AUSTRALIAN
PRO BONO CENTRE

Annual Report 2014-2015

CONTENTS

About us 3

Our work 4

Chair's message 6

Director's report 8

Advocacy promoting and facilitating pro bono legal work 10

Practical assistance for pro bono providers 22

Insight into the pro bono landscape 24

Information resources on pro bono practice 25

The Centre in detail 26

Financial reports 34

AUSTRALIAN
PRO BONO CENTRE

The Australian Pro Bono 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. For more information visit the Centre's website at www.probonocentre.org.au.

OUR WORK

ADVOCACY PROMOTING AND FACILITATING PRO BONO LEGAL WORK

7 legal or regulatory reforms removing barriers to pro bono legal work, in response to the Centre's advocacy

8 events where the Centre was a co-host, sponsor or presenter

INSIGHT AND INFORMATION

93 Australian Pro Bono News articles published

1,955 SJ Opps Twitter followers

SJ Opps Facebook "likes" as at 30 June 2015 **1,587**

31,262 SJ Opps unique website visitors

NATIONAL PRO BONO ASPIRATIONAL TARGET

320 new FTE lawyers covered by the Target – making 11,235 in total

372,601.8 hours of pro bono work performed by Target signatories

19 of the 20 largest Australian law firms are Target signatories (up from 17)

REFERRALS

280 referrals assisting community organisations and members of the public (est)

MAINTAINING A CENTRE OF EXPERTISE

105 pages of website reviewed/ rewritten

14 pro bono coordinators consulted in relation to a new edition of the Australian Pro Bono Manual

websites maintained **4**

NATIONAL PRO BONO PI INSURANCE SCHEME

2,239 hours of pro bono work made possible by the Scheme

60 projects insured under the Scheme

lawyers covered by the Scheme **93**

MISSION STATEMENT

"The Australian Pro Bono Centre is an independent centre of expertise that aims to grow the capacity of the Australian legal profession to provide pro bono legal services that are focused on increasing access to justice for socially disadvantaged and/or marginalised persons, and furthering the public interest."

STRATEGIES

We achieve our mission by:

1. strengthening the place of pro bono legal work within the Australian legal profession as an integral part of legal practice;
2. providing practical assistance to facilitate, and remove barriers to, the provision of pro bono legal services; and
3. promoting the pro bono legal work of the Australian legal profession.

> From my perspective as a partner in a commercial law firm pro bono work is important not just to discharge the responsibilities of our profession, and of privilege, but because it helps recruit, train, retain, challenge and round out the best staff, and increasingly also because it contributes to alignment with clients, especially through pro bono partnerships.

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Timing is everything. What a great year to take over as Chair of the Australian Pro Bono Centre. In my first year we have seen:

- the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta, which was celebrated at the National Access to Justice and Pro Bono Conference in Sydney in June 2015, co-hosted by the Centre with the Law Council of Australia and the Law Society of NSW. Magna Carta is rightly revered as the foundation myth for the rule of law, for rights to due process and for access to justice; "to no one shall we delay or deny right or justice" marks a basic norm for any civil society, and is a key concern driving pro bono legal work and the Centre;
- the release of the Productivity Commission's Report on Access to Justice Arrangements — how wonderful to see the economic rationalists recommending an additional $200 million of Government funding for legal assistance services, on the basis this will save more in the long run, yielding better civil and budget outcomes. Chapter 23 of the report, on the role of pro bono in access to justice arrangements across Australia, relied heavily on the Centre's research and publications and a number of the Commission's recommendations echoed the Centre's submissions;
- the publication of the Centre's National Survey of Law Firms with 50 or more lawyers, and the 2014 National Pro Bono Aspirational Target report, both showing growth in the contribution of mid-size firms and in the number of these firms with a structured and coordinated pro bono

program. From my perspective as a partner in a commercial law firm pro bono work is important not just to discharge the responsibilities of our profession, and of privilege, but because it helps recruit, train, retain, challenge and round out the best staff, and increasingly also because it contributes to alignment with clients, especially through pro bono partnerships. Further, many Australian companies are world leaders in sustainability and corporate social responsibility, and they are taking a greater interest in supply chain compliance;

- the joint initiative under which AusLSA will include pro bono reporting in their sustainability reporting framework with the support of the Centre;
- the finalisation of the National Partnership Agreement on Legal Assistance Services: much of the pro bono work performed by law firms could not be performed without partnerships or through relationships with Community Legal Centres, Legal Aid Commissions, Family Violence Prevention Legal Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services. The greater certainty that this Agreement provides to the legal assistance sector encourages strategic collaboration and this is where pro bono can add significant value. The Centre has also been working to put its own funding on a more secure basis; and
- the launch of the Centre's new name and identity, with a logo based on the pillars of justice and the principle of equality before the law. The change from "National" to "Australian" recognises the more outward looking role of the Centre as law firms become more global in their outlook and operations, and that Australian firms are world leaders in the sophistication and scale of their pro bono programs.

I salute Peter Stapleton for his nine years of great achievements as Chair of the Centre. Under Peter's leadership the Centre has played a key role in the considerable growth of the pro bono movement and culture in Australia. I also welcome two other new board members, Daniel Creasey and Jane Hutchison. Finally, many thanks to the Director, John Corker and his team (Leanne, Afton, Daniel, Lucy) for their dedication, professionalism and energy in pursuing the objectives of the Centre.

Phillip Cornwell
November 2015

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The 2014/15 year was one that culminated in a new name and identity for the Centre, reflecting its increased outward-looking role, consistent with increased globalisation in the delivery of legal services, and the Centre's expertise and resources being recognised and used beyond Australia. The new name and identity were launched at the National Access to Justice and Pro Bono Conference held in Sydney, and we thank the Sydney based designer Paul Garbett for his pro bono work in creating the new logo in its many manifestations.

The occasion of the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta provided a great context for the conference and highlighted contemporary issues of lack of access to justice. Importantly, it provided a great many examples of lawyers working pro bono and making a real difference to tackling these issues. The conference featured 96 individual speakers over two days with over 250 delegates attending.

The Centre still remains a "resource centre" despite the new name (which is also much easier to say). This year saw many of our online resources being reviewed and many being renewed, refreshed and re-written. Much work has gone into building a new website for the Centre which is now close to completion.

This year marked key regulatory changes in the legal profession (at least in NSW and Victoria) which spurred the Centre on to advocate extensively for changes to practising certificate and PI insurance regimes in all the eight state and territory jurisdictions to try and ensure that these do not present barriers for those lawyers who wish to

undertake pro bono work. Considerable progress has been made — at the time of writing, NSW, Victoria, WA, ACT and QLD all offer "fee-free" volunteer practising certificates (the ACT having introduced them in November 2015) and the position of in-house counsel is now less difficult in NSW and SA.

