

NATIONAL PRO BONO RESOURCE CENTRE

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Welcome to the fifth edition for 2004 of the eNewsletter of the National Pro Bono Resource Centre (NPBRC). The Centre is affiliated with the Faculty of Law at the University of New South Wales and is funded by the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department. Archived eNewsletters are available at www.nationalprobono.org.au/publications/index.html

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1 'Meeting Legal Needs – the UK Experience' seminar

Following a successful seminar held in Victoria, the NSW Law and Justice Foundation and the National Pro Bono Resource Centre are hosting a similar event in Sydney **on Monday 13 September 2004, 5.30-7.00 pm**. The seminar is to be held at the offices of Freehills at Level 38, MLC Centre, 19-29 Martin Place, Sydney. Lisa Webley, Principal Lecturer at the University of Westminster, Research Fellow at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies and currently a visiting fellow at the Victoria Law Foundation will present a paper on research-based approaches to targeting and meeting legal need in the UK. Lisa's presentation will explore the interrelationship of publicly funded legal services and pro bono initiatives through the Community Legal Service in the UK.

To attend please rsvp to vpham@lawfoundation.net.au. Further information is available at <http://www.lawfoundation.net.au/access/webley.html>

2 Pro Bono and Clinical Legal Education in law schools

The Centre has just published an Information Paper on 'Pro bono and clinical legal education programs in Australian law schools'.

The paper provides:

- a snapshot as at mid 2004 of student pro bono and clinical legal education programs at each of 28 Australian law schools;
- discusses some key issues associated with the role of law schools in initiating, supporting, managing and promoting clinical legal education and pro bono programs.

By highlighting the range and diversity of existing programs and providing information about the key issues faced by law schools in establishing or expanding pro bono and clinical legal education programs, the Centre aims to facilitate a fruitful exchange of ideas and experience between law schools leading to an expansion and improvement of appropriate courses and programs. A copy of the paper can be downloaded from the Centre's website at <http://www.nationalprobono.org.au/index.html> .

3 Pro Bono at NACLC Annual Conference in Adelaide

The issue of pro bono was well represented and discussed at this year's just completed national community legal centre's conference where over 400 delegates attended over three days in what was a very interesting and stimulating event.

On the Monday evening the Centre coordinated a RRR 'relationship building event' hosted by Minter Ellison in Adelaide. The event was well attended by representatives from CLCs from around Australia, PILCH (Vic) and representatives from national and SA law firms. The forum was facilitated by Simon Rice. The key themes that emerged to be addressed to initiate, build and sustain successful partnerships between firms and RRR CLCs, in order of priority, were the need to build relationships, the capacity of firms and CLCs to do this and to provide services and overcoming the practical obstacles related to distance. The Centre would like to extend a warm thank you to Minter Ellison, Adelaide who provided the venue and catering.

Tuesday morning at the conference saw a well attended 'Introduction to Pro Bono Programs' session presented by pro bono coordinators, Annette Bain from Freehills, Anne Cregan from Blake Dawson Waldron, Michelle Hannon from Gilbert & Tobin and David Hillard from Clayton Utz and in the afternoon a session titled "Working with Pro Bono Service Providers – How to work the system & get the services our clients want" was presented by Catherine Carney from Women's Legal Services in NSW and Annette Bain from Freehills. It looked at practical issues associated with pro bono work and the status of pro bono in the family law area.

On Wednesday morning, John Corker chaired a session on accessing pro bono legal services for CLCs and their clients which involved presentations from Emma Hunt, co-executive director of PILCH (VIC), Peter Seidel, public interest partner at Arnold Bloch Liebler and David Hillard from Clayton Utz.

4 Launch of the Pro Bono Network

Using ProBono.net tools the Centre has created the Australian Pro Bono Network website an intranet specifically designed for pro bono professionals, particularly pro bono coordinators and lawyers. With an initial 25 members the site is now being publicly launched. ProBono.net sites are widely used in the US and Canada by the pro bono legal community. Standard features include news, calendar, opportunities to assist and discussion groups. Once a person joins they have the ability to access other member's contact details and post items to members (nationally or by State) and to the site. The

Centre is acting as moderator and promoter for the site. To join the Pro Bono Network go to www.probono.net/au/abc and complete the form.

5 2004 NSW Justice Awards

The 2004 Justice Awards will be presented at a dinner at Parliament house on Thursday October 7. The Awards to be presented on the night are: The Pro Bono Partnership Award (for the first time), The Justice Medal, The Aboriginal Justice Award, the Law and Justice Volunteer Award, the Law Society President's Award, the Combined Community Legal Centres Group Award and the LIAC Centre of Excellence Awards.

The Law and Justice Address will be delivered by Tim Costello, CEO of World Vision Australia and ABC radio announcer, Richard Glover, will be the MC.

Tickets are \$90 per person or \$55 for community sector workers, students and the unemployed. To book your ticket, please contact the Law and Justice Foundation by September 27 on 9221 3900 or vpham@lawfoundation.net.au

6 Pro Bono Workshop 2004 to be held in Victoria

On Monday 18 –Tuesday 19 October 2004, the pro bono secretariat of the Victoria Law Foundation will be holding a pro bono workshop at Springs Retreat, Daylesford. For a copy of the program and registration form please [click here](#).

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8 NPBRC contact details

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