

Pro Bono Voco



Thanks to Grata Fund for use of front cover photo 'Child and horse'



On behalf of the Australian Pro Bono Centre team I'm delighted to welcome you to the first edition of the Centre's new biannual publication, **Pro Bono Voco**!

Pro Bono Voco aims to highlight and acknowledge the tremendous work of the Australian pro bono community in helping the most disadvantaged members of our society and working in the public interest. The publication will include details of pro bono projects, profiles of leaders within the pro bono community, and developments within the sector.

In Latin, 'voco' is a verb meaning, in the first person, to 'invite', 'call to action' or 'beckon'. The publication aims to be a voice for pro bono and a source of inspiration for further action. We hope you find it so!

In this edition we're delighted to speak to Emma Maple-Brown of Herbert Smith Freehills about her recent secondment to the UNSW Indigenous Law Centre working on the Uluru Dialogue (page 3). We also hear from Laura Muir, Pro Bono Case Manager for the Cancer Council and Rania Tannous, Manager, AMP's Legal and Governance Program on the Cancer Council's Pro Bono Program (page 11). The Grata Fund team discusses its inspirational work empowering people and communities to use litigation as a tool to protect and advance their rights and freedoms (page 13). We also talk about the successes and challenges of running a pro bono practice with Guy Donovan of Holding Redlich (page 16).

We remember our good friend and dear colleague Anton Hermann, Director of Pro Bono and Community Investment at MinterEllison, who passed away suddenly this month. We thank the contributors from MinterEllison who

have written a wonderful tribute to Anton (page 6).

We're delighted that Cherie Blair and Gabrielle Holly of Omnia Strategy, London have contributed an article on their pro bono work on the important business and human rights parent company liability case in the UK, *Vedanta* (page 17). Kate Fazio, Head of Innovation and Engagement at Justice Connect, also provides an overview of Justice Connect's groundbreaking Gateway Project and discusses how technology offers huge potential to assist efforts to close the justice gap (page 20). Sarah Morton-Ramwell and team from Ashurst outline the firm's Financial Inclusion Action Plan to equip financially vulnerable Australians with the skills and frameworks necessary to realise financial inclusion (page 24). We also have an update from DLA Piper about the firm's support for Nisha Balasubramanian's Masters at Columbia University, with Laura Elliott stepping into the role of Australia Pro Bono Associate (page 27).

From the Centre team we have a Q&A with John Corker, former CEO, on his reflections in his last week at the Centre (page 19). We sit down over coffee with Phillip Cornwell, Chair of the Centre, to discuss his roles and passions (page 23). The Centre's Policy and Project Officer, Trent Wallace, reflects on his days on secondment to our team from the Australian Government Solicitor (page 26), an arrangement for which we are hugely grateful. As the new CEO of the Centre I also answer a few questions about my background, support for pro bono, and vision for the Centre (page 9).

The Centre is grateful to all of the contributors to this first edition of **Pro Bono Voco**. We hope you enjoy it!

Gabriela Christian-Hare,
CEO

PRO BONO IN THE NEWS



Each week the Centre distributes a Weekly Round-Up of the top news stories relating to pro bono legal work and access to justice through Pro Bono in the News. Subscribe at www.probonocentre.org.au

Don't miss the Centre's primary resources at www.probonocentre.org.au:

- **The Australian Pro Bono Manual:** a 'how to' and 'best practice' guide on establishing and operating a pro bono program
- **Pro Bono Partnerships and Models: A Practical Guide to What Works:** practical information on how to effectively collaborate on pro bono projects
- **Best Practice Guide:** a guide to best practice in the provision of pro bono legal services
- **Client Management & Self-Care Guide**
- **Pro Bono Legal Work: A Guide for Government Lawyers**
- **Pro Bono Legal Work: A Guide for In-House Corporate Lawyers**