This applies in particular to in-house counsel, in both corporations and in government, and to retired and career break lawyers. The Centre's PI scheme for in-house counsel continued to provide insurance cover for lawyers working on pro bono projects with 2,239 hours being provided this year under the Scheme.

As the Chair noted, we were pleased to see the Productivity Commission rely on much of our research, data collection and analysis and adopt many of our suggested recommendations. We have been working since publication of its report to advocate to governments and others that the recommendations should be adopted, and we are having some success.

We have been pleased to see the pro bono referral organisations and referral schemes expand again this year, with particular congratulations to Justice Connect for consolidating its operations in NSW, the Law Society of Western Australia for launching its new stand-alone Law Access service, QPILCH for its high numbers particularly those seen though its various self-representation services, and JusticeNet SA for its continued growth.

I am pleased to report that significant progress was made this year towards creating a third edition of the Australian Pro Bono Manual, and reviewing its companion publication What Works. Both these flagship publications are on track to be published in soft and hard copy in the coming year, with the design and printing work and costs being kindly absorbed by LexisNexis. The Manual was used in Singapore to help them develop their pro bono manual. This year saw an agreement with the Law Society of England and Wales licensing the new edition of the Manual to them to assist in developing a UK pro bono manual.

The Centre also continued to develop its reputation as source of expertise outside of Australia through its Director being a member of the international organising committee of the 4th Asian Pro Bono Conference and Legal Ethics workshop, which was held in Myanmar in September 2015, participating in a workshop about pro bono in Jakarta organised by the Australia Indonesia Partnership for Justice, and having the opportunity to attend and participate in the PILnet European Forum in London to help the UK based law firms launch their new Collaborative Plan, introducing an aspirational pro bono target in Britain for the first time.

This was also the year when Target signatories grew to the extent that the number of lawyers covered by the Target became equivalent to the number of lawyers in the firms with 50 or more lawyers that participate in the biennial large law firm survey. The Survey report released in December 2014 provided an informative picture of the way these firms are managing their pro bono practices and programs, and we remain confident that this is a well-respected and important information source.

I would like to thank the Centre's new Chair, Phillip Cornwell for his support this year — and particularly Peter Stapleton, as outgoing Chair, for his support, vision and drive over the past nine years! I was sad to see Senior Policy Officer, Leanne Ho, leave the Centre after making such a great contribution but I am pleased that she is not far away in her new role as pro bono coordinator at Henry Davis York. It has been a great pleasure to welcome and work with Afton Fife in the Senior Policy Officer role this year, and much could not be achieved without the dedicated support and skill of Project Officer, Daniel Jacobs, supported ably by Lucy Martin.

John Corker
Director

ADVOCACY

PROMOTING AND FACILITATING PRO BONO LEGAL WORK

> Moray & Agnew was proud to sign the National Pro Bono Aspirational Target several years ago. We have since been assisted by John Corker's competent guidance and advice in developing a co-ordinated national approach to pro bono within the firm. The implementation of a national approach to pro bono work has led to a number of positive outcomes including an increased awareness of the benefits of undertaking pro bono work amongst lawyers within the firm, opportunities to develop ongoing relationships between the firm and community organisations who seek the provision of pro bono services, and an increase in the firm's performance against the Aspirational Target on a national basis.

Geoffrey Connellan, Partner
Moray & Agnew

NATIONAL PRO BONO ASPIRATIONAL TARGET

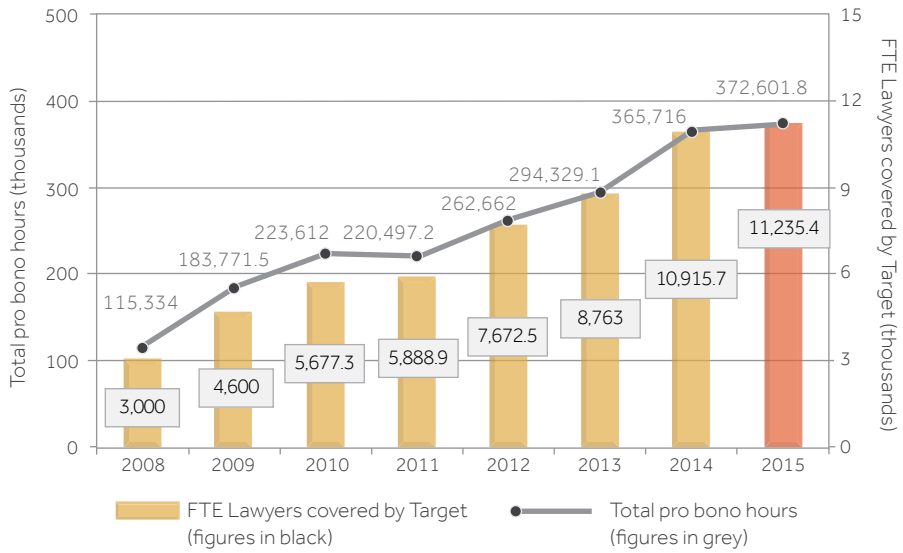
The *Eighth Annual Performance Report on the National Pro Bono Aspirational Target*, released in October 2015, confirms the Target's increasing influence as a tool to drive pro bono performance. The Target now covers over 11,000 Australian legal professionals, including 19 of Australia's 20 largest firms.

In 2014–2015, 60% of mid-size Australian firms (201–449 lawyers) boosted their pro bono performance by more than 20%. Large firms continued to perform strongly, with the nine largest firms collectively reporting over 200,000 hours of pro bono legal work — more than 60% of the 372,602 hours reported. It is a tribute to the dedication of these firms that they have maintained and grown their pro bono programs despite today's competitive challenges.

Sole practitioners and small firms also reported some outstanding results, with one sole practitioner reporting 650 pro bono hours for the year.

The fact that 45% of signatories met or exceeded the Target demonstrates that the Target remains a credible benchmark for the conduct of pro bono legal work across the profession, and that it encourages legal professionals to support and grow their pro bono legal culture, practices and programs.

TARGET SIGNATORIES: 2008-2015
FTE LAWYERS COVERED BY TARGET / TOTAL PRO BONO HOURS



The Target was developed by the Centre in 2006 and incorporates, in part, language developed by the US Pro Bono Institute and utilised in its Law Firm Pro Bono Challenge. The language is used with the specific permission of the Institute and cannot be further utilised, 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*.

PRO BONO CONDITIONS IN GOVERNMENT TENDERS FOR LEGAL SERVICES

In its 2014 Access to Justice Arrangements *Inquiry Report*, the Productivity Commission drew directly on the Centre's *submissions* in recommending that:

> "The Queensland, New South Wales and Western Australian Governments should consider adopting the National Pro Bono Aspirational Target, tied to their legal panel arrangements"[1]

The Centre subsequently wrote to the Attorneys General in each of Queensland, New South Wales, Western Australia and South Australia (in conjunction with JusticeNet SA) informing them of the recommendation and encouraging them to incorporate the Target in their legal panel arrangements. Recently, the South Australian Attorney-General has indicated that South Australia intends to introduce a scheme based on the Target.

