

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://lists.nationalprobono.org.au>



NATIONAL PRO BONO RESOURCE CENTRE

Law Centres Precinct

Law Building

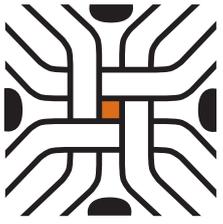
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**NATIONAL
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Annual Report 2008



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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.*

Chair's message



Peter Stapleton

With the amount of Government support, internationally, for capitalist business corporations, formerly wealthy, we could believe that the Western world was returning to a more Socialist sharing society. Sadly this is not so. The needy and disadvantaged are not the recipients of this Government largess. More than ever they remain disadvantaged and needy. So the activities of the Centre in continuing to promote the development of pro bono legal services across Australia to service the needy, remain an important mechanism in assisting in bringing social justice to those in need- to seek to ensure equity and equality for such persons.

Lawyers today, as professional persons, mostly operate as a business in a business environment. However at the same time they are fulfilling in a more constructive, organised and cooperative manner as never before, their historical obligation, as officers of the Courts, to provide, at no cost, legal assistance within the community to the disadvantaged and the needy.

The Centre, as detailed in the Director's Report has operated constructively and successfully throughout the past year. Its research, policy initiatives and promotion of pro bono activities have assisted in the growth and development of pro bono legal services in Australia. I thank the Centre's Director, John Corker, for his constructive management and for the outcomes he achieved during the year. As a result the Centre, while not a failed capitalist corporation, has been the recipient of continued Federal, State and Territory funding

The Centre will continue to work constructively with legal service providers throughout Australia with the aim to expand the provision of pro bono legal services in the community and so continue the battle to ensure access to justice for all but particularly the needy and disadvantaged.

Kelly Hick, (WA Law Society) and Paula O'Brien (PILCH, Victoria) retired as directors during the year and I thank them for their contributions as Directors.

Peter Stapleton
Chair

December 2008

I think things are on the improve. I am discerning among the young lawyers a real turnaround and move away from the obsessions with billable hours and rising to partner in large firms. There is a powerful commitment to pro-bono work.

I think that the era of lawyers seeing themselves predominantly as part of big business is coming to an end.

In that regard, the next generation will be better than my own.

The Honourable Justice Mark Weinberg, Victorian Court of Appeal, in an address to the National Judicial College's "Courts in 2020" conference held in Sydney on 25 October 2008.



John Corker

This year has been another very productive year. National systemic issues continued to be addressed with progress being made in the areas of the Conflicts Protocol, Government incentives to encourage pro bono, professional indemnity insurance for in-house counsel and pro bono clearing house development.

The Centre prepared pro bono guides supporting law student pro bono and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander legal services whilst maintaining and growing its key programs.

The year also saw implementation of a new online strategy for the Centre the key elements being a new fully resourced and navigable website and making, from November 2007, the *National Pro Bono News* a monthly, rather than bi-monthly e-newsletter with more content and regular segments.

The national survey of Australian solicitors, barristers and law firms continued with the report of individual solicitors being released in February 2008. It indicated that 94% of respondents agreed that lawyers should do pro bono legal work and 80% had undertaken some pro bono legal work in the past 12 months. An extrapolation from data gathered in the survey estimated that Australian solicitors had undertaken an extraordinary 1,000,000 hours of pro bono legal work in the twelve months prior.

Considerable planning took place for the National Access to Justice and Pro Bono Conference to be run in conjunction with the Law Council of Australia in Sydney on 14-15 November 2008.

State/Territory based activities

While several of our projects were aimed at all States and Territories, our particular focus this year was Queensland and South Australia. In Brisbane, the Centre met with the Law Society of Queensland, the Queensland Bar Association, Queensland Legal Aid, the Queensland Association of Independent Legal Centres, QPILCH and the Attorney-General's Department to discuss the need for greater coordination and cooperation between providers, and encourage support for QPILCH. The Centre sent a letter to the Attorney-General of Queensland following its visit making observations and suggestions to improve pro bono coordination in Queensland, a number of these which have now occurred.

