

DCLS moves down the track **Media skills course**

The Darwin Community Legal Service is set to expand its operations to Alice Springs.

DCLS Co-ordinator, Gordon Renouf, said the service is scheduled to begin in mid-February and would operate on a drop-in basis each Saturday morning.

It will operate from the Disability Advocacy Service in the Alice Springs Mall.

The service will be staffed by two solicitors and two other volunteers each week.

The President of the Law Society, Neville Henwood, said he was delighted that the DCLS had been able to expand its services to Alice Springs in such a short time.

Mr Henwood also congratulated the Alice Springs practitioners who had volunteered their services to enable the expansion.

The Society has been asked by a number of practitioners to organise a media skills CLE.

It is proposed that the seminar will cover press conferences, comments solicited outside courts or by phone, interview techniques and general media skills.

The seminar should also cover public speaking in an official capacity. That is, tips on speech delivery, voice modulation, rate of speech and so on.

Practical exercises are crucial to this type of seminar.

For example, participants will be interviewed on video, the tape replayed and the person's performance assessed.

The seminar will also cover general tips for a better media appearance -- things like never allow a TV

interview to take place if you have the sun in your eyes because you'll be squinting and look untrustworthy.

There are also a number of stalling tactics to allow a person to gather thoughts in response to a question for which he or she was not prepared.

Paul Lawson from the Sydney firm *Lawson Training* has been approached to present the seminar.

Mr Lawson conducts similar seminars for politicians and corporate officials and has presented seminars for lawyers in the past.

The cost of the seminar will have to be borne by participants though it will be structured to comply with the Training Guarantee Levy.

Interested practitioners should contact Julie at the Society on 815104.

More information will be circulated when it comes to hand.



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