The Centre continues to provide policy advice to the Commonwealth government regarding the pro bono provisions in the application process for the Commonwealth Legal Services Multi-User List (LSMUL) and to promote the Target to the firms on the LSMUL. The pro bono provisions require agencies to consider each applicant's pro bono contribution when awarding tenders, and each applicant must include either:

(a) confirmation that the Applicant subscribes to the National Pro Bono Resource Centre's Aspirational Target; or
(b) a nominated target value of Pro Bono Work over a financial year.

As at 30 June 2015, 61 of the 123 law firms listed as prequalified service providers on the LSMUL were Target signatories, up from 49 of 111 firms on the LSMUL as at 30 June 2014.

In response to the Centre's policy advice to the Commonwealth Attorney-General's department, as of 1 July 2014, firms of 50 or more lawyers were advised by the Attorney-General that they could no longer nominate a target value (b) but would instead be required to select option (a) and ensure that they have signed up to the Target. The Centre followed up by contacting firms with 50 or more full-time equivalent lawyers that are listed on the LSMUL but not yet Target signatories, to remind them of this new requirement.

NATIONAL PRO BONO PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY INSURANCE SCHEME

During the year the Centre continued to advocate for the approval of the National Pro Bono Professional Indemnity Insurance Scheme, underwritten by Lawcover, as an appropriate PI insurance Scheme for in-house lawyers and volunteers. In response to the Centre's advocacy the Council of the ACT Law Society approved the Scheme in June 2015. As at 30 June 2015 the Scheme had been approved in NSW, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and the ACT.

In addition, in January 2015 the Centre and DLA Piper made a joint submission to the Council of the Law Society of New South Wales requesting an amendment to the NSW approval of the Scheme. The submission requested the removal of a limiting feature of the original 2009 approval — that any pro bono legal work carried out under the Scheme be supervised by a supervising lawyer who holds an unrestricted principal practising certificate. In-house lawyers are unlikely to hold this type of practising certificate and therefore this

[1] Productivity Commission 2014, Access to Justice Arrangements, Inquiry Report No. 72, Canberra, p 838.

requirement represents a barrier to participation in pro bono legal work. The Centre also made a submission on this point to the Legal Services Council in response to the Consultation Draft of the Legal Profession Uniform General Rules. On 14 July 2015 the Council of the Law Society confirmed that it had amended its approval of the Scheme to remove the condition requiring the supervising lawyer to hold an unrestricted principal practising certificate. Under the amended approach the supervising lawyer must hold an unrestricted practising certificate, rather than an unrestricted principal practising certificate.

VOLUNTEER PRACTISING CERTIFICATES

In line with the Centre's submissions, the Productivity Commission in its 2014 Access to Justice Arrangements Inquiry Report recommended that all State and Territory governments, where they have not already done so should:

> "introduce free practising certificates for retired and career break lawyers limited to the provision of pro bono services either through a community legal centre or a project approved by the National Pro Bono Resource Centre."

As at 30 June 2015 volunteer practising certificates were available in Victoria (limited to volunteering at a CLC), Queensland and Western Australia. During the 2014–2015 year the Centre continued to advocate for the introduction of volunteer practising certificates in the remaining jurisdictions. In June 2015, in response to the Centre's submissions, the Council of the ACT Law Society confirmed that the Council had approved the introduction of the volunteer practising certificates in principle. In preparation for the commencement of the Legal Profession Uniform Law (LPUL) on 1 July 2015 in Victoria and NSW, the Centre made a submission to the Legal Services Council regarding the Consultation Draft of the Legal Profession Uniform General Rules. In relation to volunteer practising certificates, the Centre's submission focused on ensuring that volunteer practising certificates, which are specifically provided for by the LPUL, were issued for free, rather than on a low cost basis.

OTHER SUBMISSIONS

- Submission on Victoria Legal Aid's *Family Law Legal Aid Services Review Consultation and Options Paper* (February 2015), primarily drawn from research conducted for the Centre's report *Pro Bono Legal Services in Family Law and Family Violence: Understanding the Limitations and Opportunities* (October 2013).
- Comments and submissions (January 2015) in response to consultation drafts of the proposed Uniform Rules to be made under the Legal Profession Uniform Law, which was endorsed in full by DLA Piper Australia; and supplementary submissions (March 2015) on the proposed Continuing Professional Development Rules (Solicitors) 2014 to be made pursuant to the Legal Profession Uniform Law.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE THROUGH PRO BONO

NATIONAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND PRO BONO CONFERENCE 2015

In June 2015 the Centre co-hosted the 5th National Access to Justice and Pro Bono Conference in Sydney with the Law Council of Australia and the Law Society of NSW, with sponsorship from the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department. Marking the 800th anniversary of the sealing of the Magna Carta, the conference agenda focused on the Magna Carta's legacy and its relevance in 2015.

▲ *The Pro Bono Pipeline (left to right): Lizzie O'Shea (Maurice Blackburn), Sarah Morton-Ramwell (Ashurst), Fiona McLeay (Justice Connect), Jillian Mitford-Burgess (Henry Davis York), Nic Patrick (DLA Piper) and John Corker (Australian Pro Bono Centre) at the 'Pro Bono Pipeline' session.*

John Corker chaired the dedicated pro bono session at the conference — *The Pro Bono Pipeline* — convening a panel of pro bono leaders to discuss the question "Are the right people getting the right help?". This session considered the findings of Centre's last two surveys of Australian firms with 50 or more lawyers, which indicated only 35% of their pro bono legal work was done for individuals.

Other conference sessions showcased innovative projects and individual pro bono contributions, including the Health and Justice Partnership pioneered by the Loddon Campaspe Community Legal Centre, the Legal Referral Service operated by the Cancer Council, the Legal Health Check developed by QPILCH, the Women at Work project developed by Kingsford Legal Centre, and the work of volunteers at the Refugee Advice and Casework Service in Sydney.

The Conference achieved its aim of advancing the discussion on the current key issues concerning access to justice and pro bono in Australia, with the high calibre of the over 100 speakers (and chairs) thoroughly engaging the conference participants. This was a conference first and foremost about the vital role that lawyers play in providing access to justice for their clients whether through advice and litigation, class actions or simply advocacy. It was an inspiring and a timely reminder about the significance of lawyers just going about their jobs with a keen sense of justice and the importance of the rule of law.