In South Australia, we consulted with and provided guidance and support to the working group seeking to establish a pro bono clearing house in South Australia.

In NSW, the Centre attended pro bono referral scheme meetings in an effort to see if greater cooperation and coordination can occur between the three referral schemes.

The Centre was pleased to see the launch of the NT Pro Bono Clearing House in May 2008 an outcome of the 2006 NT Pro Bono/Legal Aid conference in which the Centre and a number of pro bono coordinators were centrally involved. Engagement and Advocacy

The Centre continued to work closely with the legal profession and to undertake collaborative activities with law firms, Community Legal Centres (CLCs), Indigenous legal organisations, legal aid bodies and pro bono referral schemes.

I attended National Pro Bono Week in the UK in November 2007 and the American Bar Association's Equal Justice Conference in the US in May 2008. I made presentations at both conferences and returned with many new ideas such as an annual walk to raise monies for pro bono clearing houses. The inaugural Walk for Justice was held in Victoria, NSW, Queensland and South Australia at the same time as the London Legal Support Trust walk in May 2008. Reports of both visits are available on the Centre's website.

Capacity building remains important as does spreading the pro bono responsibility evenly across the profession. It is hoped that the release of the first report on performance against the National Pro Bono Aspirational Target (Target) in September 2008 (together with large firm survey results) will lift the visibility of pro bono work across the profession.

The Centre continued to liaise with the Commonwealth Government about ways to encourage pro bono through new purchasing arrangements for legal services. Our survey of firms on the Victorian Government's Legal Services Panel provided a valuable input to the Commonwealth on its development of policy in this area. Through continued liaison with legal aid, CLCs and Indigenous legal organisations, we continue to work to ensure that pro bono services are used to complement rather than replace publicly funded legal services.

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. Our role, which varies from facilitator to coordinator and advocate to broker is intrinsic to ensuring that the Centre continues to fulfil its role as national leader and coordinator of pro bono legal services in Australia.

It still remains the position that the Centre has many more ideas and potential projects than it has resources to implement but this only serves to underline its continued utility.

After the close of the financial year, the Centre was pleased to receive notification from the Commonwealth and the States and Territories that funding for the period 2009-2013 will be made available at current levels.

Board and Advisory Council

I would like to thank all the Board and Advisory Council members for the valuable contributions they made during the year. The Centre has held a joint face-to face Advisory Council and Board meeting on average every eight months which has been essential to review and keep relevant its work and to adjust priority areas in accordance with the Centre's Strategic Plan.

I would like to acknowledge the important guidance provided to me by the Centre's Chair, Peter Stapleton.

John Corker
Director



Queensland Attorney-General, Kerry Shine and Chief Justice, De Jersey leading walkers for justice along the Brisbane River.



Amy Kilpatrick, Executive Director, PILCH NSW addressing NSW Walkers for Justice.

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Reports of the Centre's projects and activities are grouped according to the key objectives of the Centre, as detailed in its Strategic Plan. Special reference is made to particular State and Territory based activities:

