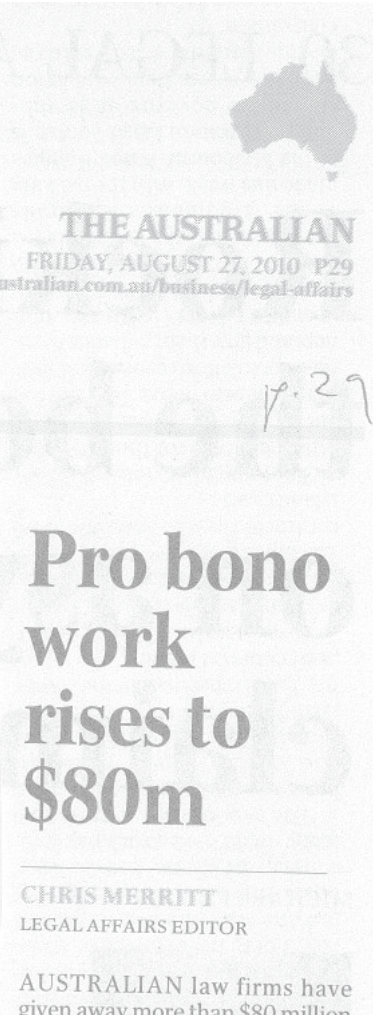
'QPILCH builds outreach program for rural, regional and remote practices' **Proctor**, March 2011

'The positive pro bono promise' **Proctor**, May 2011

'Lawyers don pro bono walking boots' **Lawyers Weekly**, 13 May 2011

'Bonig: Lawyers do work for free' **Adelaide Advertiser**, 16 May 2011

'Pro bono a bonus for law students' **Australian Financial Review**, 6 June 2011


THE AUSTRALIAN
FRIDAY, AUGUST 27, 2010 P29
australian.com.au/business/legal-affairs

Pro bono work rises to $80m

CHRIS MERRITT
LEGAL AFFAIRS EDITOR

AUSTRALIAN law firms have given away more than $80 million

Financial reports

Income Statement for the year ended 30 June 2011

	2011 $	2010 $
Revenue from ordinary activities	433,980	465,012
Expenses from ordinary activities		
Printing	4,156	12,867
Employee benefits expense	339,891	350,769
Depreciation expense	2,177	4,202
Audit fee	2,850	3,600
Insurance	8,676	9,924
Computer and Communications	2,866	10,179
Subscriptions	2,707	369
Travel and accommodation	21,313	16,312
Loss on sale of assets	808	–
Other expenses from ordinary activities	31,558	36,433
Surplus/(Deficit) From Ordinary Activities	**16,978**	**20,357**
Income tax expense relating to ordinary activities	–	–
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	**16,978**	**20,357**
Other comprehensive income	–	–
Total comprehensive income	**16,978**	**20,357**

Balance Sheet for the year ended 30 June 2011

	2011 $	2010 $
Current Assets		
Cash assets	131,903	250,325
Receivables	22,763	200
Total Current Assets	154,666	250,525
Non-Current Assets		
Property, plant and equipment	3,265	4,363
Total Non-Current Assets	3,265	4,363
Total Assets	157,931	254,888
Current Liabilities		
Payables	24,574	74,090
Provisions	18,552	10,225
Other	24,592	100,000
Total Current Liabilities	67,718	184,315
Non-Current Liabilities		
Provisions	16,814	14,152
Total Non-Current Liabilities	16,814	14,152
Total Liabilities	84,532	198,467
Net Assets	73,399	56,421
Equity		
Retained Earnings	73,399	56,421
Total Equity	73,399	56,421

The Centre's financial statements were audited by Pitcher Partners, Sydney who opined on 7 September 2011 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

NATIONAL PRO BONO RESOURCE CENTRE
Law Centres Precinct
The Law Building
UNSW NSW 2052
Ph: +61 02 9385 7381 Fax: +61 02 9385 7375
Email: info@nationalprobono.org.au

© National Pro Bono Resource Centre