▼ *Rosie Batty speaking on Human Rights in the Home at the National Access to Justice and Pro Bono Conference*

▲ *Showcase 4 'Human Rights in the Home: A Conversation' (left to right): Rosie Batty, Australian of the Year 2015; Antoinette Braybrook, CEO, Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention and Legal Services; The Hon. Justice Hilary Hannam, Family Court of Australia; Jane Needham SC, President, Bar Association of NSW; Andrew O'Keefe, Ambassador, White Ribbon Foundation Australia.*

▲ *(Left to right): Duncan McConnel, President, Law Council of Australia; John Eades, President, Law Society of New South Wales; The Hon Gabrielle Upton, Attorney General of New South Wales; John Corker, Director, Australian Pro Bono Centre.*

▲ *Showcase 3 'Valuing Justice: How Much Justice can we Afford?' (left to right): Chris Leong, Immediate Past President, Malaysian Bar; The Hon. Chief Justice Tom Bathurst AC, Supreme Court of NSW; The Hon. Justice Ruth McColl AO; Bill Grant OAM, CEO, NSW Legal Aid; Gabrielle Bashir SC, Barrister, Forbes Chambers.*

▲ *Showcase 6 'Disruptive and Dynamic Lawyers: The Gatekeepers of Justice' (left to right): Ben Slade, Managing Principal, Maurice Blackburn Lawyers; Julian McMahon, Barrister, Clerk Howells; Fiona McLeod SC, President, Australian Bar Association, and Treasurer, Law Council of Australia; George Newhouse, Special Counsel, Shine Lawyers; Danny Gilbert AM, Co-Founder/Managing Partner, Gilbert Tobin.*

▲ *Showcase 2 'Putting the Brakes on Incarceration' (left to right): Shane Duffy, Chair, National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Legal Services (NATSILS); Rob Hulls, Director, Centre for Innovative Justice (RMIT); Dr Cassandra Goldie, CEO, Australian Council of Social Services (ACOSS); Andrew Meehan, National Director, ANTaR; Natasha Robinson, Senior Writer, The Australian; Dr. Don Weatherburn PSM, Director, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research; Duncan McConnel, President, Law Council of Australia.*

▲ *Showcase 5 'Justice and Freedom in Times of Terror' (left to right): Pauline Wright, Junior Vice President, Law Society of NSW; Professor George Williams AO, Foundation Director Gilbert + Tobin & Centre of Public Law at the Faculty of Law, UNSW; Professor Rosalind Croucher AM, President, Australian Law Reform Commission; David Irvine AO, Former Director-General of Security, Australian Security Intelligence Organisation; Graham Turnbull, SC, Barrister, Forbes Chambers, Nick Cowdery AM QC, Director of Public Prosecutions for the State of NSW 1994 to 2011.*

▲ *(Left to right): Michael Smith, National Convenor, National Association of Community Legal Centres; Sue Ball, Victorian Legal Services Board; Joh Kirby, Executive Director, Victoria Law Foundation; Joanna Renkin, Partner, Pro Bono and Community Support, Lander & Rodgers.*

▲ *(Left to right): Dominique Hansen, Executive Manager, Community Services, Law Society of Western Australia; Catriona Martin, Pro Bono Director, Asia Pacific, DLA Piper.*

COLLABORATION WITH PRO BONO REFERRAL ORGANISATIONS

Australian pro bono referral organisations and schemes facilitate the efficient provision of pro bono legal advice by acting as an intermediary between people or organisations that need legal assistance and lawyers prepared and able to assist. Referral organisations and schemes are primarily focused on engaging their members or participating lawyers in client service delivery. By contrast, the Centre's focus is on growing the capacity of the Australian legal profession to provide pro bono legal services through research, advocacy for law reform, promotion of pro bono legal work through mechanisms such as the Aspirational Target, assistance to address constraints on pro bono service delivery, insights into the pro bono landscape and information resources on pro bono practice.

However, pro bono referral organisations and schemes and the Centre share a common goal of building the pro bono culture across the profession. The Centre adopts a structured collaboration strategy to increase the effectiveness of its liaison and collaboration with referral organisations and schemes, and to maximise the use of public resources by avoiding any unnecessary duplication of functions. In 2015 the Centre continued to implement the strategy in the following areas:

- **Governance** — Tim Graham continued in his role as Director nominated by QPILCH, PILCH (VIC), PILCH (NSW) and JusticeNet SA (jointly). Dominique Hansen continued in her role as Director appointed by the WA Law Society.
- **Meetings and information exchange** — attending regular meetings with Justice Connect, QPILCH and JusticeNet SA, as well as periodically visiting the staff of other organisations, distributing key publications such as the Australian Pro Bono News, Survey Report and Target Report to referral organisations, and receiving newsletters and other regular public communications from referral organisations.
- **Joint activities** — planning, implementing and participating in joint activities including submissions, conferences and presentations.
- **Cross-promotion** — monitoring referral organisation operations, projects, programs and events and bringing these to the attention of lawyers and law firms as appropriate. For example, the Centre featured articles in the Australian Pro Bono News on NACLC's Working Collaboratively publications on volunteer and pro bono contributions, and on JusticeNet SA's Self-Representation Service.

ADVOCACY

PROMOTING AND FACILITATING PRO BONO LEGAL WORK

WALK FOR JUSTICE 2015

The 8th Walk for Justice was held on National Pro Bono Day, 12 May 2015, in Adelaide, Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Newcastle, the Sunshine Coast, Mackay, Townsville, Cairns and, for the first time, the Gold Coast and Toowoomba. First initiated by the Centre and QPILCH, this year the Walk for Justice involved over 2,500 people, and raised a total of over $111,000 to support the work of pro bono referral organisations QPILCH, JusticeNet SA and Justice Connect. The event raises the public profile of the pro bono work carried out by the legal profession, and much-needed funds for the pro bono referral organisations.

▲ *(Clockwise from top left) John Corker, Lucy Martin, Daniel Jacobs, Leanne Ho, Vilaasini Jeyasothy, Julie Tran, Afton Fife.*

▲ *Kelly Roberts (Baker McKenzie) and Min Bonwick (Youth Off the Streets)*

▲ *Representatives of King & Wood Mallesons, GE, NAB/MLC, Casula High School and Canterbury Boys High School*

NSW LAW AND JUSTICE FOUNDATION PRO BONO PARTNERSHIP AWARD 2014

The Centre once again sponsored the NSW Law and Justice Foundation's Pro Bono Partnership Award, presented on 29 November 2014. The Centre congratulates award nominees and the two joint award winners:

- the partnership between King & Wood Mallesons, in-house lawyers from GE and NAB/MLC, and Casula High School and Canterbury Boys High School that delivered the Lawyers in Schools program to over 300 economically disadvantaged students in the last five years; and
- the partnership between Baker & McKenzie and Youth Off The Streets (YOTS), which for more than eight years has provided pro bono legal advice to young people engaged through YOTS' services, helping around 64 young people who have accumulated fine debts due to extreme personal and domestic circumstances.