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 went to the Homicide Victims Support Group and Henry Davis York for their partnership assisting the families of homicide victims in coronial inquiries as well as in associated matter such as victim's compensation, child custody, wills and probate, and civil matters.
- **National Pro Bono Aspirational Target** - Launched in April 2007, the Target now covers over 3,000 legal professionals, being individual solicitors or barristers and law firms. The first report on the performance by signatories against the Target for the 2007/2008 financial year is being prepared and is due to be published in 2008.
- **Law student and law school pro bono** - In May 2008 the Centre reviewed the pilot program for Pro Bono Students Australia (PBSA) at the University of Western Sydney (UWS). The review found the pilot to be working well. The Centre has continued to promote PBSA to other law schools. The Centre also submitted three papers to the Council of Australian Law Deans and presented at one of their meetings in 2008, advocating that they adopt a formal policy that promotes experiential learning for law students.
- **National Access to Justice and Pro Bono Conference** - The Centre together with the Law Council of Australia is planning the second *National Access to Justice and Pro Bono Conference* to be held in Sydney on 13-15 November 2008. The Conference will create a forum for government, CLCs, not-for-profits, law firms, legal practitioners, law students, CLCs and public interest organisations to discuss issues affecting access to justice and pro bono in Australia.
- **Inaugural Walk for Justice** – After learning of the London Legal Support Trust Walk at UK Pro Bono Week, the Centre set out to work with the PILCHs to establish the Inaugural Walk for Justice to raise money for Public Interest Law Clearing Houses in Australia. On 19 May 2008, nearly 1,000 walkers from Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne and Adelaide participated in the walk raising more than \$30,000. Among the walkers were the Attorneys-General of Queensland, NSW and Victoria and Chief Justices and Judges from the State Supreme and District Courts.
- **Review of the Victorian Government's Legal Services Arrangements** – The Centre consulted with law firms on the Victorian Government's Legal Services Panel to determine the support for and impact of the mandatory pro bono requirement. Following this review, the Centre made recommendations to the Commonwealth Attorney-General about how to encourage pro bono through its legal outsourcing arrangements. The Centre's recommendations for a non-mandatory scheme were largely implemented.
- **UK Pro Bono Week** – UK National Pro Bono Week held 12-17 November 2007 gave the Centre's Director the opportunity to meet with pro bono, government and public interest organisations in the United Kingdom. The Director made a presentation at the National Conference held in London on 16 November 2007. One initiative that has been developed by the Centre as a result of this visit relates to engaging non-legal professionals in pro bono activities. The Centre is exploring ways to engage non-legal professions in pro bono and facilitate greater information exchange between professionals about opportunities to work together on pro bono projects.



L to R: From left: John Corker, Executive Director of the National Pro Bono Resource Centre, John Hatzistergos, NSW Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Peter McClellan, Chief Justice at Common Law for the Supreme Court of NSW, and Amy Kilpatrick, Executive Director of PILCH in NSW.



Baroness Patricia Scotland, Attorney-General of England and Wales addressing the UK National Pro Bono Conference November 2007.

- **US Pro Bono Institute (PBI) Annual Conference**

– Held in Washington DC in February 2008, the conference provided an opportunity for the Centre’s new Senior Policy and Project Manager to visit pro bono organisations in North America (including the DC Bar Association and Pro Bono Net) and bring back some fresh initiatives. Of particular interest was a session on student pro bono, which has led the Centre to partner with Australian Law Students Association with a view to publishing a guide on pro bono and experiential learning opportunities for students. The event has also prompted the Centre to research how to better engage senior or transitioning lawyers in pro bono legal activities.

- **US Equal Justice Conference** – Held in Minneapolis, Minnesota in May 2008, the Centre’s Director attended and was part of a panel looking at international comparisons of pro bono development. Witnessing first hand initiatives in relation to managing self-represented litigants was valuable in bringing a representative from Minnesota and London to Australia for Australia’s national access to Justice and Pro Bono Conference 2008.

- **Other conferences and meetings** - Other Australian conferences and meetings in which the Centre participated include the National CLC conference, NSW Annual CLC conference, Victoria Law Foundation’s pro bono workshop, NSW Law Careers Fair, Older Person’s Legal Issues Roundtable meetings and the meetings of the Access to Justice Committee of the Law Council of Australia.

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

- **Resources and advice for establishing pro bono clearing houses** - As a result of attempts to facilitate better pro bono structures in states and territories where pro bono presence is limited, South Australia is now looking to establish pro bono clearing house and participated in the Walk for Justice to raise funds for its creation. The Centre also provided advice and support to the Law Society Northern Territory which established the NT Pro Bono Clearing House in May 2008.

