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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **National Website for Volunteering at Community Legal Centres**

**A new website that facilitates volunteering at Community Legal Centres (CLCs) across Australia will be launched on Tuesday 11 October at 9am at the National Community Legal Centres Conference at the Hyatt Hotel in Canberra.**

Potential volunteers can go to [www.clevolunteers.net.au](http://www.clevolunteers.net.au) to find out which of the 214 listed CLCs are looking for volunteers at any point in time – and what skills are needed. A comprehensive “what to expect as a volunteer” section on the website provides general information about volunteering at CLCs.

“It is a landmark in volunteering. Lawyers, students and anyone who wants to volunteer at a community legal centre can organise it in a few clicks” said John Corker, Director of the National Pro Bono Resource Centre (“the Centre”).

This website is a joint initiative of the Centre and the National Association of Community Legal Centres. CLCs provide a vital service to communities across Australia in the form of free legal advice, referral and assistance to around 350,000 people each year.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics 2001 report “Voluntary Work, Australia” highlighted the contribution made by voluntary workers to national life, especially in meeting community needs and developing social networks and social cohesion. It estimated that 32% of the Australian population over the age of 18 were involved in volunteering and of those, 5% were involved in law/justice/political organisations.

The National Pro Bono Resource Centre is an independent, non-profit organisation that supports and promotes the provision of pro bono legal services in Australia. It is based at UNSW and funded by the Federal Government.

NACLC is an independent, non-profit organisation that is the association of state CLC organisations in Australia. As the peak body, it is responsible for representing its membership as well as conducting research and lobbying for CLCs.

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