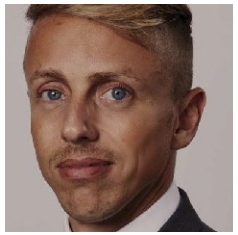
Pro Bono Voco

Thank you to the Sparke Helmore team for use of the front cover photo.



On behalf of the Australian Pro Bono Centre team I wish you a very warm welcome to the second edition of the Centre's biannual publication, ***Pro Bono Voco***.

Pro Bono Voco highlights, acknowledges and describes the stellar work of the Australian and international pro bono community in helping the most disadvantaged members of our society and furthering the public interest.

Albert Einstein said, *"Try not to become a person of success, but rather try to become a person of value"*. A common thread through a number of stories in this edition is the 'journey' to work in pro bono, social justice and human rights. I'm delighted that we've had the opportunity to profile so many dynamic, dedicated individuals in this edition who are making such a valuable contribution to our global society.

We hear from Madeleine Bridgett about the development of her career as a human rights barrister, including her journey from Australia to the UK, Nigeria and Strasbourg and her important pro bono work in the area of business and human rights (page 3).

Hannah Rose of Sparke Helmore Lawyers discusses her passions, her journey to Pro Bono Partner, and her support for the youth mental health charity, 'batyr' (page 10).

Davyd Wong, an Australian who recently founded the Hong Kong Centre for Pro Bono Service Limited, talks about his time as a student at UNSW, and how he now marries his commercial legal career with promoting social justice (page 17).

Three of our Centre team members, Jessica Hatherall, Sally Embelton and Natasha Rose, each describe their own inspirations and social justice career journeys leading to working at the Centre (page 19).

We're delighted to provide a summary of the podcast interview we conducted with Nic Patrick, Partner & Head of Responsible Business at DLA Piper, on 10 December 2019, about his thoughts - from a global perspective - on growing areas of legal need and sector trends (page 7).

Throughout this edition we also profile a number of legal assistance projects and programs receiving critical pro bono support. Ahram Choi, Principal Solicitor at Youth Law Australia, describes the pro bono support YLA receives for its national Cyber Volunteer Project (page 12). Jasmine Opdam, a lawyer at Redfern Legal Centre, writes about RLC's new Financial Abuse Service which receives pro bono partnership support from law firms and in-house corporate teams (page 5).

We hear from Brimbank Melton Community Legal Centre about its range of programs supporting local Victorian people experiencing socio-economic disadvantage, including the pro bono support it receives from the Victorian Government Solicitor's Office and other teams (page 16). We also throw a spotlight on the ExpertsDirect Pro Bono Service, which started in 2018 in collaboration with the Australian Pro Bono Centre to provide pro bono and community lawyers with access to expert witnesses (page 21).

The Centre is grateful to the contributors to this second edition of ***Pro Bono Voco***. We hope you enjoy it and we wish you a wonderful holiday season!

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