- **Insurance for in-house lawyers** - The Centre continues to work with DLA Phillips Fox band Blake Dawson to establish a national professional indemnity insurance scheme for in-house lawyers to support their pro bono legal work and for the practising certificate regimes of each State and Territory to support this initiative.

- **Brokering arrangements between WAALS and VBLAS** – Following ‘The Intervention’ in the Northern Territory, the WA State government also established a task force to investigate sexual assault matters in Aboriginal communities in WA. As a result of this WAALS had a significant increase in demand for legal assistance. The Centre was involved in brokering a relationship between WAALS and the Victorian Bar Legal Assistance Scheme involving the Victorian Criminal Bar Association whereby a pool of Victorian barristers agreed to take on some of these matters in WA at significantly reduced fees provided their travel and accommodation expenses were covered.

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

- **National Pro Bono Survey** - The Centre has conducted three national surveys on pro bono work performed by the legal profession in Australia, being individual solicitors, barristers, and law firms. The report on the pro bono work by individual solicitors was released in February 2008. The survey of the pro bono work by barristers and law firms had been completed by year’s end and reports will be released later in 2008. The reports provide a picture of current pro bono practice and establish a yardstick by which to measure and assess future developments, providing solid empirical data to assist in strategically planning the delivery of pro bono services to areas of unmet need. The Centre proposes to hold these surveys every two years to provide a longitudinal picture of pro bono activity.

Projects & Activities 2007-08



Launch of the Pro Bono Practices Guide at DLA Phillips Fox - L to R: Social Justice Interns Hai -Van Nguyen, Sonya Redman, David Wong (NSW Young Lawyers), Peter Stapleton, John Corker.

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- **Pro Bono Practices** - In December 2007 the Centre launched '*Pro Bono Practices – a guide to the pro bono practices of NSW's largest law firms*', in conjunction with NSW Young Lawyers. This publication, with a foreword by Justice Michael Kirby aims to lift the profile of the professional pro bono obligation amongst law students. The Centre has distributed 1,100 copies of the guide to law students and law schools in NSW, and plans to launch a national guide in 2009.
- **Centre's new website** - The Centre launched its new website in April 2008, including 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, publications and reports, *enewsletters*, valuable links, and a discussion board. The website receives about 120,000 hits per month and this has been steadily increasing.
- **Aboriginal Legal Service Pro Bono Guide** - The Centre has prepared a guide for the delivery of pro bono legal services to the Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT) Limited (ALS) and its clients. Complete with case studies and detailed profiles of the pro bono programs of 19 law firms, the Guide aims to be the go-to source for every lawyer or case worker wanting to provide or needing to obtain pro bono services for Aboriginal people through the ALS. Following its launch in November 2008, the Centre intends to develop a guide for other States.
- **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 a digital version is maintained and updated on the Centre's website. Web visits to the Manual were fairly constant throughout the year and the precedent letters and policies were regularly downloaded.

- **Survey of CLCs** - In July 2007, the Centre published the report on its survey of CLCs and their use of pro bono assistance. Seventy percent of CLCs indicated that without pro bono assistance some areas of service delivery would be adversely affected. This survey was presented to the NACLC Conference in 2007 and referred to in submissions made to the government review of CLCs in 2007.
- **The National Pro Bono News** - to make information available to the profession about pro bono practice in Australia and overseas, the Centre published the Centre's e- newsletter, the National Pro Bono News. During the year, nine editions were distributed to 650 subscribers.