The Award celebrates and promotes innovation in pro bono relationships that effectively address unmet legal need in a particular community and improve access to justice for people experiencing disadvantage.

NACLC 2014 FACILITATED SESSION — COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES AND LAW FIRMS

In August 2014 John Corker chaired a session at the National CLCs Conference in Alice Springs. The session — "Leveraging pro bono to enrich your Centre's services" — reflected on the fact that 92 CLCs (60.2%) had reported having a pro bono partnership in the first census of CLCs around Australia in 2013, and discussed making more strategic use of pro bono reflecting an increased maturity and understanding of the way that pro bono operates in Australia. Session attendees and presenters included pro bono lawyers from Gilbert + Tobin, Ashurst, Clayton Utz, DLA Piper and Justice Connect.

STUDENT PRO BONO

The Centre works closely with several Australian university law schools and PLT providers to advise on and facilitate pro bono opportunities for law students. There are growing opportunities for students to incorporate pro bono work into the elective component of their law degrees or to take up volunteer opportunities, working with academics, law firms and CLCs, providing legal research, policy work, and providing legal information. The Centre participated once again in the **UNSW Social Justice Internship Program**, which provides opportunities for students to contribute to specialist legal centres housed within the university while gaining academic credit. In 2014—2015 the Centre took five interns through the Program.

On 16 August 2014, John Corker participated in a panel discussion — "Facilitating access to justice through Corporate Social Responsibility" — at the **DLA Piper Social Justice Conference**, co-hosted by SULS + UNSW Law Society, which provided a forum for students to understand the relationship between law and social justice. In December 2014, Afton Fife presented sessions to law students at UNSW and University of Sydney on the Australian pro bono landscape and the professional obligation of lawyers to provide pro bono legal services. The Centre also updated its **College of Law Practice Paper** on Pro Bono Practice.

At the **Law & Society of Australia and New Zealand**'s conference on *Public and/or Private Lives*, held in Brisbane on 3–5 December 2014, John Corker presented "Should Australia introduce a mandatory student pro bono scheme?". The paper explored whether Australia should follow the lead of the New York State Bar's Pro Bono Scholars Program, which was introduced in 2014 to support that State's Bar entry requirement of 50 hours of pro bono legal work, and to encourage students to render pro bono services. Under the program, Pro Bono Scholars commit their final semester to completing 500 hours of pro bono work under the stewardship of

the law school. After discussing how such a program might operate in the current Australian context, John concluded that teaching law students about the professional obligation of lawyers to provide pro bono legal services was an essential educational requirement, and best taught through a compulsory community service experience in which PLT students provide pro bono legal services.

A CENTRE OF EXPERTISE

UK COLLABORATIVE PLAN FOR PRO BONO

The UK Collaborative Plan for Pro Bono was launched at the beginning of UK National Pro Bono Week (3–7 November 2014). The Centre's Director John Corker supported the launch by presenting on the Australian Target system at the 2014 PILnet European Pro Bono Forum, held in London during that week, where the plan was launched. The Forum was well attended by Australian pro bono experts from Clayton Utz, Allens Linklaters, King & Wood Mallesons and Justice Connect. In the closing session Michael Napier, the UK Attorney-General's Pro Bono Envoy, acknowledged the Australian contribution and influence.

Under the Plan firms agree to work together to develop systems and infrastructure that allow pro bono services to be effectively delivered to address unmet legal need in the UK. Any firm can participate by committing to the Plan's initiatives. Development of the Plan was led by several international firms with Australian lawyers, Nic Patrick (DLA Piper) and Sarah Morton-Ramwell (Reed Smith; now Ashurst), centrally involved.

Significantly, the Plan introduces an annual aspirational pro bono target of 25 hours per fee-earner per annum with annual de-identified reporting similar to the Australian National Pro Bono Aspirational Target. The reporting service will be provided by TrustLaw, the Thomson Reuters Foundation global pro bono service that connects NGOs with law firms.

PRO BONO IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

John Corker worked with the international organising committee to convene the **3rd Asia Pro Bono Conference**, held in Singapore on 2–4 October 2014. The conference theme of "Public Private People Partnerships" resonated with the more than 350 delegates from over 25 countries, including international and regional/local firms, pro bono referral organisations and referral schemes, and international not-for-profit networks.

The conference addressed issues such as the role of bar associations in supporting pro bono, pro bono developments and opportunities in Asia, and the challenges of in-house pro bono. A joint commitment to improve pro bono legal services in Singapore was demonstrated in presentations from the Senior Minister of the State Ministry of Law and Education, Singapore, a Judicial Commissioner from the State Courts of Singapore, and the President of the Law Society of Singapore, with the Minister announcing a new initiative of mandatory pro bono reporting for Singapore-based law firms from mid-2015. Workshop topics ranged

◂ *Delegates at the 3rd Asia Pro Bono Conference held in Singapore in October 2014.*

▲ *Handing over the Asia Pro Bono Conference banner to U Hla Ko of Myanmar*

from the DNA of successful pro bono partnerships to what makes an effective pro bono clearing-house system, and a complete day of the conference was devoted to pro bono and legal education.

The conference demonstrated that, across a range of countries in the Asian region, pro bono is driving the positive evolution of legal systems to improve access to justice for indigent, socially disadvantaged and marginalised people. Pro bono was recognised and embraced as a concept that strengthens the rule of law, strengthens bar associations, accelerates the development of legal aid systems, and helps law students to learn about the law and go into their communities to teach others about the law.

Throughout 2014–2015 John also worked with the international organising committee (from DLA Piper, Herbert Smith Freehills and BABSEA CLE) to convene the **4th Asia Pro Bono Conference & Legal Ethics Forum** (which was held in Mandalay, Myanmar on 3–6 September 2015). The committee invited over 100 speakers, including a significant number of Australians, to speak on the theme that "pro bono and ethics build a noble legal profession".

In April 2015 John was a guest of the **Australia Indonesia Partnership for Justice** at a two day workshop held in Jakarta on the topic of Pro Bono Legal Services and Legal Aid. Other international pro bono experts attending included Peter Thomson, from the Law Council of Australia, Bruce Lasky from BABSEA CLE, and Ed Rekosh from PILnet. The workshop was attended by about 40 participants, predominantly lawyers working in the regional offices of the Indonesian Legal Aid Foundation (Yayasan LBH Indonesia or YLBHI), with other attendees from the Indonesian Advocates Association (PERADI) and from local firms.

The YLBHI receives thousands of requests for help every year from those in need including farmers, labourers, mental illness sufferers and vulnerable women and children. In the face of other significant barriers such as corruption in the judicial system, YLBHI is strategic about casework as, in a country with as many as 150 million people earning less than $7 a day, there is much unmet legal need.

