



Cover photo of Paul Kabai by Connor Kerlin



As 2022 comes to a close the Centre would like to thank everyone who has supported us to celebrate our 20th anniversary this year. Special thanks is extended to Corrs Chambers Westgarth in Sydney and MinterEllison in Brisbane for hosting celebrations for the Centre with a wide range of representatives from the pro bono community, government and legal assistance sector in attendance. See the article on page 14 which describes these festivities.



In this edition of 'Voco' we have continued to shine a light on the important pro bono work being undertaken in response to our global climate emergency. We feature an article on page 3 about Uncle Pabai and Uncle Paul, two First Nations leaders from the Torres Strait, who are taking the Australian government to court for failing to prevent the impacts of climate change. We also feature a round-up of the Climate Action Portal Forum hosted by PILnet and the Australian Pro Bono Centre on 13 October 2022 which featured climate-related case studies from ClientEarth (UK), DLA Piper (Japan) and the Refugee Advice and Casework Service (RACS) (Australia) (p. 24).



2022 saw Australia's first two barristers' chambers sign up to the National Pro Bono Target – Murray Chambers in South Australia and Murray Chambers in the Northern Territory. This is a very welcome development and we're delighted that both chambers have joined forces to write an article about why they took this step to formalise their pro bono commitment (p. 11).



Pfizer Australia demonstrated great leadership when it signed up to be a foundation in-house Target signatory early 2021. Pfizer's Legal Director for Australia and New Zealand, Rebecca Lacey, discusses her team's collaboration with Norton Rose Fulbright to assist Firesticks Alliance Indigenous Corporation with pro bono legal research relating to cultural burning (p. 22). We also acknowledge the significant



pro bono contribution of Sydney-based, Chalk & Behrendt, a majority Aboriginal owned and controlled, Supply Nation certified, legal and consulting practice (p. 29).

In this edition we include an interview with LawRight's Kate Adnams about the Brisbane Youth Service. Kate tells us about the importance of putting your hand up and giving something a go! (p. 9). Heading further north, we also highlight the wonderful work of the Northern Territory's Top End Women's Legal Service including 25 years of its after-hours clinic through an article written by CEO, Caitlin Wetherby-Fell (p. 16).

Pro Bono Special Counsel at Makinson D'Apice Lawyers, Ella Alexander, discusses the establishment of the highly successful "ProBo YoFo" (Pro Bono Young Folk) Network which has grown to over 50 lawyers on the Australian mailing list and has now 'gone Globo' with support from DLA Piper London-based lawyer, Olivia Clark (p. 6).

In each edition we put a spotlight on a Centre board member. In this edition we're delighted to feature Mary Woodford, the Law Society of Western Australia's representative on our board (p. 19). We also very pleased to include an interview with Sue Mahony, the Commonwealth Attorney-General Department's first Centre secondee who has hit the ground running on a range of Centre initiatives (p. 26).

Lastly, 2022 saw the approval in Western Australia of the Centre's National Pro Bono Professional Indemnity Insurance Scheme for use by in-house corporate and government lawyers - another exciting development this year. Please see page 31 for further details.

We hope you enjoy the December 2022 edition of Pro Bono Voco and wish you a safe and happy holiday season. ■

Gabriela Christian-Hare,
CEO



Each fortnight the Centre distributes a 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
- Pro Bono Legal Work: A Guide for Individual Lawyers
- Australian Pro Bono Centre Climate Hub