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

- **Raising the profile of pro bono** – The launch of the national report on the pro bono work done by Australian solicitors in February 2008 lifted community awareness of pro bono services during the year. Centre staff also attended state and national CLC conferences, and assisted with training initiatives and relationship-building events at home and interstate. This has resulted in new productive pro bono networks being formed.
- **Raising awareness about pro bono legal services** – There is increasing media coverage of the pro bono legal work of the profession in the general media but also in Law Society journals and other specialist publications. Awareness of pro bono legal services has been raised by Pro Bono Students Australia which promotes pro bono law to non-profit community organisations. The Centre contributed information to the National CLC Directory on pro bono services as well as other guides. The Centre participates in many cross sector networks including CLCs, legal aid and Indigenous Legal Organisations (ILOs) to raise awareness about pro bono issues and services.
- **Participating in the policy development process** – The Centre made a number of submissions during the year to various inquiries and parliamentary committees. These are listed and available for download on the Centre's website.
- **Working with Indigenous Legal Organisations** - The Centre in conjunction with the Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT) Limited (ALS) has been preparing a guide to the delivery of pro bono legal services to the ALS and its clients. Following its launch in November 2008, the Centre intends to develop a guide for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services in other States.

This year the Centre completed its national surveys of the pro bono legal work of individual solicitors, barristers and law firms and published the last of three reports of its findings. The surveys were commenced in 2006.

The rationale for the surveys stemmed from an awareness that the Australian Bureau of Statistics (“ABS”) had not surveyed the profession since 2002, did not intend to do so until 2009 and that it was worthwhile researching a broader range of issues than those proposed by the ABS.

By conducting separate national surveys of individual solicitors, barristers and law firms, the Centre has established its own information base about Australian pro bono practice. The survey results provide valuable information on the degree of structure of pro bono practices across Australia and the quantity of pro bono work undertaken, by whom and for whom. It also provides insight into the attitudes of the legal profession towards pro bono work, as well as identifying constraints that can be addressed.

887 individual solicitors and 351 barristers completed the surveys. Respondents included lawyers from all States and Territories, from city and country and a range of practice areas, ages and levels of seniority.

The law firm’s survey gathered data from 25 of the largest Australian law firms, all with more than 20 partners. The 25 firms employed between them approximately 11,000 lawyers, or 22% of the Australian legal profession.

The survey project has been a large but worthwhile undertaking. It has provided, for the very first time, a snapshot of pro bono legal practice in Australia against which future developments can be measured and assessed.

Key findings – Solicitors

- Eighty percent of solicitors had conducted pro bono work in the last 12 months.
- Approximately \$250 million of pro bono work was done by Australian solicitors in 2007 based on an extrapolation from the sample of 887 respondent solicitors to estimate that 1,000,000 hours of pro bono work was undertaken by law society members (charged out at an average of \$250 per hour).
- Solicitors each spent an average of 42.5 hours doing pro bono work in the last year, with 60% undertaking more than 35 hours of pro bono work during the past 12 months. Sixty-eight percent of solicitors kept written records of this work.
- Fifty-two percent reported an increase in pro bono work compared to the previous year.
- Solicitors are undertaking significant amounts of pro bono work on their own time as well as with their employer.
- Seventy-one percent of solicitors thought that their law society should issue a policy statement about solicitors’ commitment to pro bono. Of those, 87% thought that the statement should include a voluntary pro bono goal such as the National Pro Bono Aspirational Target.
- Ninety percent of those who undertook pro bono work in the past year said they did so to help the disadvantaged and marginalised, whilst 85% said they did pro bono work out of a sense of professional responsibility.
- The main obstacle to pro bono work across all States and Territories was ‘lack of time’, followed by ‘insufficient expertise in relevant areas of the law’.

Key findings – Barristers

- Eighty-eight percent of barristers had done pro bono work in the last 12 months.
- Less than half of the respondents (43%) had done Legal Aid work in the last 12 months.
- Barristers spent an average of 44.5 hours doing pro bono work in the last year, with 59% doing more than 35 hours of pro bono work during the past 12 months although fewer than half (42%) of the barristers surveyed kept records of their pro bono work.
- Thirty-eight percent of barristers had done more pro bono work in the last 12 months than in the previous 12 months.
- Thirty-four percent of respondents felt that they had reached their limit for doing pro bono, indicating that nothing could encourage them to do more.
- Seventy-six percent of those who undertook pro bono did so to help the disadvantaged and marginalised, whilst 62.5% said they did it out of a sense of professional responsibility.
- The main obstacles to pro bono work were 'lack of time', followed by 'lack of a solicitor to assist with the matter' and 'insufficient expertise in the relevant area of law'.