Discussions at the conference also centred on the role and function of a pro bono referral organisation, with the consensus being that such a development was premature. The timing of the workshop, held only a day before the executions of Andrew Chan and Myuran Sukumaran, provided a sombre backdrop for discussions on legal ethics, the rule of law, and the strength of legal professional associations. However, the enthusiasm and interest amongst participants in access to justice provided a heartening and welcome sense of optimism.

▲ *Attendees at the 2015 Australia Indonesia Partnership for Justice workshop on Pro Bono Legal Services and Legal Aid.*

PRACTICAL ASSISTANCE

FOR PRO BONO PROVIDERS

PROVIDING PI INSURANCE TO IN-HOUSE LAWYERS

The Centre continued to approve applications from in-house lawyers for professional indemnity insurance under its **National Pro Bono PI Insurance Scheme**, with more than 60 projects involving 93 lawyers and eight paralegals approved (as at 30 June 2015) and over 2,200 hours of pro bono legal work performed this year.

The Scheme facilitates the involvement of in-house counsel and volunteer lawyers in pro bono legal work by insuring lawyers and paralegals who undertake pro bono legal work on projects approved by the Centre. For example, the Centre has approved recent applications from lawyers from the ANZ and Westpac in-house legal teams, as well as an individual lawyer assisting those experiencing domestic violence in the Newcastle region. The Scheme removes a key barrier to pro bono legal work: the need for in-house and volunteer lawyers to have professional indemnity insurance to cover them for any civil claims arising from such work.

The Centre is also working with the Association of Corporate Counsel (ACLA Australia) to develop a **Pro Bono Factsheet** that addresses the jurisdiction-specific requirements for accessing the Scheme.

LAW FIRM CONSULTATIONS

In 2014–2015 the Centre conducted face-to-face consultations with 11 firms on developing their pro bono programs — predominantly mid-tier firms and those who were new signatories to the Aspirational Target — and phone conversations with lawyers in numerous other firms. The Centre also regularly met with the pro bono co-ordinators of larger law firms to broker relationships and discuss best practice.

"In the past twelve months our pro bono practice has experienced tremendous growth and our pro bono hours contribution has grown in this short period by almost 72%. We are very grateful to John Corker and the Australian Pro Bono Centre for their encouragement and support for the growth of our practice and their words of wisdom along the way."

Jackie O'Brien, National Pro Bono Partner, *Norton Rose Fulbright*

"Sparke Helmore's pro bono program has grown significantly over the past two years and we have sought assistance from the Australian Pro Bono Centre on numerous occasions. The Centre provides an incredibly valuable source of information about best practice pro bono. The Centre has helped us to better understand and navigate the pro bono landscape in Australia, and the staff are always ready and willing to assist us to work through the more challenging decisions around eligible pro bono matters."

Hannah Rose, Senior Associate & National CSR Manager, *Sparke Helmore*

"John Corker and the Pro Bono Centre provided invaluable assistance to us in establishing our fledgling Pro Bono Program. John met with us at our office on several occasions, provided us with constructive feedback on documentation establishing our policy and program and also gave a presentation to our lawyers regarding the value of the program. Most critically, John introduced us to a number of organisations requiring pro bono legal assistance and, as a result of John's introductions, we have been able to develop a network of sources of pro bono work."

Mark Procajlo, Partner, *Kemp Strang*

NATIONAL LAW FIRM PRO BONO SURVEY

The Centre released its interim report on the 4th biennial **National Law Firm Pro Bono Survey of Australian Firms** with 50 or more Lawyers in October 2014, with the *Final Report* releasing in December 2014 in conjunction with forums in Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney, and Perth. The Survey is the 4th instalment in the Centre's longitudinal study of the pro bono practices of large firms which commenced in 2008.

Forty-one of the 55 Australian firms with 50 or more lawyers, including 24 of the 25 largest law firms, responded to the Survey. Overall the average pro bono hours per lawyer was 32 hours per annum, up 7.0% from 2012 and up 10.3% since 2010. However, the performance of the respondent firms varied, ranging from 1.6 to 67.4 hours of pro bono legal work per lawyer per year, suggesting there is still room for growth in the pro bono contribution of some firms.

In this Survey, respondents were asked to report the proportion of partners who undertook pro bono legal work. The average was 40% partner participation, with the highest rate reported at 75%. The average overall participation rate was 50% — a downward trend that correlates with the increase in pro bono secondments.

Only a fifth of respondents reported doing more pro bono legal work for individuals than for organisations, and on average, firms reported doing 65% of work for organisations. Consistent with these findings, the areas of law most often accepted by larger law firms were governance, employment, commercial agreements, Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) tax status applications and intellectual property — reflecting the amount of pro bono work done for not-for-profit organisations. The reasons given for rejecting requests for pro bono assistance in areas such as family law and criminal law included the firm's lack of expertise and lack of capacity.

The Final Report also covers:

- detailed breakdowns of pro bono performance
- sources of pro bono legal work (including referral organisations and schemes)
- crucial factors, and greatest threats, to the success of pro bono programs, and
- external influences, such as government tender arrangements and the National Pro Bono Aspirational Target.

AUSTRALIAN PRO BONO NEWS

The Centre's online newsletter continues to provide the sector with news, information and thought leadership on the Australian and international pro bono landscape. This year the Australian Pro Bono News published a record 93 articles across 10 editions. Its 901 subscribers (as at 30 June 2015) represent the full breadth of the sector, including law firms, CLCs, pro bono referral organisations, government and NGOs, universities and PLT providers. The newsletter features articles on new pro bono initiatives, examples of best practice, profiles of key practitioners and successful pro bono partnerships, new resources, and emerging research or academic forums.

THE CENTRE ON TWITTER

In June 2015 the Centre expanded its reach by launching its corporate Twitter account (*@AusPBC*) — posting 48 tweets and gaining 67 followers in that month alone. Since then the Centre has posted another 212 tweets and achieved 436 followers (as at 17 November 2015). Twitter is the ideal platform for breaking news stories, on-the-spot insights and links to sector-relevant information.

ONLINE RESOURCES

Website — this year the Centre embarked on a complete review of the content and structure of its website. The website is the Centre's primary information platform, providing a wealth of web-based information on pro bono legal work for current and future participants in pro bono legal work, students, government agencies and policy and research centres, and providing access to the Centre's key publications, submissions, reports and papers. The new website is due to launch in early 2016.

Throughout the year the Centre also maintained numerous online resources that facilitate pro bono relationships across the sector:

The National Law Firm Directory is a members-only interactive resource created for CLCs, Legal Aid Commissions, Aboriginal Legal Services (ALSs) and pro bono referral organisations and schemes seeking to make a pro bono referral to an Australian law firm. Directory users can find contact details and profiles of firms that offer pro bono assistance in particular areas of law. In 2014–2015 the site had 275 unique pageviews by 24 unique users.

