

## **NATIONAL PRO BONO RESOURCE CENTRE**

### **Pro Bono News Issue 25: Volume 6/2006**

Welcome to the sixth edition for 2006 of the *eNewsletter* of the National Pro Bono Resource Centre (the Centre). The Centre is affiliated with the Faculty of Law at the University of New South Wales and is funded by the Attorney-General Departments of the Commonwealth, State and Territory governments. To access archived e-newsletters [click here](#).

In this edition:

- [1 NSW 2006 Justice Awards](#)
- [2 National Aspirational Pro Bono Target now open for signature](#)
- [3 National pro bono survey – please complete](#)
- [4 New directors and members of Advisory Council –new Chair](#)
- [5 Subscribe/Unsubscribe](#)

#### **1 NSW 2006 Justice Awards**

The 2006 Justice Awards organised by the Law & Justice Foundation of NSW were held at Parliament House in Sydney on 31 October 2006. The Justice Awards recognise the contributions individuals have made to improving access to justice in NSW, particularly for socially and economically disadvantaged people. The 2006 Law and Justice Address was delivered by The Rgt. Hon. Malcolm Fraser AC CH.

The Centre was pleased to present the Pro Bono Partnership Award to Otto Stichter & Associates for the firm's work with the Exodus Foundation. Otto has worked with the Exodus Foundation for over 17 years. The partnership has involved Otto providing invaluable legal assistance to many of the Exodus Foundation clients, and providing pro bono professional services to the Exodus Foundation itself.

The Centre was also delighted that its Chair, Peter Stapleton, was awarded the 2006 Justice Medal which is presented to an individual for outstanding achievement in improving access to justice in NSW, particularly for socially and economically disadvantaged people.

Peter has been a solicitor since 1963. Whilst a solicitor and partner in a corporate law firm, he helped establish Redfern and Marrickville Community Legal Centres, drafted the constitution for the original Sydney and Western NSW Aboriginal Legal Services, and helped establish Blake Dawson Waldron's nationally-recognised innovative pro bono program. Peter is currently a director of the newly established Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT) Limited, Redfern Legal Centre and Midnight Basketball Limited.

Congratulations to all the nominees and award recipients - and thank you to the Law & Justice Foundation of NSW. [Click here to see the full list of awards and photos](#).

## **2 National Aspirational Pro Bono Target now open for signature**

The Centre has established a national pro bono target scheme whereby solicitors, barristers, firms and barristers' chambers can sign up to meet an annual aspirational voluntary target of 35 hours pro bono work per lawyer. The Aspirational Target is being undertaken to raise the profile of pro bono across the profession and to send the message that lawyers embrace pro bono as a fundamental professional and ethical responsibility. By signing, lawyers are signalling acceptance of a shared responsibility to provide pro bono assistance to those in need.

Lawyers who sign up to the target by 1 January 2007 will be known as 'Foundation Signatories' for the life of the scheme.

Signatories agree to monitor their progress towards the aspirational target and the Centre will each year release de-identified data to show the number of signatories and the percentage who have met the 35 hours a year target.

To see the current list of signatories and **to sign up** go to [www.nationalprobono.org.au/target](http://www.nationalprobono.org.au/target) .

## **3 National pro bono survey – please complete**

To address the need for reliable data about pro bono legal work in Australia, the Centre is surveying the legal profession about the amount and type of pro bono undertaken by individual solicitors, barristers and law firms across Australia. The survey was piloted in Queensland, and is now being undertaken in other States and the ACT (the NT Law Society has recently conducted a survey of pro bono activity).

The survey can be completed online, or [downloaded from our website](#) and mailed or faxed to the Centre. The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete.

We need more responses - and the Centre asks all *e-news* readers to complete the survey – and to urge your colleagues to do the same. The information from the survey will assist the Centre and others to get a better picture of current pro bono activity across Australia, as well as the barriers to pro bono work.

[Click here to complete the survey](#) - and be in the running to win 6 bottles of wine!

The second stage of the project will be the survey of law firms, which will commence next month in Queensland, followed by the other States and Territories. The third and final stage will be the survey of barristers.

## **4 New directors and members of Advisory Council –new Chair**

The Centre welcomes David Dixon, Dean of the Law Faculty at UNSW and Paula O'Brien, Co-Executive Director, PILCH (VIC) as new Directors on the Board of the Centre. The Board also welcomes Tony Woodyatt, Director QPILCH as a new Advisory Council member and Deej Eszenyi, partner with South Australian law firm Camatta Lempens and past President of the South Australia Law Society as Chair of the Centre's Advisory Council. The Centre thanks Paul Redmond, who has moved from UNSW to UTS to take up the position of Sir Gerard Brennan Professor at the Faculty of Law and Emma Hunt, Co-Executive Director of PILCH (VIC) who are stepping down from the Board.

## **5 Subscribe/Unsubscribe**

To subscribe or unsubscribe to this newsletter please [click here](#).

This newsletter and back copies are available at:

<http://www.nationalprobono.org.au/publications/index.html>.

Please forward this newsletter to anyone else you think may be interested.

## **6 Centre contact details**

National Pro Bono Resource Centre

web: [www.nationalprobono.org.au](http://www.nationalprobono.org.au)

email: [info@nationalprobono.org.au](mailto:info@nationalprobono.org.au)

phone: +61 2 9385 7381

fax: +61 2 9385 7375

post: Law Centres' Precinct, The Law Building, F8 Union Road, UNSW Kensington Campus, Sydney NSW 2052

## **7 Australian Pro Bono Manual**

The Australian Pro Bono Manual – a Practice Guide and Resource Kit for Law Firms is on-line at [www.nationalprobono.org.au/probonomanual/](http://www.nationalprobono.org.au/probonomanual/) or can be purchased in hard copy. This manual has been compiled to enhance and encourage the provision of pro bono legal services, and provides a mixture of commentary, advice, precedents and background information.