Key findings – Law Firms

- Approximately \$48.5 million of pro bono work was done by 25 large Australian law firms in the past year based on 194,000 hours of pro bono work, or 3,740 hours a week at \$250 an hour. All firms kept written records of their lawyer's pro bono work.
- The average number of hours of pro bono legal work undertaken per lawyer per year across all firms was 21 hours.
- There was a significant variance across the 25 firms in the numbers of lawyers that were participating in pro bono work in each firm, ranging from 0-5% to 80-100%.
- There was significant variance across the firms in their pro bono work expressed as a percentage of total practice income (gross billables). One firm reported a high figure of over 3%, whilst three firms reported a figure below 0.5%.
- Firms that were signatories to the National Pro Bono Aspirational Target generally performed better than those were not, with higher participation rates (74%) and pro bono hours per lawyer (39.4 hours). All firms who reported a pro bono contribution of 2.6% of total practice income or higher were signatories to the Target. The five largest law firm signatories between them provided a total of 111,747 hours of pro bono legal work in the past year which is more than half of the total contributions by the 25 firms.
- The main barriers to pro bono work from a firm's perspective were 'insufficient expertise in relevant areas of the law' (44%) and 'lack of time' (40%).

Staff & interns



L to R: John Corker, Skye Rose, Amanda Lennestaa, Maria Twomey

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

Skye Rose joined the Centre as the Senior Policy and Project Manager in November 2007. Skye previously worked as a lawyer at Minter Ellison and as a pro bono lawyer with the Homeless Person's Legal Service and at Kingsford Legal Centre. Skye has been a major contributor to many of the Centre's policy initiatives, projects, and publications, including the Aboriginal Legal Service Pro Bono Guide.

Maria Rautala joined the Centre as a Policy and Research Officer in March 2008 having worked as a lawyer in Finland and London for five years. Maria has been responsible for the Centre's national pro bono survey of the legal profession following Olivia's move to Darwin to work at Top End Women's Legal Service.

Amanda Lennestaa was the Centre's administrator throughout the year and administered and has grown the UNSW Public Interest Internship Program on behalf of the Faculty. Amanda is an outstanding administrator and is an invaluable asset to the Centre.

Olivia Wellesley-Cole worked as Project Officer for Policy and Research until February 2008. Olivia was a major contributor to the Centre's national pro bono survey of the legal profession. Olivia left the Centre to work at Top End Women's Legal Centre in Darwin.

Jenny Lovric was the Centre's Senior Policy and Research Officer until August 2007 when she left the Centre to coordinate the Cooperative Legal Service Delivery Model at Legal Aid NSW. Jenny was a major contributor to many of the Centre's publications projects and a leader and mentor for staff and interns.

Lynne Spender was the Centre's Publications coordinator until March 2008. She is an editor and writer who has been involved with legal centres for over 20 years and is a previous editor of several editions of the Law Handbook NSW. She is currently enrolled as a PhD student at UWS.

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. 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 2007-2008 year:

Semester 2 (2007): Hai-Van Nguyen and Sonya Redman
Semester 1 (2008): Ash Kebriti and Mikadie Joyce-Bates

Board members

Chair: Peter Stapleton

Peter 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). Peter practices in the area of commercial and corporate law, specialising in asset and share acquisitions, joint ventures and foreign investment laws and regulations. Peter was recipient of the NSW Justice Medal in 2007.

Professor Michael Adams

Michael was appointed to the Board in April 2007. Michael is a Professor of Law and Head of the School of Law at the University of Western Sydney where he is a strong advocate for the Pro Bono Students Australia program being run at UWS. 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. He is the past President of the Corporate Law Teachers' Association and Chartered Secretaries Australia, and is a Consultant to the National Financial Services Group of Blake Dawson. Michael is an author of a number of books, articles and regularly contributes to the Butterworth's loose-leaf service "Australian Corporation Practice" and TimeBase's "Corporations Law Commentary" CD-ROM.