CLC Volunteers — *www.clcvolunteers.net.au* — is a resource maintained jointly by the Centre and NACLC providing information on volunteering opportunities with 226 CLCs nationally. The Centre has a 5-day service guarantee with requesting CLCs.

Social Justice Opportunities — *www.sjopps.net.au* — is a web-based and social media resource for students and newly-qualified lawyers that compiles listings for volunteer and paid roles in the legal assistance sector. This highly valued resource is updated 3–4 times a week, and often features up to 20 listings. It also provides advice for students and career advice.

This year Social Justice Opportunities website had 31,262 unique visitors in 2014–15 (up 34%) and 116,409 unique pageviews (an increase of 49%). On Facebook, Social Justice Opportunities had 1,587 "likes" as at 30 June 2015 — more than double the previous year's figure — and as at 13 November it had 1,750. The Twitter account *(@SJOpps)* is equally successful, with 1,955 followers as at 30 June 2015.

BOOKS AND OCCASIONAL PAPERS

Australian Pro Bono Manual and What Works — This year the Centre began preparing the third edition of *The Australian Pro Bono Manual*, due for release in the first half of 2016. Contributors from a number of law firms and other legal assistance providers have provided feedback as part of the focus group consultation process and, together with Centre staff, have updated the content of the Manual.

The Centre has also secured the generous support of LexisNexis to produce a third edition of the Manual in hard copy and has commenced the process of planning to update the content and integrate it with its more recently released companion work *Pro Bono Partnerships and Models: A Practical Guide to What Works*. An online version of the Manual 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 also working towards reissuing *What Works* as a companion volume to the Manual (again with the assistance of LexisNexis). The two volumes are expected to release in the first half of 2016.

The Centre's occasional paper entitled **What is Social Justice?** (2011) continues to be valued. Over 400 copies have now been distributed.

THE CENTRE

IN DETAIL

NAME AND VISUAL IDENTITY

On 17 June 2015 the Centre's name changed from the National Pro Bono Resource Centre to the Australian Pro Bono Centre. The new name and a new visual identity were launched by the Centre's Chair, Phillip Cornwell, at the Welcome Drinks to the 2015 National Access to Justice and Pro Bono Conference.

The role of the Centre in an international context continues to grow, particularly as law firms themselves increasingly operate internationally. The Centre's resources and publications are now being used in other jurisdictions and the Centre's input is consistently sought in international forums. The new name reflects this more outward-looking identity, and is clearer and more accessible from an international perspective. Importantly, the Centre's key objectives remain the same.

AUSTRALIAN
PRO BONO CENTRE

To communicate its focus on increased accessibility, the Centre also adopted an exciting new visual identity, which was generously developed on a pro bono basis by Paul Garbett and his team at Garbett Design. The design incorporates the "pillars of justice" (in black) and "equality" (in orange), underpinning the uniting features of the Centre's diverse work — access to justice and furthering social justice. The Centre thanks Paul and the Garbett team for their hard work, skill, creative insights and the wonderful result they have achieved.

APPLICATION FOR ENDORSEMENT AS A DGR

During the year the Centre, a registered charity, applied to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) for registration and endorsement as a public benevolent institution (a category of deductible gift recipient). The Centre is currently awaiting the outcome of this application.

STAFF AND INTERNS

In June 2015 the Centre farewelled its Senior Policy Officer, **Leanne Ho**, who joined the pro bono team at Henry Davis York (HDY). The Centre is sorry to have lost Leanne, but thrilled to see her applying the Centre's expertise at HDY. Leanne came to the Centre in late 2010 following diverse roles as an international legal advisor to United Nations Peacekeeping Missions in Kosovo and Liberia, and in community legal centres in Australia. While at the Centre, she created several successful works including *What is Social Justice?* and *Pro Bono Partnerships and Models: A Practical Guide to What Works*. Leanne also worked on the new edition of the *Australian Pro Bono Manual* which is planned for publication later in the year. She made a significant contribution to the quality communications at the Centre, not only as an excellent legal writer and analyst but also as the Centre's unofficial photographer.

▲ *John Corker, Leanne Ho, Afton Fife, Lucy Martin and Dan Jacobs at the launch of the Centre's new name and visual identity.*

In August 2014 the Centre welcomed two new staffmembers: **Afton Fife** (Policy Officer) and **Lucy Martin** (Administrative Officer).

Prior to joining the Centre, Afton worked as a Senior Associate in Ashurst Australia's national Tax Team where she was a major contributor to the firm's pro bono program. During her legal career Afton has assisted countless not-for-profit organisations and individuals with a variety of tax and non-tax legal advice. At the Centre Afton manages and administers the National Pro Bono Professional Indemnity Insurance Scheme and the Centre's advocacy in relation to the Scheme, volunteer practising certificates and the incorporation of the Target into government tender arrangements for legal services. During the year Afton also managed the Centre's rebranding project, its application for deductible gift recipient endorsement, and contributed to the third edition of *The Australian Pro Bono Manual – A practice guide and resource kit for law firms*. Afton moved into the role of Senior Policy Officer on 1 July 2015.

Lucy comes to the Centre from a background in social sciences and languages. After completing a Bachelor of Arts (International Relations) at the Australian National University she returned to Sydney and is now studying law. Working part-time at the Centre, Lucy manages the Centre's administrative tasks and curates Social Justice Opportunities.

Interns, as always, played an essential role throughout the year in building the Centre's capacity. The Centre took five Interns through the UNSW Law School Social Justice Internship Program — Brian Lee, Lily Liu, Marianna Zaunders, Vilaasini Jeyasothy and Julie Tran — and their efforts were much appreciated.

▲ *(Left to Right) Ed Santow, Ass. Prof. Michael Legg, Mark Woods, Jane Hutchison, Phillip Cornwell, John Corker, Dominique Hansen, Tim Graham, Dan Creasey, Robert Reed. Absent: Prof. Michael Adams.*

BOARD AND ADVISORY COUNCIL

In December 2014 the Centre farewelled its outgoing Chair, Peter Stapleton, and Board Members, Michelle Hannon and Caitlin Perry. We thank each of them for their many years (almost a decade for Peter and Michelle) of service to the Centre, and for the energy and guidance they provided. Peter and Caitlin have continued their involvement with the Centre through the Advisory Council. The Centre welcomes its new Chair, Phillip Cornwell, and new Board Members, Daniel Creasey and Jane Hutchison.

