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MEDIA RELEASE

NEW NATIONAL GUIDE TO LAW FIRM PRO BONO PROGRAMS

“Pro Bono Practices Guide – A national guide to the pro bono practices of 30 Australian law firms”, a joint publication of the National Pro Bono Resource Centre and NSW Young Lawyers was launched at the Australian Law Students Association’s Annual Conference in Brisbane on 17 July 2009 by the Honourable Justice Roslyn Atkinson of the Queensland Supreme Court. The Hon. Michael Kirby AC CMG wrote the foreword to the Guide.

It provides comprehensive information about the pro bono practices of 30 law firms across Australia and illustrates the unique and interesting nature of each firm’s program and its pro bono philosophy and culture. Leading firms in each State and Territory were invited to be included in the Guide.

Centre Director, John Corker said “The Guide highlights the importance of firms having an active pro bono program when seeking to recruit the best and the brightest. We were very pleased to see a number of mid-tier firms wanting to feature their pro bono programs in the Guide this year. All the new firms in the Guide are mid-tier and others have indicated their interest in being included in future editions “.

The Guide follows the first edition that profiled only firms in NSW but many of these were national firms and this has led to creation of a national guide.

The objectives of the Guide are to provide a clear profile of each law firm’s pro bono program to help readers better understand these programs and to encourage young lawyers to get involved. The Guide contains tips for students on how to critically evaluate pro bono programs, sample interview questions and an analysis of the submitted law firm profiles.

The Guide is directed at students, graduates and young lawyers but will be of interest across the profession, and in the legal aid, government and community legal sectors.

The Guide is available online and will be distributed at forthcoming Law Career Fairs.

Download the Guide at www.nationalprobono.org.au or those wishing to obtain a hard copy should email Maria Twomey at maria@nationalprobono.org.au.

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