Robin Banks

Robin was appointed to the Board in February 2006. Robin is the Director of the Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC) and former Director of the Public Interest Law Clearing House (PILCH). Before PIAC, Robin was a senior associate at Henry Davis York in employment and industrial relations. Robin has also worked at the Canadian Human Rights Commission, in Darwin on a coronial inquest in the death of an Aboriginal boy in detention, as coordinator of the NSW Disability Discrimination Legal Centre and as an advocate for people with disabilities.

Professor David Dixon

David 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 (Queensland), the NSW Police, and the Royal Commission into the NSW Police Service (NSW). As well as teaching Criminal Law in the LL.B. and Policing in the LL.M., he regularly teaches B.Soc.Sci. Criminology students. He is the author of a number of books and articles.

Michelle Hannon

Michelle 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. Previously, Michelle worked in industrial and employment law and litigation at Freehills. 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. Michelle has been nominated by the Sydney based pro bono coordinators to the NPBRC Board.

Kelly Hick

Kelly was appointed to the Board in February 2007 by the WA Law Society and retired in May 2008. Admitted in 1996, Kelly practiced with Minter Ellison in Perth and was also a member of the legal teams on two major West Australian statutory inquiries. Kelly joined the Law Society of Western Australia as Manager of Membership and Community Services in January 2007, taking over from Michael Cole. Kelly was responsible for managing the Law Access Public Law Clearing House, the Francis Burt Law Education Centre, the Litigation Assistance Fund (WA) and Law Week in WA.

Kristen Hilton

Kristen was appointed to the Board in August 2007 and is the Executive Director of the Public Interest Law Clearing House (Vic). She has worked as coordinator of the Homeless Person's Legal Clinic in Victoria and coordinated the Law Institute of Victoria's Legal Assistance Scheme. She was previously a lawyer at Blake Dawson.

Jane Hutchison

Jane was reappointed to the Board in March 2008. Jane is Manager of the Hobart Community Legal Service Inc and Coordinator of the Tasmanian Association of Community Legal Centres. She has been involved with community legal centres for over 17 years. She was a Board member of the Financial Services Consumer Policy Centre from the mid 90s (helping to establish the Centre) until 2003 and was previously Chair of the Australian Financial Counsellors and Credit Reform Association.

Maxina Martellotta

Maxina 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 within Western Australia and Victoria. In 2006 she was employed by the Federation of Community Legal Centres of Victoria to work on the AG Community Partnerships initiative. Maxina has also worked with the WA Aboriginal Legal Service and South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council on native title claims. She currently sits as a part time member of the Social Security Appeals Tribunal.

John North

John has been a member of the Board since October 2002 and retired in October 2008. John was President of the Law Council of Australia (2005-2006) and is a Partner of North & Badgery Solicitors in Dubbo and Sydney. He is a member of the Legal Aid Commission of NSW, and former President of the Law Society of NSW. He has a continuing interest in pro bono, legal aid, Indigenous, prison and child care issues and in streamlining court procedures.

Paula O'Brien

Paula was appointed to the Board in October 2006 and retired in August 2007. Paula was the Executive Director of the Public Interest Law Clearing House (Vic) Inc from June 2003 to August 2007, when she took up a Commonwealth Scholarship to complete a LLM in public and international law at Cambridge University. Paula was appointed Lecturer/ Senior Fellow in the Law School at the University of Melbourne in 2002. She has served on the Boards of several community organisations, including the Consumer Action Law Centre and Financial and Consumer Rights Council. She was heavily involved with access to justice activities in Victoria, particularly through the Federation of Community Legal Centres Justice Initiatives Standing Group and its Elder Law Task Group, the Law Institute of Victoria Access to Justice Committee, and the Victorian Bar Legal Assistance Committee.

