

STRATEGIC PLAN 2013-2017

The Australian Pro Bono Centre (“the Centre”) is an independent centre of expertise whose principal objective is 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.

In accordance with the funding agreements between the Centre and the Commonwealth and each of the States and Territories of Australia, the Centre has agreed to operate to further the following objectives:

- to promote pro bono legal work throughout the legal profession;
- to provide practical assistance and support to existing and potential pro bono legal service providers (including reviewing and reporting on the pro bono legal work being undertaken nationally);
- to make available information and resources to existing and potential pro bono legal service providers;
- to promote pro bono law to community organisations and the general public.

To further these objectives, the Centre will implement the following strategies

- 1. Seek to strengthen the place of pro bono legal work within the Australian legal profession as an integral part of legal practice by**
 - a) being a leading advocate for pro bono legal work;
 - b) promoting the pro bono ethos and increasing the visibility of pro bono legal work;
 - c) developing policies and advocating for measures to encourage an increase in the quality and amount of pro bono legal work
 - d) producing resources and sharing information in Australia, regionally and internationally that builds pro bono culture in the Australian legal profession and participation by Australian lawyers in pro bono legal work; and
 - e) reviewing and reporting on the pro bono legal work being undertaken by members of the Australian legal profession.

- 2. Provide practical assistance to existing and potential pro bono legal service providers to facilitate, and remove barriers to, the provision of pro bono legal services by**
 - a) undertaking research on how pro bono legal assistance can best respond to unmet legal need, including the identification of best practice in its provision;
 - b) engaging in policy development, advocacy and law reform on issues that have an impact on pro bono legal services;
 - c) providing practical advice to lawyers and law firms to support their efforts to increase the quantity, quality and impact of their pro bono work;

- d) informing community organisations about the way pro bono operates in Australia; and
- e) leading in the development of new and innovative pro bono project and partnership models.

3. Promote the pro bono legal work of the Australian legal profession to the general public by

- a) informing members of the public through the media and presentations about the pro bono legal work undertaken by members of the Australian legal profession.