CHAIR: PHILLIP CORNWELL

Phillip has over 30 years' experience as a partner at commercial law firm Allens where, as well as heading its Project Finance practice, Phillip has for many years chaired its Pro Bono and Footprint Committees. Phillip also lectures part time for a University of Sydney Master of Laws course. In the not-for-profit sector, Phillip is a director of Suicide Prevention Australia and chairs its governance committee.

DANIEL CREASEY

Dan is Special Counsel and Director of Corporate Responsibility at Colin Biggers & Paisley, where he sets the direction of the firm's pro bono and community engagement practice and leads the firm's strategy on diversity & inclusion, environment & sustainability and responsible business. Daniel was previously DLA Piper's Regional Pro Bono Counsel & Manager (Asia Pacific). Daniel has had a close association with the Centre and has worked on a number of our projects, including the NBN Regional Legal Assistance Program pilot project that the Centre managed in partnership with Hobart Community Legal Service and DLA Piper.

JANE HUTCHISON

Jane is Manager of Hobart Community Legal Service, and has moved from her role as Chair of the Centre's Advisory Council to join the Board.

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 Dean of the School of Law at the Western Sydney University. He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law and deputy Chair of the CALD). 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 25 years.

TIM GRAHAM

Tim is the nominee of QPILCH, Justice Connect (VIC & NSW) and JusticeNet SA (jointly) and joined the board at the annual general meeting held in November 2013. Prior to his current role as the Executive Director of JusticeNet SA, Tim was in private practice, primarily in the areas of civil and commercial litigation and administrative law. He has also worked in the not-for-profit sector, including for The Wilderness Society and Amnesty International.

DOMINIQUE HANSEN

Dominique is the nominee of the Law Society of Western Australia and was appointed to the Board in February 2012 when she commenced in the role of Executive Manager Community Services for the Society. Dominique has previously worked for the Commonwealth and NSW governments, the Ethnic Communities Council of NSW, the Immigration Advice and Rights Centre NSW, and Legal Aid Western Australia.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR 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. As a practitioner he represented a number of persons and not-for-profit entities on a pro bono basis. Michael is an expert in civil procedure, class actions and regulatory litigation.

ROBERT REED

Robert was appointed to the Board in February 2007 as a Pro Bono Expert and reappointed at the 2010 annual general meeting. 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 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 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

David Blades
Barrister, Perth Chambers, Perth

Priscilla Collins
CEO, Northern Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency, Darwin and Deputy Chairperson, National ATSILS

David Fredericks
Deputy Secretary, Business Enabling Services, Commonwealth Department of Finance

Julie Hamblin
Consultant, HWL Ebsworth

Kristen Hilton
Executive Director, Legal Practice, Victoria Legal Aid Commission

Adjunct Prof Denis Nelthorpe AM
CEO, Western Community Legal Centre, Melbourne

Caitlin Perry
Executive Director, Darwin Community Legal Service

Peter Stapleton
Consultant, Ashurst Australia

David Weisbrot AM
Emeritus Professor of Law and Honorary Professor of Medicine, University of Sydney; Chair of the Australian Press Council; Part-time member, NSW Law Reform Commission

CENTRE MEDIA MENTIONS

'Exclusive: G+T poaches Ashurst pro bono partner' – Lawyers Weekly, 30 July 2014

'PRO BONO: Lawyers Making a Difference' – Hong Kong Lawyer, 22 September 2014

'Large Law Smashes Pro Bono Target' – Lawyers Weekly, 3 October 2014

'National target spurring firms to work hard at doing it for free' – p.31, The Australian, 3 October 2014

'Australian Law Firms Hit Pro Bono Targets' – Law Fuel, 6 October 2014

'Lawyers on Pro Bono Target' – Law Institute Journal, November 2014

'Growing Pro Bono Load Shared by Fewer Lawyers' – Lawyers Weekly, 12 December 2014

'Salvos' Bid to Deliver $25m of Aid a Year' – The Australian, 20 February 2015

'Government Lawyers Lift Pro Bono Hours' – Lawyers Weekly, March 2015

'Enhancements to the Law Society's Law Access Pro Bono Referral Scheme' (interview within story) - Brief, Vol. 42, No. 4, May 2015

'Pro bono and green lawyers find common ground' – Lawyers Weekly, 5 May 2015

'Firms and in-house team up for pro bono' – Australasian Lawyer, 7 May 2015

'The Business of Doing Good' – Lawyers Weekly, July 2015

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	2015	2014
	$	$
Revenue		
Revenue from ordinary activities		
Revenue	**501,544**	**412,733**
Expenses		
Expenses from ordinary activities		
Employee benefits expense	393,803	354,286
Board and Advisory Council	3,787	3,807
Depreciation expense	1,452	1,479
Audit fees	3,678	3,568
Accounting fees	3,043	2,695
Insurance	388	1,926
Computer and Communications	4,870	4,915
Subscriptions	4,283	2,407
Travel and accommodation	14,987	8,674
Design and Printing	1,737	1,364
Affiliations, memberships and conferences	4,487	3,970
Sponsorships	52,050	136
Stationery	955	352
Finance charges	495	
Other expenses from ordinary activities	521	1,879
Expenses	**493,710**	**391,979**

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	2015	2014
	$	$
Surplus from Ordinary Activities		
Income tax expense relating to ordinary activities	7,834	20,754
Surplus	**7,834**	**20,754**
Other comprehensive income	**-**	**-**
Total comprehensive income	**7,834**	**20,754**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2015

	2015 $	2014 $
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash assets	121,620	88,204
Receivables	154,351	97,110
Other current assets	461	-
Total Current Assets	**276,432**	**185,314**
Non-Current Assets		
Property, plant and equipment	3,203	1,859
Total Non-Current Assets	**3,203**	**1,859**
Total Assets	**279,635**	**187,173**
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Payables	107,030	25,963
Provisions	41,728	38,167
Other	87,500	87,500
Total Current Liabilities	**236,258**	**151,630**
Non-Current Liabilities		
Provisions	-	-
Total Non-Current Liabilities	**-**	**-**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2015

	2015	2014
	$	$
Total Liabilities	**236,258**	**151,630**
Net Assets	**43,377**	**35,543**
Equity		
Retained Earnings	43,377	35,543
Total Equity	**43,377**	**35,543**
Total equity at the beginning of the year	**35,543**	**14,789**
Surplus for the year	**7,834**	**20,754**
Total comprehensive income for the year	**7,834**	**20,754**
Total equity at the end of the financial year	**43,377**	**35,543**

AUSTRALIAN
PRO BONO
CENTRE

The Australian Pro Bono 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. For more information visit the Centre's website at www.probonocentre.org.au.

Australian Pro Bono Centre
Law Centres Precinct
Level 1
The Law Building
University of New South Wales

Email: info@probonocentre.org.au
Phone: +61 2 9385 7381
Fax: +61 2 9385 7375
Follow us on Twitter @AusPBC
Join us on LinkedIn