Caitlin Perry

Caitlin 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. Robert is a senior associate 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 & sponsorships and staff volunteering. He is on the Queensland Law Society Pro Bono & Access to Justice Committee, the CEO Challenge Board, and the Brisbane Community Corporate Network Committee and is Secretary/ Treasurer on the Queensland Public Interest Law Clearing House Management Committee.

Advisory Council members

Ms Deej Eszenyi (Chair)

Barrister, Wright Chambers, Adelaide

Mr Chris Gabelish

Coordinator, Geraldton Resource Centre

Mr Frank Guivarra

Executive Officer, Aboriginal Legal Service (Melbourne)

Mr Ian Govey

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

Ms Julie Hamblin

Partner, HWL Ebsworth

Professor David Weisbrot

President, Australian Law Reform Commission

Ms Fiona McLeay

General Counsel, World Vision

Mr Dennis Nelthorpe

Consumer Consultant, Melbourne

Ms Trish Price

Office Director, Queensland Legal Aid Commission

Ms Alexandra Richards QC

Barrister, Victorian Bar

Mr Tony Woodyat

Executive Director, QPILCH

Centre media mentions

Shaun Drummond, 'Victoria a model for pro bono: study', **Lawyers Weekly**, 7 July 2007

Ann-Maree Moodie, 'Of cause you can', **The Sydney Morning Herald**, 28-9 July 2007

Rachel Nickless, 'Centres feel pressure', **Australian Financial Review**, 7 September 2007

'Pro bono lawyers vital to community legal centres', **Pro Bono Australia Not For Profit News Service**, 24 September 2007

Michael Pelly, 'No-win, no-fee a pro-bono of contention', **The Australian**, 23 November 2007

Russell Cocks and Justin Tevelein, '2020 vision for pro bono', **Law Institute Journal**, December 2007

Chris Merritt, 'Pro bono may be key to Canberra', **The Australian**, 22 February 2008

Chris Merritt, 'Revolt over pro bono scheme', **The Australian**, 29 February 2008

'Pro bono deserves more than lip service', **The Australian Financial Review**, 4 March 2008

Joan-Maree Hargreaves, 'Free – for the public good', **The Sydney Morning Herald**, 2 April 2008

'Million-dollar-man wins WA's top community service law award', **Get Farming**, 6 May 2008

Financial reports

Income Statement for year ended 30 June 2008

	Note	2008	2007
		\$	\$
Revenue from ordinary activities	2	397,853	363,857
Expenses from ordinary activities			
Printing		15,920	13,924
Employee benefits expense		319,816	255,379
Depreciation expense		4,669	2,787
Audit fee		1,417	3,314
Insurance		2,116	1,890
Computer and Communications		22,270	18,927
Library		5,785	849
Travel		32,135	10,764
Loss on sale of assets		-	3,211
Other expenses from ordinary activities		24,785	25,5298
Surplus/(Deficit) From Ordinary Activities	1(f)	(31,060)	27,283
Income tax expense relating to ordinary activities		-	-
Net Surplus/(Deficit)		(31,060)	27,283

The Centre's financial statements were audited by Pitcher Partners, Sydney, who opined on 3 October 2008 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 2008 and if its performance for the year ended on that date; and (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the *Corporations Regulations 2001*.

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Balance Sheet for year ended 30 June 2008

	Note	2008	2007
		\$	\$
Current Assets			
Cash assets	15	187,061	220,255
Receivables	6	10,100	74,059
Other	7	1,342	2,526
Total Current Assets		199,687	295,656
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	8	8,021	11,077
Total Non-Current Assets		8,021	11,077
Total Assets		207,708	306,733
Current Liabilities			
Payables	9	26,920	27,396
Provisions	10	18,070	20,534
Other	12	65,025	-
Total Current Liabilities		44,990	112,955
Net Assets		162,718	193,788
Equity			
Retained Earnings	13	162,718	193,788
Total Equity		162,718	193,788